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Studio Aphorisma's atelier is located on a hill where Chianti wine is made, in a former farm holding nestled among vineyards, cypresses, olive trees and centuries old oak trees, between Florence and Siena.

Our atelier represents a reference and cultural exchange point for people boasting different experiences in the European textile and art sectors. During certain periods throughout the year, it turns into an open lab where courses are offered that focus on teaching weaving techniques and art subjects.

## 2014 program

*Art courses:*

**Painting - Text - Texture** Text as image

**29 May – 7 June / 31 July – 9 August**

**Monochrome** The colours of nature

**8 - 13 September**

*Weaving courses:*

**Text - Textile - Texture** How to write by weaving

**29 May – 7 June / 31 July – 9 August / 22 – 27 September**

**Fabric Design Course** Special course

**3 - 8 July**

## Painting - Text - Texture Text as image

**29 May – 7 June / 31 July - 9 August**

During this year's course we intend to offer participants a range of broad technical and practical experience to develop forms of operating-thought with painting techniques in relation to the theme proposed. Reflecting on "Painting - Text - Texture" today, means seeing how from the beginning painting and writing have been closely intertwined.

This year's course activities will thus focus on that area of the practice of painting in which written text loses its identity as a set of words and becomes "textual painting".

Each participant in creating a bridge between writing and image will be able to experiment with materials and techniques of painting, writing, photography and collage, creating with these images complex effects of texture.

When the work is finished each participant will collect all the intermediate stages of their creations: the drafts, sketches, quotes from texts, the various tests, ideas, etc., thus demonstrating the work process followed.

Topics covered:

- Raising awareness of the written sign as expression
- Transition from the text to the text image
- Reproducibility and modularity of signs through the various textures

Director of the course: Nicola Sansò

## Monochrome The colours of nature

**8 – 13 September**

The “Monochrome” course is intended to guide participants as they discover the fascinating world of natural colours derived from dyeing plants found in the area of Chianti in Tuscany. The primary objective is to communicate the basic techniques for the extraction and production of plant colour, then applying the pigments sourced to the painting. This course will also provide the opportunity for reflection on the experience of the monochromatic painting within the context of modern and contemporary art. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about this fascinating theme and together, guided by the course tutors, will dive into and experience the magical world of extraction and the creation of colours from plants, realising with these colours original monochromatic paintings of great quality and painting intensity.

Directors of the course: Nicola Sansò, Anna Silberschmidt

Spoken languages: Italian, German, English, French

## Text - Textile - Texture How to write by weaving

**29 May - 7 June / 31 July - 9 August / 22 - 27 September**

In this course we intend, together with the participants, to explore the connection between weaving and storytelling through and from the practical experience of weaving.

The connection between textile and text corresponds to one of the oldest metaphors in which it is stated that thought is a thread, the narrator is a spinner of yarns and the true narrator is a weaver.

The terms “textile” and “text” come from the same Latin root *texere* and at the same time indicate the connection between writing a story and the creation of a fabric. From the same root is also derived the word “texture” that refers to the quality of the structure of a fabric but may also refer to the plot of a tale. The *textus*- fabric is thus composed of a weft yarn that as an organic line creates a structure based on a system in which warp and weft, writing and weaving intersect.

The aim of this course is to create fabrics reflecting on shapes, materials, processes, concepts and abstractions that are linked to the activities of weaving.

During the laboratory activity, participants will be able to develop projects through a serial module or with free techniques, creating textile narratives composed together by harmony, repetition, complexity and aesthetics. Particular attention will be given to the choice of materials, structures (texture), and the quality of the product through which the fabric will take the form of a *textus*: a written page to be entirely read.

Topics covered

- How to write by weaving
- Inspiration, creation and relating of a “narrative” textile module
- Methods and tools for the design of textile texture
- Chromatic colourways of the fabric

Directors of the course: Anna Silberschmidt, Nicola Sansò

Spoken languages: Italian, German, English, French

## Fabric Design Course Special course

**3 - 8 July**

The special course organised by Studio Aphorisma for the 2014 teaching season will be related to the PITTI FILATI exhibition that will be held in Florence from 2 - 4 July and can represent for our students, the occasion to view the latest trends in the textile and fashion sectors, and also to gain further knowledge of the various fabric design and creative methods. Through this course, Studio Aphorisma intends to discuss with the participants, the different topics concerning fabric design.

Topics covered

- Inspiration: how to gain inspiration from the most unexpected sources
- Colour: how to conceive a colour range and how to create a colour palette
- Presentation: how to lay out your works in a personal Portfolio

Directors of the course: Nicola Sansò, Anna Silberschmidt

Spoken languages: Italian, German, English, French

## General informations

The courses are opened to both beginners and professionals. You can register even if you do not have any specific knowledge on the course subject.

The lecture program is restricted and foresees a maximum number of seven persons for each single course.

Each participant will be followed by the teachers directly and can use all the equipment, materials and instruments useful to develop his project.

## Attendance

The fee of the 7-day course is € 580, while the fee of the 10-day course is € 810, VAT included. 20% discount on the course fee will be offered to students. A discount will also be offered to whom registers to the course at least 12 weeks prior to its beginning. € 200 shall be paid as non-refundable deposit upon registration. The balance will be paid on the first day of the course. In case of cancellation, the deposit paid can be used by the applicant as deposit to attend another course within the next year.

To register, please send an email at: [aphorisma@virgilio.it](mailto:aphorisma@virgilio.it) or fill out and send the registration form.

Upon registration, the participant will receive a written confirmation and any useful information.

## Accommodation

Upon request, Studio Aphorisma will assist the participants to find the most suitable accommodation for their needs. All the rooms are located in panoramic and quiet areas, inside farm accommodations for tourists or hotels. The participants can also stay at the Youth Hostel in Tavarnelle Val di Pesa. From the town, Florence, Siena and S.Gimignano can be easily reached through public means of transportation.

Nearest airports: Florence and Pisa

## Studio Aphorisma

Studio Aphorisma, directed by artist Nicola Sansò and textile designer Anna Silberschmidt, is a studio that focuses on research, design and professional consulting mainly with regards to topics concerning fabric design activities and modern artistic creations.

**Anna Silberschmidt** born in Zurich, Switzerland, textile designer, she lives near Florence where she manages her weaving atelier and organizes courses.

Teacher of fabric design at the CSIA in Lugano and other schools in Switzerland and Italy.

**Nicola Sansò**, Born in Apulia, Master of Fine Arts, Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome.

Teacher of Visual Communication, artist and graphic designer.

Coordinator, Art Director of cultural art projects for the European Union. In 2010, he organized an important installation at A trans Pavilion, Berlin.