

VART 2236 Ceramic Art: From Pinched Pot to Sculptural Form (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Clay is the most natural and primal element on earth. Its plasticity makes it the most tactile hands-on material in artefact making, while its durability after firing retains a long history of ceramic art in almost all developed cultures. Ceramic artefacts, from shaping of clay to purposed glazing and firing, are completely individual-made, which allows artists to express themselves in this three dimensional medium. Therefore, ceramic art now is treated as traditional craft as well as contemporary art.

This is a studio course designed to teach students the basic hand-building and throwing techniques involved in constructing and surface decorating ceramic forms, from functional ware to sculpture. It creates a practical basis for addressing perceptual and aesthetic concerns as related to formal concepts such as balance, structure, continuity, texture and the spatial relationship between objects. Students will be encouraged to develop their own means of personal expression while working through assignments based on different ceramic techniques and skills.

By learning special hand-building and throwing techniques, and exploring the physical properties of clay as a hands-on creative material, this course enhances the ability of students to express eloquently their ideas through three-dimensional representation, especially with the transformation to one single material.

Starting from the aspect of function, students have to investigate the cultural significance of these functional wares, the relationship of details and the functions, and also the connection of these object-forms with the makers and users. In addition to learning the skills and process of making functional studio pottery, students will also be taught for creating vessel-form as art form for aesthetic expression. This in the end conducts to non-functional sculptural concepts in clay using hand-building and various decorating techniques. Emphasises will be put on the development of construction skills and an understanding of form/space relation, surface treatment, and firing possibilities.

VART 2245 Wearables (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Wearables are articles worn on the human body, enhancing a given feature of the body or creating an entirely new interface for interaction, thus extending the traditional function of clothing into new artistic or functional areas. Accordingly the aim of the course is to interpret the human body as an interface for artistic expression.

The course offers an introduction to the broad scope of wearables and covers basic techniques for designing, pattern making and pattern alteration such as square blocking, contour sectioning and pivoting, which enables learners to develop creative concepts into wearable designs.

Building on to this foundation, through studio exercises, student research and studio practice the students are invited to explore various approaches, concepts and materials for the creation of wearables. This knowledge shall be applied to design a set of wearable pieces or body extensions from the very first design sketch to a finished prototype, taking in the contemporary discourse on the topic.

Wearables connect the three-dimensional design-area with disciplines like theatre, film or performance art. Most obvious applications are theatre-costumes, but wearable design-pieces that are based on a particular view of the world or a particular spatial environment are rather common throughout the art- or design-scene.

VART 2246 Small Metal Jewellery (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Mankind has developed personal decoration and ornaments for thousands of years. Jewellery has always been an expression and

reflection of its epoch, its social structures and cultural standards. Since the past fifty years, jewellery is now no more the privilege of the wealthy, as the social structure of contemporary societies has broadened considerably, and allows the concept of jewellery to be understood far more universal: In a contemporary sense, jewellery has become a collective noun for body-related objects.

This is an introductory course in jewellery making, with a focus on metalsmithing for small objects. It is designed to introduce non-ferrous metal as an expressive medium and to explore the unique properties it has to offer. Students will learn various ways of working metal, and how these techniques can be applied to the creation of small metal objects. Emphasis will be put on how these objects can be related to the human body. Basic 3D design concepts will be used to demonstrate these possibilities. The students will be introduced to the contemporary views of jewellery, and begin to appreciate jewellery as an art form.

Through studying this diversified art form, the students can broaden their appreciation of the world around their body. The students will develop a sense of scale, and will have an enhanced sensitivity in relating their work to the environment. They will also practice thinking in 3D.

VART 2255 Space and Site (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Next to "object" the central concept in three-dimensional visual arts is "space". In opposite to objects however, the nature, essence, and the mode of existence of space, even the ultimate definition of space are still debated.

In this context "site" can be defined as spatial mark-making: by distinguishing a particular place within space through an intervention of any kind this location becomes a site.

Space and Site is a course dedicated to concepts and techniques necessary for all those designers and artists who want to work with space as a medium. It includes introductions to contemporary space-related theories and also some of the most important spatial designs of the 20th and 21st century. It also familiarizes participants with planning tools such as technical drafting, model making and virtual representations of space, as well as with the basic principles of constructions.

These acquired skills and knowledge will be practised in a number of small exercises and one medium-sized project at the scale of a city-furniture or small architectural object.

Upon completion of this course a participant will have the means to develop and conceptualize his/her spatial ideas and present them adequately to an audience of professionals. Especially students who would like to continue their studies into three dimensional subject areas like exhibition design, and installation will benefit from this course.

VART 2256 Product Design (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Product design is a creative discipline, which combines art and technology, ideas and materials, to improve our daily lives, protect our health and create new opportunities for the industry. This course produces imaginative design ideas and solutions for small and large-scale industrial production.

The aim of this course is to provide knowledge and understanding of common and new materials used for designing new products and objects. It also introduces basic processes and methods used in industrial and product design manufacturing for these materials. Three different projects will be introduced to understand that the right choice of materials and processes is inseparably linked to the look and performance of any product.

This subject builds the foundation and hands-on experience indispensable to any other 3D related courses.

VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the key developments in the history of Western art. This theme-based

course will survey the production of art within the context of the social, cultural, and stylistic significances of art under changing historical, scientific and philosophical conditions.

