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ARTZ 595.02: Special Topics - Expanded Studio Practice

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ARTZ 595.2 (3-6 credits)

Expanded Studio Practice

Instructor: Brad Allen, Associate Professor in Art

Class hours are 10:00 – 12:00 AM on Monday/Wednesdays. My email is: bradley.allen@umontana.edu or leave a message in my box in the Art Office. Office Hours are 1-2 PM on Tuesdays, and by appointment in AA 126

Course Description:

Studio-based course that offers graduate students the opportunity to work together in a studio art environment with the possibility of engaging diverse media and themes. May take the form of topic-based studio assignments, thematic inquiry, studio response to readings, and/or specific studio processes depending on faculty. Rotates amongst the faculty, offered Fall and Spring.

Course work:

Expanded Studio Practice will meet weekly for 4 hours; during this time the students will discuss readings, receive lectures or demonstrations, and make art. New artwork will be generated within the context of topic or process-based inquiries. Students will also engage in verbal and written critiques of this research and present the semester's body of work to their peers. We will seek to expand your individual studio practices by including the instruction of a specific technical process in the faculty's particular media of expertise and by engaging a current topic in the arts as a group. In both circumstances, new studio work will be generated in an expanded sense of graduate community. We will foster an appreciation for diverse studio practices.

We will engage (2) thematic concepts/issues that are prevalent across most traditional art disciplines. The method in which you choose to address these concepts is your choice, and should be considered "your work". The first of these involves the mechanism of "outsourcing". We will investigate notions of authorship, define traditional and non-traditional methods of community and bartering, and make studio work that negotiates these concepts. The second thematic concept is "time-design". We will consider the production of art that is not static and unchanging, but rather, that is specifically designed to change and deliver an experience to the viewer over a period of time. The third, and final course requirement will involve hands-on experience in either aluminum casting or digital art making technologies, specifically: 3D Scanning, CAD, 3D Printing, and CNC Routing. Readings will be part of the weekly routine and will be assigned as the course progresses.

Course Objectives:

- Provide graduates the opportunity to complete studio coursework in a class with peers working in diverse media.
- Learn to apply critical theory and artist's writings to student's artistic research.

- Gain appreciation for, and experience with, art media that may be new to you.
- Professional Portfolio development.
- Gain skills needed to solve problems related to thematic or topic-based research as it applies to individual' s studio work –and/or— Gain technical and process-based skills related to one specific media or method of art making.

Attendance:

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three absences your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence, up to six absences when a failing grade is issued automatically.

Studio Space:

We are converting a room in the Sculpture Studio (nearest spray booth) into the Expanded Studio studio. This is a space that you can work on/leave paintings, drawings, any material really. It is the class' s to use as you see fit, but should help alleviate the problem, "How do I make work in a sculpture studio?" We will meet in the classroom daily unless otherwise noted, and to develop a sense of community, make work in or near the sculpture studio.

Texts/Field Trips:

The course will be supplemented with field trips to talk to local curators, directors and artists and supplied with articles from contemporary journals. We will also seek individual critiques from available Visiting Artists in the School of Art.

Grading Policy:

Graduate-level evaluation will include the development of individual goals within the course, establishment of progress indicators, and a mixture of instructor evaluation and self-evaluation. Feedback will include group critique and written criticism of peer work.

The course grade awarded at the end of the term will reflect the student' s overall attendance and performance both in and out of class. Save for a Midterm check-in, it is your responsibility to consult with the Instructor throughout the term to insure that your progress is satisfactory. Grading will be based on individual engagement with the thematic concepts outlined above, attendance, progress, and work ethic. Projects will be graded according to the instructor' s and individual student' s shared goals within each theme/process. Development of significant content in the work in regard to communication with viewer and historical precedents is mandatory.

A traditional studio art letter-grade scale will be employed:

A = Excellence in all assignments, highly motivated, extremely innovative solutions to projects, thorough research

- B = Above average in all work, demonstrated technical growth and maturity
- C = Completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation
- D = Below average quality in work and/or Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation
- F = Poor quality of work and/or Incompletes on many projects, poor class participation, several absences.

Assignment Deadlines:

All responses to the themes discussed must be presented at group-determined deadlines for critique. No late work considered for evaluation.

Access/Special Needs:

If there are any students with disabilities that may have special needs please see the professor after class, or immediately should a need arise during the course of the semester.

Academic Misconduct:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Important Dates:

- 1/29 – Wednesday – Slide Roulette, Sculpture Studio, bring 3 images of your work, 1 image of a piece of art you admire (but that wasn't made by that artist's hand), 1 image of a piece of art you admire that changes/changed over time, (5 images total), on jump drive
- 2/5 – Wednesday – Missoula Art Museum, de-installation of Kienholz, Noon sharp
- 2/10 – Monday – In class Demo, Sculpture Studio, working with wax, ceramic shell process
- 2/17 – Monday – In class Demo, FA 211, 3-D Printing
- 2/24 – Monday – In class Demo, Sculpture Studio, CNC milling
- 2/26 – Wednesday – In class Demo, Sculpture Studio, burning out ceramic shells, Furnace operation
- 3/7 – Friday – Can-Do Aluminum Pour, Sculpture Studio, Noon