

FA103 Found Fragments & Layered Lines: mixed-media techniques for drawing and collage

Seminar Leader: John Kleckner

Course Times: Spring 2017, Fridays, 13:30-16:45pm

Credits: 8 ECTS, 4 U.S. credits

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Office Hours: by appointment, before & after each class session

Course Description

“Found Fragments & Layered Lines” is a hands-on studio art course exploring contemporary and historical approaches to drawing and collage. The class projects are designed to exercise each student’s skills in visual thinking through the creation of original drawings and collages.

Course activities will include gathering materials from Berlin’s famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in creating collages of found printed fragments. Students will draw dynamic object arrangements, make abstractions from nature while working outdoors, work collaboratively on large-scale drawings, develop their own systematic technique for generating compositions, and experiment with the expressive possibilities of combining text and imagery.

A central focus will be exploring the potential to create new and surprising meanings resulting from the juxtaposition and layering of image fragments and personal drawings.

The semester will culminate in the creation of a series of artworks that will be shown in a class exhibition at the end of the semester. The majority of classes will be studio sessions. There will also be a number of group & individual critiques, image presentations, and several studio / gallery visits. The ideal student will be highly motivated, with a strong interest in studying and producing art, and must be comfortable with presenting their artistic creations with peers in class discussions.

Attendance

This course starts at 1:30pm and concludes at 4:45pm. Students are expected to be punctual and attend each class for the full length on the session. Due to the fact that this course meets only once per week, more than ONE absence will significantly affect the final grade. The first class session is Friday, February 3, and the final class is Friday, May 12.

Students should consult the Student Handbook for further information and regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be explained in class. Assignments and the dates described in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in class and via email. Students must regularly check their Bard email accounts.

Policy on Late Submission of Assignments

From the Student Handbook on the submission of assignments: *Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept*

assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

70% Work (meaning all work done in class, homework assignments, and final projects)

30% Attendance, participation, and professionalism

Schedule

- February 3** Introduction to course, instructor, and materials.
Begin collaborative drawing; explore gesture, contour drawing, blind contour, negative space, shape, and shading.
Assignment: 10 drawings utilizing the techniques covered in class.
- February 10** Exquisite Corpse and “*Williams von Wulffen Method.*”
Make collaborative drawings using assignments and contribute to large-scale drawing.
Discuss & critique work produced in class.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings created by using techniques discussed in class. Also, bring objects to be included in still-life arrangement for next session.
- February 17** *Not-so-still-life* drawing.
Draw object arrangements and people posing with props.
Discuss drawing from memory vs. observation.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings of a still life object arrangement of your choice. The arrangement must contain at least 3 objects.
- February 24** Portraits, Self-portraits, and *Selfie*-portraits
Draw and discuss portraiture, representation, translating 3-D world into 2-D.
Assignment: 1 finished *Selfie*-portrait and 1 finished portrait from observation (either self-portrait or portrait of friend.) Also, bring printed materials with text for next session.
- March 3** Words (and / or / versus) Images
Discuss the potential and impact of unexpected meanings that arise from combining text and picture, words and glyphs, phrases and figures.
Assignment: 2 finished works combining text and imagery. 1 work using combining found text and original drawing, the other using hand-drawn text. These works are due March 17.
- March 10** Studio visit / Gallery tour (details and meeting location will be announced)
Assignment: Plan your Mid-term Project, gather any materials or resources needed, and bring them to next session.

March 17 Mid-term projects
Work on individual projects in studio.
Assignment: Finish work on Mid-term Project.

March 24 Mid-term Projects due / group critique of projects.
Assignment: Gather materials & objects for Flohmarkt Project.

March 31 Found at Flohmarkt
Discuss history and influence of collage.
Assignment: Finish work on Flohmarkt projects.

April 7 Presentation & critique of Flohmarkt projects.
Assignment: Visit a gallery of your choosing. Write one page (500 word) about the work(s) you've seen and your opinion of it. Turn in an invitation card / press release from exhibition along with writing. Writing assignment is due April 21.

April 14 *Spring Break / No Class*

April 21 Edge-to-edge project
Discuss automatic drawing, chance outcomes, randomness, patterns, and process-based compositions. Work on drawings that cover paper edge-to-edge.
Assignment: 3 finished edge-to-edge drawings.

April 28 "*Nozkowski Strategy*"
Class will be held outdoors (weather permitting) to exploring drawing from nature. Discuss translating observed objects into abstract shapes and compositions.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings created by drawing from observation and/or generating abstraction from observation

May 5 Final Projects
Assignment: Finish Final Projects

May 12 Final Projects

Completion Week (May 19)