

Professor: Yvonne P. Doderer / ypd@mit.edu

TA: (To be determined)

Technical Instructor: Charlie Mathis / chachi@mit.edu / 258-0771

Technical Instructor: Dan Van Roekel / dvr@mit.edu

Course number: 4.301

Tuesday: 2-5 pm

Thursday: 2-5 pm

Bldg: N52-342 class room

Office Prof. Y.P. Doderer: N51-338

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will introduce students to a variety of contemporary art practices and ideas. The class will begin with a brief overview of 'visual language' by looking at a variety of artworks and discussing basic concepts revolving around artistic practice. The class will work in video, sculpture and in public space.

This class will focus on *collage*, *montage* and *bricolage* as artistic practices. The starting point is the idea of the collage as the German artist Max Ernst once described it in his biographical notes: "The collage technique is the systematic exploitation of the accidentally or artificially provoked liaison of two or more incompatible realities on a (for this purpose) apparently improper level – and the spark of poetry which jumps over while approaching these realities."

Throughout this course we are going to explore these techniques/methods and how they have been applied in the visual arts of the 20th century until today. Lectures, museum visits, film screenings and readings will give us an idea of the artistic, historical and political complexity and context of these artistic practices. Against this background various projects are going to be conceptualized, discussed, realized and presented. Finally all these projects are going to be integrated in a collaboration: the design of a non/fictional *mise en scène*, (literally: a "putting on stage") of an imagined situation as a *spatial collage* produced by the participants.

The course meets twice a week for three hours each session for a total of 12 units of credit. A minimum of six hours per week outside class work is expected. There will be three studio projects that must be completed for the course. You are required to prepare a written one-page statement for each project. Readings are assigned to provide a historical and theoretical framework for each studio project.

EVALUATIONS

Grading will be based on: concept (25%), execution of individual projects (25%), class participation (25%) and demonstrated growth over the course of the semester (25%). Completion of all projects is required for a passing grade, as is

regular attendance. Unexcused absences will automatically lower a grade by 1/2 a letter grade.

MATERIALS

You are responsible for obtaining most of your own materials. The bulk of the lab fee covers printing costs for handouts and certain basic materials which the program will buy in bulk, and which are available to everyone (for example, plaster and some molding compounds) as well as upkeep of shop tools.
lab fee: \$50.