

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

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

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Course Time: Monday, 9:30-12:45.

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

Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 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 aesthetic compositions, attending to our visual perception to strengthen the coordination of mind, eyes, and hands. Course activities will have students make analytical drawings of figures and/or object arrangements, develop conceptual methods of composing, attempt automatic drawing and aleatoric confections, create abstractions from nature while working outdoors, 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 images. A core theme will be exploring the potential to generate new and surprising pieces 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 group critiques, weekly slideshow presentations, and contemporary art gallery visits. The semester culminates in the "Open Studios" exhibition in the BCB arts buildings at Monopol Berlin. Students are expected to be open to exploring new ways of creating, eager to spend time working in the studio, and comfortable sharing their artworks in class.

Studio work is the priority, so 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 by the due date.

- Allocate sufficient 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 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 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 provisional midterm grade and a final grade for the course.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions offering feedback during critiques, and on their ability to work effectively (in collaborative groups and independently) throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the 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 next class session unless otherwise specified. Further information about assignments and projects will be explained in detail in class. Assignments and the due 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 note 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 26 Introduction to the course, syllabus, expectations, art materials, studio etiquette, Direktorenhaus, and Monopol facilities.
Begin drawing by exploring gesture, contour, negative space, shape, and shading. *Bauhaus Vorkurs* drawing exercises, "Skating on Paper," "Skating & Circumnavigating Points," etc. Paul Klee, "An active line on a walk, moving freely, without goal." (Drawing is taking a line for a walk.) Choose free association words.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings on 3 sheets of paper, using words selected in class.
- Wk 2: Feb 2 Combining text and images: exploring Dada poetry, cut-up technique, aleatory / oblique strategies, comics, memes, and graphic design. Slideshow of contemporary artists, discussion of possibilities and communicative challenges that arise when creating art by combining text and images.
Assignment: 3 finished works combining text with images. 1) Combining (found) printed text with hand-drawn elements. 2) Using hand-drawn text with printed images. 3) Artist's choice.
- Wk 3: Feb 9 Drawing without drawing, Shape Engines, and the "Wangechi von Wulffen Method." (artists referenced: Wangechi Mutu, Amelie von Wulffen, and Huma Bhabha)
Individual & collaborative drawing exercises. Discuss pieces finished for last week's assignment.
Assignment: 3 finished drawings using techniques demonstrated in class. 1) Fantastical Figures 2) Psychological Spaces 3) Artist's Choice.
- Wk 4: Feb 16 Layering lines, merging and melding figures and perspectives. Using collages as source material for complex, surreal figurative drawings. (Artist references: Francis Picabia, Sigmar Polke, Danica Lundy, Jason Fox.)
Continue Shape Engines exercises: create a shape inventory.
Assignment: 2 finished figurative drawings using techniques demonstrated in class. 1 finished Shape Inventory with 9 unique shapes.

- Wk 5: Feb 23 “1,000 Hours of Staring” slideshow. Horror Vacui / Kenophobia projects.
Drawings that fill the page (in the broadest sense of “fill”); pieces that utilize the entire surface area from edge to edge, paying special attention to time, process, technique, materials, concept, and artistic intention. Discussion of automatic drawing, oblique strategies, aleatory compositions, randomness, repetition, and conceptual strategies.
Assignment: 2 finished Horror Vacui / Kenophobia conceptual drawings, “filled” to the edges. Plan and prepare to start Midterm Projects next session.
- Wk 6: Mar 2 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Midterm Project progress.
Assignment: Finish Midterm Projects.
- Wk 7: Mar 9 Midterm Projects due today. Midterm presentations and group critiques.
(Attendance & participation is especially important.)
- Wk 8: Mar 16 Introduction to Linoleum block printing; overview of tools, cutting techniques, image transfer, reversing text for legibility, and using multiple blocks.
Individual meetings to discuss provisional midterm grades.
Assignment: Finish cutting and carving linoleum blocks.
- Wk 9: Mar 23 Making prints from carved linoleum blocks; overview of suitable papers, using simple press, Baren, inks, converting oil paint to printable ink, printing on fabrics & collages, and cleaning up.
Assignment: Complete a set of prints.
- Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break ~~~ Spring Break (March 30 - April 6)*
- Wk 10: Apr 6 No class today
Assignment: Plan and prepare to start Final Projects next session.
- Wk 11: Apr 13 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss plans for Final Project.
Assignment: Work on Final Project.
- Wk 12: Apr 20 Studio work session, individual meetings to assess progress on Final Project.
Assignment: Finish on Final Project.
- Wk 13: Apr 27 Installation of artworks. Presentations and group critiques of Final Projects.
(Attendance & participation is especially important.)
Assignment: Finish on Final Projects.
- Gallery Weekend Berlin – Friday, May 1 - Sunday, May 3.*
- Wk 14: May 4 Presentations and group critiques of Final Projects.
(Attendance & participation is especially important.)
- Friday, May 8 “Open Studios at Monopol” exhibition from 5-9pm. (date / time subject to change.)

May 11 - 15 Completion Week. Direktorenhaus Workshop cleaned, BCB tools & art supplies returned. All student artworks & personal materials removed.

BCB Arts Facility Guidelines

Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44)

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. Unauthorized events and/or parties are not permitted.
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. All garbage must be safely and adequately disposed of, paper placed in the recycling box.
5. Students are responsible for washing the dishes they use, and cleaning up in the kitchen.
6. For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.
7. Projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) are not permitted inside the building.
8. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
9. Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.
10. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with drop cloth / Malervlies before messy painting, spraying or working with plaster.
11. During completion week, any space used by a student must be emptied, with clean walls and floors. Final grades may be affected or withheld if items remain after the inspection deadline.
12. When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and all doors & windows must be closed.
13. It is especially important that the entrance doors (front & back) are fully closed.
14. 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