Artists & Publications

Seminar Leader: Caleb Waldorf / Aya Soika
Times: Monday 10:45 - 12:15
          Wednesday 10:45 - 12:15
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Course website: http://apubliclibrary.org/ap

Course Description
This course will introduce students to how artists have utilized publication as a form for an artwork, as well as provide a platform for practice-based studio experimentation in this format. From Max Ernst’s *Une Semaine de Bonté*, to Andy Warhol’s design of *Aspen*, to Jordan Crandall’s *Blast* sculpture cast in fiberglass, artists have established a diverse approach to the use of publication. Moving from the early 20th century to the present, we will examine how artist publications are not simply a means of representing existing artworks, but a method of working that holds distinct characteristics from traditional modes of exhibition and display. Individually and collaboratively, students will deploy this research to explore the use of publication in their own studio practices. What is produced will not necessarily be medium-specific (static, printed or bound), but rather emerge from an understanding of publication as a field of practice that can take a multitude of forms. The course will be supplemented by off-site visits and discussions with Berlin-based publishers and artists working in this area.

Requirements
Students will be evaluated based on class participation, readings, a mid-term project and a final project. Readings, projects and presentations are due at the beginning of each class without exception. You are permitted two unexcused absences (lateness counts as an absence). Every subsequent absence will result in the student being downgraded one full grade (from A to A-, for example).

Class participation & readings
Students will be required to participate in conversations, facilitate the discussion of one course meeting and to post short online responses to texts and projects throughout the semester. Students will be required to read all materials assigned and be prepared to discuss within course meetings.

Mid-term project
The mid-term project will be comprised of a case study on an individual, group or publisher working within the field of artist publications. Each student will be required to write a text on the chosen subject and create a small publication with the contents as well as present the work to the course participants.

*Please note: While the texts will be written individually, the small publication can be*
Final project
The final project will be a publication created collaboratively by course participants. Each student will be required to write a text on the theme of publication as a field of artistic practice. Additionally, students will collaboratively determine the form and shape of the publication as well as create artworks to be included within or as the frame for the final publication.

Grade Breakdown
- Class participation & Readings (40%)
- Mid-term project (20%)
- Final project (40%)

Schedule

Week 1
Introduction to publication as a field of artistic practice
Monday, September 2: Course introduction
Wednesday, September 4: Introduction to simple bookbinding techniques & digital tools

Week 2
Avant-garde Experiments
Monday, September 9: Experiments in publication in early 20th-century Avant-garde movements
Wednesday, September 11: Experiments in publication in Fluxus/Nouveau Réalisme

Week 3
Miss Read
Monday, September 16: No course meeting
Wednesday, September 18: No course meeting
September 19-22: Students will be required to attend the Miss Read festival taking place in Berlin (http://www.missread.net)

Week 4
Unbound
Monday, September 23: The magazine as medium
Wednesday, September 25: Systems of editorial circulation

Week 5
Networks
Monday, September 30: Publication as network node
Wednesday, October 2: Digital publishing/publications
Week 6
Fall break

Week 7
Presentations
Due: Mid-term project.
Monday, October 14: Mid-term project presentations
Wednesday, October 16: Mid-term project presentations

Week 8
Politics & Publication
Monday, October 21: Politics and social change through publication
Wednesday, October 23: Off-site field trip TBA

Week 9
Spatial Modalities
Monday, October 28: The publication as conceptual space
Wednesday, October 30: Guest Lecturer TBA

Week 10
Self-publishing
Monday, November 4: Off-site field trip TBA
Wednesday, November 6: Zines, small-format publications & self-publishing culture

Week 11
Unfolding Archives
Monday, November 11: Publication as living and distributed archive
Wednesday, November 13: Off-site field trip TBA

Week 12
Practicalities/Collaborative Frameworks
Due: Final project proposals
Monday, November 18: Collaborative models & strategies
Wednesday, November 20: Discuss Final project proposals

Week 13
Making Part 1
Monday, November 25: Discussion, planning and production
Wednesday, November 27: Discussion, planning and production

Week 14
Making Part 2 + Final Publication Strategy
Monday, December 2: Review, discussion, planning and production
Wednesday, December 4: Final publication strategy
Please note: The production timeline for producing the publication will be dependent on the form chosen by the course participants and final materials may need to be produced by Week 14.

Week 15
Final presentations and critique
Monday, December 9: Final project presentation
Wednesday, December 11: Final critique

Sources
The following publications will be available in the Bard College Berlin Library. Additional materials will be circulated digitally on the course website.

Show and Tell: A Chronicle of Group Material
Editor: Julie Ault

Century of artists books
Joanna Drucker

Une Semaine de Bonté
Max Ernst

Behind the Zines: Self-Publishing Culture
Editors: R. Klanten, A. Mollard, M. Hübner

Post-Digital Print: The Mutation of Publishing Since 1894
Alessandro Ludovico

A selection of publications will also be available in the Bard College Berlin Library on loan from Caleb Waldorf. The list will be available on the course website.