

three years. The first has a preparatory and general character; but, starting from the second year, students begin to be directed towards special disciplines, taking up between four and eight hours a week. In the first year, the disciplines are: drawing, descriptive geometry, technical drawing, calligraphy, (including the history of the formation of letters), plastic elements, painting, art history, a foreign language and pedagogy.

The discipline of the plastic elements provides students with knowledge essential to art education. It is a mixed theoretical and practical course. The student is required to resolve problems which, as his knowledge increases, become more and more complex. This knowledge has a bearing on plastic elements; form in the three aspects, line, surface and volume, tonal values, chiaroscuro, colour and expression, (used in its traditional meaning), the relationship between form and colour, unity of style. All this aesthetic training is only of comparative value. In the end the student is also told that there are phenomena which escape rules; that, in other words, creativity *may* emerge from a context of definitions, and that finally it is necessary to know rules in order sometimes to forget them.

The student passes an examination in order to gain entry to those sections of applied art of the second degree. These are: interior design, sculpture, decorative painting, graphics (both applied and for advertising), ceramics, textiles, period costume, fashion and stage design. The time devoted to the main subject increases progressively so that by the third year, it occupies sixteen hours, in the fourth twenty hours and in the last or fifth year twenty-four hours a week. One part of the week is devoted to study from nature; eight hours in the third year, only four hours in the fourth year. In his last year the student is free of theoretical disciplines so that he may devote himself entirely to his specialization. At the end of his course, he must carry out a single important work from which the measure of his ability may be assessed, and on this he may be awarded his diploma.

A third course of study exists which lasts two years. Candidates who have obtained good marks are entitled to compete for entry and, on their admission, it is the State or some industrial institution which takes over the payment of their fees for the studies. This course is in its experimental stages. In some sections, emphasis is on theoretic training. The effect of this course is to prepare assistants to work alongside art professors, hoping in time themselves to become professors. However, recruitment into professorial grades is also made through public competition, so that freelance artists and persons quite outside the academic world are also able to gain entry to a teaching career.

There are plans also to abolish the first course completely and to change the first year into a purely preliminary course. Thus the study of a second, specialized subject could begin earlier, namely in the second year.

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