

This course changes subjects/theme regularly; therefore the individual instructor in consultation with the Visual Arts Studies Division will determine the selected topic, to take full advantage of developing research, issues and global developments in the visual arts.

VART 3315 Concepts in Contemporary Art (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture and Culture or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

This course will concentrate on the study of art trends and art movements by thematic discussion. The study will explore art and artists from across the world and examine the linking of concepts and theories of modern and contemporary trends from 1945.

The course provides a platform to get to know with the historical and contemporary frameworks for discussing and analysing art, further more, student will learn to evaluate sources and ideas critically and make informed decisions about their relevance and worth.

Nowadays, Contemporary Art is a very complex concept according to various interpretational needs. By stressing the analysis of works of art within thematic groupings rather than a linear historical introduction, engages students in actively considering how ideas, forms, materials, process, and purposes all contribute to meaning of Contemporary Art. In addition, students will be acquainted with the current international and local art scene in order to better understand the inter-textuality of concepts in contemporary art.

VART 3316 Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Art History (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

The early meetings and exchanges between Europe and Asia have left a valuable legacy for intercultural studies in the present era of globalization. The accelerated flow of artefacts, artworks, ideas and people from one nation to the other has contributed to the active dialogue between Asian and Western cultures. It also enriches our knowledge and experience of cross-cultural encounters in the global community.

This theme-based course examines the reception and production of visual arts in the context of cross-cultural interaction amongst Western and Asian countries, including America, Europe, China, Japan, India and the Middle East. It will lay emphasis on China's encounters with the outside world from the 18th to the 20th century. Most materials will explore how Western collectors and artists perceived Asian art and material culture, ranging from paintings, woodcuts and photographs, to porcelains, sculptures, furniture and gardens. The in-depth analysis of the production, design and consumption of Chinese and Japanese export art, as well as their impact on Western taste and art practice, will inform critical issues of art training and art market in the modern period. Considering the collecting of foreign objects in China and the presence of European Jesuits and artists at the imperial court, this course will also investigate Asian interest in Western art and the production of the hybrid forms of art. Issues of museum collecting and looting, as well as the theoretical discourses of Orientalism and colonialism will be discussed.

Through lectures, group discussions and field trips, this course will offer students a greater depth of the understanding of art and cultural history from a historical, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective. It will broaden their knowledge of creativity by demonstrating wider and diverse visual environments in different social, cultural, political and economic contexts. By understanding and evaluating cross-cultural issues in art, students can engage in a dynamic creative process with an international outlook.

VART 3317 Visual Arts and Modernity (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2315 Writing in Art and Culture or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

As visual artists, how we think, and how we understand the world around us, both effects and influences our creativity and the works we create. The art of the 20th century exemplifies this interplay between art, artist and society, marking a point of distinct artistic difference with the past and highlighting Modernity throughout culture and society. The responses to Modernity have incorporated new forms and expressions of visual art and developed a range of radical theories, attempting to define and contextualise the art in a century of unprecedented global change. Using the themes of Modernity as a platform—for example: revolution, gender, industrial advance etc.—we will examine the shaping of visual art of the 20th century. Considering the relationships and affinities between varieties of media, and investigating the theories and language of visual art we will learn to understand contextually and visually the often ambiguous terms “Modern”, “Modernity” and “Modernism”.

The course will offer the student a greater depth of the understanding of Art History and the interplay between visual art, the creative process of the visual artist, and the influence of political, cultural, economic and anthropological arenas of life.

VART 3325 Contemporary Vision in Chinese Art Practice (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2325 Arts of Asia or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Contemporary Chinese art practice exists in a multiplicity that encompasses a wide spectrum ranging from traditional to avant-garde artistic expressions. This course covers both theoretical study of contemporary Chinese art practice and practical study of art production methods with a contemporary vision. Through critical examination of a range of major scholarly debates on modern and contemporary Chinese art practices, students will learn to apply art-historical methods and approaches to the analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, the centrality of the notion of negotiations with tradition and modernity in the practices of contemporary Chinese painting and calligraphy will be highlighted. Students will exercise their critical thinking and analytical skill in both oral presentation and writing assignments. Based on the inspiration originated from the aforementioned theoretical study, students will be guided to explore experimental methods and techniques to transform traditional mode of Chinese art practices which include Chinese painting, calligraphy and seal engraving. The course will culminate in students' development of a set of personal creative strategy to effectively express their ideas through artwork production.

In the context of an emerging world market of contemporary Chinese art, the development of contemporary Chinese art becomes a subject of global attention. This course is significant because it presents the current state of knowledge about modern and contemporary Chinese art. Moreover, it offers an opportunity for students to learn the tools for analysis and interpretation of works by major contemporary Chinese artists. Meanwhile, this course serves as an extended study of the other studio art courses of Chinese painting, calligraphy and seal engraving. Lastly, the interdisciplinary nature of the course, as embodied in the coexistence of academic research methods and artistic output, contribute to the overall-direction of the AVA.

While English is the major medium of instruction of this course, occasionally Chinese will be used in the teaching of materials and texts related to Chinese arts.

VART 3326 Hong Kong Arts (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2325 Arts of Asia or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Every place has its own story/stories that can be narrated, illustrated and represented creatively through visual arts if not in words. This course attempts to tell the many stories of Hong Kong by looking at examples of local art works, including painting, sculpture, cartoons, photography and architecture that are produced from the early 19th century to the present day, as a

way to outline the character and history of the place. With the supplement of texts and documentaries, students will learn from the visual examples how Hong Kong transformed from a small fishing village to a metropolis city of over seven million people; or from a British colony to be a part of the People's Republic of China nowadays.

