

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.

#### **V.A. 2590 Introduction to Photography (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

Photography is to the artist what O'Hare Airport is to the North American traveller: sooner or later everyone goes through it. Even if you never make photographs as your work, you will constantly rely on photographic reproduction to represent your work for applications, print media, catalogues and the web. This course serves the entire school in developing the sophisticated understanding and skills of reading and making photographic images that is crucial to artists.

Students gain experience utilizing traditional photographic tools as well as current imaging technologies. The fundamentals of using a 35mm single lens reflex camera (SLR) including manual exposure, lighting, and film density are stressed. But the "camera" itself is redefined in this class by considering everything from cell phones, the scanner as a camera, digital cameras, or video cameras as equally legitimate tools for creating photographic images. Assignments, lectures, readings and excursions progressively build on each other to provide students with a comprehensive overview of both the history of the medium as well its contemporary practice.

#### **V.A. 2600 Arts in Asia (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

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 trigger. 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. This course examines various art movements in a number of key Asian regions as well as the art and cultural interaction amongst these regions.

#### **V.A. 2630 Sustainable Design (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

Not just after the growing concern about global climate change have environmental issues become an increasingly relevant issue in particular for designer. "Ecological design", "environmental design", "green design", "sustainable design", and "carbon neutral design" all describe varying environmentally conscious approaches to a highly sensitive, political and social problem: the world changes, and so must we. Designers today have to be aware how their work impacts on ecological topics. As design has a direct relationship with consumer behaviour it can and should have a share in the battle against global challenges. Its approaches may reach from cultivating a desire for difference, a shift from disposability of consumer goods, to eliminating waste in processing and packaging, and re-thinking and developing

sustainable systems which help cutting out CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions from manufacturing, transportation, disposal, energy consumption, at all levels and many more.

This course aims at developing a critical, sustainable perspective on design practice by referencing and documenting analysis of environmental issues, and utilizing the findings for innovative thinking in product development as well as system design.

#### **V.A. 2670 Experimental Jewellery (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

The adaptation of "new" materials has always been at the heart of contemporary jewellery experimentation. Anything tangible, or even intangible like light and sound, can be and has been incorporated into the toolkit of studio jewellers. It is difficult to imagine a piece of jewellery without considering the materials used. In fact, the materials used quite often give the jewellery piece a starting point, where it develops its meanings. They also often define the border of its aesthetic effects. The choice of materials for a jewellery piece can be based on alchemy, character, colour and cultural values. There are almost no limitations on what materials can be used.

In this course, students will experiment with different materials, new and old, and see how they can be used in creating pieces that will challenge the boundaries of your perception of jewellery. Students will experiment and play with a number of materials that they choose, and decide on one or a few that suit their own means of creation. The focus will be on experimentation, and the use of body as the environment. Students are encouraged to explore non-traditional materials for their creations. Through exercises and projects, students will gain appreciations in the unique expressive nature of the materials or their combinations, and master skills in adapting new materials into their future creations.

#### **V.A. 2690 Drawing: Visual Thinking and Observation (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

Drawing is the fundamental training for various visual arts subjects. It is a discipline that includes strategies for representing forms, movement and ideas through the mark-making medium. It is also a way to convey thoughts and beliefs through hand and mind coordination. While transforming the experience into drawing, students will obtain new interpretations of visual expressions, as the course focuses on strengthening students' visual perception and observation with the practice of traditional and contemporary drawing approaches.

This course aims to introduce drawing studies from formal and representational into unconventional image expression, and will advance all beginners to go from fundamental to more exploration level. The course consists of three parts: the practice of drawing fundamentals; the learning of basic visual languages in drawing; and the re-interpretation of drawing from the figurative, representational to the application of various media and alternative processes. There will be exercises on basic training through a series of assignments that stress on using drawing as a medium for visual thinking and observation. Students will draw from direct observation or imagination of still life, landscape, and the human figure. Drawing media may include graphite, charcoal, ink, and collage, as well as watercolour and pastel.

#### **V.A. 2700 Visual Literacy in Chinese Painting (3,4,0)**

Prerequisite: V.A. 1090 Introduction to Visual Arts II

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.