

# TH140 Practices of Making in the Performing Arts

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Course Times: 14:00-17:15

## Course Description

This course will centre around learning about, experimenting with, and reflecting on different modes of production and presentation in the field of contemporary performance. It will be divided in two halves: the first will introduce students to the history and theory of performance starting at the beginning of last century with Futurism, Dadaism and Bauhaus, and bringing it all the way to contemporary makers whose dance and post-dramatic work we will have a chance to experience live in Berlin. In addition to becoming acquainted with the particular approaches of the Situationists, Land Artists, Fluxus, as well as artists like Allan Kaprow, Yves Klein, Martha Rosler, Joseph Beuys, Simone Forti, Bobby Baker, Francis Alys and Hito Steyerl among many others, students will also get to experiment with a working method that emphasises feedback sessions based on observations and associations rather than judgements and evaluations. During the second section, attention will zoom into each student's individual projects which will be driven by their own personal interests and urgencies. These can originate from any kind of material from any sphere, such as autobiography, politics, natural and social sciences, etc., or emerge in response to any of the art works shown in class, including those made by fellow classmates. Students will be required to keep a process journal where to gather material and document their engagement with their own as well as other people's work, so as to be able to find connections and identify areas to further investigate and develop. The course is open to students of all walks and levels. No previous experience is necessary.

## 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. 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. Syllabi should note that, 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 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 five minutes will be considered an absence.

### Assessment

Evaluation is based on two aspects: First, general participation in the seminar and second, short, individual performances that each students has to develop every week.

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

### **Grade Breakdown**

Class participation (includes attendance, active participation in praxis and theory, communication habits with professor and among other students as well as maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal): 40% (mid term: 20%, final: 20%)

Making, watching and giving feed-back to weekly performances: Independence and ambition in the making of performances, presentation and distinctness of performances, offering feedback to the performances of the other students, receiving feedback from the class: 60% (mid term: 30%, final: 30%)

### **Schedule**

Fall 2019 classes start on Monday, September 2 and run until Friday, December 20 with fall break planned from Monday, October 28 – Sunday, November 3. Completion week is from December 16 - 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/>

02.Sept: EVA + ILYA - Introduction to the instructors' work and to the MSAR (making-showing-assessing-responding) Feedback Method

09.Sept: EVA + ILYA - Recap and connections. Practical exercises inspired by the instructors' work. & Mandatory in-class facility orientations

16.Sept: No class. Work at home.

23.Sept: EVA - Practice/Theory : MSAR session

30.Sept: EVA - Practice/Theory : MSAR session

7.Oct. : ILYA - Theory/Practice : Introduction to the history and theory of performance 1

14.Oct: ILYA - Theory/Practice : Introduction to the history and theory of performance 2

21.Oct: EVA + ILYA Gear-switching towards the production-presentation of a final project

28.Oct: fall break

4.Nov: ILYA - Theory/Practice : Locating and positioning the work

11.Nov: ILYA - Theory/Practice : Locating and positioning the work

18.Nov: EVA +/or ILYA - Development of final project

25.Nov: EVA - Development of final project

2.12: EVA + ILYA - Final Presentations

9.12: EVA + ILYA - Assessments and (in)conclusions

Week 15: Completion week / Inspection

## 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](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

### MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

\*\* Guidelines to be offered during orientations.