

FA103 Found Fragments & Layered Lines: Mixed-media Techniques for Drawing and Collage

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

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Course Times: **Thu 9:30-12:45**

Location: **Direktorenhaus at Monopol, Provinzstr. 40-44**

Office Hours: **Mon, Thu 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 two-dimensional compositions, attending to our perceptual awareness in order 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, gather materials from Berlin's famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in collages and 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 discussions will be works created by living 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 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 the professor 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 the 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.
- Bard College Berlin may 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 2024:* for the health of the BCB community students and instructors should not attend class in-person if they test positive for Covid.

Assessment

Students will receive midterm and final grades for their work.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions exchanging feedback during critiques, and on their ability to work effectively together in collaborative groups and independently throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the creative ambition, time invested, strength of concept, technical execution, 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 BCB.

70% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)
30% 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 BCB email accounts.

Students are encouraged to make appointments with the instructor during office hours to discuss assignments and participation, or they 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, 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

- Week 1: Feb 1 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: 3 finished drawings on 3 sheets of paper, combining words listed in class.
- Wk 2: Feb 8 Draw without drawing, Exquisite Corpse, and the “Wangechi von Wulffen Method.” (artists referenced: Wangechi Mutu & Amelie von Wulffen)
Individual & collaborative drawing. Assess & discuss works made in class.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings using techniques demonstrated in class. 1) *Fantastical Figures* 2) *Psychological Space* 3) *Artist’s Choice*.
- Wk 3: Feb 15 Slide presentation & discussion of drawing from memory vs. direct observation.
Draw object arrangements, rhopography compositions.
Assignment: 1 finished drawing: a highly detailed rendering of a chosen object, drawn actual size, as small as possible, and as large as possible on a single page. Also, 2 photographic compositions which include the detailed drawing.
- Wk 4: Feb 22 Words (with) and (against) Images. Dada poetry, Cut-up technique, aleatory & oblique strategies. Slideshow and discussion of the possibilities and challenges that arise when combining text and images.
Assignment: 3 finished works combining text and imagery. 1) *Combining found printed text with hand-drawn elements*. 2) *Using hand-drawn text*. 3) *Artist’s choice*.
- Wk 5: Feb 29 “1,000 Hours of Staring” slideshow. Horror Vacui / Kenophobia drawing projects.
Drawings that fill paper edge-to-edge, paying special attention to time, process, technique, materials. Discuss automatic drawing, randomness, patterns, and conceptual strategies.
Assignment: 2 finished Horror Vacui / Kenophobia / Edge-to-edge conceptual drawings. (This assignment is the Midterm project, due March 14.)
- Wk 6: Mar 7 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Midterm Project progress.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Projects.
- Wk 7: Mar 14 Midterm Projects due today. Midterm presentations and group critique.
- Wk 8: Mar 21 Introduction to Linoleum block printing.

Assignment: Finish cutting lino blocks.

Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break (March 25-29)

Wk 9: Apr 4 Print carved linoleum blocks.

Assignment: Finish a set of prints. Also, gather materials for Final Projects.

Wk 10: Apr 11 Share & discuss linocut prints. Slideshow covering the history, legacy, and influence of collage. Studio work session, begin Final Projects.

Assignment: Work on Final Projects.

Wk 11: Apr 18 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.

Assignment: Finish Final Projects.

Wk 12: Apr 25 Installation of artworks. Presentation, discussion, and critique of Final Projects.

Wk 13: May 2 Continue discussion and critique of Final Projects.

Wk 14: May 9 *No Class today – Federal Holiday*

Friday, May 10 “Open Studios” exhibition from 4-8pm. (date / time may change.)

May 13 - 17 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 open. 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 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