

Sculpture & Intercepting the Waste Stream

Semester Syllabus

Course Description

Sculpture & Intercepting the Waste Stream is an introductory sculpture course with a primary focus on transforming waste material into 3 dimensional works of art. This course introduces environmentally conscious techniques and processes as well as guidance in terms of professional presentation. Group discussions and critiques, video screenings, and readings complement studio time. The class commences with a river, creek or shore cleanup, conducted in collaboration with a local water cleanup organization. The class culminates with a pop-up exhibit of work created by the students at a public local gallery or cultural space that also functions as a silent auction/fundraiser. Proceeds from the sale of the students' work goes to continue cleaning up local waterways.

Course Objectives

- Students will create one sculpture that cannot be confused with garbage. This artwork must include at least one piece of material from the cleanup, and be made out of a minimum 95% debris. Hardware or fasteners may be used, as well as non-toxic adhesives and other environmentally friendly techniques.
- Investigate and develop sustainable art and design practices
- Explore fundamentals of sculpture, engage in critique and understand safety/etiquette issues for working sustainably in the studio
- Students develop their own unique visual language in sculptural form
- Students participate in a public exhibit gaining professional experience presenting their work
- Students develop skills to transform waste into viable works of art
- Participate in restricting the flow of debris to our oceans

Students will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend scheduled lectures and classes
- Complete assigned coursework
- Participate in the group river cleanup as well as group discussion and final exhibition of artwork created during the course.

Text & Course Materials

Estimated Course Fee: \$50-\$150

In addition to using the materials students collect from the “waste stream” other required supplies and tools from manufacturers and suppliers of art materials will be necessary.

Required Reading:

The World Without Us by Alan Weisman

<http://projectvortexuniversity.blogspot.com/p/required-reading.html>

The Story of Stuff by Annie Leona

<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/rd>

The Re-Enchantment of Art by Suzi Gablik Read CHAPTER 11

<http://projectvortexuniversity.blogspot.com/p/required-reading.html>

Screenings:

Tapped

<http://tappedthemovie.com/>

Waste Land

<http://www.wastelandmovie.com/>

Bag It

<http://www.bagitmovie.com/>

Schedule

Week 1: River, creek or shore cleanup

- Students will participate in a group “waste stream” cleanup where they will be responsible for collecting waste materials to be used in the creation of their artwork throughout the semester.

Week 2: Sorting and cleaning

- In class demonstration and discussion on how to clean found materials without harming the environment.
- Discussion on processing and organizing debris for sculpting
- Set up work spaces, safe storage of dirty materials etc...

Week 3: Open studio, clean and prep material

Week 4: Open studio, clean and prep material

Week 5: Open studio, start sculpting material

- Discussion and demonstration of techniques to sculpt and edit debris materials

Week 6: Open studio

Week 7: Fastening and assembly

- Discussion and demonstration of techniques to assemble materials without using toxic materials

Week 8: Critique

- Class discussion on student work and progress

Week 9: Open studio

- Discussion on presentation (wall relief, floor piece, suspended, indoor outdoor etc...)

Week 10: Open studio

Week 11: Airbrushing and/or surface treatment

Week 12: Open studio, complete pieces for exhibit, title, set reserve price, prepare guest lists

Week 13: Photograph work, vote on image for evite

Week 14: Preparation for Student exhibition.

Week 15: Student exhibition

Evaluation

Grading will be based primarily upon the student's effort, which is reflected in the following:

- The overall quality of the work that is produced.
- The level of success in meeting the objectives of given exercises and projects.
- Participation in critiques and class discussions.
- Level of caring and conscientiousness.
- Openness to ideas and constructive criticism.
- Photo-documentation of your work.
- Individual reviews and/or a final group critique at the end of the semester.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be in class in a timely fashion, and to remain for its duration. The students will be responsible for the completion of all assignments, and for all materials covered during their absence. Students are expected to come to class prepared to work on the given problem and to dedicate a number of working hours on their own time.

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar.

Students are expected to participate on the class blog by posting their responses to readings and screenings as well as submitting their votes for exhibit titles and final image for evite.

Students are expected to attend the reception/silent auction for their exhibit and invite friends, family and colleagues.

Students may earn extra credit by either volunteering to update and maintain the class blog, design the evite for the class exhibit, photograph the completed pieces of artwork by each student, or by photo documenting classes progress each day and submitting those photographs to the class blogger.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated.

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus.