

TH140 Practices of Making in the Performing Arts Module: Artistic Practice/Approaching Arts Through Theory

Seminar Leader: Eva Meyer-Keller
Course Times: Tuesdays 15:45 – 19:45
Email: e.meyerkeller@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

In the first part of each seminar, students will look at a broad range of examples from the performing arts - from body-based work, dance, storytelling, object-related performances, conceptual performance art, installation works, video performance - in order to get inspiration for their own performance work in class. In particular, we will discuss works by artists such as Martha Rosler, Bobby Baker, Trisha Brown, Meg Stuart, Erwin Wurm, Hito Steyerl, Fischli/ Weiss, Ann Halprin, La Ribot and others. We will watch video excerpts, read scores, descriptions of the works, etc. This exposure serves as an inspiration and as reference material for regular feedback sessions. We will also do some physical exercises and play a few games.

The second part of each seminar is about establishing and reflecting on practices of making, presenting, watching and responding in the field of performing arts. The processes and practices of making are driven by the interests of each student. They can be inspired by topics that are brought in from other spheres (politics, the social etc.). They might also be generated by the works of other students or by other performance works that will be presented at the beginning of each class. The students will watch each other's presentations with a focus on the workings of what they encounter, rather than on judging or evaluating. They are asked to describe what they see, including associations that are evoked by the showings. To facilitate this, different methods of giving feedback are introduced. The focus is on the accumulation of material and on finding (unexpected) connections.

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

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

Evaluation is based on two aspects: First, general participation in the seminar and second, short, individual performances that each students has to develop every week.

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

Class participation (includes attendance, active participation in praxis and theory, communication habits with professor and among other students as well as maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal): (50%)

Making, watching and giving feed-back to weekly performances: Independence and ambition in the making of performances, presentation and distinctness of performances, offering feedback to the performances of the other students, receiving feedback from the class: (50%)

Schedule

Fall 2018 classes start on Monday, September 3 and run until Friday, December 21 with Fall Break planned from Monday, October 29 – Sunday, November 4. Completion week is from December 17 - 21. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

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

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/fall-2018>

Start: Thursday, September 6

There will be no class on Thursday October 4 and Thursday October 11.

WEEK 1

Sept 06

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Introduction of Eva Meyer-Kellers work.

Physical exercise/ game.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back.

WEEK 2

Sept 13

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Mandatory orientation with Joon Park and Janina Schabig

Watching excerpts of works by Martha Rosler, Bobby Baker and others.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 3

Sept 20

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Watching excerpts of works by Trisha Brown, Meg Stuart, Anna Halprin and others.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 4

Sept 27

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Guest speaker: Cuqui Jerez will present her work

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 5

October 4

No class

WEEK 6

October 11

No class

WEEK 7

Oct 18

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Watching excerpts of works by Fishli/ Weiss, Roman Signer, Erwin Wurm and others.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 8

Oct 25

No class

WEEK 9

Nov 8

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Watching excerpts of works by Forced Entertainment, La Ribot and others.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 10

Nov 15

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Doing physical exercises and games.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 11

Nov 22

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Watching different animations and a choreographic interpretation of protein synthesis, the process whereby biological cells generate new proteins.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 12

Nov 29

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Guest speaker: Agnes Meyer-Brandis will present her work

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 13

Dec 6

Thursday 15:45 – 19:45

Looking at the work of Sara Sze, looking for choreographic aspects in it, e.g. space and time.

Make a short new performance, present, feed-back

WEEK 14

Dec 13

Thursday 15:45 – 17:45

General evaluation: each student will self evaluate the experience of the course and will receive a last overall feedback from the group.

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.. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studio Arts.
- 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.