

Art 391: Plasticity: A Time-Based Approach to Clay

Class: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-12:30 PM

Location: Studio Arts Building RM 107

Instructor: Abby Donovan

office hours by appointment

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KNOWLEDGE POOL: <http://udceramix.tumblr.com/>

Pay Course Fees: <http://www.udel.edu/artconsumables>

Overview

The goal of the clay/ceramics area is to present students with a question: what does it mean to investigate ideas through and with a material? Students at all levels will be encouraged to see how far and wide the possibilities are—with and for—their creativity and the material of clay.

At all levels the individual student is emphasized and encouraged.

At all levels students participate in group discussions and critiques.

At all levels students investigate examples of contemporary and historical art.

Students will make clay come alive through fundamental claymation, stop motion, and time-lapse techniques. Projects may explore either abstract or narrative possibilities, as well as site-specific installations. Curriculum emphasizes a “do-it-yourself” approach and may include basic armature building, video-editing software, and weekly screenings of international and historical animated films.

Process and engaged investigation will be emphasized, with strong encouragement for experimentation and creativity. What does it mean to live and do art? What does it mean to wrestle with the implications of time’s trajectory?

Objectives

- Use essential claymation processes, including video-editing software, in the creation of personally significant artwork
- Utilize the class blog for interpreting, analyzing, and comparing a historical range of stop motion film and video work
- Create a portfolio of video works exhibiting an experimental and inventive progression of concepts and techniques
- Articulate the ideas and vocabulary of a time-based process and a personal artistic practice in group critiques and individual presentations

Class Requirements

1. Attendance is essential and mandatory. This is not a lecture class so information cannot be found from other sources. Instruction, practice, and peer interaction are the best ways to succeed and progress. Often interaction is a great source of inspiration, as well. More than three absences will result in a lowering of your grade. Final review and studio clean up are absolutely mandatory.
2. Assignments are due on the date given. Flexibility is at the instructor's discretion, and must be discussed in advance. All assignments must be completed by final review.
3. Class participation is required. In review, you will not only be expected to talk about your own work, but the work of your peers.

Studio classes are only 2 hours long. This means you must expect to spend, on average, 4-5 hours a week outside of class time in the studio. At least! But hey, it's your favorite place to be anyway, right?

Grading Guidelines

'A' is reserved for students who exhibit a high level of intellectual investigation, and exceptional performance within the structure of the class. 'A' students use all of their resources, their creativity, curiosity and energy for their work. They are attentive participants in all aspects of studio practice and discussion. They come to class prepared with their tools, reference materials, readings completed, and they meet project deadlines.

'B' students perform at a level of involvement beyond basic course requirements.

'C' grade is assigned to students who approach the class requirements in a perfunctory way, without much care, interest or commitment, and have attendance and tardiness issues, or continually leave early.

Attendance

As Woody Allen said, "Half of life is just showing up," and you'll be amazed at how much better you will do in class by simply attending it. Excessive absences (really more than two is excessive) will have a terrible impact on your grade. In other words, after two unexcused absences your grade will drop by one letter grade for each subsequent absence. And yes, those times coming late/leaving early magically and quickly turn into an absence!

If you have to be absent please try and tell me in advance—or find me the next day/early next week so that your make-up work can be assigned.

FAQ

Any student enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to access the studio at any time they want as long as there is not a scheduled cleaning or another class using the space.

12/6 final piece due posted to Vimeo and portfolio DVD with all 3 movie files and still images left at Abby's office. All studio shelves must be cleared off!

****No open-toed shoes or flip-flops are allowed in the studio.***

the fine print:

**Comments posted to the KNOWLEDGE POOL must have been spell-checked and meet the requirements as described in the attached project description sheet.*