FA105 Contemporary Materials and Techniques

Module: Art Objects and Experience
Seminar Leader: John von Bergen
Course Times: Mondays, 17:00 - 20:15 with 15-minute break
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Course Description

This course is a comprehensive introduction to sculpture as a medium that has evolved in many diverse directions over the last century, and is accelerating as an expansive, critical medium for art production in the 21st Century. The concentration of this course is a hands-on workshop that explores materials and techniques, with supplemental materials and resources relating to contemporary sculpture and installation. Workshops will allow students to learn about a large range of materials that will be explored further by individual projects, as we investigate the advantages and disadvantages of rubber, wood, styrofoam, plaster, plastic, polymer-gypsum, polymer-webbing, wax, and found objects. We also will explore the various options for mold-making and casting techniques, the advantages of 3D scanning and printing in relation to traditional “hands-on” production, and the importance of maintaining health and safety standards in one’s studio. Please Note: A limited supply of materials will be offered to students. Some students may need to contribute their own funds / resources for completing projects.

Requirements

Students are expected to participate in workshops, discussions, homework assignments (reading / video), and studio work outside of the classroom. A final sculpture project will be expected to be presented at the end of the semester.

Students should be aware that the workshop will be off-limits during all Wednesdays from 1 - 5 pm.
Attendance

Students are expected to attend ALL classes. More than one absence (since our sessions are of 180 minutes duration) in a semester will significantly affect the grade for the course.

Students are expected to attend any off-campus related classes where absence will affect grade.

Grade Breakdown

Class participation (includes both studio and workshop maintenance / cleaning): 25%
In-class assignments: 50%
Final Project: 25%

Schedule

Classes start on Monday, January 26 and run until Wednesday, May 20, with spring break planned for March 16 - March 20.
Completion week is from May 13 – May 20. Attendance is mandatory during completion week.

Week 1 (Jan 26 - Feb 1)

Please note: Dinner break will be held at the cafeteria only this 1st week.
Seminar: Intro to class / studio assignments (by lottery)
Workshop: Intro to workshop / health and safety

Assignments: Read Nauman / prepare studios / visit Modulor, Klebeland, Baumarkt

Weeks 2 - 4 (Feb 2 - Feb 22)

Seminars: Review sketches / student presentation of artist / presenting assigned projects for critique
Artist discussions: Burden, Hawkinson, Fischli and Weiss, Rubins, Nauman, Sachs, Serra, Sze, Tuttle, Friedman
Workshops: Basic carpentry / found object (part 1) / basic model building / Styrofoam / plaster / Celluclay

Assignments: Read Friedman and Hawkinson / watch Burden and Serra videos / build scale model / research artist for presentation / 3D object sketches

**Weeks 5 - 7 (Feb 23 - Mar 15)**

Seminars: Presenting assigned projects for critique / student presentations of materials and techniques

Artist discussions: Barney, Kelley, Mueck, Althamer, McCollum, Catelan, Collura, Ray, Hess

Workshops: Polymers (Kobracast, Worbla, Polymer-Gypsum, Sculpey, Flexwax) / Rubbers (latex, silicone) / Sculptamold

Assignments: Read Kelley, watch videos on Al Hadid, Althamer, Barney / mold-making literature / polymer mask project / students introduce new material or technique to the class

**Mar 16 - 20: SPRING BREAK**

**Weeks 8 - 10 (Mar 23 - Apr 12)**

**Please Note: NO CLASS on Monday, April 6**

Seminars: Begin plans for final project / independent research / presenting assigned projects for critique

Artist discussions: Benglis, Honert, Laib, Stockholder, Fischer, Catelan, Kapoor, Koons, Matta-Clark

Workshops: Personal mold-making projects / found object (part 2) / Plastics (epoxy, polyurethane)

Assignments: Read Mori / Hickey / McCarthy
Weeks 11 - 13 (Apr 13 - May 3)

Seminars: 3D Printing workshop (off-site) / intro to 3D scanning / Scheduled private studio visits,

Artist discussions: Sander, Rees, Lazzarini / art projects by “outsiders outside”

Workshops: Independent work

Weeks 14 - 16 (May 4 - May 22)

Please Note: Monday, May 4 is last class

Seminars: Off-campus visits (TBA) / plans for final project presentation / studio critiques

Artist discussions: Emerging sculptors in Berlin

Workshops: Independent work

May 13 - 20: completion week (all studios must be cleaned and emptied this week)

PLEASE NOTE:

There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as well as adjustments of content as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and / or deadlines.