

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL

OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Spring 2023

Wednesday Morning Sculpture – VIRTUAL

Topics in Sculpture: Narratives of Gravity

Instructor: Jilaine Jones
Class Hours: Wednesdays, 9am - 1pm ET
First Class: February 1, 2023
Last Class: April 26, 2023

Course Description

The focus of this course will be gravity, its fundamental presence and control over the intrinsic narrative of any sculpture. As well as being inside the vitality of sculpture form, it also enables more extroverted narratives including of a storied nature. However gravity is engaged is the way a sculpture interacts with the viewer. Our exploration of it will include very simple and material/process-based projects as well as more complex and storied parameters. The course will be conducted virtually, utilizing Zoom as the virtual “meeting studio”. During each class session, the Instructor will discuss 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 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 (that is work not created during 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:

- Exercise the analysis of sculpture through history and work in progress.
- Develop independent awareness of cultural propensities and the contexts of reflexes, habits in making; will gain 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, ¼, 3/8, ½, 5/8, ¾, 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

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.