

# THE WHY & THE HOW Multidisciplinary Lab for Artistic Production and Feedback Methods

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Course Time: Wed 9:00-12:15, plus workshop date 19.10.2019

# **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the artistic genre *Environmental* and *Site-Specific Art*, which incorporates the context of an art project into the final realization and presentation of the work. The relationship between context and the artwork is in a constant state of flux not least because what we mean by both of these categories is forever changing. THE WHY & THE HOW gives a practical and theoretical introduction to different artistic research methods in order to create diverse research material (text, video, photography, sound, field recordings, drawing, etc.) from which we develop and realize art projects and distinct kinds of presentation and intervention.

Our approach addresses the architecture, the history, the politics, the culture, the social structure and the psychological and emotional character of a specific context. The preliminary research of observation, strolling, drawing, photography, interviews, video, creative writing/ writing scripts, and field recordings, etc. gives us a detailed insight into our context. Based on the research we are going to develop individual and collective art projects in the media and lecture performance, participatory- and spoken-word interventions in private and public space, installation and sculpture. Investigating and transforming the architectural context of the Bard Factory Building, we are looking at contemporary protest culture in politics and arts, by observing and scripting everyday poetry and narrations in public spaces along and in the circle line (Ringbahn) Berlin. We examine the nature of performance and the representation of human emotions.

The above-mentioned processes are accompanied and supervised by various methods of individual and group critiques. The projects realized during the course are each presented to the public in a manner appropriate to the project.

# 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 brainstormings, discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods, and art production periods. You will be asked to work alone, with a partner or in a group.

### **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.

#### Students will be given a small assignment for each week

Students will be assessed on their ambition and ability to combine research and creative work in the field of environmental and site-specific art. They are assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly as well as to collaborate among themselves and to communicate with their professors on time. This includes budgeting their time for research, art production and presenting 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 as 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.

#### **Grade Breakdown**

During the course, we are going to develop, realize, document and present four projects

- Artistic intervention at Bard Factory Building
- Artistic intervention in public space
- Contemporary protest culture in politics and arts (workshop)
- Circle line notes / Berlin

#### Each project is evaluated as follows:

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production/rehearsal, communication with the professor and other students): 33%

Homework/weekly assignments and in-class work: 33%

Project presentations for critiques and project documentation (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 33%

Unexcused absences, lateness or not being prepared for class will affect the grading negatively.

#### Schedule

#### THE WHY & THE HOW

#### 1. WEEK / 4.9.19

#### THE WHY & THE HOW a multidisciplinary lab for artistic production and feedback methods

- General introduction to the schedule and the course
- Getting to know each other / introduction of students

#### 2. WEEK / 11.9.19

- AV- / Factory introduction with Janina and Joon
- Introductory work on notions of "context" and "intervention"
- introduction to the work of Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov
- Developing a strategy and program for an interventionist art project at BARD Factory Building

#### Assignment for the next session

- Investigate the architectural context of the BARD Factory building and develop ideas for an intervention in the building. Take photographs of a few spots where you want to realize your intervention (s). Print photographs (15cm x 20cm) and write/draw your text/drawing on the photographs.

- Explore the following books in BARD library/reserve shelf of this course:

**Emotions**, Nedko Solakov

A 12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey, Nedko Solakov

#### 3. WEEK / 18.9.19

- Individual presentations of ideas for interventions in BARD Factory Building
- Development of a handout, floor plan or digital flyer for the project at BARD Factory Building

#### Assignment for the next session

Conceptualize, design, and realize your interventions at BARD Factory Building

#### 4. WEEK / 25.9.19

- Realization of site-specific interventions at the BARD Factory Building
- Feedback Session (group)
- Documentation of single projects
- Presentation of flyers, handouts, floor plans
- Introduction to the history of Environmental Art & Site-Specific Art

#### Assignment for the next session

- Select an artist from the book *Urban Interventions Personal Projects in Public Spaces* (BARD library/reserve shelf of this course)
- Prepare a presentation on four works by the artist you've chosen (Please send the name of the artist to lecturer)

#### 5. WEEK / 2.10.19

free

#### 6. WEEK / 9.10.19

- Students present different artists from the book *Urban Interventions - Personal Projects in Public Spaces* 

