

AR303 Curating the Alter Ego

Seminar Leaders: Dorothea von Hantelmann and Joel Mu

Course Times: Mon 14:00-17:15, plus several extra dates

Email: d.vonhantelmann@berlin.bard.edu; j.mu@berlin.bard.edu

Office Hours: Mon 10:30-12:30 (Hantelmann)

Course Description

The trope of the alter ego runs through many times and cultures. It can be traced back to Roman philosophers Cicero and Seneca, who described it as “a second self, a trusted friend”. Appearing in common language in the early 19th century, when dissociative identity disorder was first described by psychologists, Sigmund Freud and C.G. Jung used it in the field of psychoanalysis to describe the collective unconscious or that part of ego that remains directly non-accessible.

Many artists of the 20th and 21st centuries have created alter egos, particularly in the field of performance and interdisciplinary art: From Marcel Duchamp’s gender-bending alter ego Rose Sélavy, who was frequently photographed by Man Ray in the 1920s to contemporary anonymous artist collectives, brands, drag, online personalities or avatars, alter egos are embodied by artists such as Ming Wong, Johannes Paul Raether, Puppies Puppies, and the Bernadette Corporation.

This course will have a tripartite structure: In the first part, various artistic references of invented fictional identities will be studied. We will discuss alter egos as an entryway into a thinking through (sexual) identities, cultural assimilation, racial discrimination and social hierarchy. In the second part, students will research and produce their own relevant alter ego, which will become manifest in a medium of choice (film, music, poetry/text, performance etc.). In the third part, these artistic and/or curatorial outcomes will be presented to the public in a one-night/one-weekend-only event. This entails a work on presentation formats combining exhibition and performance modalities.

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 Professors 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 Professors in a timely manner.
- Inform Professors at beginning of 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 any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at anytime is not permitted and will still be considered student's property, expected to be uninstalled and / or removed.

Participation

Due to the experimental character of the course your consistent, active and thoughtful participation is especially important. Class sessions will include discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods, and art production periods.

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.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their ambition and ability to combine research and creative work. They are assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly as well as to collaborate among themselves and to communicate with their professors in a timely manner. This includes budgeting their time for research, reading, writing and art production, and participation in the end of semester exhibition.

Grading is also assessed on the preparation and cleaning-up of any spaces used for production or presentation at Bard College Berlin, as well material and equipment preparations for class-time production, when necessary. Some art materials and equipment

may be provided, though at times may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals.

Please note the following deadlines:

- February 18: 10-minute presentation of our individual research
- February 25: presentation of individual project proposals, 500 words explanation of your project
- March 25: Group crit. of individual projects
- May 3/4/5: Exhibition
- May 18: deadline final essay (2000 words)

Policy on Late Submission of Texts / 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+). Professors are not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professors agree 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

Class participation and communication with Professors and among other students: 40%

Written and oral presentation of your project idea: 10%

Individual project: 20%

Presentation of final project, incl. exhibition text (1000 words): 30%

Schedule (may be subject to change at any time)

- 1) January 28: General Introduction; Factory/AV Orientation
- 2) February 4: The Alter Ego in Art History and Contemporary Art
2.1 February 7: Artist Talk, Hiwa K., 17.30 Lecture Hall
- 3) SPECIAL DATE February 16, 11:00 – 14:00: Exhibition visits
- 4) February 18: Individual research presentation
- 5) February 25: Presentation of Individual Project Ideas (incl. 500 words project description)
- 6) March 4: Production of individual projects
- 7) March 11: Production of individual projects
7.1) Attention special date: March 14, 17.30 – 19.30 Artist Talk Saâdane Afif
- 8) March 18: Production of individual projects
- 9) March 25: Group crit. of individual projects
- 10) April 1: Meeting at KULE, Auguststraße 10, 10115 Berlin
- 11) April 8: Meeting with individual projects at KULE, Auguststr. 10

– April 17 - 22: Spring Break –
- 12) SPECIAL DATE April 27, 11:00 – 14:00: GALLERY WEEKEND

13) SPECIAL DATE May 1/2: Installing the Exhibition

May 3: Exhibition Opening

14) May 6: Wrap-up session

Facility Policies:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

- The BCB “Factory” (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Any space in the building, private or shared, cannot be used unless permission has been granted. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studios Arts.
- Chip access to the building will only be granted to those students currently registered for classes using the factory (after add-drop), and that have been offered orientation.
- 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.
- Fire exits and lanes (black-taped areas) must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 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 the building.
- All work surfaces (table and floor) must always be protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately. Any food used for an art project requiring refrigeration must be labeled with one’s name, and disposed of after presentation. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 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.
- Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. BCB will always try to provide these items.
- If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask for assistance (by appointment, if necessary).

- Students must be aware of who else is working in the building after dark. Any curfews established by Bard College Berlin must be respected. Finishing production and cleaning up must happen before the curfew time.
- 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.
- Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution. All private property **MUST** be labeled and stored in its proper location.
- All workshop items must be returned to the workshop when not in use.
- 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.
- 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.
- There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with your Professor, Studio Arts Manager, or Director of Studio Arts. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with arts staff beforehand.
- 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.
- Contact Studio Arts Manager “Joon Park” directly with any questions:
j.park@berlin.bard.edu

AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 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).
- Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV staff).
- 10) Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to staff upon check-in.
- 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.
- We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- Contact AV staff with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu

MacLab Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during AV orientation