Course Title

Interdisciplinary Projects

Guided Practice

Course Number
ART-UE.9921D01

Instruction Mode: In-Person

Fall 2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Aleksander Komarov

Your instructor will inform you about learner hours (one-on-one meetings).

Prerequisites
This course is open only to Studio Art students and students with an Emerging Media Arts background.

Units Earned
3

Course Details
Wednesdays, 2:00pm to 5:30pm

Location: St. Agnes Studio

In the interest of protecting the NYU Berlin community, we are closely following guidance around COVID-19 from the Robert Koch Institute (Germany’s institute for disease control and prevention), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority. You are required to adhere to the most recent policies. Please note that you are expected to attend every class meeting in-person; however, this may change at any point during the semester if local COVID-19 regulations so require. You will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol.
Course Description
This interdisciplinary studio art class introduces students to the full life-cycle of artists’ workings. We will reflect on the processes of making art, as well as the complexity of the artist’s condition and her/his/their relation to the sociopolitical, economic and cultural fields of today. We will employ different media, such as photography, film, writing, drawing, and assemblage to produce individual artworks. We will also meet several artists based in Berlin, to further investigate methodologies of practicing art. The studio at St Agnes provides an opportunity for lively debate and the sharing of ideas between each other and on a weekly basis. The course emphasizes interaction and collaboration as well as research as an artistic practice. To conclude the course, we will prepare an open studio (current hygiene regulations permitting) with all the works made during this term, articulating the interrelation of space and format with each of our individual findings.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)
This class is conceived to strengthen each student’s individual ideas as well as methodologies in view of a new surrounding: the city of Berlin and its myriad possibilities to encounter art. Together we will develop prospects of conceiving and exhibiting your artworks. The course seeks to encourage each student to self-confidently commit to elaborating individual practice set against the highly aspired and international context of this city’s charismatic settings.

Course Approach to Teaching & Learning (CATL)
The course is designed to involve students in research based artistic practice through experimental workshops, weekly plenum talks, exhibition visits, and presentations by Berlin-based artists. The goal is to encourage the students in their individual understanding of artistic practice, and widen their senses to a sustainable and collegial way of working.

Assessment Components
Class Participation - 15%
At the start of every session, each student shall engage in a conversation to update each other on their latest experiences and findings.

Weekly Feedback Response -15%
For each session, students share reflections on his/her/their current practice in the studio.

Class Presentations of Individual Works of 15 minutes length - 25%
Each student shall prepare a report on what he/she/they have been working on. This presentation will take place twice per course per student.

Open Studio or Final Research - 45%
Each student shall develop a work of art for the open studio. Grades are given for the concept, the material choices, as well as the presentation.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Required Text(s)
Electronic Resources (via Brightspace / NYU Library Course Reserves)
All texts will be stated in work sessions.

Please follow this link for the NYU Berlin Library Catalogue or the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

**Additional Required Equipment**

Walter Benjamin, A Berlin Childhood, Circa 1900, please get your copies at St. Agnes.

Further information:
For each session, Aleksander Komarov will bring catalogs, artists' publications, and films. This will help you develop your subjects for your works. We will also refer to some of these topics regarding the works of artists we discuss.

**Session 1 – 7 Sept 2022 Introduction**
We will meet in the studio at 2 pm. Meet your lecturer Aleksander Komarov and guest mentor Susanne Kriemann, artist and professor at Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design. They will briefly introduce practice and course outlines. Please come prepared and give a short audio-visual introduction to your practice (5 minutes). In this session we will also arrange our studio space. We will finish the session with questions concerning the course and the outlines.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** Getting to know the teacher, mentor and participants, setting up the space

**Session 2 – 14 Sept 2022 A site visit**
IMPORTANT NOTE: Weekly feedback sessions: each of our sessions begins with a collective discussion reflecting the past week. We briefly answer questions about individual concept developments and observations gathered during the past week. Please bring materials relevant for the feedback session if applicable and share reflections on your current practice in the studio. Each session ends with working on individual projects unless otherwise stated.

In this session we will meet in the studio and after the feedback session we visit the former headquarters of the Ministry for State Security (Stasi) in Berlin-Lichtenberg. This site is used as one of the four venues of this year’s Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art “Still Present!”, curated by Kader Attia.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** A site visit is a work-based learning activity. We will focus on the site visit as a productive resource for obtaining knowledge.

**Session 3 – 21 Sep 2022 Scenario, concept, research**
Weekly feedback session.

In this session we screen and discuss works of artist and filmmaker Omar Fast. We encountered his work in the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art at Stasi Headquarters. The session focuses on important details regarding his practice.
Omer Fast lives and works in Berlin. His main medium is film. 
*With a cinematic gaze, the artist relates stories that symbolically reveal the power structures of our present, where personal memories of witnesses pervade events.*
Afterwards: Group discussion on individual projects.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will discuss how artists research, which tools they used for their work.

**Session 4 – 28 Sept 2022 Process**
Weekly feedback session.

In this session we screen and discuss works of artist Pilvi Takala. Pilvi Takala’s artistic practice centers around performative interventions and documentary film practice. She tests the social norms that govern how various groups of people function together by exposing them to subtly disruptive situations.

I scheduled a personal meeting with Pilvi Takala (tbc). Please prepare 2 questions for the artist.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how artists work with performative interventions and documentary film practice.

**Session 5 – 5 Oct 2022**
Weekly feedback session.

We will visit the studio of painter Corinne Wasmuht. Corinne Wasmuht a painter, grew up in Argentina and lives and works in Berlin. Corinne Wasmuht’s complex, multifaceted pictorial worlds develop through a gradual, painstaking process of painting which in a certain sense already begins with her sitting at the computer.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how artists focus on studio based practice.

**Session 6 – 12 Oct 2022 Feedback on process**
Weekly feedback session.

Meeting with guest mentor Susanne Kriemann. In this session we entirely focus on the development of your works. Please be prepared with short presentations, focusing on the questions and concerns regarding your individual work development.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how to present works-in-process and formulate questions regarding e-research, concept and material matters.

**Session 7 – 19 Oct 2022**
Weekly feedback session.

Afterwards we will walk to HAU theater to see the work “Virtual Wombs” of Anna Fries and Malu Peeters.

“Virtual Wombs” brings virtual reality into the theater space and plays with speculative conditions. The work deals with mutation and transformation and with the potentials of world-
building, the creation of digital, reality-expanding worlds. The performers, both physical and virtual, take the audience on a tender journey into the womb of the pregnant post-human. After seeing the performance we will meet with artists for Q&A.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how artists work with performance, VR and world-building.

**Session 8 – 26 Oct 2022**
Weekly feedback session.

Afterwards we will see the film-work: “Die Alchemie der Wolken – Art, Activism and Splitting Communities” (2021) of Berlin-based artist duo Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani. The Berlin-based artist duo Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani has been collaborating on their interventional and situationist art practice since 1995. Their investigations revolve around moving images as both impartial documents and involved narrations of our changing societies. ([https://www.fischerelsani.net/about/](https://www.fischerelsani.net/about/))

Afterwards we will go to Haus der Statistik on Alexanderplatz. We will meet with different artists’ initiatives, and learn about their different activities and approaches.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how artists engage with urban spaces that are carriers of collective memory. General introduction to the hybrid praxis mix with socially and politically engaged art practices.

**Session 9 – 2 Nov 2022 Workshop**
Weekly feedback session.

In this session we will think through and practice some stages of choreographed participation, from lecture presentations to staged situations. Participatory art is an approach that involves the public in the creative process, making them co-authors, editors and observers of the work-in-process. This type of art is incomplete without the physical interaction of the viewers. Participation can be active or passive, gradual or accentuated.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** Practical introduction to collective artists practices.

**Session 10 – 9 Nov 2022 Walk**
Weekly feedback session.

From St. Ages we will walk to the Berlinische Galerie where we will see the exhibition of Sibylle Bergemann curated by Katia Reich. Sibylle Bergemann was one of the most famous German photographers of the 20th century. During her career in Berlin, which spanned more than four decades, she created an outstanding body of work ranging from urban, fashion and portrait photography to essayistic reportage.

Katia Reich is the director of the photographic Collection of the Berlinische Galerie.

**Session Learning Outcomes:** We will learn how photographs inform our understanding of history.
Session 11 – 16 Nov 2022  
Weekly feedback session.

Meeting with guest mentor Susanne Kriemann.  
In this session we entirely focus on the development of your works. Please be prepared with short presentations, focusing on the questions and concerns regarding your individual work development.

Session Learning Outcomes: We will learn how to present works-in-process and formulate questions regarding research, concept and material matters.

Session 12 – 23 Nov 2022 Workshop World Building  
Weekly feedback session.

Afterwards we will do a workshop on alternative ways of production. Why do we still work and for which social benefit? We conceive a world-building experience together inspired by the principle of LARP (Live Action Role Play) to discover how the development of an alternative reality can transform the way we look at works of art and the aesthetic and political analysis that emerges from them.

Session Learning Outcomes: The goal of these gatherings is to create connections and to further develop future scenarios related to sustainability.

Session 13 – 30 Nov 2022 Display  
Weekly feedback session.

In this session we will meet with artist sculptor Iman Issa.  
Iman Issa is an Egyptian multi-disciplinary artist who lives and works in Berlin. Her praxis looks at the power of display in relation to academic and cultural institutions at large.  
http://imanissa.com/  
Please prepare questions for Iman Issa.

Session Learning Outcomes: Understanding of display as a sculptural form.

Session 14 – 7 Dec 2022  
Weekly feedback session.

Extended group discussion of students’ works/research in the advent of our exhibition. Meeting with guest mentor Professor Susanne Kriemann. Individual meetings and technical advice on documentation of research.

TBD Open Studio at St. Agnes TBC

Recommendations for a Positive Teaching and Learning Environment  
To be discussed in class.
Suggested Learning Opportunities that Relate to our Course

Many events, exhibitions, performances are happening during your stay in Berlin. See INDEX for upcoming events.

The 12th Berlin Biennale takes place from June 11 to September 18, 2022, and is curated by Kader Attia. Every two years, the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art brings together international artists, theoreticians, and practitioners in exhibitions and accompanying programs. With its political profile, it stands for committed art that addresses the urgent questions of the present.

One of the big events in contemporary art is Berlin Art Week (14-18 September 2022): “The Berlin art scene is hosting art fairs, exhibition openings, award ceremonies, artist films, and numerous special events.

Berlin is famous for its theater, dance and performance. Please see the program of HAU Hebbel am Ufer. Please go and see the building of Berlin Philharmonie. The Berlin Philharmonie is not only a musical venue but also an architectural highlight. The philharmonic concert hall was designed by German architect Hans Scharoun. This building stands as an important example of organic and expressionist architecture. If you would like to experience the building from inside, please let me know and we can arrange a visit or go see a concert there together.

Your Lecturer

Aleksander Komarov was trained as a visual artist in Glebov Art Lyceum in Minsk (BY) and at the University of Fine Arts in Poznan (PL); he attended the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (NL). His filmic and written essays are concerned with questions of migrating identities, cultural globalization, the condition of contemporary art and its relation to broader economic contexts. Komarov’s oeuvre includes essay-films like Estate (2008); Capital (2009), Glosy/Voices (2011), Palipaduazennje (2012), Language Lessons (2013) and generative artworks such as Stock Estate (2015), Afterglow (2016) and Optische Täuschung (2017). His works were exhibited most recently at the National Art Museum Riga (LV), at WRO Biennale Wroclaw (PL), ZK/U Berlin (D), at the Moscow Biennial (RU) and ISCP New York (USA), the MCA Chicago (USA) and Museoa, Donostia-San Sebastián (ES); https://aleksanderkomarov.com/

Since 2009 he has been the program director of ABA e.V (Artists in Research Berlin Alexanderplatz), which he co-founded with visual artist and professor at University of Arts and Design Karlsruhe Susanne Kriemann (https://airberlinalexanderplatz.de/).

Aleksander Komarov is also the co-founder of PXFLUX, an online platform for the exhibition, promotion, distribution and collection of time based, computational, digital art (https://antiwarcoalition.art/).

Academic Policies

Grade Conversion

Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A = 94-100 or 4.0
A- = 90-93 or 3.7
B+ = 87-89 or 3.3
B = 84-86 or 3.0
B- = 80-83 or 2.7
C+ = 77-79 or 2.3
C = 74-76 or 2.0
C- = 70-73 or 1.7
D+ = 67-69 or 1.3
D = 65-66 or 1.0
F = below 65 or 0

**Attendance Policy**

Studying at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. Since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is expected promptly when class begins. Attendance will be checked at each class meeting.

As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor and/or the Academics team (berlin.academics@nyu.edu) by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, Moses Center accommodations, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or site staff may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from an NYU Staff member as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances that you wish to be treated confidentially must be presented to NYU Berlin’s director or Wellness Counselor. Doctor's notes must be submitted in person or by e-mail to the Academics team, who will inform your professors.

Unexcused absences may be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed, and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Four unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequently joining the class late.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to site staff; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

**Final exams**

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics Team.

Students are not permitted to leave the site until their finals have been completed at the designated times. Upon receiving approval from the Academics Team, eligible graduating students may depart the site one day before their school, department or university graduation ceremony.
Late Submission of Work

(1) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (including weekends and public holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor’s note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(2) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (including weekends and public holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(3) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days late (including weekends and public holidays) without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director, Dr. Gabriella Etmektsoglou.

(4) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(5) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on a university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offenses against academic integrity.

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines

NYU Citations Style Guide
Inclusivity Policies and Priorities
NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics team in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics team will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays.

Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)
Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, Brightspace, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website.

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the Personalizing Zoom Display Names website.

Moses Accommodations Statement
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU Berlin.

Bias Response
The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.
To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form](#)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- US Phone Number: +1 212-998-2277
- Local Number in Berlin: +49 (0) 30 2902 91277

Please consider the environment before printing this syllabus. If printing is necessary, please select only the essential page range.