

FA355 Embody DIY Video!

Seminar Leader: Dafna Maimon

Class hours: Group A) Tue 9.00-12.15 and Group B) Tue 15.45-19.00

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Many video artists appear in their own works, and turn the lens onto their own lives, environments, and bodies; they do it themselves, through themselves; creating out of a circular process. This class will explore the ways in which autobiography and DIY approaches can function as performative tools for making video art. By utilizing an embodied approach to storytelling and script creation, our aim will be to create video works that not only tell a story, but can be felt viscerally. We will relate to the filmed medium as an extension of our senses, and to the body itself, as a resource that can be both personal and political. Our goal is to unravel new approaches in communicating empathy, memories, feelings and sensations through video. As such, experiments with different self-empowering movement techniques such as Body Mind Centering, Authentic Movement, Improvisation, collaboration, and drawing will be applied to different video assignments. These methods will help us gain sensory awareness and creativity, as well as a sensitivity to the two major elements we need to learn to control as video artists: time and space. Prepare to move, play, and perform utilizing your own body as material and subject within on-site class workshops. Extreme curiosity, group participation and open-mindedness will be expected. We will also explore works from video artists and filmmakers who work with the body, performance, and autobiography as their starting point. Likewise, visiting artists and body practitioners will be invited to host workshops within the class. Students applying for this course should already have some experience in filming and be self-sufficient in editing, as the focus of this course will not be on technical video instruction. Instead, students will delve into a rigorous process and develop their own visual language that can at once analyze, criticize, and transmit visceral experiences reflecting on our existence and potential as humans in this highly digital age.

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.
- Read and 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. Please contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park for more information: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. 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, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Beyond that, instructors are free to set their own policies about requiring documentation for further excused absences, and on how further unexcused absences affect the participation grade.

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. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING 2022: Some students may 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

Embody DIY Video! is a course where students utilize playful experiments with different body oriented practices as a starting point for creating video art in order to access their topics from an embodied place. We will work in video and other mediums, with collaborative exercises and working methods that will culminate in a final video shown at the Open Studios or another studio arts event. The initial phase of experimentation may include performative assignments, drawing, writing as well as set- or prop-creation, and workshops as well as smaller-scale video assignments. Students will be expected to do ALL assignments and participate actively in class, and to be able to structure their time well for videos that require several stages of production. Even though this is a video-class, the creative process and conceptual procedures that build up toward making the videos will also be part of the assessment; essentially the students entire process in all it's aspects is assessed, and the process itself is as important as any specific outcome. This means that the earlier

experimentations, the students own research, class participation, sketches, rough-cuts of videos, and exercises across mediums are equally important for the grading. If students fail to show earlier rough-cuts, sketches plans and their process in class, the final videos will not be accepted for grading and cannot be shown in the final presentation. Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with the Professor as well as amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create artworks as well as their willingness and capacity to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, pre-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+). 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

Communication and Class participation: Communication includes communication habits with Professor, in class and via email, and among other students. Class Participation includes attendance, engagement in class workshops, in class work, critiques and conversations and maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal: % 30

Assignments and Project presentations for critiques includes: all assignments, sketches, homework and production phases, the students own ongoing research end of semester presentations / videos / performances: % 35

Final Video Assignment % 35

Schedule

Note 1: This course begins a week later on Tuesday February 8th. The first week's class will be replaced

by additional individual talks during the making of the final video.

Spring classes start on Monday, January 31 and run until Friday, May 20, with spring break planned from April 11 – April 18. Completion week is from May 16 through May 20. 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/>

Note 2:

-Due to in class workshops and visiting guest artists, and exhibition visits, there may be 1-2 classes that take the format of a longer 4-5 hour workshop, and therefore some classes may be extended or rescheduled. In such cases the extension will be made up for by shortening another class. You will be informed of these schedule changes ahead of time in class.

Please always come/be ready to move physically in this class; we will explore almost weekly exercises that incorporate physical movement, so make sure you wear warm enough and comfortable clothing.

Key

Assignments:

1. *“Not Me, Me; Performance to Camera”* - Due Feb 22nd and March 1st
2. Uncovered Movement to Camera - Due March 22nd and March 29th
3. *Final Video; “This Body of Work”* - Several Stages and Deadlines: April 5th, April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd
4. *Ongoing presentations of somatic research in video (individual dates t.b.a for each student)*
5. Screening at Open Studios in May date t.b.a

Note: This course will end with an open to public screening of the final video works at the open studios or equivalent studio arts event in May 2022

COURSE STRUCTURE

Class 1 February 8th (Note no class Feb 1st)

Introduction to class, working methods and theme: How can autobiography be experienced through the body? What is it to embody something? What constitutes a body and where are its limits? How do we translate a somatic process to video art? A look into DIY Approaches,

and video artists working in this manner i.e. Shana Moulton, Tabita Rezaire, Maya Deren, Mona Hatoum, Keren Cytter

Mandatory in-class facility orientations

Assignment: Create a Storyboard or Moodboard for a 2 min DIY film in which you explore the emotional landscape of a body.

Class 2 February 15th

Viewing video art examples and discussing artists that work with the body, autobiography, performance, choreography and somatic processes in video i.e., Ed Atkins, Adrian Piper, Eli Cortiñas, Mark Leckey, Hannah Black, Arthur Jafa etc.

Review of assignment: Storyboarding An Emotional Landscape

Class 3 February 22nd (this class is ONLINE)

In class Body-Mind Centering and performance to camera workshop by guest artist Andrew Kerton

Assignment: “Not Me, Me; Performance to Camera” create a 2-3 min video that you develop from the in- class performance to camera workshop

Class 4 March 1st

Review of “Not Me, Me; Performance to Camera”

Mandatory in-class facility orientations and AV orientation.

March 8th - NO CLASS Federal Holiday

Class 5 March 15th

Discussion and viewing works relating to “performing to camera”: ie. Joan Jonas, Sondra Perry, Erkkä Nissinen, Pipilotti Rist, Stanya Kahn, Lynn Hershman Leeson

Somatic exercise: “Authentic Movement” retrieving an embodied subconscious

Assignment: "Uncovered Movement to Camera" - Create a 2 min film exploring the experience of your authentic movement session in relation to movement of the camera

Class 6 March 22nd

Discussion and viewing of works by video artists who work with embodiment and narrative structures; Jeremy Shaw, Pauline Curnier Jardin, Josefin Arnell

Review 1st cut of "Uncovered Movement to Camera"

Class 7 March 29th

Review 2nd cut of "Uncovered Movement to Camera"

Introduction to Final Assignment: "This Body of Work"

Assignment: Sketches, Mood boards, Scripts, Concepts, Production Plans - Due April 5th

Presentations of somatic research in video (2-3) students

Class 8 April 5th

In class collaborative production workshop and review of sketches, plans for final video

Presentation of somatic research in video (2-3) students

April 12th Spring Break - No Class

Class 9 April 19th

Review 1st cut of Final Video

Presentation of somatic research in video (2-3) students

Class 10 April 26th

Review 2nd cut of Final Video

In Class Exercise: "I am Aware"

Class 11 May 3rd

Final Review and Critique of Final Video

Class 12 May 10th

In class preparation for final screening, programming of videos, film introductions and presentation

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 – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

- 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 and social distancing conditions. Borrowing equipment is currently implemented by scheduling an advance appointment through this link: <https://janinaschabig.youcanbook.me/>

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

Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

Computer Pool and Media Lab – Kuckhoffstrasse 24 (first floor)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.