

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Fall 2022

Wednesday Morning Sculpture – VIRTUAL
Topics in Sculpture: Assemblage vs. Structure

Instructor: Jilaine Jones
Class Hours: Wednesdays, 9am - 1pm ET
First Class: September 21, 2022
Last Class: December 14, 2022

Course Description

The focus of this Sculpture course will be assemblage vs structure: the difference between sculpture which is assemblage in nature and sculpture which is based on its form or structure. These two contrasting ways of conceiving sculpture share ownership of the entire underpinning of sculptural practice throughout history. While assemblage is generally more recent, just more than a century old, its presence is pervasive almost subconsciously. Both directions have purpose and vitality, and within each there is a range of how and what it communicates. The course will be conducted virtually, utilizing Zoom as the virtual “meeting room”. During each class session, the Instructor will discuss the intrinsic presence of the topic idea through history and its importance to sculpture practice, with images. Students will address the discussed aspects of the topic in the subsequent week, through making sculpture in their own spaces, which we will then look at and discuss as a group. Directions each week as to process, using a range of materials, will be given towards understanding the crucial relationship of processes and the topic. Because each week the student’s physical work will be made as an open meditation on the topic aspect, its nature may be more propositional. The exploration of the topic is intentionally treated as a think tank which may be aside of the participant’s own primary creative work so that their experimentation can be free to react directly and flexibly to the topic discussions.

Course Outline

We will have a discussion with images of sculpture, spanning history, during each class, moving through the topic from the most basic principles to the rich array of qualities and purposes it encompasses. Viewing of the sculptural work made by the group (not in class time) will comprise the rest of the class. There will be breaks of 10 minutes at the hour and 20 minutes at halftime. Discussion will include how materials have specific behaviors and how these qualities are dynamically intrinsic to the topic directions. There will be time periods set aside for technical discussions, how to work with materials and tools.

Learning Outcomes

Understanding a topic crucial to sculpture making: its history, its iterations, its challenges, will be central. In this course, students will be:

- Exercising the analysis of sculpture through history and work in progress.
- Developing independent awareness of cultural propensities and the contexts of reflexes, habits in making. To have this awareness going forward; to know how and why one is engaging assemblage or structure is crucial as these approaches comprise any work of sculpture’s ideology.

The course concept is meant to have synergetic potential: sharing the physical and thought responses to the topic, sharing understanding, questions, possibilities, and reconsiderations, becomes accumulative. This is then usable for the participant’s independent work and thought processes. The stimulation of discussion, as well as observing others in parallel endeavor. The course offers an example of the productive practice of looking at art with fellow artists to develop and argue issues, from which to find incentive, impetus, and purpose.

Assessable Tasks

The student should be committed to their project through organization, persistence and experimentation; to grapple with and take seriously the topic. Make evolution in the work by means of: decision making, intuition, reconsideration, engagement with physical processes and materials: this effort will transform towards unforeseen questions and answers. Participation in the dialogue of the group, and discussion about the ongoing works of the group.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading is on a High Pass/Pass/Low Performance/Fail basis for NYSS MFA students. To achieve a Pass grade, the Instructor will assess the students' progress based on attendance and participation. Students will be informed during the semester if either of these aspects are not being met, passing may depend on the students following up on the Instructor's suggestions and guidance. A passing grade is reliant on the engagement with assigned tasks in a satisfactory manner.

Readings and Resources

- Passages in Modern Sculpture, Rosalind Krauss
- The Language of Sculpture, William Tucker
- Modern Sculpture Reader, edited by Jon Wood, David Hulks, Alex Potts
- More texts to be shared through the course.

Materials and supplies

- Tapes of various strengths
- Assortment of Heavy Paper
- Heavy-duty Scissors
- Cardboard, bought or found
- Drill; drill bits
- Hammer, Assortment of nails: incl. finishing, wire Brads
- Glue gun, glue sticks
- Glue (Matte Medium, PVA), Wood Glue
- String, 1 roll
- Wire, find 3 rolls of varying pliability and thickness.
- Wire Snips.
- Dowels: 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, 2 kinds: round and square, 36" L (2 of each, 24 pieces at least)
- Coping saw
- Clips, alligator, laundry
- Clay
- Rolling pin, canvas
- Knife and any clay tools
- Heavy duty Stapler, office type Stapler (supply of staples for both)
- Thin plastic
- Assortment of found materials, objects, elements.

School, Department & Class Policies

Please refer to the Student Handbook for information regarding the School's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism. All students must abide by the general health and safety regulations laid out in the Student Handbook, as well as any specific instructions given by the Instructor. All students will follow the School's current COVID-19 guidelines and procedures to maintain a healthy and safe working environment for the NYSS community.

NYSS Student Conduct for Virtual Learning

In order to maintain a virtual space wherein participants feel at ease to share and learn openly with one another, the New York Studio School prohibits participants in virtual classes from recording, taking screenshots, or otherwise copying any portion of New York Studio School's online courses. While participants are free to share images of their own coursework, sharing or posting images or recordings from a virtual class on social media is prohibited without the consent of the instructor, models, and students from class. Course content is solely for registered students of the class and cannot be shared with others. By participating in virtual courses, students are aware that the New York Studio School may record and archive Zoom meetings, Padlet pages, and other content from the course.