

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 3336 Material Culture and Collections (3,3,0) (E)

Prerequisite: VART 2306 Introduction to Chinese Art and VART 2305 Introduction to Western Art or VART 2336 Exhibitions and Art Markets

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

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 visibility, 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 3345 Concept in Contemporary Arts (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II

This course will concentrate on the study of contemporary developments in the visual arts by thematic discussion. The study will explore art and artists from across the world and examine the linking of concepts and theories of contemporary trends from 1960.

The complexities of the contemporary art ecology will be examined through social, political and economic frameworks to encourage students to actively consider and interpret how ideas, forms, materials, process and purpose all contribute to meaning.

In addition, this course will examine the contemporary phenomenon of art fairs, the rise of the economic interests in contemporary art and the homogenization of art in the contemporary context. Examining and theorizing ideas of meaning and identity, this course will explore contemporary art from differing perspectives, to build a picture of how contemporary art functions in the local and global artistic environment.

VART 3346 Critical Studies in Lens-based Media (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: VART 2306 Art in the 20th Century II

Art historian Michael Fried in one of his recent book asks, "Why Photography Matters as Art as Never Before?" (2008). Lens-based media have been an artistic fever and enjoy huge popularity amongst scholars, amateurs and professional artists since they were "invented" in the 19th century. With recent new