

# TIMELINE OF THE ACADEMY

**1912–1917**

Estonian Art Society's  
drawing courses



Logo of the Estonian Art Society. Designed by Nikolai Triik, who later joined the faculty. 1913.

**1916**

Eduard Taska establishes  
a leather workshop

**1914**

Workshops are established  
for decorative painting, wood  
engraving, women's handicrafts  
and bookbinding

**1914–1916**

Estonian Art Society's Tallinn  
School of Arts and Crafts



The pattern sheets of Estonian national ornamentation compiled by Director Voldemar Päts (1926) were one of the main teaching tools.

**1914–1934**

Voldermar Päts is  
the school director



From 1914 to 1917, the School of Arts and Crafts operated in the St Canute Guild building at Pikk 20 in Tallinn. The Department of Architecture was installed here from 2008 to 2018. Photo: 1926, Film Archives.

**1916–1924****Tallinn School of Arts and Crafts****1917**

Moved from the St Canute Guild building on Pikk St to the building of the former Girls' Secondary School on Tartu Rd



"Rest on the Road", work by student Eduard Wiiralt.  
Coloured ink, Indian ink paper, 26.2 x 32.1 cm. 1916.  
Art Museum of Estonia.

**1918**

Estonian replaces Russian as the language of instruction

**1921**

Sculpture studio established



Former girls' secondary school building on Tartu Rd which was occupied by the School of Arts and Crafts starting in 1917. Photo: Museum of Estonian Architecture.

**1922–1923**

Two stories are added to the schoolhouse (architect Tõnis Mihkelson)



Two floors were added to the schoolhouse in 1923. Photo ca 1931.  
Estonian Academy of Arts.

**1923**

Prof. Géza Jakó establishes the ceramics workshop

**1924–1940**

State School of Arts and Crafts

**1925**

Instruction in oil painting, directed by August Jansen



Composition by student Andrus Johani. 1926. EKA MET Fund.

**1924**

Günther Reindorff furnished the graphic art workshop

**1925**

The metalworking department is established, directed by Klara Zeidler



Nude drawing class in 1935. In the foreground, artist Evald Okas wearing a beret. EKA MET Fund.

**1930**

The School of the Printing Industry is opened as an adjunct to the school



Paul Luhtein, a young faculty member and school graduate. Poster for an exhibition of student projects. 1929. Art Museum of Estonia.

**1935**

Prof. Voldemar Meilik takes over direction of the sculpture department



Sketch by student Ella Kristjansen. Gouache, paper. 1936–1937.  
EKA MET Fund.

### 1936

The glass workshop is established

### 1938

The study of interior design and garden and park architecture as specialties are introduced

## 1938–1940

# HIGHER STATE ART SCHOOL; STATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND FINE ARTS

**1940–1941**

Jaan Koort State School  
of Applied Art

**1940–1941**

The director of the school is  
Anton Starkopf, the former director  
of the Pallas School

**1941–1943**

Tallinn School of  
Figurative and Applied Art



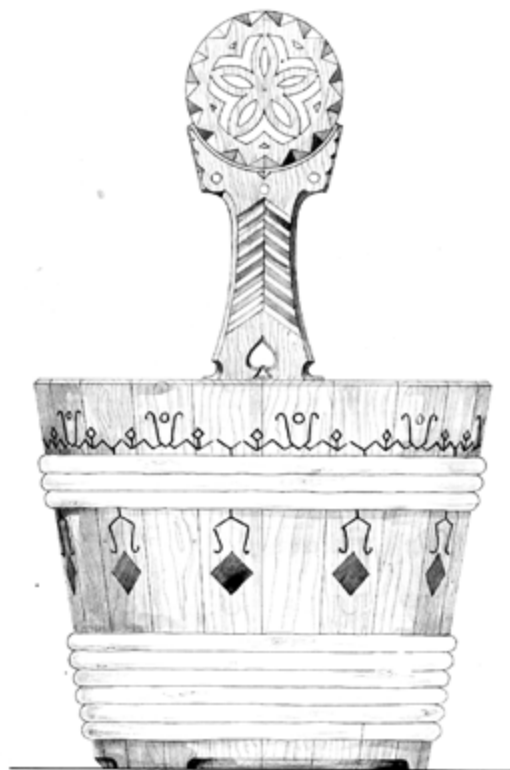
The schoolhouse, which miraculously survived the bombing of Tallinn, in the middle of the rubble. 1944.  
Photo: private collection.

