

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 class time.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time.
- 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 the beginning of the semester if photos of student's identity, 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 the end of the semester. Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. 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.

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 (projects, essays, performances, 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 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

September 6 Introduction to course, expectations, and materials.

Begin drawing; explore gesture, contour, blind contour drawing; negative space, shapes, and shading.

Assignment: Make 12 drawings on 12 sheets of paper, utilizing the techniques covered in class.

September 13 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.

September 20 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.

September 27 “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, fill entire surface.

Assignment: 3 finished Horror Vacui / Edge-to-edge drawings. Also, gather materials to begin working on Flohmarkt projects.

October 4 Found at Flohmarkt Project. Discuss the history and legacy of collage.

Assignment: Finish working on Flohmarkt projects.

October 11 Words (with) and (against) Images

Discuss the possibilities and meanings that arise from combining text and images, 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. Also gather & bring materials to begin working on Midterm projects.

October 18 Midterm Projects. Work on individual projects in studio.

Assignment: Finish Midterm Project.

October 25 Midterm Projects due / group critique of projects.

November 1 No class today (Fall Break)

November 8 Introduction to Linocut printing.

Assignment: Print Linocut blocks.

November 15 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.

November 22 Begin working on Final Projects.

November 29 Work on Final Projects in studio.

Assignment: Finish Final Projects and be ready to install them next week.

December 6 Discussion & critique of Final Projects.

December 13 Install student exhibition. Demo practical skills of hanging / installing artworks.

December 16-20 Completion Week. Factory must be cleaned, all artwork & materials removed.

Facility Guidelines:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

The Factory Policy Agreement

- 1) “The Factory” at BCB (Eichenstrasse 43) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Mandatory in-class orientations are required to retain chip access to the Factory. Chip access to The Factory is from 7am to 10pm everyday during the semester. At 10pm students will be asked to leave the building by BCB security personnel.
- 2) Students agree to only use the common spaces that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits. For requesting to reserve the dance / theater space and / or Seminar Room 6, please fill out the online [Factory Reservation Form](#). The Factory Staff will get back to you within two weekdays. (Monday - Friday).
- 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) Spray painting and handling of any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not allowed inside the building. Contact the Studio Arts Manager concerning working with these materials. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be properly protected with a drop cloth or a packing paper provided by the workshop.
- 6) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside the workshop and studio 6.
- 7) 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.
- 8) If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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. Final grades may be penalized and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.

11) Contact Studio Arts Manager 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.