

# Baptist University students to go global at Berlin art show

Event in cultural hub is not just about creating - workshops will offer help in 'real world' of staging exhibitions and financial management

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PUBLISHED : Monday, 20 July, 2015, 4:15am

UPDATED : Monday, 20 July, 2015, 2:18pm



Anne and Martin Muller see at first hand the creative efforts of the students at the Baptist University workshop last month. Photo: May Tse

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Anne and Martin Muller offer their practical experience. Photo: May Tse

Located in Mariannenplatz in the Kreuzberg district of Berlin, Kuenstlerhaus Bethanien narrowly escaped demolition in 1974 and is now a 10,000 square metre site that serves as a cultural landmark for exhibitions, galleries and platforms for avant-garde art projects.

IAM has partnered with 23 art schools around the world, from Europe to Singapore, Indonesia, Peru and New Zealand.

Tertiary students in Hong Kong have been strongly encouraged to travel north to mainland China for exchanges and career development. Yesterday Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying wrote in his blog that he had a meeting in Beijing with more than 20 Hong Kong university students taking part in a new media internship programme. Home Affairs minister Tsang Tak-sing also wrote about the programme on his blog.

But besides going just to the mainland, students should be encouraged to explore the rest of the world, said the IAM programme founders.

"Berlin is an international art capital and it embraces creative minds from all over the world," said Anne Muller.

The programme founders have worked with Baptist University's academy before - in 2013 students successfully staged an exhibition called "IAM anything goes", featuring conceptual artworks and performances.

Anne Muller recalled it being an impressive show, which featured works including an installation made up of a number of what appeared to be tombstone photos and a student who performed calligraphy painting using her long hair as the brush.

The programme founders were in Hong Kong last month to conduct a one-week workshop with Baptist University students. They were coached on the exhibition with a mock-up of the Bethanien space. A handful of students from the workshop will be selected to travel to Berlin next year.

Baptist University art students will showcase their work in Berlin's cultural hub next year as part of an international programme bringing young talent from around the world to the German capital.

Students from the university's Academy of Visual Arts will bring their contemporary artworks to the historic Kuenstlerhaus Bethanien for an exhibition in January presented by the IAM International Art Moves.

Anne and Martin Muller, founders of the IAM International Art Moves, said the vibrant cultural scene in Berlin attracted artistic talent from around the world, and the event was an opportunity to present their works to a global audience.

"It is a luxury to exhibit at the Bethanien and we want to offer this opportunity to art students around the world," said Anne Muller.

But it's not just about showing art. Anne Muller said there would be workshops to show students how to set up an exhibition, including curating, logistics, planning and financial management.

"The practical experience is what the students lack the most," said Martin Muller, who is also an artist, art historian and cultural manager. "The real world isn't just about making art."

*This article appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition as Art students can go global at Berlin show*