

VART 3116 Painting: Expression and Exploration (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2116 Painting: Image and Interpretation

This course aims to develop students' understanding of paint as an expressive tool and help students to explore their own direction through visual problem solving. Students will be provided with opportunities to experiment with different mediums and processes so as to investigate the unique qualities of painting. The course develops students' independence and consistent work pattern within the studio. It also fosters students to develop a personal language and aesthetic sensibility with an emphasis on the individual growth through technical as well as conceptual development.

The course also addresses the processes of transformation from ideas and images into visual art with consideration of contemporary ideologies and critical debates. Students will be encouraged to start with traditional approaches to painting in terms of seeing it as a self-sufficient discipline and further develop to experimental approaches towards interdisciplinary. Alongside with given studio exercises, lectures and tutorials will be scheduled for addressing major topics in contemporary painting relating to identity concerns, spiritual issues and political debates, and discussing how these issues are relevant to students own practice. By the end of the course, student will have a set of work completed according to their self-initiated theme, which will be further applied onto their future study of the subject.

VART 3125 Convention and Innovation in Chinese Painting (3,4,0) (E/C)

Prerequisite: VART 2125 Visual Literacy in Chinese Painting

As Hong Kong serves as a point of convergence of Chinese and Western cultural narratives, "hybridity" comes to be a primary means for local artists, especially ink artists, to take into their art creation. For better understanding Chinese cultural heritage, the course requires students to explore the conventions embedded in *guohua* for thousands of years. The aim of such training is to enhance and build up visual literacy in Chinese painting. With the introduction of the concept of "hybridity", students are expected to reveal the local cultural identity on the basis of the integration of the convention(s) of *guohua* with Western mode of expression.

This course is divided into two sections: (1) exploration in conventional Chinese painting; and (2) innovative creativity with the concept of "hybridity". The former section aims at exploring possibilities of *guohua* (literally translated as national painting) based on the research of the conventional concepts and ideas. Both *xieyi* (free style) and *gongbi* (fine-brush, or delicate, style) are the focuses. The provision of the latter section is the concept of "hybridity", which is regarded as a crucial artistic means for ink artist to revive the ancient art form of *guohua* and reveal Hong Kong cultural identity. Through adapting, appropriating and revising the mode(s) of expression from Western art, students learn how to reconcile "Chineseness" and "modernism/contemporaneity" to create Chinese painting with a contemporary new look.

VART 3126 Chinese Seal Engraving: The Expressive Identity (3,4,0) (E/C)

Prerequisite: VART 2126 Chinese Word as Image

Seal engraving (*zhuanke* 篆刻) is a highly developed yet much understudied form of Chinese art. Few people have any idea how to appreciate the beauty of a seal's (*yinzhang* 印章) imprinted image, let alone grasp the subtlety of these aesthetic objects. More than simply tools used to imprint one's presence (commonly authorship and ownership) on a painting or work of calligraphy, seals are carefully design works of art that express a variety of cultural and personal values.

This course consists of three parts: (1) study of the theoretical and historical aspects of seal engraving; (2) the practical study of styles and carving techniques; and (3) a hands-on studio art project. Students will be introduced to related topics as social functions of the seal, transformation of seal styles, relationships between the seal and other arts of China, appreciating the seal and its

imprint as aesthetic objects, and the seal as a vehicle for expressing self-image and identity. After a vigorous analysis of styles and compositional types, the class will learn the techniques of seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in the creative project where by students will carve their own personal seals that convey through their design of character seals (*wenzi yin* 文字印) and pictorial seals (*tuxiang yin* 圖像印), an expression of their self-image or identity.

Seal engraving is an integral form of Chinese art and visual culture. The course not only informs students about traditional Chinese culture, but also challenges them to invigorate the national heritage to express their contemporary thoughts and life. Students will develop independent thinking and problem-solving skills and express creativity as part of the process for creating seals. This course is intended to cultivate a synergy with all other courses of Chinese art history, Chinese painting, Chinese calligraphy, typography, jewellery design, and some aspects of sculpture.

