

Western University
 Department of Visual Arts
 VAS 2275B

ART NOW II: DIY (From Scratch to Share)

Term/Session	Winter 2017
Time	Thursday 7-10pm
Location	NCB113 (unless otherwise notified)
Professor	Christof Migone, cmigone@uwo.ca
Office Location/Hours	VAC room 214, Thursdays noon-2pm, and by appointment
TAs	Christina Battle < cbattle@uwo.ca >; and Colin Dorward < cdorward@uwo.ca >
TA Office Locations/Hours	VAC 234G VAC 245
OWL/Sakai	https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/2e443997-73f5-452d-bf00-4fe8af834682

Course Description/Objectives:

Art is the individual's way back to the collective.

Ernst Fischer, *The Necessity of Art* (1963)

Does art possess you in the guise of endless self-performance? Do you wake feeling like a multiple? Are you on constant auto-display?

Hito Steyerl, *Art as Occupation* (2011)

Aesthetic creation marvels in the particular, the exception, the beautiful, the sublime, the non-instrumental, the contradictory, and the imaginary. Art pictures the whole through its many real parts. It inspires and undoes grand schemes. Artists are unreliable political allies because they resist totalizing projects.

David Garneau, *Migration as Territory* (2015)

Art Now offers an introduction to contemporary artistic production, research and practice, featuring dialogues with artists on their work, cultural workers on their projects, plus curators and critics on the role of criticism in contemporary art. Emphasis is placed on recent art movements and tendencies—defined in an expanded sense. The course also focuses on developing critical writing skills and team work. This semester's theme, *DIY (From Scratch to Share)*, proposes a multi-layered examination of the popular acronym DIY in relation to art practices but also of its deployment in various non-art domains. At face value, do-it-yourself can be read as an individualistic quest, but often it is also referenced as a central characteristic of local and community-based projects (featuring skill-sharing in particular). Time-based audiovisual approaches and digitally-based platforms (including social media) will be given particular attention, but a wide range of media will be covered. The invited guest speakers will present their own research against the backdrop of the DIY theme. The following heterogeneous list provides a summary view of the range of areas the guests will cover: conceptual sculpture, kinetic and electronic installations, still and moving images, phenomenological analysis of affect, local activism, artist-run centers and cultures.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course can expect to:

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge
 - Develop a knowledge of the diverse contemporary art practices and artists featured in the course and their connected key critical and theoretical frameworks.

- Develop critical thinking and visual and aural analytical skills.
2. Knowledge of Methodologies
 - Develop knowledge of various methodologies, both paradigmatic and idiosyncratic.
 - Develop abilities to discern ambiguities and their generative potential.
 3. Application of Knowledge
 - Produce innovative and inventive contributions to in-class discussions and through the various assignments.
 4. Autonomy and Professional Capacity
 - Become familiar with the range of professional possibilities afforded to artists, theorists and curators in and out of the academy.

Course Requirements:

- Active e-mail address (communications outside of class will be done via e-mail and OWL).
- Students are expected to do the assigned course readings, and come to class prepared to discuss them with peers.
- An insatiable curiosity and a desire to learn, research, experiment and create.

Attendance:

- Attendance, punctuality and preparedness for class are critical.
- University regulations stipulate that if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final evaluations and/or critiques.

Assignments/Late Assignments:

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Failure to complete assignments without prior arrangements with the instructor will result in a failing grade. With prior discussion, students may hand in late work with a 5% per day deduction from the assignment. Extensions will be given upon official notification from the student's faculty advisor due to documented serious health and bereavement reasons.

Medical Policy:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See below for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Accommodation for missed assignments, or attendance, totalling less than 10%, due to medical reasons, may be arranged with the instructor as long as the student contacts the instructor no later than the day after the assignment or attendance is due.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>. Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

Mental Health Policy:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Evaluation Breakdown:

15% Attendance and (Engaged) (Awake/Active) Participation

20% Quick Tests (Checks and Balances) (Serious Play) (usually in-class and usually 2% per week)

15% Audio/Video (Thoughtful) Response [DUE JANUARY 26]*

25% (Skill Sharing) (Get Involved) Group Project [DUE MARCH 30]*

25% Solo (Journal) Project [DUE APRIL 6]*

*A detailed handout will be provided for these assignments in advance.