

# **FM312 DIY VIDEO - Autobiography as Process and Performance in Video**

Seminar Leader: (Dafna Maimon)

Course Times: 13:30-16:45

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## **Course Description**

Many video artists appear in their works, and turn the lens onto their own lives, environments and bodies. This class will explore the ways in which autobiography and DIY approaches can function as a performative tool for making video art. We will create performances or live situations, which when filmed, become independent video works that transcend documentation. We will also experiment with the way a video work is shown in relationship to the space around it, which may include live elements and objects outside of the realm of the screen. We will work on creating an interplay between performance and video and between physical and non-physical dimensions. The class focus will be on the “making” of video work, putting the artist’s process and experimentation in the foreground. In this approach an end result will be considered only a momentary pause within a longer trajectory; each work can be seen as an episode or variation in an ongoing series. The aim is to reach a continuous rigorous practice and dialogue that draws from an independent performative visual language. We will analyze documentary and fiction works from video artists, who work with performance as their starting point and who utilize the very means they have directly at hand, as well as visit Berlin artists using these techniques in their studios. Many of the classes will have an onsite collaborative workshop format.

## **Requirements**

### **Attendance**

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than ONE absence (since our course is three hours per session) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.

### **Policy on Late 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 essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, 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**

Assignments and projects 50%

Participation 30%

Final Project 20%

## **Schedule**

Scheduled class times are available online under the relevant course heading:

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/spring-2017/>

### **Key Assignments:**

1. *Lecture Artist Lecture!* (Jan 30th - DUE Feb 7th)
2. *Big Dumb Objects - Entities beyond the screen in relation to self* (Feb 21- DUE March 14th)
3. *Kate Bush - Performance to Camera* (Mar 21st-DUE Mar 28th)
4. Final Assignment: *Performing Video Performing Process* (Apr 4th- DUE May 9th)

### CLASSES

#### Jan 31st Class 1 - *Performing the Artist and the Situation*

Class Material: Christian Falsnaes, Liz Magic Laser, Brody Condon, Pilvi Takala, Casey Jane Ellison, Helga Wretman, Alex Bag, Tris Vonna Mitchell

In class workshop/exercise: *Debate Me - Introductions* through roleplay

#### Assignment 1: *Lecture Artist Lecture!* DUE Feb 7th

In pairs you will create a fictional and abstracted 5-10 minute artist lecture in which you will use both live elements i.e. speech and movement as well as a video component. The “lecture piece” will be presented on February 7th in class in the Factory.

Reading: Carrie Lambert-Beatty- *Make Believe: Parafiction and Plausibility*

#### Feb 7th Class 2 - *Show Time- Lecture Artist Lecture!*

Review, and critique of the *Lecture Artist Lecture!* Assignment

Class Discussion: Carrie Lambert-Beatty- *Make Believe: Parafiction and Plausibility*

Feb 14th Class 3 - Tech Time

Technical instructions, basic editing, and experimentations with Janina Schabig  
Introduction to the computer lab, tech rental room, Factory building and all working spaces.

Feb 21st Class 4 - Big Dumb Object and I

Class Material: Mary Reid Kelley, Shana Moulton, Tony Oursley, The Blob, Erkkka Nissinen, Trisha Bagga and more.

Reading: Donald Winnicott and Relational Objects

Assignment 2: Big Dumb Objects - Entities beyond the screen in relation to self DUE March 14th

The Big Dumb Object is a term taken from science-fiction cinema, and refers to any mysterious object that generates a sense of awe, fear or panic, while it simultaneously functions as a plot tool within narrative block-buster cinema. Taking a personal “Big Dumb Object” as a starting point you will create a multi-dimensional cinematic experiment as a self portrait. The assignment will be presented in class on March 14th.

Brainstorming, visualization, ideas, sketches. In class process workshop.

Feb 28th Class 5 - Visit of Trolls

Studio Visit with Egill Saebjörnsson, and presentation of his piece for the representation of Iceland at the 57th Venice Biennial

March 7th Class 6 - working on assignment 2

Review of work in progress *Big Dumb Objects - Entities beyond the screen in relation to self*

Continuing work on assignment through group exercises: Scoring and experiments in structure, building of physical elements and environment, experimentations with video projection.

March 14th Class 7

Viewing review and group feedback on 2nd assignment *Big Dumb Objects - Entities beyond the screen in relation to self*

Bring all supporting material created along the process for display.

March 21st Class 8 - *Body as Performer* - Guest Lecturer Andrew Kerton

Class Material: Kate Bush

Somatic workshop and breathing exercises by Andrew Kerton

Assignment 3: *Kate Bush - Performance to Camera* - DUE March 29th

Through a rigorous analysis of the movement, presence and affected performances seen in Kate Bush videos you will create your own performance to camera, incorporating music, light, color and movement resulting in a 2-3 minute single channel video. The assignment will be projected in class March 29th.

March 29th Class 9 *Body as Performer* part 2

Class Material: Ming Wong, Pipi Lotti Rist, Paul McCarthy, Roee Rosen, Olav Westphalen, Yvonne Rainer and more.

Review and class discussion of Assignment 3: *Kate Bush - Performance to Camera*

April 4th Class 10 - *Hanne Lippard - Performing Talk*

Site visit to Kunst-Werke meeting Hanne Lippard and KW curators

Introduction to final assignment at the POGO Bar: Performing Video Performing Process

Final Assignment: Your final project is an open genre and open technique video- performance work that should work through ideas and techniques which we have explored in class, using DIY working methods, and autobiography as starting points for setting up a rigorous process. You may collaborate or work individually. Keep in mind that collaborations should reflect a higher level of production from collective output.

April 11th SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

April 18th Class 11- *Final Assignments - Process*

In class work time: Ideas sketches, try outs for final assignments

April 25th Class 12 *DIY-Masters*

Studio Visit to master of DIY working methods Ethan Hayes-Chute  
Surprise - Spice Workshop

Individual talks, mapping progress of final assignments with artist Ethan Hayes-Chute/ Maimon

May 2nd Class 13 *Final Assignments - Process Continued*

In class viewing and feedback of final assignments in progress rough-versions, last changes and tweaks.

May 9th Class 14

Final projects due, screening, showcasing and feedback.

This syllabus may be subject to changes in regard to content as well as dates!