

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 studio art course explores contemporary and historical approaches to drawing and collage. Inspired by the *Vorkurs* of the original Bauhaus school, projects are designed to enhance aesthetic comprehension and expression through the creation of mixed-media drawings and collages. Course activities will ask students to: make analytical drawings of figures & object arrangements, develop conceptual approaches for generating compositions, make abstractions from nature by working outdoors, gather materials from Berlin's famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in collages, work collaboratively on large drawings, and experiment with expressive combinations of 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 printed fragments and hand-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 work sessions. There will also be several group critiques, slideshow presentations, and artist studio / gallery visits. The ideal student is self-motivated, with a strong interest in studying and making art, and must be comfortable with presenting their creations in class discussions.

Studio work is the priority, this course will require a significant amount of time working outside of class sessions. Prospective students should email inquiries to the instructor directly at: j.kleckner@berlin.bard.edu

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Initiate appointments with the 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 the 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. 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 unexcused absence will significantly lower the final grade for the course.
- Tardiness after 10 minutes will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, the Professor must be informed in advance.
- The full BCB attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.
- *SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2021*: for the health of the BCB community all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. A reasonable effort will be made to offer alternatives to in-person attendance when needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options. These alternatives will be introduced on a case-by-case basis. For those students requiring temporary remote participation, individual video calls between student and instructor will replace in-person lessons. Please feel welcome to contact the instructor with questions about this any time.

Assessment

Students will receive midterm and final grades for their work.

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 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.

70% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)
30% Attendance, participation, and professionalism

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (projects & 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 the 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.

Schedule

February 5 Introduction to course, expectations, and materials.
Paul Klee, "An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal." --Drawing is taking a line for a walk. Begin Bauhaus drawing exercises, "Skating on Paper," "Skating on Paper, circumnavigating dots," etc., and *Exquisite Corpse*.

Assignment: 9 Nouns, make 3 finished drawings, each work should include/depict 3 nouns.

February 12 Mandatory factory orientation - students must attend or no Factory chip access.
Drawing Without Drawing and the *Williams von Wulffen Method*.
(Artist references: Amelie von Wulffen, Michael Williams.)

Assignment: 3 phone photos of object arrangements.
2 finished drawings-- 1) "INTERIOR SPACE" 2) "FUNNY / FIGURE"
1 short (ca. 10-30 sec) sound recording, using voice memo application.

February 19 Analytical drawing; drawing from imagination/memory vs. observation; carefully rendered drawings of chosen objects, focus on texture, material, shadows, reflections.

Assignment: 3 finished drawings of 3 chosen objects, each drawn in 3 different scales.

February 26 *Words (with) and (against) Images*.

Slideshow & discussion of combining text and images, phrases and figures.

Assignment: 3 finished works that combine text and imagery (1 work combining printed text with

hand-drawing, the 2nd work using hand-drawn text. 3rd work = artist's choice.)

- March 5* *1,000 Hours of Staring*. Slides & discussion of horror vacui, kenophobia, edge-to-edge drawing, visual density, Op Art, automatic drawing, chance outcomes, patterns/repetition, and systems- or process-based compositions.
Assignment: Finished kenophobic edge-to-edge drawings. ("Wow!?! " factor.)
Also, gather materials to begin working on 'Flohmarkt' projects.
- March 12* *Found at Flohmarkt* Project. Slides & discussion of history, influence, legacy of collage.
Assignment: Finish working on *Flohmarkt* projects.
Also, gather & bring materials to begin working on Midterm projects.
- March 19* Studio work day, *Midterm Projects*.
Assignment: Finish *Midterm Projects*.
- March 26* Midterm presentations & critiques.
- April 2* No class today (Spring Break)
- April 9* Introduction to Linocut printing.
Assignment: Finish cutting lino blocks.
- April 16* Print Linocuts.
Assignment: Begin *Final Projects*.
- April 23* *Nozkowski Strategy*, class will be held outdoors (weather permitting) to explore making abstractions from nature. (Artist reference: Thomas Nozkowski)
Assignment: continue working on *Final Projects*.
- April 30* Studio work day, *Final Projects*.
Assignment: Finish *Final Projects*.
- May 7* Presentation & discussion of *Final Projects*.
- May 14* Installation of artworks. Factory "Rundgang" / open house exhibition.
- May 17-21* 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