

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

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

Email: j.kleckner@berlin.bard.edu

Course Time: Monday 9:30-12:45

Location: Direktorenhaus at Monopol, Provinzstr. 40-44

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, 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 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, create abstractions from nature by working outdoors, gather materials from Berlin's famous Flohmärkte (flea markets) to use in collages and assemblages, carve linoleum blocks for printing, 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, weekly slideshow presentations, and contemporary art gallery visits. The semester culminates in the "Open Studios" exhibition at Monopol and the "ArtSeen" publication of student artworks. Students are expected to be self-motivated, open to exploring new ways of working, and comfortable sharing their artworks in class.

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.

- Attend all class sessions punctually and for the full duration, especially critique sessions.
- Finish assignments and projects on time.
- Allocate extra time for preparation and clean-up.
- Practice good studio etiquette, respectfully use shared work spaces and return shared materials to the proper shelves.
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time.
- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.
- Inform their professors 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 by 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.

Accommodations

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 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

Students are expected to attend all class sessions on time and for the full duration of the session. *Tardiness more than 15 minutes will be considered an absence.*

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, ONE absence from this once-per-week course should not affect the grade or require documentation. More than one unexcused absence will significantly lower the overall grade.

Bard College Berlin may not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes (4 class sessions), 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 receive a midterm grade and a final grade for their work.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions exchanging feedback during critiques, and on their ability to work effectively (in collaborative groups and independently) throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the creative ambition, time investment, strength of concept, skillful execution, 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 the materials and spaces used at BCB.

Grade Breakdown

70% Work (meaning all assignments and artworks made for class and presented for critique.)
30% Attendance, participation, and professionalism (being punctual, effective, respectful, and contributing to critiques and discussions.)

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, projects, or 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.

Schedule

- Week 1: Jan 27 Introductions to course, syllabus, expectations, art materials, and Monopol. Begin drawing; exploring gesture, contour, negative space, shape, and shading. Bauhaus Vorkurs drawing exercises, "Skating on Paper," "Skating on Paper, circumnavigating dots," etc. Paul Klee, "An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal." (Drawing is taking a line for a walk.)
Assignment: 3 finished drawings on 3 sheets of paper, using words selected in class.
- Wk 2: Feb 3 "Drawing without drawing", Shape Engines, Exquisite Corpse, and the "Wangechi von Wulffen Method." (artists referenced: Wangechi Mutu & Amelie von Wulffen) Individual & collaborative drawing exercises. Assess & discuss pieces finished for last week's assignment.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings using techniques demonstrated in class. 1) Fantastical Figures 2) Psychological Space 3) Artist's Choice.
- Wk 3: Feb 10 Combining text and images. Dada poetry, Cut-up technique, aleatory & oblique strategies, comics, memes, and graphic design. 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 4: Feb 17 Slideshow & demonstration of drawing from memory vs. direct observation. Make careful, detailed drawings of object arrangements.
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 made in class.
- Wk 5: Feb 24 "1,000 Hours of Staring" slideshow. Horror Vacui / Kenophilia drawing projects. Drawings that "fill" and utilize the paper from edge-to-edge, paying special attention to time, process, technique, materials. Discuss automatic drawing,

- randomness, repetition, and conceptual strategies from composing.
Assignment: 2 finished *Horror Vacui / Kenophobia* conceptual drawings, “filled” to the edges.
(This assignment is the Midterm project, due March 10.)
- Wk 6: Mar 3 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Midterm Project progress.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Projects.
- Wk 7: Mar 10 Midterm Projects due today. Midterm presentations and group critique.
- Wk 8: Mar 17 Introduction to Linoleum block printing.
Assignment: Finish cutting lino blocks.
- Wk 9: Mar 24 Print carved linoleum blocks.
Assignment: Finish a set of prints. Also, gather materials for Final Projects.
- Wk 10: Mar 31 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 7 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.
Assignment: Work on Final Projects.
- Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break (April 14-21)*
- Wk 12: Apr 21 No class session today – Federal Holiday
- Wk 13: Apr 28 Last studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.
Assignment: Finish Final Projects.
- Wk 14: May 5 Installation of artworks. Presentations and critique of Final Projects.
- Friday, May 9 “Open Studios” exhibition from 6-9pm. (date / time subject to change.)
- May 12 - 16 Completion Week. Workshop cleaned, BCB tools & art supplies returned. All student artworks & personal materials removed.

BCB Arts Facility Guidelines

Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44)

1. BCB has facilities and studio spaces at the Factory (Eichenstraße 43) and Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44) for BCB art students to use. Chip card access to these buildings is from 7am to 10pm daily, including weekends during the semester. The facilities cannot be used outside these hours.
2. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.

3. Students agree to use only the designated class spaces and communal workshops. Respecting the buildings, studio spaces, and guidelines is crucial, these 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 and waste must be safely and properly disposed of. Final grades may be affected or withheld if items remain 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 completely closed.
10. Please contact Studio Arts Manager, Joon Park 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