

FA317 Advanced Painting: an illusionistic surface

Seminar Leader: John Kleckner
Email: j.kleckner@berlin.bard.edu
Course Times: Fri 09:00-12:15
Office Hours: Fri 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This advanced studio course is designed to cultivate students' technical and conceptual abilities within the realm of contemporary painting. A specific topic of interest will be illusionism and mimetic representation in paint. Taking Donald Judd's quote, "...Actual space is intrinsically more powerful and specific than paint on a flat surface," as a point of contention and discussion, we will investigate techniques, possibilities, and problems of illusionistic representation. Students will develop and pursue their own creative projects while reflecting on mimesis as metaphor, exploring depth in pictorial space, scrutinizing specific textures, and experiencing the differences between using photographic references, direct observation, visual memory, and imagination. Artworks will primarily be done with oil and acrylic paints, but experimentation with other materials is encouraged. Weekly sessions will include slideshow presentations, readings, and class discussions, but the majority of time will be spent painting.

Class size is limited to ensure each student has adequate studio space and a surplus of time with the instructor for individual feedback and support. Evaluations & critiques will occur at midterm and at the end of term. The semester culminates in an open house exhibition at the BCB Factory and a printed publication of student artworks.

Studio work is the priority, this course will require a significant amount of time working outside of class sessions. Previous experience with painting required. 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 a 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 2022:* 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.

60% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)

40% 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

<i>February 4</i>	Introduction to course, expectations, and materials. Overview of responsible studio etiquette, safe handling & disposal of materials.
Assignment:	Research 3 painters / 3 Colors. Read Amy Sillman, Donald Judd essays.
<i>February 11</i>	Mandatory Factory Orientation - <i>students must attend or no Factory access.</i> View artist/color research. Discuss assigned essays. Set-up studio workspaces.
Assignment:	Begin <i>Painting Project #1</i>
<i>February 18</i>	Contemporary painting presentation & discussion: surface preparations, designing compositions, <i>Under-Over-At-Through</i> , and mixing accurate colors.
Assignment:	Finish <i>Project #1</i>
<i>February 25</i>	Presentation & critique of <i>Project #1</i> . Slides & discussion: mimetic representation, “realistic” depictions, illusionism, “trompe l’oeil” (trick of the eye).
Assignment:	Begin <i>Painting Project #2</i>
<i>March 4</i>	Slides & discussion: illusionistic space, perspective, depth, background, foreground.
Assignment:	Finish <i>Project #2</i>
<i>March 11</i>	Slides & discussion: photographic references or direct observation.
Assignment:	Begin <i>Painting Project #3 (Midterm)</i>
<i>March 18</i>	Slides & discussion: visual memory, imagination, surrealism.
Assignment:	<i>Finish Project #3 (Midterm)</i>
<i>March 25</i>	<i>Project #3 (Midterm) due.</i> Midterm presentations & critiques.
<i>April 1</i>	Slides & discussion: paint handling, materiality, surface texture, “painterliness,” looseness of brushstrokes-- heavy handed or lightly touched.
Assignment:	Begin <i>Painting Project #4</i>
<i>April 8</i>	Gallery tour / Studio visit (<i>if possible, otherwise studio work session.</i>)
Assignment:	Finish <i>Painting Project #4</i>
<i>April 15</i>	<i>Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break</i>
<i>April 22</i>	Slides & discussion: edges, transitions, gradients, blending.
Assignment:	Begin <i>Painting Project #5 (Final Project)</i>

- April 29* Studio work day. Individual meetings with students to review Final Project progress.
Assignment: Finish *Project #5 (Final Project)*
- May 6* Installation of artworks, discussion & critique of Final Projects.
- May 13* Continue critique of Final Projects. Factory “Open Studios” exhibition.
- May 16-20* 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