

FA112 Marble Stone Sculpture

Spring 2026

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

Course Description

This seminar provides students with a comprehensive introduction to stoneworking, beginning with traditional hand tools such as hammers and chisels, and progressing to electric and pneumatic power tools, including advanced techniques for their effective use.

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

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.

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

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.

It is important to consistently use all class sessions to work on the own project. This is the only way to ensure continuous progress. In addition, it is possible, after consulting with the instructors, to continue working outside of regular class hours on a voluntary basis. However, these additional hours do not replace regular attendance and cannot be credited as a substitute for missed classes

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

15 May 2026 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

Marble Stone Sculpture is a course that allows students to use stone as their primary medium of artistic production. A wide range of stones will be provided, though depending on own expense. All hand tools and machines are supplied by the "School of Sculpture" at no additional cost. For this class, students are required to create and present artworks that are three-dimensional stone sculptures. Documentation of meetings on the theory of sculptural practice, design, and ideation, as well as the draft and development process of the individual project, will also be assessed. Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on how well they communicate with the professor as well as with each other. This includes their ambition to create artworks and their willingness to budget their time to meet all requirements of this class. The assessment also covers the preparation, production, and cleaning of the spaces used at the "School of Sculpture."

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 will receive feedback for their course work during and at the end of the semester. 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): **60 %**

Homework and in-class work: **20%**

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): **20%**

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/>

Date	Description
Jan 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming and introduction to stone carving • Choosing stones + setting up work spaces • Introduction to base hand tools • Learning about different types of stones and their origins • Stone carving start
Feb 6 & 13	<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 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development (includes advisory conversations with teachers)
Feb 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to further tools • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
Mar 6	<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 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development
Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development
Mar 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative exercise • Stone carving/individual project development
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring break. No class

April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical input: levels of perception/form and naming • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone carving/individual project development/applied creativity
May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning the completion of individual works, considering final presentation, hand in documentation.
May 15	<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

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

Grades Submission

[All grades are submitted digitally to the Registrar's Office in a template provided in advance. Please note the following submission deadlines when setting final project deadlines:

- **Reports of Students of Concern are due end of week 8, i.e. March 20, 2026**
- **Final grades for graduating students are due May 8, 2026 by noon. *NB please set your submission dates accordingly so as to meet this deadline***
- **Final grades for all students are due on May 29, 2026**

Reminders about the above deadlines will be communicated by registrar@berlin.bard.edu]

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. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
2. 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.

3. For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.
4. 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.
5. Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.
6. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with the workshop's drop cloth before spray painting or working with plaster.
7. 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.
8. When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and doors must be closed.
9. 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