

## FA299 Virtual Reality in The Artist's Studio

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Office Hours:: by appointment

Credits: 8 ECTS, 4 U.S. credits

### Course Times:

Feb 3rd from 7:30 - 9pm

March 20 from 2 - 6pm

March 29 - April 2 everyday, Mon - Fri from 10 am - 6pm

In addition there will be one-on-one appointments with the Professor before and after Spring Break as well as an end of semester group session (date to be announced).



### Course Description:

For artists as different as Laurie Anderson to Jon Rafman, Virtual Reality has been embraced as an art-medium in recent years. Long lines and wait lists at museums prove the high degree of curiosity about this medium, which makes possible a range of sensory aesthetic experiences unknown to audiences in previous decades.

This workshop is designed for learning about the Google VR software "[Tilt Brush](#)" and the hardware HTC Vive. By working from prompts, our goals will be to explore VR for the first time while finding ways to push our artistic interests in a medium that is at once limiting and limitless. We will meet at the beginning of the semester to discuss the workshop and explore the conversations that have related to

VR in contemporary art. The spring break workshop will involve five full days of intense hands-on project development. A final end of semester presentation will make our production available to the BCB community. Students should also be prepared to compile their projects for online viewing.

Please note: participating students will be required to have their own external hard drives and access to a mobile device that offers access to the AR app "LightSpace"

## **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 the 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](mailto:j.park@berlin.bard.edu)
- Obtain access to the app "LightSpace":  
<https://logicalanimal.com/lightspaceapp>  
<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/lightspaceapp>
- Please be aware that VR may cause dizziness and / or headaches if used too often and / or carelessly. It is up to each student's discretion to know if using VR may cause any problems for the production needs of this class. Also be aware we will only have the hardware available from March 20, after the deadline to withdraw from this course!

## **Academic Integrity**

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

## **Attendance**

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, one absence will not affect the participation grade or require documentation. Beyond that, communication concerning the circumstance from student to Professor by email BEFORE the beginning of any missed class may allow for any non-penalized make-up assignments at the discretion of the Professor.

Please note that Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021: Some students might need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

## **Assessment**

“FA299 Virtual Reality in The Artist's Studio” is a workshop that allows students to explore the world of VR (Virtual Reality) along with AR (Augmented Reality) as an art medium. This course expects students to manage the production and technical needs of the assignments independently. Aside from managing the VR software and hardware needs of the equipment BCB provides, students must be self-sufficient in arranging access to the AR app "Light Brush " for one early assignment. The production of VR files involves the first stage of completing assignments. Students will be expected to manage the documentation (hardware enabled video capture), exporting, editing, and presentation of their work. Please note that post-production is one additional expectation that weighs heavily on a student's final grade.

While students are encouraged to explore any creative medium during their time at Bard College Berlin, they will be graded on the production expectations for this class. Quizzes and essays that may be assigned will also be counted towards students grading.

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with Professor as well amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create artworks as well as their willingness to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class, and assessed for their preparation and managing of equipment offered at Bard College Berlin.

In the event that any student mishandles or is negligent to safety of the hardware provided by the college there may be fines expected connected to the value of the equipment. Consequences may involve the withholding of the final grade for this course until such fines are settled.

## **Policy on Late Submission of Assignments**

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). The Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where a Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

## **Grade Breakdown**

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production, communication with Professor and other students): 30 %

Homework and in-class work: 50 %

End of semester post-production presentations: 20 %

## **Schedule**

Wednesday Feb 3rd from 7:30 - 9pm

Saturday March 20 from 2 - 6pm

Mon - Fri from March 29 - April 2, everyday, from 10 am - 6pm

In addition there will be one-on-one appointments with the Professor before and after Spring Break as well as an end of semester group session (date to be announced).

Spring classes start on Monday, February 1 and run until Friday, May 14 with spring break planned from March 29 – April 5. Completion week is from May 17 through May 21. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

The majority of production hours for this workshop are during spring break and will involve independent production time during the days. There will be no uniform lunch break due to the scheduling needs of using the HTC Vive setups.

**Please note that this Syllabus – both scheduling and content – is subject to change:**

Week 1 / February 3rd from 7:30 - 9pm

- Introductions / Course overview
- Seminar: examples of "Tilt Brush" program + the AR app "LightSpace"
- Assignment with the theme "2020" using the iPhone app "LightSpace" to be completed before Spring Break, presented to class the first day as video presentation. \*\*Please note that this app requires access to a mobile device offering iOS 13.0 or later: <https://logicalanimal.com/lightspaceapp>  
If you are unable to gain access to this app, please email the Professor!
- Article (and references) relating to the history / theory of VR: <https://www.touchpoint-resource.com/virtual-reality-virtuality-part-one/>

Week 2 – Week 7:

- Individual appointments arranged with Professor to discuss the progress of "2020" assignment

Week 7 / Saturday March 20 from 2 - 6pm:

2pm studio visit in Kreuzberg at Studio Dennis Rudolph: <https://dennisrudolph.com/>  
Meeting afterwards at BCB Factory for HTC Vive Hardware orientation and reviewing the LightSpace "2020" homework

Important: Mobile adapter for iPhone to projector will be available for viewing. If you are unable to prepare for presenting live with iPhone, please email a video-edited link to Professor latest by March 19th!

- Assignment for March 29: bring a jpeg prepared to upload into VR of a famous artwork which will be "copied" in VR

Monday March 29:

- Review "2020" assignments
- Hands-on intro to HTC Vive set-ups, overview of software
- In-class prompt: Importing an artwork image into VR and virtually "drawing" it as a 2D representation

Tuesday March 30:

- Seminar:

Guest zoom speaker with New York City artist Viktor Timofeev: <https://viktortimofeev.com/>

- In-class prompt: Develop an object in space that is then translated into a physical image or object (due by the end of the week)

#### Wednesday March 31:

- Seminar: TBA + Ian Cheng / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFmMrcW2ZsM>
- In-class prompt: "The Game" – considering a physically engaged environment with rules for your guests.

#### Thursday April 1:

- Seminar: TBA
- In-class prompt: "Exquisite corpse" – collaborative environments developed one-at-a-time that shift between the expected and the surprised

#### Friday April 2:

- Final project: Student choice
- Discussing projects made earlier this week (including earlier assignments)

#### Final class and review of assignments: **\*\* DATE TO BE DETERMINED \*\***

After the spring break students will be expected and graded on final post-production tasks / end-of-semester presentation (online and / or with audience participation):

- presenting a text to be juxtaposed with final presentations
- capturing and editing video footage of final projects
- uploading final projects

## **Facility Guidelines:**

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

The Factory Policy Agreement

PLEASE NOTE: Covid-related safety policies will be offered in person and posted around The Factory!!

- 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](mailto: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