

images are represented and explore how they relate to individual expression as well as social interpretation. Students will have opportunity to investigate the fundamental formal languages of painting through different exercises and will gain a solid understanding of the connection between form and content. Studio practice will be supported by lectures and tutorials, which purpose to investigate the debates surrounding the role of contemporary painting. Regular class discussions will also be held to examine the work of art by contemporary painters in terms of their cultural context and stylistic concern. At the end of the course, students will be equipped with preparation skills to discuss in oral and written forms the conceptual and visual elements in their paintings.

VART 2125 Visual Literacy in Chinese Painting (3,4,0)

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

This course provides comprehensive and fundamental training on *guohua*, literally translated as “national painting” or “Chinese painting”. It is primarily divided into two sections: (1) understanding of *Xieyi* (free style); and (2) understanding of *Gongbi* (fine-brush, or delicate style). Focuses are on the critical concepts and ideas, conventional modes of expression and technical skills of *guohua* in the ancient models. Students are expected to explore such models for reinterpreting and rejuvenating the traditional form of *guohua* in the end of the semester.

The rationale to offer this level-II course is to allow students to understand one of the cores of Chinese arts—Chinese painting. Regarded as Hong Kong residents, art students are supposed to have sufficient art trainings in both Western and Chinese arts. However, Chinese art training has been in deficit in local educational system even after the handover of 1997. Thus this course is to provide relevant art trainings and cognitive knowledge for students to capture the Chinese cultural narratives through practicing Chinese painting.

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 2126 Chinese Word as Image: Foundational Studies in Chinese Calligraphy and Seal Engraving (3,4,0)

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

The centrality of using Chinese words as the major element in artistic expressions is a unique and prominent phenomenon in both Chinese and global visual culture from past to present. Chinese words, as evolved from pictographic representation to non-representational character, is the fundamental medium for artistic expressions in the practices of a range of Chinese art forms including calligraphy, seal engraving and other craft arts. Whether brushed on paper or engraved in three-dimensional objects made of stone, bronze and any other penetrable material, the visual and artistic form of Chinese word interacts with the subtlety of the linguistic aspect of Chinese language to produce a richly interdisciplinary artistic experience. This course consists of three parts: (1) The study of foundational knowledge and theories pertinent to the material, tools, and the linguistic skills involved in the practices of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving; (2) The practical study of brush, engraving and carving techniques, the compositional strategies of the strokes of Chinese characters and other relevant basic skills; and (3) A simple hands-on studio art project. The class will learn the skills of adopting different material, handling of tools and other basic techniques of Chinese calligraphy and seal engraving through demonstrations and guided practice. The course culminates in a small-scale yet rewarding creative project where by students will produce one piece of artwork based on the application of their acquired concepts, tools and skills. Students need to the foundational tools and skills of this course to nurture their understanding of Chinese cultural heritage. The acquire foundational knowledge and experience offered by this course are intended to cultivate a synergy with all

other courses of Chinese and Asian art history, visual culture, Chinese calligraphy, seal engraving, Chinese painting, typography, Chinese language, and some aspects of sculpture.

VART 2135 Looking through the Lens (3,4,0)

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

The world and its cultures are external before one looks deeply. As artists and as responsible citizens, ways of focused looking will help us to learn from, and benefit back to our society and the world.

This is a course on fundamental knowledge of lens-based media. The essential foundation provided in this course is not merely technical skill but ways of inquisitive looking. Looking is attentive and active while seeing is external and passive. Accordingly, supplementary to technical training, this course aims at broadening students' visual perceptions and sharpening their senses responding to the outside world.

Students will explore and experiment how lens-based media artists understand, capture, represent and interpret the physical reality. Technical workshops on camera obscura, optical theory, colour management, framing and composition will be offered. Field work of self-directed nature for practicing skills of observation is an important part of the course. Class assignments will enhance students' ability to look into details both in aesthetic realm and in cultural contexts.

Students will be working mainly on photography and moving image production that are essential craft for visual artists in various fields and in a cross-disciplinary manner. This course serves as a foundation for works of photography, moving image, visual narrative and interactive media. Students will be both technically and intellectually ready to engage in further experimentations of lens-based media creations in advanced courses.

VART 2136 Sound: The Basics (3,4,0)

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

This course aims to study sound beyond the common practice of audio as supplementary and secondary to visuals. Students will un-learn sense of sight as their primary sense, and thus re-learn multiple meanings and interpretations of sound and its relations with visuals. Students will learn to use microphones and recorders, and the skills of audio recording and editing techniques. On top of these technical craft, fundamentals of sound design form essential parts of the course. Principles of sound including physics of sound, auditory perception, awareness of acoustic environment and different types of listening practices will also be introduced.

As a foundation course, it aims to raise students' interests and doubts in rethinking audio-visual relations. By stressing sound as an artistic and expressive medium in its own right, rather than approached as secondary to visuals, students learn to discover immense creative potentials of sound. Hence, students will be both technically and intellectually ready to engage in further experimentations of sonic creations in advanced courses exploring novelty and possibilities of time-based media. Students will work on sonic creations or, sound design for moving image works (of their own or of their fellow classmates). This course also supports students further explore sound in various media such as video art, installation art, hypermedia, interactive media.

VART 2145 Sculpture: Materials and Processes (3,4,0)

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

We live in a built environment. This environment is defined by different structures and objects, and their spatial relationships. In an effort to interpret our environment and to create new places and forms, this course will explore through in and out of class projects how structures and forms are built through an additive process. This course is designed to bring to light different ways of understanding how sculpture has been made, can be made and explore new methods for the continuance of the discipline into