

FA 307 Artistic Practices – Architecture, Memory and Violence

Seminar Leader: Sandra Schäfer
Email: s.schaefer@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Even as I look and even as I see, I am changing what is there (Sally Potter, Gold Diggers)

In this seminar, we will focus on the different expressions of violence in our societies and the role media productions and architecture play in these violent acts. How can we become sensitized to someone else's grief? This encompasses the question of whose life is regarded as "grievable" and whose is not. What role do memories play? Transitory and ever-changing memories differ from the mortifying way in which technical apparatuses record sounds and images. How does space affect memory? As (our) bodies are always political bodies, we will dedicate a particular attention to the way in which the vulnerability of our own body affects our working methods, modes of articulation, and ways of sharing. Even the refusal to speak can be a mode of action. In the first phase of the course, we will engage with these questions through a selection of audio-visual and textual artistic works. In the second phase, the focus will be placed on the student's experiences and artistic practice. At the end of the course, the completed projects will be shown as a public exhibition. This seminar invites students with a particular interest in questioning and traversing normative framing through audio-visual practices as well as writing. Reflecting on the issue of the position from which one speaks will be an important emphasis.

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 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

“Artistic Practices - Architecture, Memory and Violence” is a course allowing students to work with time-based media (film/video, photography, video-installation) as their main medium of production. Furthermore, the course puts a particular focus on artistic methods, theoretical reading as well as developing own artistic works. Content-wise, the course focuses on questions around different expressions of violence in our societies and the role media productions and architecture play in these violent acts.

Assessment task 1: Presentation

Distributions of topics: 16.02.

Presentations: 02.03. 10:30-13:45 & 16.03. 10:30-13:00

Presentation of selected artist’s projects and theoretical texts in the class. These presentations will be assessed in the way how the key questions of the artistic methods and theories are presented.

Assessment task 2: Exhibition and presentation of final work

11.05. 10:30-18:30

The finished projects will be shown in a final exhibition. They will be assessed in two ways. Firstly, the artistic methods chosen including the display of the final work in the exhibition. As the second component of the assessment, each student is expected to present a short oral presentation to the class. They identify key decisions made and what methodologies were applied in the project. This will be followed by feedback from the group.

Assessment 3: Class participation

Students are also assessed on their ability to participate in the class. This encompasses the discussions about texts and artistic methods, their communication amongst each other as well as their ability to communicate with the Professor. It also includes to work independently and responsibly with the ambition to create artworks as well as the willingness to budget time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation: 40% (includes attendance, participating at discussions, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students)

Presentation (artistic projects/methods by other artists and theoretical texts): 20%

Final project, exhibition & presentation (includes final project with its artistic methods, how it is exhibited and its oral presentation in the class with key decisions taken in terms of the artistic methods): 40%

Note: This class will end with an open to public presentation/exhibition where the final works will be shown and discussed in the class. The projected date for this is May 11th, our last day of the class.

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.

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.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Week 1 (02.02.2019): 10:30-13:45

Introduction Round

Factory Introduction with Joon Park

Presentation of work by Sandra Schäfer

Reading: Maurice Halbwachs, The Collective Memory (chapter 4: Space and the Collective Memory)

Discussion of the text The Collective Memory by Maurice Halbwachs

- Homework: Memory “drawing” in relation to Halbwachs’ concept of Space and the Collective Memory

Week 2 (no Class)

Week 3 (16.02.2019): 10:30-16:30

Presentation of the individual exercises and discussion

Visiting exhibition of the Berlinale & Savvy Contemporary (Berlin Wedding)

- Homework: Prepare presentations based on different texts and artistic projects that will be announced and distributed in this session.

Week 4 (no class)

Week 5 (02.03.2019): 10:30-13:45
Presentations (part 1)

Week 6 (no class)

Week 7 (16.03.2019): 10:30-16:30
Presentations (part 2)
AV Introduction with Janina Schabig
Guests: Raphaël Cuomo & Maria Iorio (tbc)
Screening of their film: Appunti del Passaggio, 2016

Week 8 (no class)

Week 9 (30.03.2019): 10:30-16:30
Presentation of project ideas, concepts and materials. Discussion in the group.

Week 10 (no class)

Week 11 (13.04.2019): 10:30-16:30
One to one sessions to discuss your projects.
A list with appointments will be distributed where everybody can sign in.

Week 12 (no class)

Week 13 (27.04.2019): 10:30-16:30
Group discussions of works.
Preparation of the final presentation.

Week 14 (no class)

Week 15 (11.05.2019): 10:30-18:30
Final presentation of works in an exhibition open to the public. Presentation and discussion of works.

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

MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.