

BCB SPRING SEMESTER 2024

FA325 The Photo Zine: A Subversive Phenomenon

Seminar Leader: April Gertler

Course Time: Fridays: 2 - 5.15pm

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Office Hours: by appointment - please contact me!

Course Description

The concept of a "Zine" (pronounced 'zeen') refers to small-circulation (typically an edition of 100 or less), self-published works of original or appropriated images and texts, often reproduced using a copy machine / printer / duplicator. Zines, or 'fanzines' can be traced back to the 1940s. First created by science fiction fans, and famously played a significant role in the punk movement of 1970s as a way to explore subversive topics and ideas around the movement. Zines continue to be found in many subcultures and have always played a crucial role as a means of communication within those diverse subcultures. The genre often embraces a "do-it-yourself" ethos, challenging the established norms of professional design and publishing. Zines offer an alternative, confident, and self-aware mode of expression. Photography is an essential component to most Zines. A space for visual story telling, the Zine can also be used to preview an ongoing photographic project. Historically, the diversity of photography used in Zines is very wide reaching; from tailor-made personal photographs to found images from any source. This class will work with printers, copy machines and a RISO duplicator to explore how the limited edition Photo Zine can become an important mode of self expression. We will work with image and text, found and created, in the formats we develop. The class will visit Schikkimikki - a Zine library that has Zines from all over the world in their collection. At the end of this class, each student will possess a small library consisting of their own Photo Zines and those made by fellow students.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Use the designated printing times given to each student at the beginning of the semester. If the time is not used, please contact the Professor.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails and/or text messages from the Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at any-time is not permitted and will still be considered student's property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.
- Students are expected to purchase 36 exposure Black and White film and photo-graphic paper as needed for class assignments.

Attendance and Special considerations for SPRING 2024:

All students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling

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- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will 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, the Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence unless the Professor is contacted at least 1/2 an hour before class.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, 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 the Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within two weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than a C.

Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

This class is based on the simple principle of doing the best you can in class.

That means; handing your work in on time, coming to class on time, participating in class and cleaning / maintaining the darkroom and finally, being prepared and ready when in class. You will get a written assessment of every assignment you do.

Corita Kent, the artist and former nun wrote a very apt list titled:

10 RULES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.

I follow this list quite closely - (see the rest of the list at the end of the document)

Rule Number 7 says; The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It is the people who do all the work all the time who eventually catch to things.

You can fool the fans — but not the players.

Keep this in mind during this class. Although you are needed to be in class to get grades and pass the course — much more importantly you are needed to help make the class what it is. The structure is there for you and you are also part of the structure; your contributions help shape the class.

Assessment

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 to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at P98 at Bard College Berlin.

During the semester, all assignments will be graded and commented on. If you feel that you are unsure of your grade and want clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me, I am always happy to discuss.

Anticipated Costs for this Class

Each student will be expected to purchase their own paper - which can include cover stock or other types of paper one might want to use for their Zines in this class. The costs should not go over 50€ for this class.

Materials list

Basic tools for Zine making will be provided to the students during the class. Outside of those materials, specialty papers/threads that the student might want for their Zines will be the costs the students will have to incur themselves.

SPRING 2024 WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and/or deadlines.

VOCABULARY that we will be going over in this class:

Zine

Fan Zine

Signature

Diptych

Awl

Bone Folder

Mountains and Valleys

Grain

February 3: Week 1

Introductions, expectations, rules, Zine examples.

If you have a Zine or have made a Zine - BRING IT TO CLASS TODAY!!

In class exercise: The 8 Fold!

February 9: Week 2

Starter Zine Kit handed out along with first assignment titled:

Assignment #1 (due 17 Feb): The Self-Portrait Narrative

Go to a photoautomat somewhere in Berlin (here is a map of various automats in the city:

<http://www.photoautomat.de/standorte.html>) and make 3 self-portrait photographic narratives in the photo booth. Each strip is a series of 4 images, so you will have to plan ahead. It will cost €3 for a strip of black and white photographs - bring coins with you.

In class exercise: The Signature!

Presentation on the photographic narrative

February 17: Week 3

Assignment #1 due! Bring the 3 strips of photographs with you to class.

Critique and discussion about the photographic narrative.

Assignment #2 (due Feb 23); make a Zine (in an edition of 2) of the photo strips.

Presentation assignments given today for next week! Each person will be assigned an artist well known for their Zines and will do a presentation on that artists' work.

February 16: Week 3

In progress review of the Self Portrait Narrative Zine

Presentations today = outline of the 5-7min presentation should include:

+ 10 slides minimum

+ biographical background on the artist

+ what type of zines did they make?

+ Share with us your favourite Zine they made - can be a double page spread, or the concept for the Zine, etc

February 23: Week 4

Assignment #2 due! In class critique

Assignment #3 - Fan Zine! (Due March 15) - create a Zine dedicated to your favourite band, this Zine must include one color component and be in an edition of 12 (for the possibility of swapping - because historically that's what people do with their Zines! They swap them! This assignment connects to the historical roots of the concept of the Zine.

This Zine must include a 'submission' by someone else about your band. You can either ask a friend to submit something or you can find something to submit.

The credits for the person who you included in your Zine must be given in the colophon.

This Zine must also be 8 pages long (it can be sewn or stapled).

Presentation on Fan Zines over the years. The big question we will address here is :

What is a Fan Zine and what is included in a Fan Zine?

March 1: Week 5

In progress review of the FanZine!

In class work time for this project.

March 8: Week 6 - Holiday

No class today.

March 15: Week 7

Assignment #3 due! - in class critique

Assignment #4 - The One Topic Zine! (Due March 22)

Choose one topic that is of interest to you, make a series of photographs of this topic: it can be anything from man hole covers to egg cups; whatever you can think of.

Sequence the photos and create a Zine - this Zine is meant to be image based only.

Zine must be 8 pages long (using 2 sheets of paper folded)

March 22: Week 8

I will be holding one on one Zoom meetings with everyone in class today; schedule to follow.

SPRING BREAK 25 - 31 MARCH

April 5: Week 10

Assignment #4 due! - in class critique

Bring a poem to class today.

The poems everyone brings to class in will play a role in the evolution of this assignment.

Assignment #5 - Image and Text Zine (due April 19)

Presentation on image and text zine examples

Group exercise - making one page mock up zines for this assignment

April 13: Week 11

In class work time on this assignment

April 19: Week 12

Please Note: This class meets at WIRWIR studio, Stuttgarter Str. 56, 12059 Berlin-Neukölln

Assignment #5 due! - in class critique

Assignment #6 - The Riso Zine! (Due May 3)

This Zine content is up to you! You can do whatever you want in this Zine!

But it must be a minimum of 8 pages (2 sheets of paper).

We will be using the Riso duplicating machine for this assignment.

We will be discussing how the Riso machine works during our meeting at WIRWIR

April 26: Week 12

Printing and assembling at WIRWIR

May 3: Week 13

Printing and assembling at WIRWIR

May 10: Week 14: install for open studio!

ARTSEEN submission information!

***Please make a one A4 page featuring image(s) of your artwork, with your own layout / page design.

The zine will be printed in Portrait format on A4 paper with a plastic spiral binding on the left side.

The official size of A4 is 210 x 297mm.

Considering the 5mm white border on each side, the true workable size of your page is 200 x 287mm. Keep in mind while designing your page that the holes punched for the binding will intrude at least 1cm into the left side of the page.

The final design should be saved as either PDF or JPG.

The resolution or print quality should be 300 dpi.

The page* MUST include your name.

In addition to: work(s) title, date, materials, and size

The typical art caption info might appear like this:

Artist Name, "Title," 2024, Silver gelatin print, 20 x 30 cm

Or this:

Artist Name

"Title" 2024

Silver gelatin print

30 x 20 cm

This will be considered as part of your Final Grade.

Please email me (sooner rather than later) if you have any questions or need any help with designing your page.

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*If you are unclear as to how to do this; you can scan your desired image that you want to submit with your phone (using an App scanner) and then open the document in PREVIEW - you can add a text box on your image there and add the relevant information.

IMMACULATE HEART COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT RULES

- Rule 1 FIND A PLACE YOU TRUST AND THEN TRY TRUSTING IT FOR A WHILE.
- Rule 2 GENERAL DUTIES OF A STUDENT:
PULL EVERYTHING OUT OF YOUR TEACHER.
PULL EVERYTHING OUT OF YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS.
- Rule 3 GENERAL DUTIES OF A TEACHER:
PULL EVERYTHING OUT OF YOUR STUDENTS.
- Rule 4 CONSIDER EVERYTHING AN EXPERIMENT.
- Rule 5 BE SELF DISCIPLINED. THIS MEANS FINDING SOMEONE WISE OR SMART AND CHOOSING TO FOLLOW THEM.
TO BE DISCIPLINED IS TO FOLLOW IN A GOOD WAY.
TO BE SELF DISCIPLINED IS TO FOLLOW IN A BETTER WAY.
- Rule 6 NOTHING IS A MISTAKE. THERE'S NO WIN AND NO FAIL. THERE'S ONLY MAKE.
- Rule 7 The only rule is work.
IF YOU WORK IT WILL LEAD TO SOMETHING.
IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO DO ALL OF THE WORK ALL THE TIME WHO EVENTUALLY CATCH ON TO THINGS.
- Rule 8 DON'T TRY TO CREATE AND ANALYSE AT THE SAME TIME. THEY'RE DIFFERENT PROCESSES.
- Rule 9 BE HAPPY WHENEVER YOU CAN MANAGE IT. ENJOY YOURSELF. IT'S LIGHTER THAN YOU THINK.
- Rule 10 "WE'RE BREAKING ALL OF THE RULES. EVEN OUR OWN RULES. AND HOW DO WE DO THAT? BY LEAVING PLENTY OF ROOM FOR X QUANTITIES." JOHN CAGE
- HELPFUL HINTS: ALWAYS BE AROUND. COME OR GO TO EVERYTHING. ALWAYS GO TO CLASSES. READ ANYTHING YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON. LOOK AT MOVIES CAREFULLY, OFTEN. SAVE EVERYTHING-IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY LATER.
THERE SHOULD BE NEW RULES NEXT WEEK.

**** Guidelines given during orientation**

Facility Policies: The Factory – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB “Factory” (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Any space in the building, private or shared, cannot be used unless permission has been granted. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studios Arts.
- 2) Chip access to the building will only be granted to those students currently registered for classes using the factory (after add-drop), and that have been offered orientation.
- 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 (black-taped areas) must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must always be protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately. Any food used for an art project requiring refrigeration must be labeled with one’s name, and disposed of after presentation. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 8) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 9) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 10) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
- 11) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. BCB will always try to provide these items.
- 12) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask for assistance (by appointment, if necessary).
- 13) Students must be aware of who else is working in the building after dark. Any curfews established by Bard College Berlin must be respected. Finishing production and cleaning up must happen before the curfew time.
- 14) 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.
- 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution. All private property **MUST** be labeled and stored in its proper location.
- 16) All workshop items must be returned to the workshop when not in use.
- 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact the arts staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
- 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.
- 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with your Professor, Studio Arts Manager, or Director of Studio Arts. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with arts staff beforehand.
- 20) 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. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.

1. Contact AV Manager: Janina Schabig with questions: j.schabig@berlin.bard.edu