

FA112 Marble Stone Sculpture

Spring 2025

Seminar Leader: Raphael Beil & Tobia Silvotti
Email: schoolofsculpture.berlin@gmail.com
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This seminar introduces students to basic techniques of working stone by hand, using simple, traditional tools such as hammers and various chisels. The aim is to create our own marble sculpture. Along the way we learn how to handle the necessary tools, from the first rough work, to the differentiation and finally the partial grinding and polishing of the marble. We learn the basics of three-dimensional form, proportion and structure. In order to create our own work of art, we also discuss the possible sources of creativity, and ways of accessing inspiration and the imagination to create a very individual sculpture. The seminar will conclude with a presentation of all sculptures and joint analysis of the different artistic languages present in the works. The workshops will be accompanied by lectures on the works and public sculpture projects of Raphael Beil and other contemporary sculptors. Our workshops will take place in a sheltered beautiful garden in Reinickendorf on the grounds of Monopol. Hand tools, work tables as well as work protection will be provided. No previous experience is necessary to participate in the course.

During winter we work in a tent with gas heaters.

Requirements

Important: Stones (one per student from a selection of different kinds of marble and alabaster) will be provided at an extra cost of **€50**. We kindly ask students to bring this amount in cash to our first class on the **Friday 31st of January 2025**.

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 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

March 14th, mid-term examination: Presentation of work in progress

- Reflection of learning process regarding technique, material and artistic process
- Documentation as part of the presentation

May 16th, end-of-term examination: Presentation of completed work

- Reflection of artistic process, including the coherence and integration of vision, material and technique
- Finalized documentation as part of the presentation

Assignments

Documentation for mid-term and end-of-term examinations should be a comprehensible record of the artistic process. This may be delivered in the form of sketches, illustrations, short essays, notes, diary-like entries, photos or small models. Documentation should also include the results of teacher-instructed creative exercises done in class.

The students' steps of project development, search for form, inspirational sources and insights during the process should be made clear. We recommend the use of a sketchbook or folder where students may gather material throughout the duration of the course, digital material is also accepted depending on student preferences and should eventually be submitted as a USB stick.

Students are expected to take part in small tasks that will be given as homework and which will serve as the base of theoretical input in class.

Documentation Deadlines

Mid-term and end-of-term documentations for examination are due on – **March 14th & May 2nd**

Policy on Late Submission of Documentation Material

Submissions that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept documentation that is 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 are also entitled to 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

Criteria:

- A. Show understanding of tools and techniques learned during the course. (25%)
- B. Show a comprehensible artistic process (includes documentation) (25%)
- C. Realization of acquired skills and ideas, formed during the artistic process, in the marble artwork (coherence between A) and B)) (25%)
- D. Engagement and behavior (includes seminar preparation, participation, maintenance of working space and tools, communication with course participants and teachers) (25%)

The criteria will be communicated to the students at the beginning of the semester.

Schedule

Scheduled class times: *Fri 10:00-13:00 at Monopol*

Class times are also available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

Classes missed due to conferences or due to illness of the teachers are rescheduled.

Date	Description
Jan 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcoming and introduction to stone carving ● Choosing stones + setting up work spaces ● Introduction to base hand tools ● Stone carving start
Feb 7 & 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical development with base tools ● Collecting sources of inspiration through creative exercises and understanding form language and proportion
Feb 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stone carving/individual project development (includes advisory conversations with teachers) ● Learning about different types of stones and their origins
Feb 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to further tools ● Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
Mar 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Learning about visual aesthetics of space and time in sculpture (dynamics, metamorphosis) ● Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
Mar 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mid-term examination: Group presentation of works in progress including showcase of project documentation
Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stone carving/individual project development
Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creative exercise ● Stone carving/individual project development
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to further tools and grinding material ● Collecting further sources of inspiration through creative exercises and presentation of contemporary sculptors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical input: levels of perception/form and naming • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring break. No class
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning the completion of individual works, considering final presentation, hand in documentation.
May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of individual projects • Final examination: Group exhibition/presentation of completed works including reflection of artistic process throughout the semester

Grades Submission

Mid-Term assessment grades will be available to students on the **21st March**.

End-Term examination grades will be available for students on the **30th May**.
For graduating students these will be available already on the **12th May**.