

FA302 Advanced Painting: Oil Paint & After

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

Email: j.kleckner@berlin.bard.edu

Course Times: **Mon 09:30-12:45**

Office Hours: **Mon, Tue, Thu 13:00-14:00 or by appointment**

Course Description

This advanced studio course is designed to connect the gamut of materials and techniques in contemporary painting with the development of an individual aesthetic style. Weekly sessions will expose students to a range of traditional and experimental painting techniques with the aim of synchronizing materials and methods with content and style. From traditional linseed oil to iridescent color-shifting acrylic additives, students will learn to choose, mix, and use paint more effectively, making the medium integral to the subject and content of their art. Past topics of exploration include: making paint from pigments, customizing paint consistency, airbrushing, marbling, masking, frottage, stamping, stencils, collage, cobalt driers, stand oil, solvent alternatives, malbutter, Maroger, Neo Megilp, Liquin, Ferrofluids, interference pigments, impasto paste, gels, retarder, Imprägnierung, gesso, Structura, modeling (molding) paste, (non-)absorbent grounds, encaustic wax, Dammar varnish, UV varnish, polymer emulsion, alkyd resin, casein, encaustic, enamel, vinyl Flashé, gouache, rabbit-skin glue, and inkjet printing on canvas. Material demonstrations will be augmented by readings, slideshows, gallery tours, and studio visits. The syllabus begins with directed assignments that demand greater independent initiative as the semester proceeds. Students are expected to have prior painting experience, a willingness to experiment, and be highly motivated to make and discuss art. Class size is limited to ensure each student has adequate studio space and extended time with the professor for individual feedback and support. Evaluations and group critiques occur at midterm and at the end of the term. The semester culminates in the “Open Studios” exhibition and the “ArtSeen” printed publication of student artworks. Studio work is the priority, this course requires a significant investment of time outside of class sessions.

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 personal belongings during Completion Week. 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 FALL 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 receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions exchanging feedback during critiques, and their ability to work effectively 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 manage their time for working and clean-up of materials and spaces used at BCB.

70% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)

30% Attendance, participation in discussions, and professionalism

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be given 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.

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor during office hours to discuss assignments and seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

IMPORTANT- 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. .

Schedule

- September 4* Introduction to course, expectations, and materials. Set-up studio workspaces. Overview of responsible studio etiquette, safe handling & disposal of materials.
Assignment: Research (living) painters. Read Amy Sillman's "On Color" essay.
- September 11* Discussion of the properties of various paints (acrylic, oil, gouache, enamel, etc.)
Share painter research. Discuss assigned essay.
Stretching canvas demonstration.
Assignment: Begin Painting Project #1
- September 18* Surface preparations. Gesso, imprägnierung, rabbit skin glue, sizing, priming, grounds, acrylic medium, pre-primed canvas. Stretch and prime an unusual material (t-shirt, burlap, plastic, etc) to use as a painting support. Prepare paper and cardboard for painting. Contemporary painters slide presentation & discussion.
Assignment: Finish Project #1, due next session.
- September 25* Mixing accurate colors. Overview of color theory & terminology, color wheels, Hue / Value / Chroma, crispening (color relativity), local color, color constancy, Albers color exercises. Slide presentation, discussion, and hands-on paint mixing demos .
Assignment: Begin Project #2, due next session. Mix 5 accurate colors from found samples.
- October 2* Mixing paint from pigments.
Assignment: Begin Project #3 (Midterm)
- October 9* Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Midterm Projects.
Assignment: Finish Project #3 (Midterm)
- October 16* Project #3 (Midterm) due today. Midterm presentations & group critiques.
- October 23* *Fall Break ~~~ Fall Break ~~~ Fall Break*
- October 30* Edges, spatial depth, foreground / background, unsharp focus, light & shadow, atmospheric space. Masking with tape, frisket, masking fluid, and stencils.
Assignment: Begin Painting Project #4
- November 6* Paint handling, gesture, surface texture, quality of brushstrokes (heavy handed, lightly

	touched, etc.) Paint mediums and additives, impasto pastes, malbutter, Maroger, Neo Megilp, alkyd gels. Slide presentation & discussion.
Assignment:	Finish Painting Project #4
<i>November 13</i>	More paint additives, iridescent & interference pigments, glass beads, coarse grains & grit, Structura, and modeling (molding) paste.
Assignment:	Begin Painting Project #5 (Final Project)
<i>November 20</i>	Material vs metaphor. Subject vs content. Unpacking a painting, picking a piece apart. Slide presentation & discussion. Accompanying their final project, students will write a short statement outlining the conceptual thesis of their work. This text should help illuminate the “what, why, how” of their project.
Assignment:	Continue Project #5 (Final Project) Write Artist Statement (draft.)
<i>November 27</i>	Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.
Assignment:	Finish Project #5 (Final Project.) Finish Artist Statement.
<i>December 4</i>	Installation of artworks. Presentations & critique of Final Projects.
<i>December 11</i>	Presentations & critique of Final Projects, continued.
<i>December 15</i>	“Open Studios” exhibition from 4-8pm (date & time subject to change.)
<i>Dec 18-22</i>	Completion Week. Studios must be clean, artworks & personal materials removed.

Facility Guidelines:

Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44)

- 1) The Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44) 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 Direktorenhaus. Chip access to the Direktorenhaus is from 7am to 10pm everyday during the semester.
- 2) Students agree to only use the common spaces that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits.
- 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) 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. Electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 7) If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 8) 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.

- 9) 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.
- 10) Contact Studio Arts Manager directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu