

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. Suitable for all levels of artistic ability, the goal is to enhance aesthetic comprehension and personal expression through the creation of mixed-media drawings and collages. We begin by transcribing embodied experience into visual compositions, attending to our perceptual awareness to strengthen the coordination of mind, eyes, and hands. Course activities will ask students to: make analytical drawings of figure / object arrangements, develop conceptual methods of composing, make abstractions from nature by working outdoors, gather materials from Berlin's famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in collages & assemblages, work collaboratively on large-scale drawings, and experiment with innovative combinations of text and imagery. A core theme will be exploring the potential to generate new and surprising content from the juxtaposition of found printed fragments and hand-drawn lines. Of special interest for our class discussions will be works created by current and historical Berliners, such as Dada artist Hannah Höch. The majority of classes are studio work sessions. There will also be several group critiques, slideshow presentations, and artist studio / gallery visits. The semester culminates in the "Open Studios" exhibition at the BCB Factory and a printed publication of student artworks. Students are expected to be self-motivated, open to exploring new ways of working, and comfortable sharing their artworks during 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 their questions to the professor directly at:

j.kleckner@berlin.bard.edu

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 the 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 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 2023*: for the health of the BCB community all students and instructors should 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.

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 and the effort spent creating them. 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 in discussions, professionalism (being efficient, tidy, respectful)

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.

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.

Schedule

- February 3* Introduction to course, expectations, and materials.
Begin drawing; exploring gesture, contour, negative space, shape, and shading.
Paul Klee, "An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal." --*Drawing is taking a line for a walk*. Bauhaus Vorkurs drawing exercises, "Skating on Paper," "Skating on Paper, circumnavigating dots," etc.
- Assignment: Make 3 finished drawings on 3 separate sheets of paper, combining words from class.
- February 10* Mandatory Factory Orientation - students must attend or have no Factory chip access.
Exquisite Corpse and the "Williams von Wulffen Method."
Make collaborative drawings. Assess & discuss works made in class.
- Assignment: 3 finished drawings using techniques discussed in class.
- February 17* Slide presentation & discussion of drawing from memory vs. direct observation.
Drawings of objects, rhopography compositions.
- Assignment: 1 finished drawing: a richly detailed rendering of a chosen object, drawn actual size, as small as possible, and as large as possible.
Also, 1 photo composition which includes the realistic drawing.
- February 24* Words (with) and (against) Images. Cut-up technique, aleatory & oblique strategies.
Discuss the possibilities and challenges that arise when combining text and images.
- Assignment: 3 finished works combining text and imagery. 1 work combining found text with hand-drawn images, the 2nd work using hand-drawn text. 3rd work, artist's choice.
- March 3* "1,000 Hours of Staring" slideshow. Horror Vacui / Edge-to-edge drawing techniques.
Work on drawings that cover paper edge-to-edge, filling the entire surface.
Discuss automatic drawing, chance outcomes, patterning, and conceptual strategies.
- Assignment: 2 finished Horror Vacui / Kenophobia / Edge-to-edge drawings.
- March 10* Slideshow covering the history, legacy, and influence of collage.

- Assignment: Develop ideas for and begin working on Midterm projects.
- March 17* Studio work day, individual meetings with students to discuss Midterm Projects.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Projects.
- March 24* Midterm Projects due today. Midterm presentations & group critique of projects.
- March 31* Introduction to Linoleum block printing.
Assignment: Finish cutting lino blocks.
- April 7* *Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break*
- April 14* Make linocut prints.
Assignment: Finish a set of prints.
- April 21* Studio work day, begin Final Projects.
Assignment: Work on Final Projects.
- April 28* Studio work day, individual meetings with students to review Final Project progress.
Assignment: Finish working on the Final Projects.
- May 5* Installation of artworks. Presentation, discussion, & critique of Final Projects.
- May 12* Continued critique of Final Projects. Factory “Open Studios” exhibition from 6-8pm
- May 15-19* Completion Week. Factory must be clean, all artworks & personal 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

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) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 12) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu