THE FUN-DAMENTALS OF SCULPTURE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to provide each student with a broad understanding of materials and themes fundamental to sculpture now and throughout history. Students will be challenged to recon with gravity, to confront the nature of objects, and to bridge the gap between body and sculpture. Students will be encouraged and taught to work in a variety of sculptural materials, including plaster, wire, wood, and found objects. With each project, students will be introduced to examples of historic and contemporary art works that utilize the assigned materials for each project, or that explore similar themes.

MATERIALS STUDENTS MUST BRING

Box cutter, plastic cups, duct tape (3 rolls), needle nose pliers, work gloves, paint (if desired)

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY SUMMER INSTITUTE

Cardboard, plaster, wire, wood, hardware, hot glue, various tools

PROJECTS

Icebreaker: THE AQUEDUCT

In teams of three, students will construct their very own miniature aqueducts. Students will be challenged to work together, to think structurally, and to throw aesthetics out the door! Once the teams have built their aqueducts, they will compete to retain the most water across the greatest distance.
Project 1: WEIGHT AND WEIGHTLESSNESS

How do you make something heavy look light? Something solid look soft? What about the reverse: can you make something light look heavy? Something full of holes seem solid? To start this assignment, students will choose an object and do a series of sketches of this object from multiple vantage points. Using plaster OR wire students will explore material densities, their false facades, and transcendent potentials as they turn the drawings of these objects into sculptures.

Artists to reference: Charles Ray, Jeff Koons, Nancy Rubins

Curatorial Yankee Swap: Before critiquing Project 1, students will be asked to participate in a Curatorial Yankee Swap. Through this activity, students will be challenged to consider how sculptures work in relationship to one another within a space. Students will take turns placing their classmates sculptures throughout the White Room, considering the aesthetic arrangement of the works all together.

Project 2: UN-MONUMENT

For this assignment, students will be asked to make a monument to a person, object, idea, event, or feeling of their choosing. While monuments out in the world are typically built from materials like marble or bronze that can stand up to the elements, each student’s monument will be built of discarded, fragile, or recycled materials making them Un-Monuments. As you build you must follow two guidelines:

1. Your Un-Monument must have a footprint of at least 9 square feet
2. At least 50% of the materials that make up your Un-Monument must be found objects or scavenged materials.

The challenge of this project is to work with and from your environment, to discover new, unsuspecting materials and incorporate them into your art, and to think and work big! You will want to remember some tactics from the icebreaker challenge regarding structure and stability.

Artist Examples will be selected from The Unmonumental Catalogue
Project 3: SCULPTURAL EXPRESSIONISM & THE SCULPTURAL BODY

With many sculptures, we are immediately aware of the artist’s hands in the piece—we might see her fingerprints, notice the unpolished marks his tool left, or even feel a mysterious presence—the artist’s ghost. This gives the sculpture an expressive, emotional, perhaps psychological quality.

Where is the tension between your body and your sculpture?

Students will be encouraged to continue working on a previous sculpture from Projects 1 or 2, combine/cannibalize both Projects 1 and 2 to create a new sculpture, or start a brand new sculpture in a different material. The key to this assignment is to consider the relationship between your body and your sculpture. How do shape and form affect how you feel when you stand in front of a sculpture? How does color confront your body? Can you touch your sculpture? Do people want to touch it but they aren’t allowed? Is the sculpture scary or comforting?

Artist Examples: August Rodin, Richard Serra, and other sculptures in the sculpture garden

HOMEWORK AND MUSEUM ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the class students will occasionally be asked to do a little extra homework at night. This will mostly consist of sketching and planning for in class work time. Because the class is so short, every bit of class time possible will be used for making sculptures rather than planning.

The instructors will hand out museum assignments right before our visit to both the Getty and the Hammer. These assignments will challenge students to think and write critically about various sculptures while in the museum.
SCHEDULE

SESSION B WEEK 1

Monday 7/20
9:00 – 10:00 Check-in, introduction to the program and short tour of campus, Broad Art Center auditorium, Room 2160E
10:00 – 11:00 Tour of studio and building facilities, review rules, Lab Supervisors give demonstrations
11:00 – 12:00 Instructors review syllabi and begin first assignments
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 3:30 Ice Breaker Aqueduct Challenge—work time
3:30 – 3:45 Snack Break
3:45 – 5:30 Aqueduct Challenge work time; review daily studio clean-up procedure; hand out Project One assignment
Homework: Brainstorm for Project 1: choose an object and sketch it from 3 different vantage points.

Tuesday 7/21
9:00 – 11:00 Test the Aqueducts
11:00 – 12:00 Artist Talk (all students attend in Broad 2100A)
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 Demo how to mix and work with plaster and/or how to work with wire
2:00 – 3:30 Begin Work on Project 1; individual meetings with instructors.
3:30 – 3:45 Snack Break
3:45 – 5:30 Project 1 work time

Wednesday 7/22 (LATE STUDIO NIGHT)
9:00 – 12:00 Project 1 work time
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 Artist Talk (all students attend in Broad 2100A)
2:00 – 4:45 Project 1 work time
4:45 – 5:15 Dinner / Snack Break
5:15 – 6:30 Project 1 work time and finishing touches
6:30-7:00 Introduction to Project 2

Thursday 7/23
9:00 – 10:00 Curatorial Yankee Swap
10:00-11:30 Critique of Project 1
11:30-12:00 Studio Clean-up
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – Meet at Broad Lawn to prepare for Museum Trip
1:15 – 4:00 Museum Trip to Getty Center (all students attend)
4:00 – 5:30 Project 2 work time
Homework: Scavenge for Materials and watch Jane Bennett’s lecture on Hoarding and Artists

**Friday 7/24**
9:00 – 12:00 Project 2 work time—scavenge for materials
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 4:15 Project 2 work time
4:15 – 4:30 Snack Break is later than usual today
4:30 – 5:30 Art Movie Screening in Auditorium (all students attend in Auditorium – Broad 2160E)
Weekend Homework: Continue to scavenge

**Saturday 7/25 & Sunday 7/26**
*Weekend Activities and Outings for Residential Students are led by Summer Art Institute Resident Counselors for Residential Students - see “Weekend Schedule” for details.*

**SESSION B WEEK 2**

**Monday 7/27**
9:00 – 11:00 Project 2 work time
11:00 – 12:00 Artist Talk by Summer Art Institute Instructors (all students attend in Broad 2100A)
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 3:30 Project 2 work time
3:30 – 3:45 Snack Break
3:45 – 5:00 Project 2 work time and finishing touches
5:00 – 5:30 Install work in the white room for critique in the morning
Homework: Brainstorm for Project 3; come prepared with an idea and sketches for Project 3

**Tuesday 7/28**
9:00 – 10:30 Project 2 critique
10:30 – 12:00 Introduction to Project 3 and walk through the sculpture garden
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 3:30 Museum Trip – Hammer Museum (all students attend)
● 2:00-2:20 – Lilly Aldriedge and TA
● 2:30-3:00 – Jonathan Apgar and TA
● 3:10-3:30 – Elizabeth Conn-Hollyn and TA
3:30 – 5:30 Begin work on Project 3; individual meetings with instructors about your project

**Wednesday 7/29 (LATE STUDIO NIGHT)**
9:00 – 12:00 Project 3 work time
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 Artist Talk (all students attend in **Broad 2100A**)  
2:00 – 4:45 Project 3 work time
4:45 – 5:15 Dinner / Snack Break
5:15 – 7:00 Project 3 work time

**Thursday 7/30**
9:00 – 12:00 Project 3 finishing touches and install in the white room
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 3:30 Final Critique with Instructors and Guest Faculty
3:30 – 3:45 Snack Break
3:45 – 5:30 Final Critique with Instructor and Guest Faculty

**Friday 7/31**
*Residential Students check out from housing halls and stow luggage before class*
9:00 – 12:00 Bring artwork to gallery, install exhibition
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:00 Pack artwork to be shipped home, final studio clean up
2:00 – 3:30 Final Reception held at New Wight Gallery - all students, parents / guardians, faculty, staff and friends are welcome to attend!

* Students who wish to ship their artwork home will be responsible for all shipping costs and must provide shipping slips and an authorized method of payment. Instructors and TAs will help students pack-up their artworks and will facilitate the shipping process.