

## ***Advanced Studio: Arts 481***

MWF 3-4pm

PROF. CLAUDIA ESSLINGER

Office: 203 Bexley Office Hours: MW 11-12, 2-3pm

PBX's 5465 Home: 427-3873

Ta-Da! We are at the big moment. I'm going to assume that you have spent the fall semester in Advanced Studio developing and focusing your ideas and are now working full steam ahead to make them come to life. This class will be a refining place for those ideas, a community of artists working toward real goals. The mechanics of producing a show will be part of our focus this semester, from PR materials to your artist's statement, to your oral presentations. We will spend most of our time in critiques because you will be producing so much work that we will have a hard time keeping up. Occasionally I'll present inspiration in the form of slides or articles, but largely we will critique work.

As the "weeks of shows" progress, our assignments will begin to differ. Those finishing their shows earlier will have more time for producing new work after their show. Those going later will have more time for work before their show. *All* of you will be expected to do some additional work after your show. Some past students have seen this as a chance to try something new before they leave town, others have seen it as a final refinement of the ideas they were working on, the APEX so to speak. We will talk about a variety of ways to get your work out there, from finding galleries and graduate schools to making blogs, resumes, digital portfolios. You will leave at the end of the semester with a handsome package to go create your future, a copy of which you will leave with me as your final portfolio!

All of the work you do this semester may not go in your show. Part of creating the show is to edit down to the best work. There may be some pieces that just don't make the cut or others that you abandon part way. That's the nature of making creative projects and that's okay. Don't feel like you have to show everything just to show how hard you have been working. You could always show the pieces or parts that didn't make it into the exhibition during your orals.

### **Course Goals:**

Structure your work time well and show dedication.

Be curious, playful and innovative.

Pay attention to detail.

Challenge yourself in an area that is difficult for you and be unafraid of risk.

Develop metaphors, irony and mystery in your work while avoiding clichés.

Love your materials and images, but don't be afraid to cut them if needed.

Anchor your work in its appropriate context: historically, culturally, socially, aesthetically.

Make art in relationship to others: your class, your community and beyond.

### **Evaluation Criteria based on the above goals and more:** *Does the work show:*

1. An approach that is visually, intellectually and emotionally *compelling*? Is there something that initially draws the viewer in to want to see more?

2. Originality/ creativity/ *innovation*/ surprise/ cleverness? Does the work avoid clichés and pat expectations? Did you take a risk ...step away from your comfort zone?

2. *Conceptual depth*, sophistication or complexity that allows a *sustaining* interest on the part of the viewer.

4. *Form* (its color, media, rhythm, etc) that supports the *content* (the idea or concept). Does it make sense to use this form for this subject?
4. *Resolution* in the way that makes sense for your own project. The various themes and metaphors should pull together into a unified whole that makes sense. It should be finished.
6. An awareness of *the appropriate audience/ social context* of your work as relating to other artists and non-artists, those of your generation and beyond, what era you are working within, what cultural knowledge you can refer to and what will be lost on the viewer.
5. An appropriate degree of technical skills, attention to detail and artistic integrity for your idea.
6. *A Commitment to the Class: worth 10 points at the end of the semester:*  
*Attendance* - Especially because of the group interdependence your attendance is critical. After three absences your grade for commitment will be lowered by 2 pts for each additional absence. If you must miss a class, the courtesy of a phone call or email is expected. *You are also required to attend all Art Department speakers and Gallery openings.*  
*Progress* - How much did you grow in the following: deepening your artistic vision conceptually, improving technical skills, developing effective processes of brainstorming, work habits, and resourcefulness? All relating to the above goals.  
*Attitude* - Are you willing to learn from others, both faculty and students? Are you willing to take risks to achieve your goals? Are you participating constructively in group discussions and critiques? How much effort are you showing?

**Evaluation Schedule:** We will schedule rolling group and individual critiques for all of you. During the group critiques we will either go to your studio or you can bring the work to the seminar room. All of us will participate in constructive comments (this participation will be part of the commitment grade at the end of the semester). After each critique, you will write me an email that summarizes what you learned from that critique and what your thoughts are about your next step. After I receive this email, I will send you written comments and a grade out of 10 points.

**Disability Statement:**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, I would urge you to contact the Office of Disability Services at 5453. The Coordinator of Disability Services, Erin Salva (salvae@kenyon.edu) will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. You should also let me know what the two of you agree on. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.

Required Text: Themes of Contemporary Art by Jean Robertson and Craig McDaniel  
Please also keep a journal/ sketchbook.

**Tentative Schedule:**

- Week One+: Presentation/ Overview of contemporary artists work/ Talking about artist's statement.
- Wed and Friday Student presentations of their work of fall semester: 10 min each. Please have digital slide presentation prepared.
- Week Two: Begin Rolling Critiques with individual meetings with the Professor.
- Week Three: Rolling Group critiques
- Week Four: Critiques/ Artists statements due to Claudia on Monday
- Week Five: Critiques/ Revised artist's statement due Monday
  
- Week Six: Critiques/ How to document your work in Photo and video
- Week Seven: Oral Presentation Guidelines, critiques, emphasis on group 1
- Spring Break
- Week Eight: Rolling critiques for folks in Groups 2-5, emphasis on group 2
- Week Nine through Fourteen: Bi-Weekly critiques with emphasis on next group showing.
- Demonstrations on creating digital portfolios, uploading to websites, making resumes, etc.
- Digital Portfolio due last day of class.