**1941**

The first university diplomas are  
awarded to Evald Okas, Alo Hoidre,  
Oskar Raunam and others

**1943–1944**

Tallinn School of Applied Art



"Sauna Cabinet, Gift for Comrade Stalin" by Vello Asi, interior design student. Indian ink, pencil, watercolour, paper. 1948–1949. EKA MET Fund.

**1944**

The study of theatrical design as a specialty is introduced

**1944–1949**

Director is Adamson-Eric

**1944–1950**

# TALLINN STATE APPLIED ARTS INSTITUTE

**1949–1959**

Friedrich Leht, an Estonian from Russia had joined the schools

**1951**

Merged with the State Art Institute of Tartu



"Portrait of Leo Soonpää", diploma project by painter Enn Põldroos. Oil, canvas, 139 x 109 cm. 1958. EKA MET Fund.

**1950**

Under the direction of Oleg Lyalin, who came from Leningrad, the study of architecture is introduced to replace interior design and garden and park architecture

**1952**

Preparatory courses are introduced

**1957**

Johannes Võerahansu, a graduate of the Pallas School from Tartu becomes the director of the painting department

**1958**

Interior architecture is reinstated as a subject

**1959**

Evening classes are introduced



Poster "Tallinn State Institute of Applied Arts. Exhibition of Students" by graphic arts student Olev Soans. Gouache, paper, on a cardboard base, 86 x 62 cm. 1951. EKA MET Fund.



**1959–1989**

Sculptor Jaan Vares is the rector

**1964**

Student group ANK'64



"Maardu Motif" by Malle Leis, a student of stage design. Oil, canvas. 1964. EKA MET Fund.

**1963**

Practical training abroad is introduced (in Helsinki until 1968, Leipzig, Halle, Budapest, Bratislava, Kraków and elsewhere)

**1951–1989**

# STATE ART INSTITUTE OF THE ESTONIAN SSR



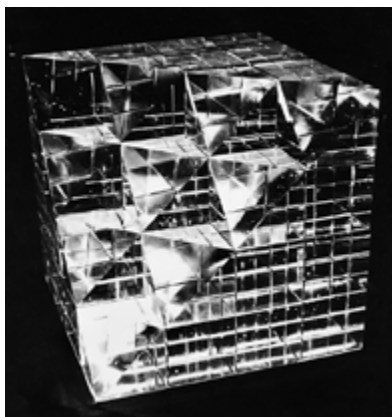
"Õismäe", diploma project by architect Raine Karp. 1964.

## 1965–1974

Renovation and expansion of the schoolhouse (architects Peeter Tarvas and Voldemar Herkel)

## 1969

Student group SOUP'69



"Optical Object", diploma project by glass artist Eve Koha. Optical glass, casting, grinding, polishing, 24 x 24 x 24 cm. 1981. EKA MET Fund.

## 1966

Bruno Tomberg establishes the design department

## 1978

Kaljo Põllu leads a series of student expedition to visit the Finno-Ugric peoples

## 1982

The first ERKI fashion show



Gobelain by student Lehti Heapost. Tapestry weaving. 1970s. EKA MET Fund.

**1989**

A division of the painting department is opened in Tartu in cooperation with the university



Tamse study base 2015. Photo: Estonian Academy of Arts.

**1990**

The Tamse learning centre in Muhu is acquired

**1989–1995**

Art historian Jaak Kangilaski is the rector



State Art Institute of the Estonian SSR in the early 1980s.  
Photo: Estonian Academy of Arts.

**1989–1996**

# TALLINN ART UNIVERSITY



David Vsevirov, Juhan Maiste and Mart Kalm, faculty members of the Institute of Art History and Theory and Restoration School. Photo: private collection.

**1992**

Art history is introduced as a specialty

**1994**

The e-media centre is created

**1995**

PhD studies are introduced

**1995**

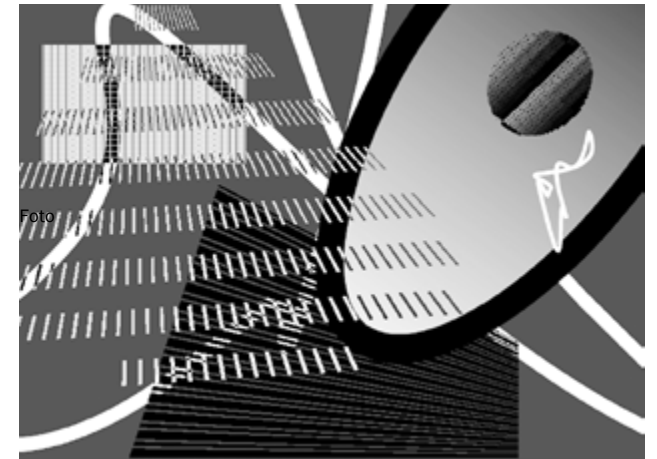
At the initiative of Juhan Maiste, in-service training courses are introduced at the Restoration School

