

FA313 Hive Mind: Possibilities of Collaboration in Studio Practice

Seminar Leader: John Kleckner

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Course Times: Fri 9:00-12:15

Office Hours: Fridays 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

Course Description

Often an art studio can become a kind of lonely aesthetic island-- the tortured artist working in isolation for long stretches. In today's political climate we need to be thinking more about community and collaboration. How can we support and inspire each other's work and how is our work expanding ourselves?

This class will emphasize collaborative approaches to making art as a conversation between practices. Coursework will be divided between individual projects and group efforts. Students own artistic ideas and practices will be engaged and challenged by working individually, in pairs, small groups, and as the entire class. We will consider how "Hive Mind" can generate artistic surprises, affect the speed of production, and move us beyond our creative abilities and limitations.

This is a studio art course, work in a wide variety of materials will be encouraged-- drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, photography, installation, etc. At the conclusion of the semester students would collaboratively design and paint a mural on the exterior of one of the art buildings to coincide with Open Studios.

The ideal student would have some prior artmaking experience and a willingness to work together with their peers to produce artworks.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of the semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and / or any personal belongings before end of semester inspection of spaces (including any storage offered). Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Please note: donating unrequested artworks and / or art materials is not permitted and will still be considered student property, expected to be removed by your inspection deadline. Please contact Studio Arts Manager

Joon Park for more information: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

- Attendance of all classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

Assignments & Assessment

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.

Please be aware that basic art materials will be provided, though some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals.

Students are assessed on their ability to work effectively together in collaborative groups and independently throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the ambition, time-investment, and overall quality of the finished artworks. This assessment will also include the student's ability to adequately budget their time for working and clean-up of the materials and spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor 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 artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)
30% Attendance, participation, and professionalism

Schedule

Spring 2019 classes start on Monday, January 28 and run until Friday, May 17 with spring break planned from Monday, April 15 – Sunday, April 21. Completion week is from May 13-17. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

February 1 Introduce course objectives, instructor, & materials. Overview of syllabus. Discussion of history and methods of collaborative artistic working practices. Begin collaborative drawing.
Assignment: 8 drawings on 8 pieces of paper, following instructions given in class.

February 8 Mandatory Factory Orientation - students must attend or no Factory chip access. Artist Slideshow. More collaborative work using the 8 drawings assignment.
Assignment: "Resistance Graphics." Research and gather historical and contemporary protest/resistance/agitprop imagery and sketch original designs.

February 15 Share findings of "Resistance Graphics" research assignment. Translate graphic imagery into original Linocut prints.
Assignment: A set of finished Linocut prints.

February 22 Work in teams to design and make our linocut "Resistance Graphics" into large format works using recycled materials (paint, cardboard, paper, plastic, etc.) Artist references: Andrea Bowers & Mark Bradford.
Assignment: Continue working on large format "Resistance Graphics."

March 1 Continue working in class on "Resistance Graphics."
Assignment: Finish "Resistance Graphics."

March 8 Artist studio visit. (PLB)
Assignment: Develop ideas for 1st solo project (Midterm)

March 15 In class work on Midterm Projects.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Project.

March 22 Midterm Projects due / group critique of projects.
Assignment: Develop ideas for two-person/duo project.

March 29 In class work on duo project.
Assignment: Finish working on duo project.

April 5 Artist slideshow. Critique duo projects. Begin designing & sketching mural plans.
Assignment: Finish mural designs

April 12 Designate mural teams, choose designs. Clean and ready walls for mural painting.
Assignment: Photograph murals, graffiti, and paintings in public spaces over spring break.

April 19 Spring Break -- No class today.
Assignment: Photograph murals, graffiti, and paintings in public spaces over spring break

- April 26 Begin painting Mural Projects.
Assignment: Work on Mural Projects.
- May 3 Work on Mural Projects in studio.
Assignment: Finish Mural Projects
- May 10 Critique Mural Projects & install student exhibition.
Factory "Open House" 5-9pm
- May 14-18 Completion Week. Factory must be cleaned and works/materials removed.

Facility Guidelines:

"The Factory" – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB "Factory" (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Students agree to only use the common spaces in the building that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits.
- 2) Chip access to The Factory building and other arts facilities is limited to those students currently registered for classes needing those facilities. Orientations are required before access is granted. In addition, students and faculty involved in clubs as well as event hosting may receive chip access and permission to use The Factory after orientations have been arranged through the Studio Arts Manager.
- 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
- 4) Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside of the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must be properly protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) No oil painting is allowed on the property unless student is enrolled in a BCB painting course, or approved in advance by the Studio Arts Manager
- 8) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately.. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 9) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 10) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 11) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
- 12) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. Protective gear can be found in the Factory workshop.
- 13) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask Studio Arts Manager for assistance (by appointment).
- 14) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.

- 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution.
- 16) All Workshop items checked out are due back during the Workshop hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with Studio Arts Manager. Workshop hours are: Mon-Friday, 1-3 pm. Details will be offered during orientation.
- 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact The Arts Staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
- 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.
- 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with the Studio Arts Manager. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with Studio Arts Manager beforehand.
- 20) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
- 21) Contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio / Visual) facilities provide a limited quantity of AV equipment to support Admin, Faculty as well as those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items. AV facilities do not include any black and white or color printing services for students.
- 2) The opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times. Once these times are established they will stay consistent throughout the semester, with possible exceptions. AV facilities are ONLY available during days when classes are held (closed during official BCB holidays).
- 3) All items checked out are due back during AV hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with AV Staff.
- 4) Items to be reserved on a specific date should be requested at least one week in advance. Without reservation, availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 5) The AV Staff may exclude students from borrowing items at any time, if the student:
 - failed to return items in time
 - failed to return items in person (pick up and/ or return by friends is not allowed)
 - returned items with missing pieces
 - returned items damaged or in poor shape
- 6) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON. No exceptions.
- 7) All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 8) Any item returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff). Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.

- 10) Please use the AV email to inquire about equipment or policy, as well as to reserve (av@berlin.bard.edu). Do not contact AV Staff through their personal emails.
- 11) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- 12) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 13) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu