

Grade Scheme for EnvArtAct

Participation:

Mandatory attendance; comments posted on blogs; comments posted on Grand Rounds; on your peer's wiki pages and Washington Square Park commentary. 25%

Assignments:

NoPark Design	15%
Garbage SelfPortrait	15%
AlternativeTransPort	20%
Social Climbing	
Urban Camping	
Remapping	
EnvHealthClinic Project	25%

Environmental Health Clinic

Reflect on and record your environmental health concerns. Does climate change worry you? Are you concerned about local contaminants, indoor/outdoor air quality issues or water quality? Do you suspect that NYU student suicide might not be only about their particular depressive tendencies but that if those suicidal students were in a different local environment--one that fostered care; calm and openness for instance--they may not have made the drastic choices they made? Could you change the place to make it better, for you, and even for others like you? What would that look like? What health concerns are genetically predetermined, or predisposed? Can you conceive of your health in so much as it relates to the external environment? Make an appointment at the Environmental Health Clinic and bring at least 3 of your environmental health concerns. You are the ImPatient. We will develop effective local interventions and data collection projects to address your concerns. This will also include producing a map locating your concerns and your actions as part of the documentation.

Alternative Transportation Parade:

aka Space explorations, Social Climbing and Urban Camping.

Alternative transportation (AT) re-imagines your mobility in Manhattan. This assignment requires that you to map your movements in the city to understand how you use the space, and how you flow as part of the larger human fluid dynamics--so that you can provide an alternative. Consider and represent where you go and what routes you take, and what you pass. Mobility is not only about moving fast, you are to question speed of movement, its desirability, and if

moving slowly, or stopping and camping can provide a viable alternative. Include on your map any viable camping spaces. You are to reconsider all urban features. Fences can be re-scribed as climbing walls; roads can be reclaimed from cars for other purposes; physical structures that you walked past before can provide an opportunity for upward mobility. Explore and represent alternative routes. Plot several routes and methods for movement that re-enchant your commute. This may include skipping or hula hooping; or swinging your way on the subway (see Woolard). Mark any places that you can reimagine the space and activity.

There are many aspects of alternative transportation for you to represent. Each of you should develop a map and map iconography. Each of you should have a listing (and/or display) of what you would bring for urban camping (i.e. your off-grid survival kit--curated by you). This will also include what "wildlife" (human and nonhuman) you would expect to observe at your chosen campsite and equipment for observation. Each of you should choose at least one other aspect of the urban wilds to work and each of you should be prepared to participate in the Alternative Transportation parade.

Invited Jurors:

Kate Rich of the Bureau, Physical Training, Social Climbing etc;
TBA

Self-Portraits in Garbage

Who are you in terms of the garbage you produce? How do you look in garbage? What do you feel about your garbage? Is it the anti-you; your smelly doppelganger? To what extent can you explore and understand yourself, your desire and your agency through what you throw? Develop a self-portrait in garbage.

This representation may be a calculation of your landfill grave plot: i.e. how much space does your body of waste take up in a landfill or any other visual, numeric, narrative or compelling way to account for your own garbage. Your job is to examine, understand and portray your individual waste versus collective waste stream; to consider what becomes of your garbage; to ask why is garbage a collective problem, but health an individual one? What if this were reversed?

Invited Jurors:

Samatha MacBride, Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling.
Department of Sanitation.
Heather Rogers, author of Gone Tomorrow.

NoPark project

NoPark (<http://www.nyu.edu/projects/xdesign/ooz/noPark/>) converts a no parking space into a micropark designed to capture pollutants and runoff. The description of the space is elaborated at xdesign.nyu.edu/noPark. Your assignment is to design what and how a vegetated space and the environmental services it provides can be produced as a spectacle. How does the slow growth of "weeds" become something compelling to look at? How does one intervene in a public space? Who has permission and expertise to produce a vegetated common space? How do we engage the legitimate participation of neighbors and "public" participants? How do you justify your own capacity to act on this public space? How do you justify your actions? How do you frame the experience of this space so that passersby "see" this space as their own local environment? What are the important processes you can display? Who is the audience for this? Could it be seen as a butterfly parking space while not being used by emergency vehicles? What opportunity does this space provide for you to explore and exhibit environmental processes that are underrepresented in this (and most) urban contexts?

You may choose to design the processes by which a space like this engages neighbors and is constructed; or design the planting material itself; or signage (in the sense of how do you make someone look at this space e.g. signifying the space with magnifying lens affixed over a plant producing puffs of pollination; or strategies of documentation. In effect, treat the noPark as an exhibition space that provides a radically different opportunity to exhibit your work, and demands a different relationship to the representation of "nature" that a gallery space provides. You may even chose to argue against the production of a noPark.

Jurors: George, Crystal and I will review these projects and award **noparking permits** (imagine how that will look on your CV!) to the most compelling projects.

Moreover this first assignment is worth 15% of your grade. Please post your descriptions and/or links on the by Monday 9am at the very latest. You are also invited to review the projects of the other students, and continue to add to resources and references--it is already a great pot of material. Thanks for strange and wonderful references to among other things: keychain plants. Please also post your "doubts" on working in this proposed public space. Voicing these doubts, as some of you have, is a very useful way to examine the issues involved in acting in and on a public space to improve environmental performance. Additional technical material is available.