**1996**

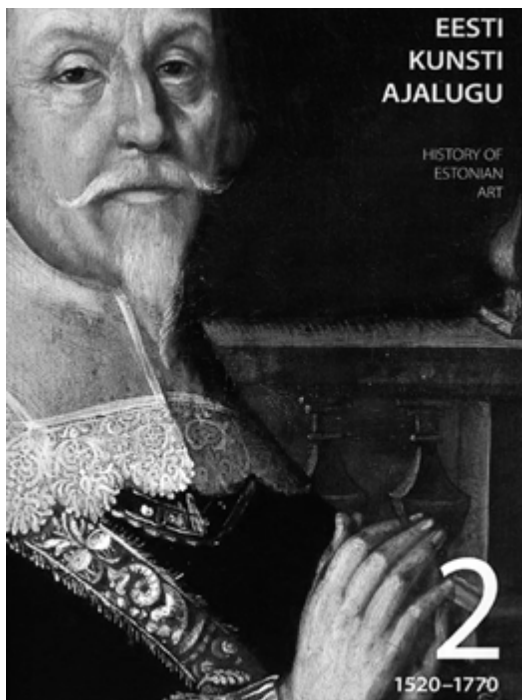
The education of art teachers is started

**1995–2004**

Painter and video artist  
Ando Keskküla is the rector



"Black Sun", internet project by Tiia Johannson. 2000.



Cover photo of "History of Estonian Art, vol. 2 1520–1770", edited by Krista Kodres. 2005. Photo: Estonian Academy of Arts.

**2000**

The old gym was converted into a library.

**1997**

The Open Academy is established

**1998**

The publication of a new series called History of Estonian Art, under the direction of Krista Kodres

**1998–2005**

College of Applied Art operates at the school

**1999**

The first international accreditation of the school

**1996—...**

# ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS

**2001**

The Department of Interdisciplinary Arts is established

**2003**

A publishing house is established

**2005–2015**

Textile artist Signe Kivi is the rector

**2007**

The building on Suur-Kloostri St is renovated

**2001**

Photography is introduced as a specialty

**2004**

English-language MA programme in urban studies is established

**2006**

Under the direction of Priit Pärn an animation department is established

**2007**

the exhibition of final projects is given the new name of TASE

**2002–2004**

Academia Non Grata operates as a branch of the school in Pärnu

**2006**

Four faculties were created: Design, Fine Arts, Architecture and Art and Culture



Suur-Kloostri building, 2009. Photo: Karel Koplimets.



"Electric Package Delivery Moped", MA project by designer Lauri Hirvesaar. 2008. EKA MET Fund.

## 2008

An architectural competition is organised for a new building on Tartu Rd



The project based on "Art Plaza", the winning design of the EAA's 2008 architectural competition (Danish architects Tue Hesselberg Foged, Uffe Leth Laursen, Karsten Gori, Sinus Lyngø).

## 2009

The Department of Architecture moved to the St Canute Guild building on Pikk St

## 2010

The building on Tartu Rd is demolished and the Faculty of Design and its supportive infrastructure moved to Estonia Blvd 7, the Faculty of Fine Arts to the Knight-hood Building on Toompea Hill and the Institute of Art History and Visual Culture to Suur-Kloostri St



"Flo Kasearu's House Museum", MA project by Flo Kasearu. Installation. 2013. EKA MET Fund.

## 2011

Reet Aus defends the first PhD in Artistic Research

## 2011

A new curriculum called Design and Engineering is introduced jointly by the Tallinn University of Technology, under the direction of Martin Pärn

**2014**

Architectural competition for the new building on Kotzebue St



"Linea", the winning design of the EKA's 2014 architectural competition.  
Architects: Koit Ojaliiv, Joel Kopli, Juhan Rohtla and philosopher Eik Hermann.

**2014**

The EKA Gallery is opened in the courtyard of the Tallinn Art Hall

**2016**

The Faculty of Fine Arts moved from the Knighthood Building to Lembitu St 12

**2017**

The first EKA summer academy

**2017–2018**

Construction of new building on Kotzebue St

**2018**

Preparation of the Estonian Academy of Art legislation

**2015**

Architectural historian Mart Kalm is elected rector

**2016**

An English-language MA programme in Interaction Design is established



The EKA Gallery lightbox in the Art Hall yard. 2014.  
Photo: Estonian Academy of Arts.