

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

Seminar Leader: John Kleckner
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Course Times: Fri 14:00-17:15
Office Hours: Fri 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This 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 mixed-media drawings and collages of found printed fragments. Students will gather printed materials from Berlin's famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in creating original collages; students will also draw figures & object arrangements, make abstractions from nature by working outdoors, work collaboratively on large-scale drawings, develop their own systematic approach 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 and content resulting from the juxtaposition of found fragments and drawn lines. The semester culminates in the creation of a body of original artwork that will be shown in a class exhibition. The majority of classes are studio sessions. There will also be a number of group critiques, image presentations, and artist 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.

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

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 lower 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 5 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 Introduction to course, instructor, and materials.
Begin drawing; explore gesture, contour, blind contour drawing; negative space, shape, and shading.
Assignment: Make 12 drawings on 12 sheets of paper, utilizing the techniques covered in class.

February 8 Mandatory Factory Orientation - students must attend or no Factory chip access.
Exquisite Corpse and the “Williams von Wulffen Method.” (Artist references: Amelie von Wulffen, Michael Williams.) Make collaborative drawings using previous assignments. Assess & discuss works 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 15 Not-so-still-life drawing.
Draw object arrangements & people posing with props. Discuss drawing from memory vs. observation.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings of still-life object arrangements of your choice. Arrangement must contain at least 3 objects.

February 22 “1,000 Hours of Staring” slideshow. Horror Vacui / Edge-to-edge drawing techniques.
Discuss automatic drawing, chance outcomes, randomness, patterns, and process-based compositions. Work on drawings that cover paper edge-to-edge, filling entire surface.
Assignment: 3 finished Horror Vacui / Edge-to-edge drawings.

March 1 Words (with) and (against) Images
Discuss the possibilities and meanings that arise from combining text and image, words and glyphs, phrases and figures.
Assignment: 2 finished works combining text and imagery. 1 work combining found text and original drawing, the second work using hand-drawn text.

March 8 Portraits and Self-portraits. Techniques for photo-realistic drawings.
Draw and discuss portraiture, figuration, and translating the 3-D world into 2-D.
Assignment: 1 finished Self-portrait and 1 finished portrait of another person. Also gather & bring materials to begin working on Midterm projects.

March 15 Midterm Projects. Work on individual projects in studio.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Project.

March 22 Midterm Projects due / group critique of projects.
Assignment: Gather materials & objects for Flohmarkt Project.

March 29 Found at Flohmarkt Project. Discuss history and legacy of collage.
Assignment: Finish working on Flohmarkt projects.

April 5 Presentation & critique of Flohmarkt projects. Introduction to Paper Marbling.
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.

April 12 Introduction to Linocut printing.

April 19 Spring Break -- No class today.

April 26 "Nozkowski Strategies." Class will be held outdoors (weather permitting) to explore abstracting from nature. Discuss translating observed from in nature into abstract shapes and compositions. (Artist reference: Thomas Nozkowski)
Assignment: Begin working on Final Projects.

May 3 Work on Final Projects in studio.
Assignment: Finish Final Projects and be ready to install them next week.

May 10 Discussion & critique of Final Projects. Install student exhibition
Factory "Open House" student exhibition from 5-9pm

May 14-18 Completion Week. Factory must be cleaned, artworks 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