

From the
Students of the Art and Film Class

To
The Rector Mag. Dr. Johan F. Hartle,
The Chairperson of the Appointment Committee Maren Grimm,
and the Student Body ÖH of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Open Letter Regarding the Appointment of the Professorship for Art and Film

With this open letter we, the students of the Art and Film class who are not involved in the commission, wish to make known our position regarding the appointment of the professorship. Following the public hearings of the various candidates and based on our experience over the past few semesters, we are firmly in favor of the reappointment of our current professor Tizza Covi.

For decades Tizza Covi has been making films that have earned critical acclaim and international recognition, despite having been made with small teams and comparatively little funding. Her approach to film is one shared by many in the class, one that opens up a form of artistic expression, distinct from commercial film, that is sustainable and profound.

The Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna occupies a unique position in Austria, as an institution where film is taught as an independent art form, determined not only by marketability. This position, with its focus on the cinema in particular, is an essential part of our self-understanding, as well as the biggest difference from other classes at the Academy that work with the moving image. We see this position not only preserved but also strengthened by Tizza Covi.

We have benefited greatly from Tizza Covi's technical as well as film historical expertise, her position in the Austrian and Italian film landscapes, and her large international network. In the two semesters we have studied with Tizza Covi, she has facilitated numerous guest lectures and excursions that allowed us to come into contact with artistic approaches and craftsmanship beyond her own work. Our class meetings are characterized by an open, inclusive atmosphere that has led to discussions rich in perspectives. In one-on-one discussions, we have experienced respectful and patient interaction, precise analysis, and technical, dramaturgical, and organizational assistance.

Despite a steady growth of students in the class, Tizza Covi has managed to provide a wide-ranging and high-quality teaching program, thanks to her tireless dedication to the class and her quick grasp of the Academy's structures.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, we hereby appeal to the Rector and the Appointment Committee to give due consideration to our express pronouncement for the reappointment of Tizza Covi.

Vienna, June 28th, 2023

Kind regards

Following students of the Art und Film class



Gabriel Monthaler (as studentischer Mitarbeiter sending and signing this letter)

Justus von Bomhard

Laura Ettel

Daniel Fill

Sattva Giacosa

Cosma Grosser

Leopold Haas

Lennart Hueper

Kyra Kaisla

Max Koller

Johannes Lehnen

Natalija Milojkovic

Flavia Mudesto

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