

FM313 Dream Scene Studio

Seminar Leader: Deville Cohen
Course Times: Wed 15:15 - 18:30
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

The concept of a dream scene adds another layer of awareness and subconsciousness into the system of symbols and representations of a fictional project. In this studio/video class the students will work with sculptural and performative techniques to create video works with a focus on developing an idiosyncratic visual language and concept. Each project will need to have a clear vision and structure while integrating a dream scene within it. We will look at dream scenes in TV shows, films, and literature to research classic concepts and possible executions of the “dream scene” as a dramatic device or psychological agent. The introduction of the video camera into the artist’s studio brings narrative into the sculptural process; materials, tools and techniques become characters and formal decisions become fictions. We will read post-dramatic and performance texts that study the connection between sculpture, theater, performance and video. In the prototype phase the students will begin by working on small-scale ideas in the studio with a variety of materials to create drawings, collages, and models. As they develop the conceptual and visual language of their projects, they will learn how to create a storyboard and a production schedule. The limitation of the project to the artist’s studio scale forces the students to push the limitations of production value with their available resources. The students will also be exposed to studio and video production skills using DSLR cameras, lighting equipment, and post-production techniques (video and audio editing).

Requirements

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

Assessment

The course will take place in 3 parts:

- Part A: Research and Concept (weeks 1-5)
- Part B: Studio and Preparation (weeks 5-9)
- Part C: Production and Post Production (weeks 10-14)

The 3-hour classes will be divided into two parts. In the first part we will have presentations and discussion relating to the week's readings and assignments, watch videos and excerpts from films, and have conversation about the students' progress in their projects. In the second part of the class participants will work on their projects in the classroom's makeshift studio settings, and workshops.

The goal of the semester is that each student will create and present a video work for crits and conversation at the last week (May 10). Duration, form, and presentation mode are flexible, as long as they are justified by the content of the project. Considering the fact that the students do not have studios outside of the classroom, the assignments and workshops during the semester will be structured to build and follow on the working process in and outside of the classroom. We will have 2 small video assignments and editing workshops in the first two thirds of the semester so that by the time we get to the final project all participants are familiar with the media and techniques required for the completion of their projects. The students will be given studio assignments at each week's class that relate to their project and progress.

Grade Breakdown

Classroom participation and assignments: 60%
Final project: 40%

Schedule

Part A: Research and Concept (weeks 1-4)

Week 01 (Feb 01): Introduction

Week 02 (Feb 08): Research and Concept 01
Reading: *On Literary Theater*, Michael Kirby

Week 03 (Feb 15): Research and Concept 02
Reading: *The Aesthetics of Narcissism*, Rosalind Krauss

Week 04 (Feb 22): Research and Concept 03
First video assignment
(Editing workshop 01)

Week 05 (Mar 01): Research and Concept 04
Reading: *Ritual space/Sculptural time*, Nat Trotman
(Storyboard workshop)

Part B: Studio and Preparation (weeks 5-9)

Week 06 (Mar 08): Studio and Preparation 01
second video assignment

Week 07 (Mar 15): Studio and Preparation 02
Readings: The Body and its Doubles,(Author unknown)
(Editing workshop 02)

Week 08 (Mar 22): Studio and Preparation 03

Week 09 (Mar 29): Studio and Preparation 04
Reading: The Author as Producer, Walter Benjamin (from Understanding Brecht)

Part C: Production and Post Production (weeks 10-15)

Week 10 (Apr 05): Production and Post Production 01
Reading: Performing Masculinity/Masculinity in Performance/ Kate Whittaker
Shooting day 01

Week 11 (Apr 19): Production and Post Production 02
Shooting day 02

Week 12 (Apr 26): Production and Post Production 03
Postproduction 01

Week 13 (May 03): Production and Post Production 01
Postproduction 02

Week 14 (May 10): Presentations/installation and crits