#### **Artistic Research**

- What is *artistic research*? (discussion)
- Introduction to artistic research methods (strolling, observation, drawing, photography, interviews, video, creative writing/writing scripts, and field recordings)

#### Assignment for the next session

- Choose a specific site in Berlin and explore the site with different artistic research methods and develop different ideas for interventions in public space

#### 7. WEEK / 16.10.19



- Students present materials from their artistic research in public space and give introductions in first interventionist project ideas.
- Feedback session (individual)

#### Assignment for the next session

Preparation for a workshop on **Saturday (!) 19.10.19** in collaboration with photography course *FA308 Finding the Stories Module: Media, Practices, Techniques* (lecturer: Carla Ahlander):

- Collect images of contemporary protest culture in politics and arts
- Explore the following books in BARD library on reserve shelf of this course:

**Art & Agenda: Political Art and Activism** 

Folk Archive / Contemporary Pop Art from the UK, Jeremy Deller, and Alan Kane

Full Stop, Folke Köbberling

# WORKSHOP / 6h / Saturday (!) 19.10.19 CONTEMPORARY PROTEST CULTURE IN POLITICS AND ARTS

Workshop collaboration with photography course *FA308 Finding the Stories Module: Media, Practices, Techniques* (lecturer: Carla Ahlander)

- Introduction to the aesthetics of protest culture in politics and art by students and lecturers and discussion
- Analyzing the rhetoric and *habitus* of protest culture in politics and arts and develop slogans/texts for banners, flags or signs referring to controversial contemporary topics
- Production of sings/banners in the studio and activation of signs/banners in the photo studio and public space around BARD Factory Building
- Photographic documentation at photo studio in and around the BARD Factory Building
- Feedback session

#### Assignment for the next session

Study works by Swedish artist Sofia Hultén **www.sofiahulten.de** and in BARD library on reserve shelf of this course:

Here's the Answer, What's the question, Sofia Hulten

8. week / 23.10.19

Studio visit Sofia Hultén (SUE)

9. week / 30.10.19

BARD fall break

#### 10. week / 6.11.19

- Realization of interventions in public space



- Feedback session and discussion
- Documentation of projects
- Introduction into artistic research methods noting and writing scripts

#### Assignment for the next session

- Artistic research (notes/ writing scripts) in the Berlin circle line / Ringbahn Berlin with focus on poetry and narration of daily life encounters, sounds, rhythms and movement of pedestrians.
- Read hand out Berthold Brecht's On Everyday Theater and The Street Scene

#### 11. week / 13.11.19

- Readings of Circle Line Notes
- Feedback session / discussion / reflection
- Introduction into Berthold Brecht's *On Everyday Theater* and *The Street Scene* and in American literary movement *Beat Generation*.

#### Assignment for the next session

- Research about the Beat Generation and choose your favorite text or reading from a writer of the Beat Generation

#### 12. week / 20.11.19

- Presentation of Beat Generation texts and writings
- Introduction to basic self-publishing formats of printed zines
- Development and conception of ideas about how our *Circle Line Notes* could be designed and printed on paper

#### Assignment for the next session

- Develop different zine dummies form your Circle Line Notes

#### 13. week / 27.11.19

- Presentation of zine dummies of Circle Line Notes
- Feedback Session with artist and graphic designer Sebastian Helm from *Schröter und Berger / Berlin*

#### Assignment for the next session

- Collecting and developing ideas for the presentation of all the projects that were realized in the framework of the course **THE HOW & THE WHY** for semester exhibition

#### 14. week / 4.12.19

- Conception and preparation of the projects of the course **THE HOW & THE WHY** for semester exhibition

#### 15. week / 11.12.19

Setting up exhibition / presentation

#### 14. 12. 19

Cleaning up exhibition space

#### 16. week / 18.12.19

- Feedback session, discussion, summary, and evaluation of the course THE HOW & THE WHY

#### **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 <u>Factory Reservation Form</u>. 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: <a href="mailto:i.park@berlin.bard.edu">i.park@berlin.bard.edu</a>

#### **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
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
  - 3. 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).
  - 4. 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.
  - 5. 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.
  - 6. We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
  - 7. AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
  - 8. Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu



\*\* Guidelines to be offered during orientations.