Alternately, the socio-political changes, technology development, education reform, cultural interaction of a place can also influence the production of works of art, in terms of style, medium and meaning. The search for identity before the return of sovereignty before 1997, for example, triggered off a substantial amount of art creation on the issue on Hong Kong identity.

The course will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach in reading stories of Hong Kong, not solely from the view points of visual arts, but also sociology, history, cultural studies, geography, and/or literature, whichever can bring new insight to enhance our understanding on the topics. The opportunity to study original works of art, either from museum or private collection, enables students to make direct encounter with the history of the place, which will ultimately inspire their thoughts and interpretation of the subject of Hong Kong.

VART 3327 Hong Kong Craft: Tradition and Transformation (3,4,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2325 Arts of Asia or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Hong Kong is known for its concentration of traditional craftspeople and clusters of materials for handicraft industry. Nowadays, Hong Kong, as one of the post capital cities in Asia, faces urban re-development and the consequent potential loss of local marginalized wisdom of craftspeople and community networks. One of the Academy's roles is to provide a platform to study traditional handicraft, conserve its culture and support its re-generation. By doing so, this course will inspire ideas and concepts also in subjects like Ceramics, Glass, Jewellery Design, sculpture, and Wearable.

This is a practice-based course with theory presenting the Hong Kong handicraft industry's early development and handicraft skills. In exploring the relevant development in trend and ecological environment of traditional handicraft, its position within the framework of art-theory based cluster will also enhance the cognition of intangible cultural heritage and its sustainable conditions under the material culture concerns and cultural policy-making.

The course will experience sharing of and collaboration with local traditional craftspeople. It emphasizes both technique training and materials exploration, including the handling and interpreting of traditional or new materials and how to convert them into a new form of art and design. Student will be encouraged to interact with each other and the local community for their creative projects. Handicraft such as paper offerings for ancestors, paper scissor-cuts, Cantonese embroidery, Chinese bird cage, paper lantern, flour-clay character, rattan knitting, galvanized iron manufacture, cart and wooden boat building etc will be studied in this course.

VART 3335 Museum Studies (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2335 Material Culture and Collections or VART 2336 Exhibition and Art Markets or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

Museums have served many functions, as repositories of antiques, temples of genuine artworks, platforms for life-long learning, and as social agents promoting civic values. How do museums balance their diverse roles and responsibilities against a backdrop of changing social agendas, commercial competition, and the global diversification of communication technologies?

Focusing on policy issues and professional concerns, this course examines organizational conventions, collection management policies, documentation systems, interpretation and communication mechanisms, and education and outreach programmes, to consider how museums can shape a new form

of public life around diverse cultural resources. Through case studies, hands-on workshops, and site visits, this course offers students practical knowledge of art administration with an emphasis on operation routines, management skills, and project planning, to bring art to a wider audience. This course also examines how museums can convey standards about the value and meaning of artwork, shape public understanding of art, and become involved in the production of art and culture. Students will learn about operating mechanisms of museums and reflect on the complex relationship between museums and contemporary practices in the art world and in society.

Looking into various museum practices, such as acquisition, preservation and displaying of artwork, this course explores how meanings of art would be created and thus enables students to reflect on their artistic practices. This helps bridging with many practical courses offered by the AVA.

VART 3337 The Anthropology of Art (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2335 Material Culture and Collections or VART 2336 Exhibition and Art Markets or VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art and VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art

This course introduces the study of visual anthropology, examining the visual documentation of humanity and its cultures. Exploring a variety of media objects and events, this course critically engages students into debates and issues related to photography, advertising, global mass media, material culture and the impact of new technologies.

The visual interpretation offers significant insight into our understanding of the human development in terms of our own identities, and within the wider global and historical contexts. Fragile, and often temporarily specific, the analyses of visual elements offer an intellectual platform for contextualization and decontextualization.

Exploring concepts and methods as research tools for anthropological inquiry that consider the inter-connection of reality, social perspectives, and the resulting visuality, which can help to inform and influence our ways of understanding and assimilating our lives and societies.

Through the discussions of what images mean to us, and their effects, the course will further poses crucial questions surrounding our understanding within the historical, cultural and social, value and power of vision, image and artefact. Emphasizing and contextualizing the relations between people and the visual as objects, studied both within and external to, environmental and cultural context, this course will guide students to integrate various points of view and develop their own critical judgment of the Visual Arts.

VART 4015 Research and Practice in Studio and Media Arts (6,6,0) (E)

Prerequisite: Completion of minimum one BA-cluster from SMA concentration or VAS concentration

This is one of two independent study courses for Year 4 students of the BA (Hons) in Visual Arts programme to choose. Like its equivalent it has a focus on interdisciplinary research in the visual arts, which is integrated with a self-generated practical creative team project based on the course's discipline framework for Studio and Media Arts. While there are no principal formal restrictions to the creative project – it may be of any medium or approach – students have to initiate, develop and execute the practical project collaboratively, and need to commit to substantial research work as part of their outcome.

To provide the students with access to the thematic context of the course a sequence of lectures, case studies, tutorials and other relevant teaching and learning activities relating to research and practice in the Studio and Media Arts will be offered. These activities also establish a time and workload structure to give guidance to the students, and provide opportunity for feedback and criticism.

In addition to the specified discipline framework both independent study-courses share a series of workshops that aim at consolidating, combining and extending the wide range of cross-