VART 3135 Independent Music Video (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2135 Looking through the Lens or VART 2136 Sound: The Basics

Independent music videos have been an exceptionally rich platform for audio-visual experimentations since the 1980's. Artists work with limited resources and manipulate simple craft to create innovative music/visual relations. Examining various forms and development of independent music videos will therefore definitely broaden students' mastery of aesthetics and technicality of music/visual productions.

This studio course provides students with knowledge of history, cultural contexts, and various styles of independent music video with emphasis on its spirits of DIY, low budget, experimentation and novelty.

The course's offerings include video camera and lighting workshops, but it also aims at expanding the possibilities of making moving images by including sequences of photographs, illustrations and drawings for music video, which are not necessarily video camera-based. This is achieved by covering essential skills of computer-based moving image composition.

As a course-project course, each student must finish a music video for Hong Kong independent musicians/bands or sound artists by the end of the semester. Hence, production management is also a focus. Students have to deal with allocation of work in a crew, location scouting, scheduling, equipment booking etc. The instructor will introduce students to local independent musicians/sound artists and facilitates communication for the collaborations. In sum, students acquire experience of the complete procedures of a music video production: choosing music/sound works, knowing the musicians/sound artists, generating initial ideas, presentation of concept and treatment, negotiations and fine-tuning, production (shooting or drawings), moving image compositions, and publishing (in format of professional broadcast HDV, DVD or web-based platforms).

VART 3136 Experiments in Moving Image (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2136 Sound: The Basics or VART 2135 Looking through the Lens

This course aims at offering students unconventional perspectives on moving image and sound. Notions of creativity and usages of digital moving image and sound gears as artistic tools are highlighted. Hence, the course strongly encourages mixed genres and personal experiments.

Students will learn the art of moving image and sound that inherently stress the significance of experimentation in visual rhetoric, mass media (TV) criticism, and the spirits of boldness in contemporary art making. Students will learn histories, technological/cultural contexts and artistic practices of experimental film/video art.

As an intermediate level course, students will learn digital video production including camera work and the use of supported gears, the craft of three-point lighting and its variations, and also the knowledge of safety and different types of lighting gears.

After taking this course, students should be ready for upper-level

courses that are research-based and aim at exploring further on novelty of time-based media. This course also supports students working on other areas of arts with elements of moving image and sound, such as interactive media, hypermedia and installation art works.

VART 3137 Constructed Reality (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2135 Looking through the Lens or VART 2136 Sound: The Basics

In the post-medium culture, artists no longer identify themselves as a practitioner in a specific medium, but rather work across multiple mediums to create a rich visual dialogue. Therefore, this course is an attempt to bring together photography and performance art, with the awareness of “the act depicted in the photography”, “the unpremeditated photographic action” as the style of mid-twentieth-century photojournalism and lomography: snapshots, “an act/performance created for a photograph” and “a stand-alone picture to present a pictorial narrative.” Referencing photographers who create images relating to fables, fairy tales, apocryphal events and modern myths—a collective consciousness, this course will further develop creative processes and innovative works that explore the possibilities in an active moment that is not simply captured by a still frame, but will continue beyond the image.

This studio course will launch an interactive dialogue between photography and performance art. Students will explore the different creative processes between these two art mediums, discovering the similarities and differences in each, and utilizing the knowledge gained from both in developing time-based photography. Discussions and presentations will focus on narrative compositions (such as directing an event, specifically for the camera), surveillance, process and documentation as art, and the use of text in photography.

VART 3145 Sculpture: Form and Applications (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes

Direct carving is a technique that has been utilized since the beginnings of civilization. The course will focus on such subtractive process and/or the use of reductive thinking as a creative tool to explore sculptural forms. Students will investigate how form can be revealed through different carving approaches and techniques.

