

FA315 Advanced Studio: Tools Beyond the Studio

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Office Hours: by appointment on Wednesdays

Module: Exhibition Culture and Public Space / Media, Practices, Techniques

Course Description

This 300 level advanced studio arts course is designed to fully engage in the opportunities of experiencing Berlin through the eyes of an artist, while exploring each student's individual production. We will examine different strategies and skills relating to one's practice inside and outside the studio while discussing the pragmatic decisions relating to one's arts career. Supported by a dialogue with artists and critics in Berlin, we will also explore strategies for developing one's career, discussing the art market and the viable options independent of the art market.

All interests in visual art are welcomed, including sculpture, installation, drawing, collage, photography, painting, video, performance, digital media, etc. Individual and group critiques will happen throughout the semester in connection to reading and writing assignments as well as presenting projects that are responsive to prompts and class discussions. We will also engage in off-campus excursions that may include, galleries, museums, artist studios, project spaces, fabrication facilities, and possibly art events such as Berlin Gallery Weekend.

A public presentation of our accomplishments will be arranged for the end of semester Open Studios event at BCB.

Please note: This course is designed for 3rd and 4th year students whose practice involves studio arts. Off-campus appointments outside of class-time may also be expected.

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.

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 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 ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Assessment

“FA315 Advanced Studio: Tools Beyond the Studio” is a course where students may work in any medium they wish, but are responsible for their own material and production needs.

Students are not only graded on their artistic production but essays, presentations, attendance and communication habits are all taken into consideration. Please note: Presenting detailed, illustrated concepts may in some cases be acceptable substitutes for productions that may be prohibitively expensive or unfeasible at BCB, and will not be grade-penalized if cleared with JvB beforehand.

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. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

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 higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

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

Homework assignments: 30%

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 40%

Schedule

Spring 2020 classes start on Monday, January 27 and run until Friday, May 15 with spring break planned from Monday, April 6 – Monday, April 13. Completion week is from May 11 - 15. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:
<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Syllabus is subject to changes

Readings (sent during the semester as PDF via Google Classroom or as BCB Library reserve):

- Anne Truitt “Daybook - The Journal of An Artist” (Penguin, 1982) **Library reserve shelf
- Olav Velthuis “The Contemporary Art Market Between Stasis and Flux” (Sternberg Press, 2012)
- Essays from “Art in the Periphery of the Center” (Sternberg Press, 2015)
- Annie Duke “Thinking in Bets” (Penguin Random House, 2018) **Library reserve shelf
- April Gertler + Adrian Schiesser’s “Sonntag” (The Green Box, 2019) **Library reserve shelf

Week 1/ Jan 29:

- Introductions
- Discussing Annie Duke (“Poker vs. Chess” + TBA)
- Discussing Chris Burden’s 50,000 objects in “Reason for the Neutron Bomb”
- Homework due in 2 weeks: “10 hours of Love” - how can 10 hours of production time manifest into one project?
- Homework due in 1 week: Read Annie Duke (TBA)

Week 2 / Feb 5:

- Off-campus with Tracey Snelling / Kuenstlerhaus Bethanien
- Homework due Feb 12: present “10 hours of Love” assignment
- If needed: meet / email with JvB before next class to discuss “Mentor” options / Berlin contacts

Week 3 / Feb 12:

- 2:15pm: AV orientations with Janina Schabig / JvB
- Present and discuss “10 hours of Love” assignment
- Discussing preliminary plans for “The Mentor” presentation
- Homework due in 1 week: Read Anne Truitt (TBA)
- Homework due in 1 week: “The Mentor” – interview a Berlin artist whose work you admire (intros to artists may be arranged if needed).

Week 4 / Feb 19:

- Presentations for “Mentor” assignment
- Discussing Anne Truitt
- Discussing “The Proposal”. Assignment involves preparing PDF in A0 format using sketches, models, concept texts, inspiration material.
- Workshop: basics of InDesign program / presentation skills and techniques
- Homework due in 2 weeks: “The Proposal” – develop concept for project based on research at Naturkunde Museum as the starting point. ** Please note: Email exchange of progress the next two weeks and / or meeting with JvB is critical for this assignment

Week 5 / Feb 26:

- **** Off-Campus meet at 2:30 / tour starting at 2:45pm:** Naturkunde Museum (Museum of Natural History, Invalidenstraße 43).
- Private tour with Paleontologist Dr. Faysal Bibi
- Independent research time at the museum

Week 6 / Mar 4:

- In-class presentation / discussing “The Proposal” (PDF projected from student’s own laptop)
- Discussing artists Nancy Rubins, Ignacio Uriarte

Week 7 / Mar 11:

- Fixing one-on-one appointments with JvB for next Wednesday’s class
- Homework: Research “Sonntag” (their book on our library reserve shelf)
<https://sonntagberlin.tumblr.com/>

SUNDAY March 15:

- **** Off-Campus meet at 2:45pm (meeting point to be announced):** visit to project space “Sonntag”
- Homework due in one week (March 22): 300 word essay as pdf on today’s experience (TBA)

Week 8/ Mar 18:

- Meeting by appointment one-on-one with JvB to discuss personal project
- Independent working during class – students must be prepared for production / rehearsing

Week 9 / Mar 25:

- Discussion: From grants to real estate to sponsorship – alternative incomes worth exploring
- Homework: read Olav Velthuis essay (TBA)

Week 10 / Apr 1:

- Discussion: The “Professional Association of Visual Artists in Berlin” (known as “BBK”): (https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front_content.php?idcat=34)
- Scheduling Studio 1 + Studio 5 for presentation crits after the break
- Guest Lecture in The Lecture Hall (4pm) with Jamila Adeli: <https://www.jamilaadeli.com>
- Homework due in 2 weeks: 500 word PDF essay response to Jamila Adeli’s lecture
- Homework due in 2 weeks: Presenting concepts for final projects

Spring Break (no class on April 8)

Week 11/ Apr 15:

- Presenting concepts for final projects
- Discussing site-specificity – visiting on-campus sites as potential starting points for intervention and collaboration
- Independent studio working (speaking one-on-one with JvB)

Week 12 / Apr 22:

- Independent studio working (speaking one-on-one with JvB)
- Project critiques

Week 13 / Apr 29:

- Discussing final project plans / planning individual installations + presentations for next week
- Project critiques
- Optional excursions for Gallery Weekend May 1 - 3 (TBA)

Week 14 /

Tuesday May 5th: Open Studios

Wednesday May 6th: Last class: final discussion + critiques / returning factory spaces used

Week 15: Completion week (no class)

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

Computer Room and Photo Darkroom Facilities:

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.