

TH155 Mind turners – Practices of Making in the Performing Arts

Seminar Leader: Eva Meyer-Keller
Email: e@evamk.de
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

„.... your idea about the world says as much about you as it does about the world. Your brain does not *detect* features in the world and body, it *constructs* features to create meaning. As an adult you have the capacity to challenge those meanings and even change them.” **Lisa Feldmann Barrett**

In this seminar, choreographer and artist Eva Meyer Keller will share insights into her ongoing practice and research of the past years, in which she has been working with artistic and performative means to explore a variety of subjects from the natural sciences such as cell biology and neuroscience. Based on her research and artistic work on the nervous system and active processes of perception, performative exercises and tasks will be developed for the class. These serve as a starting point for each student to embark on developing their own performance projects guided by their own interest and research project. Thus the majority of the class sessions will be practical. Each student will develop their own short performances, cultivating curiosity rather than confidence. Furthermore, works of performative and visual artists such as Uta Eisenreich, Sofia Hulten, Ilya Noé and Agata Siniarska will be discussed. Agata Siniarska will join the class for a workshop session. We will also discuss influential historical artistic positions including Yvonne Rainer’s „no manifesto“ (1965), Sol LeWitt’s „conceptual art manifesto“ (1968), and Mierle Laderman Ukeles “manifesto for maintenance art” (1969), as these were game-changers in terms of how art is conceived and defined. Moreover, we will seek inspiration in other fields, looking, for example, at neuroscientific ideas on the mind as articulated by Lisa Feldmann Barrett, and at Buddhist practices.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Initiate appointments with the 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 their professors in a timely manner.
- Inform their professors 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.

Accessibility

Bard College Berlin is committed to inclusion and providing equal access to all students; we uphold and maintain all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 3 of the German Disability Equality Act of April 27, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1468). If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, Atticus Kleen, (accommodations@berlin.bard.edu) to request an official accommodation.

Requests for longer-term accommodations should be made as early as possible to ensure adequate time for coordination and planning. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may require advance notice to implement.

If you have already been approved for accommodations with the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, please arrange to meet with me outside of class so that we can develop an implementation plan.

Students may face extenuating circumstances related to various personal or external factors, which impact their academic performance. While these circumstances often do not fall within the legal framework of Disability Accommodations, Bard College Berlin is committed to supporting students experiencing such circumstances. A student needing a short extension or a replacement assignment because of an extenuating circumstance is encouraged to make arrangements directly with instructors if possible. If further support is needed, please visit the [Bard College Berlin Accessibility page](#). Questions about this process can be directed to James Harker (j.harker@berlin.bard.edu) or Maria Anderson-Long (m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu).

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

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.

Assessment

Students will produce and present short performances in nearly every week throughout the semester for this class. They will be graded based on their artistic development and commitment to performance making.

“Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with Professor as well 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 Bard College Berlin”]

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 should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students may 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.

Grade Breakdown

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 40 %

Homework and in-class work: 30 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 30 %

Schedule

Week 1: Sep 4: Introduction Eva Meyer-Kellers work, introducing yourself, practical exercise.

Week 2: Sep 11: Visit to the rehearsal of the new performance project by Eva Meyer-Keller in EDEN studios (studio 300), Breite Str. 43, 13187 Berlin

Week 3: Sep 18: no class

Week 4: Warm up exercise, make a one-minute performance, present, introduction into feed-back methods.

Mandatory in-class facility orientations

Week 5: Input, exercise, make a short new performance, present, feed-back

Attention excursion: Saturday 5.10.2024, 7pm we go to see the performance CERTAINLY UNCERTAIN by Eva Meyer-Keller in Dock11, Kastanienalle 79, 10435 Berlin

Week 6: Input, exercise, make a short new performance, present, feed-back

Week 7: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Fall break: Oct 21 – Oct 27

Week 8: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 9: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 10: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 11: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 12: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 13: Input, exercise, make a short performance, present, feed-back

Week 14: 11.12 wrap up session. General evaluation: each student will self-evaluate the experience of the course and will receive last overall feedback from the group.

Grades Submission

Policy on the use of facilities:

1. The Factory (Eichenstrasse 43) and Monopol (Provinzstr 40-44) at BCB offer space and facilities to BCB art students. Chip access is from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, including the weekends during the semester. The buildings cannot be used outside these hours.
2. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
3. Students agree only to use the designated class spaces or communal workshops. Respecting the building and its facilities is crucial, as they are shared resources that need to be preserved for the benefit of all.
4. For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.
5. Unauthorized events and/or parties are not permitted. Projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) are not permitted inside the building.
6. Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.
7. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with the workshop's drop cloth before spray painting or working with plaster.
8. During completion week, any space used by a student must be emptied, with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be adequately disposed of. Final grades may be affected or withheld if any item remains by the inspection deadline.

9. When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and doors must be closed.
10. Contact the Studio art manager directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Emergency phone numbers:

Police (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 110

Fire (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 112

Ambulance and Paramedics (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 112

Out-of-Hours Medical Care (calling from a German landline or cellphone) : 116 117