In this course students will study the use of working models, templates as well as to work directly with the material to experience both systematic and intuitive methods for producing sculptural form. Students will also examine the application aspects of sculptural form in large scale public sculpture / environmental project through scaled models and appropriate visual presentation formats.

VART 3146 Installation Art (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes

Installation has been the most commonly used art form in contemporary visual creation since 1970s. It is a kind of integrated medium of expression which potentially triggers different sense such as sound, light, odour and other intangible sensible elements. The phenomenon of mixed media and interdisciplinary creation in contemporary art making has indicated strong initiatives to explore new creative space and language within an existing framework, and installation art is the most organic experimental area in this realm. Through the practice of installation art, students will utilise various forms of visual expression within space.

This course aims to expand and extend students' abilities in creativity and expression through practice, exploration and research work on various mixed-forms in the concept of space and place. It will focus on exploring the integrated specificity of installation art, which can integrate other medium such as video, imaging, processing, temporary, performance and theatre, and even interactive installation. It will give a general survey on theory, the development and the latest trends of installation art; students will explore how ideas and theories get contextualized, and how space is redefined with concepts of identification and

site-specific contextual meanings.

Students who have a background in installation art may have great advantages in, and may also be interested in expanding their studies in exhibition design, sculpture, performance art, public art, video art and various kinds of new media subjects that touch on the use of space and time. One of the features of this course will examine how to make use of small living space in Hong Kong in art creation, which will deepen the students' knowledge of the culture of their own living space. Construction workshop will be given to assist their installation production.

VART 3147 Public Art (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes

Traditionally the concept of public art has mainly been related to monuments and statues in public spaces. Later its form were diversified through various interpretations of the “public”, and as a result not only includes outdoor sculptures and murals to functional works integrated into architecture, but also site-specificity works, community based projects and interactive street performances. Nowadays, a new sense of public art refers to any art that happens and exhibits in a public domain, which may be art in “public places”, art that “creates public spaces”, and art of “public interest”. Public art does not simply refer to already existing physical urban sites such as parks, squares, streets or cities, but actually aims to re-interpret various social and cultural spaces and their functions.

This is a practice-based course, which includes conceptual and practical exercises relating to public art, as well as investigating and exploring new possibilities of art in the public arena. It will provide students with new concepts and approaches to explore art as a public situation. Students will establish public art in their geographical, political and social context, allowing them to integrate art and life within their personal living space and community. Students will further understand the concept of 2D and 3D art work, site-specific work, performances in contextuality and art in daily life, making this course also a valuable experience for students interested in Sculpture, Spatial Design, Installation Art and Performance Art.

VART 3155 Bodily Perception in Artistic Practice (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2155 Bodyscape

Gaining perceptual experience through our bodily senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch and motion), and making use of it to discern various circumstances in the surroundings is the common ground for human communication. From the perspective of visual arts practice, this course aims to extend students' sensibility and capability in employing perceptual experience as a means of artistic investigations and expressions. It will also open up students' vision and mind to new creative possibilities. The study of bodily perception will be introduced in both practical and theoretical aspects in which relevant reading materials on Body Aesthetics and related art movements in the 20th century will be explored.

With the influences of Dada, Fluxus, Happening, Performance and other related art movements in the 20th century, the phenomenon of artists presenting art with their own bodies has become common. It particularly refers to the exploration of bodily perception and its possible implication in artistic expression. In recent years, this phenomenon extends to a wider scope of artistic practice and is now applied to more diverse creative disciplines such as wearable, spatial, product, multimedia and interface design. The study of bodily perception thus suggests an interdisciplinary platform to integrate various art forms and creative practices.

VART 3156 Embodied Interaction (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2155 Bodyscape

Contemporary artists have been experimenting with the use of technology to enable and orchestrate the participation of the audience. Studies of interactivity are often focused in the technical implementation rather from the critical and aesthetic viewpoints.