

SPRING 2020 -- NYAP 499.b

New York Arts Program Seminar Visual Arts and Art History

Jil Weinstock (jil@nyartsprogram.org)

Art Worlds of New York:

Critical Thinking in Contemporary Art

The landscape of the art world is constantly shifting. With the emergence of global communication and reach, the relationships among various art worlds and between artists and institutions has increasingly become more complex and intertwined. This shift and transformation have created an exciting time for one to be an artist and to learn how to carve out a personal path.

In this seminar we will consider ways to develop an art practice in conjunction with a deeper understanding of contemporary art, theory and the everchanging New York art communities and institutions. We will consider how artists have constructed their communities and networks and how they continue to strive. We will explore art practices that move beyond the conventions of traditional art spaces and into the public realm—where art is grounded in its connection to alternative audiences and communities. We will be extending and redefining what it means to be an artist today and push beyond the normative definition of what an exhibition space is and its function. We will visit various for profit, non-profit and alternative exhibition spaces as well as artist's studios, and look at how artists approach their studio practices which can be varied with surprising similarities and overlaps. We will look at how to build a strong, sustainable artist community and facilitate a constructive discourse around art-making and ideas.

Through seminars, studio visits, readings, site visits and journal entries, students will learn and discuss the new models of cultural institutions, audiences, processes and practices. Course work will involve readings that reference artist communities, collaboration, and correspondence. Students will begin to form a critical and conceptual foundation for their own studio/creative and writing practice. We will do this by:

completing required reading
attending exhibitions and cultural events
meeting artists, curators and critics

Learning Objectives:

1. To form a critical and conceptual foundation for students' own studio practice and/or art historical area of focus (for art history students)
2. To understand New York City's recent (20th and 21st century) contemporary art institutions and their relationship to communities and art historical shifts
3. To gain a comprehensive knowledge of how artworlds intersect and the roles of individuals within them

Outcomes:

Students Will

1. Develop an awareness of how artists construct their paths and build communities
2. Develop a knowledge of professional practice and of models for creating a sustainable career in the visual art world
3. Begin to develop the ability to speak and write critically in relationship to one's own practice and to situate it in the context of recent contemporary art history
4. Form an understanding of the complexity of the intersections of individual artists, critics, historians, administrators and power brokers within the art world

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4pm-6pm

Assessment:

Individual meetings

Seminar and program event participation

Final group critique and presentation of independent projects

Attendance and punctuality

Independent Visits

Complexity and evidence of commitment to journal keeping

Evidence of individual urban exploration within the cultural area that you are focused in

Individual progress with critical thinking, from beginning to end

Please note that NYAP Seminars have a non-traditional structure. Course credit and assessment are dependent on:

Seminar attendance (8 two-hour sessions)

Program Event attendance (5 two-hour events)

One-on-one meetings (4 minimum)

Writing Workshop (3 hours)

Midterm Review

Final Review

Independent NYC Visits* (2 minimum, per week)

****Independent visits can include a performance, lecture, artist talk, museum exhibit, reading***

Grading for NYAP

NYAP 495 INTERNSHIP (3.25 credits) Grade*:

-- based on your evaluation and faculty contact with your sponsor

NYAP 499: SEMINAR (1.00 credit) Grade*:

-- based on your attendance, meaningful participation, and work ethic for seminar assignments

NYAP 490: JOURNAL/INDEPENDENT STUDY (0.25 credits) Grade*:

-- based on the quality and frequency of journal entries, and the breadth and quality of your final project

Reading

Students will be assigned readings according to seminar content as well as according to his, her, or they independent project.

Independent Project

Individual tutorials occupy the second half of the semester when you will pursue a clearly defined independent study project designed in conjunction with and supervised by me. We will agree on a weekly schedule of one-on-one meetings to discuss progress and identify goals tailored to your specific needs.

Journal

You will be asked to visit exhibitions independently and keep a journal of your responses. The journal should be a record of intellectual and creative experiences and growth. It should reflect your own style and personality but it must first and foremost reflect an investigation, and not just serve as an account. The journal must reflect your intellectual maturity and ability as a liberal arts college student. It should show independent thinking and investigation. It is not a diary or scrapbook. Think about who your reader is in the long term. Do not just write whether you liked or didn't like something, but why or why not. Use the journal as a memory tool to write down information you are learning in your internship, names of artists, designers, information about materials, contacts etc.

Policy

The work for this semester will happen in at least five ways: on your own time, in your internships, in seminars, in program events and in one-on-one meetings. It is absolutely essential that you attend all seminars, that you are on time, and that you work on Wednesdays when we are not meeting. There are no cell phones or other devices to be used in my seminar. Please have them turned off and put away. Cell phones should also be turned off during your internships. Calls/texting etc. should only be made during pre-agreed upon breaks.

Seminar Schedule

Attending all sessions is mandatory

Office Hours: Wednesdays 4pm-6pm

SessionTime

What and Where

1/13	10:30-3:00pm	Student Orientation
1/22	2-4pm	Seminar #1 -Introductory meeting Meet at the Program Office
1/27	6:30-8:30pm	NYAP PROGRAM EVENT
1/27	N/A	<i>Learning Agreement/Goals Form Distributed Electronically</i>
1/29	2-4pm	Seminar #2 –CMA visit & Discussion 103 Charlton Street, NYC
2/3	6:30-8:30pm	NYAP Program Event
2/5	2-4pm	Seminar #3 – Artist Studio Visit & Discussion Penelope Umbrico
2/10	N/A	GOALS FORMS DUE Electronically
2/10		Faculty Mid Term Review Sessions: 10 wk students
2/12		Mid Term review with Emilie Clark: 10 wk students
2/12	2-4pm	Seminar #4 – Artist Studio Visit & Discussion Zaria Forman
2/19	2-4pm	Seminar #5-- Independent Project Proposals & Discussion <i>Please prepare a one paragraph written statement for your project proposal</i> Meet in Brooklyn Heights (Address TBD)
2/24	6:30-8:30	Program Event
2/24		Faculty & Director Mid-Term, Review Sessions 15 wk students
2/26	2-4pm	Seminar #6 – Drawing Center Curtis Talwst Santiago, <i>Can't I Alter</i>

3/9.		<i>Final Student Self Evaluations Due 10 wk students</i>
3/11	2:00-4:00PM	Seminar #7— Final critique <i>Please prepare 2-3 minute introductions of your project. Each person will be given 20 minutes total</i> Meet at Program Office
3/16	6:30-8:30PM	PROGRAM EVENT Student Presentations and reception 10 wk
4/1	2-4PM	Seminar #8 – Final Seminar Special guest
4/6		FINAL JOURNALS, SELF EVALS & PROJECTS DUE
4/21	6:30-8:30pm	STUDENT EXHIBITION AND RECEPTION
4/24		FINAL INTERNSHIP DAY, PROGRAM ENDS