Each theme will be examined, in depth, over a two-session period and linked with theory to form a comprehensive analytical survey of the canon of Western Art History and present connections with the everyday lives of the students. The in-depth analysis of specific works of visual art will broaden the knowledge of creativity and explore issues of multi-cultural creation, belief, ideology and reception.

By studying and understanding the developments and importance of western art and culture, students can inform their own practice and compete as artists in a global setting with a greater clarity and depth of knowledge. As the required parallel course to VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art, the courses combine to synthesise understanding of visual art from a global perspective.

VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II

Hong Kong visual arts students should have an appreciation of Chinese cultural heritage and the recent developments of Chinese visual arts, not only to enrich their own artistic production, but also to intellectually challenge them to organize knowledge gained from the course and to use their analytical skill to explain Chinese visual arts in the conditions that produced them.

The course presents Chinese art as expression of material culture, belief systems, politics, elitist emblem, self-cultivation, identity, community and changing worldviews. Structuring in a chronological and thematic manner, this course begins with Late Neolithic material cultures and ends with contemporary artistic expressions. The broad survey provides students with knowledge and understanding of the cultural, social, and stylistic significances of Chinese visual arts under changing historical conditions.

VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Writing on and about visual art is an essential element of artistic practice and has a multitude of uses from artist's statements to exhibition, critical analysis and academic discourse. How the artist uses words to analyse and describe works, becomes a necessary component in the dissemination and communication of the creative. The writing of the visual explores the essence of communication and the positions and perspectives of artists and art writers. Art writing further provides primary sources to explore the changing role of the writing about art, from manifesto and critic to intention and reception.

This course will improve students' individual research, critical analysis and written skills, in order to effectively express ideas for their own practice, and in interpreting and understanding writings about art.

The course will examine fundamental skills of research practice, methods and methodology for practicing artists and academic writing on art. Revealing the relationship between art, creativity and language, as a methodology that can enhance communication and critical engagement with art theory and art historical writings. It will also assess writings on modern and contemporary visual arts practices by looking at how key texts from the past have informed present discourses on art.

We will examine a number of artists' writings through selected examples of primary source materials; notes, correspondence, manifestos, and other printed matter, by those who work between art and also writing about art.

VART 2325 Arts of Asia (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

The fundamental aim of this course is to provide students with a broad understanding of Asian art since the 19th century. Painting, sculpture, architecture, decorative arts and modern

art from China, Japan, Korea, India, Southeast Asia as well as the Middle East will be used to illustrate the diversity and uniqueness of visual art and culture in these places, and also the cultural interaction through which the production, trading and consumption of art is triggered. Whilst the course encourages students to investigate the individual characteristics of visual arts of different countries and cultures, it attempts to enhance student's understanding of the visual arts in the scope of Asia.

To understand any culture it is necessary to study the arts from that culture and how they interrelate with historical, geographical, religious and philosophical factors. The Arts of Asia make tangible and visible the beliefs, which have guided the various civilizations of the continent.

VART 2335 Material Culture and Collections (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

Materials are significant elements in our understanding of culture both in terms of our own identities and within the wider global contexts. This course will explore concepts and theories of material culture in reflecting upon the elements of culture, which surround and influence our daily lives. Examining the everyday context of material life through a variety of methods and theories, students will develop their skills of textual analysis and be equipped with theoretical frameworks in examining objects within wider context of culture.

From objects of personal significance to national treasure, and from consumer's good circulated in global market to connoisseur's curios, the analysis of material culture seeks to question meaning, value and intention. Through the discussions of what objects mean to us, the course will further pose crucial questions evaluating the historical, cultural and social significance of objects. Contextualizing the entangled relations between people and the material objects, and studying things both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will engage students into critical debates of material culture, and extend their understandings of creating and creativity in the contemporary society.

Drawing theories from Art History, Museology, Art Anthropology, this course will include critical analysis of objects in a variety of forms and mediums, such as painting, textile, buildings, and heritage sites. Based within themes of context, the course will analyse issues of consumption, globalization, tourism, gender, tradition, value, belief, commerce and historical events. This course connects laterally across the disciplines of the AVA providing the theoretical context for practice and creativity.

VART 2336 Exhibition and Art Markets (3,3,0) (E)

Pre-requisite: VART 1006 Introduction to Visual Arts II or any GDCV courses offered by AVA or any Visual Arts courses

How is art effected and affected by exhibition cultures and art markets?

Do exhibitions define art buying patterns? Or do buying patterns define exhibition?

These key questions for the understanding of the art world are the focus for the emerging artist breaking into the highly competitive art market place.

From the differing perspectives of both the public and the private sector, this course will provide navigation and assessment of the contrasts and similarities of the sectors, discussing issues of wealth and value, consumption and issues of ownership.

The history and theory of exhibitions, collecting and the effect and impacts of the growing commercial Art markets, with further analysis of the roles and restrictions of cultural policy and definitions of culture, in a local and global sense, and contextualise the frameworks for public and private sectors.

The themes and topics will provide essential knowledge of the arts sector, reviewing the role of the public sector in the advancement of the art exhibition 'blockbuster' and the commercialisation of art through case studies of world leading galleries such as Tate Modern, MOMA and the Guggenheim. Critically examining