

SCULPTURE III IV V

Course: Sculpture III IV V - AVT 462, 463, 464 001

Time: Tuesday/ Thursday from 1:10 PM -4:10 PM

Location: Art and Design Building, Room L005

Semester: Spring 2016

Instructor: Rachel Debuque

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Office: Third Floor, 2029

Hours: By Appointment

Phone: 703.993.856

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change upon Instructor's discretion



There's no diploma in the world that declares you as an artist—it's not like becoming a doctor. You can declare yourself an artist and then figure out how to be an artist.

I remember loving sound before I ever took a music lesson. And so we make our lives by what we love.
John Cage

"Bad taste is real taste, of course, and good taste is the residue of someone else's privilege."
Dave Hickey

Course Description:

Advanced studio course for ***rigorous** production of sculpture. Weekly topical seminar, vigorous critiques, museum and gallery visits, professional documentation, and research resulting in a body of work to be exhibited.

You will be challenged to explore the role of art in our rapidly evolving society. You will be encouraged to ask yourself the hard questions. What is my personal definition of success? How can I strive to reach my fullest potential? What does being an artist mean to me?

Arts goal: *Mason courses in the film making, visual and performing arts stress generative, inquiry based learning through direct aesthetic and creative experience in the studio environment.* Courses aim to achieve a majority of the following learning outcomes: students will be able to identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary appropriate to that form; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic technique and the expression of a work's underlying concept; analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form and cultural context; analyze and interpret material or performance culture in its social, historical, and personal contexts; and engage in the artistic process, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.

University and School of Art Policies: In accordance with George Mason University policy, turn off all beepers, cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

Commitment to Diversity: This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran's status, or physical ability.

Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design: As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Open Studio Hours: SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted in the studios.

You will be given 24 Hour access to the Sculpture facilities. This privilege comes with responsibility. You are expected to maintain the shops civility rules (see civility rules below). If you see someone using a tool improperly, kindly show them the correct way or alert a professor. You are now a leader and important part of this shared community!

Art Bus Dates: Take advantage of our monthly Bus trips to New York!

September 26
October 24
November 21

Visual Voices Lecture Series Fall 2015: Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20- 9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater.

September 3 Jon Rubin “Art in Public Life”
 September 10 Helen Zughuib “Arab Song – Arab Spring”
 September 24 Catherine Kehoe “It’s Not What You Think”
 October 1 SOA Grads “Loading Content”
 October 8 Steve Badanes + Linda Beaumont “Speak of the Devil”

Official Communications via GMU E-Mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences: If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need academic accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Disabilities Resource Center (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the DRC.

Important Deadlines

Once the add and drop deadlines have passed, instructors do not have the authority to approve requests from students to add or drop/withdraw late. Requests for late adds (up until the last day of classes) must be made by the student in the SOA office (or the office of the department offering the course), and generally are only approved in the case of a documented university

error (such as a problem with financial aid being processed) , LATE ADD fee will apply. Requests for non-selective withdrawals and retroactive adds (adds after the last day of classes) must be approved by the academic dean of the college in which the student’s major is located. For AVT majors, that is the CVPA Office of Academic Affairs, Performing Arts

Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD
First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 31
Labor Day, university closed	September 7
Last day to add classes —all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 8
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 15
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	October 2
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 28 – October 23
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 5 – October 30
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 12
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2015 due to instructor	October 30
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2015 due to Registrar	November 6
Thanksgiving recess	November 25 – 29
Last day of classes	December 12
Reading Days Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	Not Scheduled
Exam Period	Mon December 14 – Mon December 21
Degree Conferral Date The Winter Graduation Ceremony will be held on Sat December 19.	December 22

Building A407.

Attendance Policies: Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non participation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

AVT 462/463/464 Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. If there are circumstances where you will have to a class, it is the students' responsibility to make up work outside of class. Remember that attendance is essential to the understanding of the Studio Fundamentals and missed classes will greatly compromise your development as an artist. On other words: ATTEND EVERY CLASS. There are no unexcused absences. Three missed classes results in automatic drop of one letter grade. Every subsequent absences lowers another letter grade. Six missed classes results is an automatic failure.

Honor Code: Students in this class are bound by the Honor Code, as stated in the George Mason University Catalog. The honor code requires that the work you do as an individual be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas. (This does not prohibit collaborative work when it is approved by your instructor.) As a faculty member, I have an obligation to refer the names of students who may have violated the Honor Code to the Student Honor Council, which treats such cases very seriously. No grade is important enough to justify cheating, for which there are serious consequences that will follow you for the rest of your life. If you feel unusual pressure about your grade in this or any other course, please talk to me or to a member of the GMU Counseling Center staff.

Using someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit is plagiarism, a very serious Honor Code offense. It is very important to understand how to prevent committing plagiarism

when using material from a source. If you wish to quote verbatim, you must use the exact words and punctuation just as the passage appears in the original and must use quotation marks and page numbers in your citation. If you want to paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source, you must put the ideas into your own words, and you must cite the source, using the APA or MLA format. (For assistance with documentation, I recommend Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*.) The exception to this rule is information termed general knowledge—information that is widely known and stated in a number of sources. Determining what is general knowledge can be complicated, so the wise course is, “When in doubt, cite.”

Be especially careful when using the Internet for research. Not all Internet sources are equally reliable; some are just plain wrong. Also, since you can download text, it becomes very easy to inadvertently plagiarize. If you use an Internet source, you must cite the exact URL in your paper and include with it the last date that you successfully accessed the site.

Writing Center: Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis.

The Collaborative Learning Hub Located in Johnson Center 311 (703-993-3141), the lab offers in-person one-on-one support for the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, and a variety of other software. Dual monitor PCs make the lab ideal for collaborating on group projects, Macs are also available; as well as a digital recording space, collaborative tables, and a SMART Board. Free workshops are also available (Adobe and Microsoft) through Training and Certification; visit ittraining.gmu.edu to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.

Grading: F: Unsatisfactory work/ Did not meet criteria D: Below Average but passing/ Work is lacking C: Average/ Met requirements B: Above average/ exceeded requirements A: Superior/ greatly exceeded requirements

Participation: Full engagement is imperative. Students are expected to actively participate in critiques. Active participation means: offering peers constructive criticism, utilizing a continually progressive art vocabulary, being attentive during demonstrations and maximizing class time. Also, we will maintain a blog that students are expected to contribute to on a weekly basis. All in class presentation material will be made available for your research. Students are encouraged to share any relevant research with the class via blog.

Art Events: You may be required to make gallery and museum visits in DC and attend the Art Department special events such as guest artists lectures and exhibit openings.

Sketchbook: Students are expected to regularly document their ideas in a sketchbook. These will act as references for individual meetings and be taken into consideration with final grading. Drawing is an important component to the creative process of an artist and designer. It is the most rapid response to visual phenomenon and will aid in your development as an artist. A student who is actively sketching and writing their ideas, is fully engaging in the assignments, it is in your best interest to make this part of your artistic practice. Hint: Creating small goals for your sketchbook can help. If you tell yourself that you will sketch everyday, no matter the circumstances, it will improve the articulation of your work.

Supplies: Your studio fee will cover materials to an extent. However, there will be additional expenses to create desired effects of works. I also strongly recommend that you have a camera. Keep in mind that there are many free/cheap resources for supplies on campus and in surrounding areas. Approaching businesses about materials they would throw away is one of many ways to get free material. Recycled material options are good for your pocketbook and the earth!

Required Supplies:

- Pack of Pencils
- Safety gear: eye protection, ear protection, and dust mask, work gloves optional
- Tape measure
- Hot glue gun + glue sticks
- Exacto and / or utility knife and blades
- Assorted drill bit set 1/16" - 1/4"
- Masking + Duct tape
- Screwdrivers, flat head and phillips head (a 4 in 1 is a good recommendation)
- Glue (yellow wood glue)
- Sandpaper (assorted pack of, med., fine, course)
- Needle nose pliers w/ wire cutter
- Basic Ceramic Tools (See Below)



Studio Maintenance: Civility Rules:

- If you don't know, ask.
- Wear proper safety gear.
- No food or drink on machinery.
- No cell phones, headphones in wood or metal studio.
- PLEASE! Report broken machinery to faculty or technician immediately.
- Never use a tool before receiving proper instruction.
- Clean and return studio tools to proper storage area after each use.
- Put your work in storage areas and clearly label at end of every class.
- ID required for all non-class time tool use.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Treat people with respect.

What to expect this semester:

- Expect to spend a *minimum* of 6 hours of work outside of class
- Expect to get dirty: Wear old clothing and closed toed shoes to class
- Expect to vocalize: Critique requires you to speak about your work
- Expect to sketch your ideas

Our Semester at a Glance:

Sculpture Show and Tell : (10 Points)

Collect 20 images of work that inspires you. Put all 40 images in a powerpoint. Be prepared to spend 5 minutes explaining why these images interest you. This will be due next class.

Place: (10 Points)

A large part of making meaningful work is connecting your viewpoint, experiences, and influences to your making. This weekend you will set out to have see a new place that you have never been to before. Take time to note the many things that you find about this place. How did you arrive at visiting this place? What are the colors that are prominent? What does this place make you feel? Who are the people/things attached to this place? Did you meet anyone here? Follow the narrative of your life and experience. Arrive at a new understanding. Open yourself up. Think critically....dig deeper. Don't worry about what you will make with this experience while it is happening. Be in the moment.

Project 2: Place Sculpture (40 Points) Due: Feb 19

Project 3: (40 Points) Due: March 22

Project 4: (40 Points) Due: April 19

Final Presentation: (40 Points) Due 2

- You will give a 10 minute presentation of your work that includes influences, your portfolio, and discusses the the major themes of the work you created.
- You will present a portfolio of images of your work (These images will be professional quality)
- At least 3 Views of Every work created this semester
- You will give me High Resolution copy of your portfolio
- You will hand in an Artist Statement
- You will have a place online where one can view your **ENTIRE** body of work (So, not just the things you have made this semester)

