

ARTivism: Ideas in Motion

Painting

Workshop Description:

This workshop will look at political art including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, photography, and installation. Artists considered will range from Artemisia Gentileschi to Goya, Picasso to Hannah Hoch and John Heartfield, Diego Rivera to Leon Golub, Jenny Holzer and Barbara Kruger to Hans Haacke. These artists tackle issues from feminism to anti-war activism to critiques of power structures in society and in the art world itself.

The students will brainstorm ideas for a politically based work as a group, and produce a visual proposal for a public work of art on a current political theme, individually or in teams.



Painting- James Matheson - <https://jamesmatheson.ca/>

Art historian Hal Foster said, “Formlessness in society might be a condition to contest rather than celebrate in art.” Painting and drawing, evoke the ephemeral, at the same time leaving strong traces of the actions of their own making – giving form to the formless.

Caught between the allure of post-modern theory, with its cerebral, dispassionate discourse, and the siren call of more visceral, direct ways of working, I face a tension each time I make art. I know that straying too far into the theoretical tends to paralyse my impulse to make art. Yet, my intellect tells me that concepts such as intuition and gut feeling are spurious. The needs of intellect, and the needs of body play out in the process of making non-representational art. The opaque calculus necessary to produce work leaves its history, in the composition, in the line and shape, in the application of every media. That is the history that the viewer reads and interprets.

The age of epic painting, beginning with the Renaissance and ending with Abstract Expressionism has been eclipsed by epic film-making and gaming. We can immerse ourselves in the Rococo pleasures of special effect-driven, three-hour block-busters and labyrinthine, all night online games. Painting and drawing needn’t, and shouldn’t compete. Art must take a more poetic tack. Its job needs to become exploring the intimate. Looking at delicate balances, tense interactions, quiet moments, and sudden bursts of emotion. That has become my job.

Public Art

Workshop Description:

In this workshop, students will experience how to create public art through painting. From murals, to Bell Boxes to everyday objects, students will learn how to create a composition outside of the 2D painting canvas.



Public Art- Julii McMillan

Julii is a Toronto multidisciplinary artist, freelance illustrator and muralist. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at OCADU where she studied drawing & painting and printmaking. Julii went on to join the Directors Guild of Canada working as an art apprentice in the art department for feature films and television series. Julii recently returned to Canada after living seven years abroad. During this time she travelled, studied, painted murals and taught. Exploration is at the heart of both Julii's art and teaching practice. Everything she learns, she strives to share. This deepens understanding while helping others get there faster. Julii's current illustration series, The Joys Series, celebrates the small things that bring us joy and explores how self-reflecting and creating can nourish, empower and connect us to one another. As an educator Julii designs her workshops to engage, cultivate new skills, techniques and

knowledge, while making room for play, exploration and new discoveries!

Printmaking

Workshop Description:

Modern Political Postering. Join Jeffrey Macklin in this workshop. We'll talk about the history of public postering (including a local decision that went all the way to the supreme court), carve a soft block - inspired image - based on our lecture - and make postcards which can be sent to our elected officials or posted in public places.



Printmaking - Jeff Macklin

<https://www.instagram.com/jacksoncreek/>

Jeffrey is a Peterborough, Ontario based artist, working primarily with relief printing (letterpress) and mixed media. He often employs words as visual triggers, as well as present-day/historical pop-culture icons and figures in both his print work and his mixed media pieces.

Zine Making

Workshop Description:

Visual Storytelling in Comics

Let's make some comics! In this hands-on workshop, students will broaden their understanding of how to create a comic and learn techniques for strong visual storytelling. Each student will use the skills learned to create their own short comic on a hot topic of their choice.

This workshop will be taught by Steph Brennan, a comic creator and illustrator who has been published in multiple Canadian comic anthologies.



Zine Making - Steph Brennan -

www.stephbrennan.com

Steph Brennan is an illustrator and comic creator. She loves illustrating and writing stories that are imaginative and she enjoys inventing new worlds and creatures. Steph specializes in children's illustration and her work is fun, playful and vibrant.

Steph was an exhibitor at the Toronto Comic Arts Festival (TCAF) 2019. Find some of her published comics in the Doors Comic Anthology, the Strange Romance Anthology Vol. 2, and in "Osgoode as Gold," the fifth volume of the Toronto Comics Anthology.

Photography

Workshop Description:

This fun and experimental Cyanotype Workshop takes a look into early image-making techniques with a modern slant. In this 1.45 hour workshop, participants will learn the brief history of alternative printing methods, the make-up (and difference) between traditional and photographic papers, how to set up chemistry, and the basics of printing.

The Cyanotype process pioneered by Sir John Herschel is characteristically known by its bright cyan-blue colour. It is a non-toxic and hands-on process that can be used by participants of any age or experience. Participants are encouraged to bring their own natural collected materials (leaves etc.). All other materials will be supplied.



Photography - Jeff Bierk -<https://www.instagram.com/jeffari/>

Jeff Bierk (b. 1982, Peterborough, ON) is an artist who works in photography and video. He works at Downtown Camera, one of the last camera stores in Toronto. He has no formal education or training in photography. Bierk's work has been shown in group and solo exhibitions at The Loon, A/C Repair, UTAC, O'Born Contemporary, General Hardware, Fountain Contemporary, Mark Christopher Gallery, Toronto, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough, Grimsby Public Art Gallery, Grimsby, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford, CRAM Gallery, St. Catharines, and Platform Gallery, Winnipeg, along with a public installation in Ponti di Breta, Italy. He has been published in Flash Forward (Selected Winner Canada, 2012, 2015), Night Papers (Night Gallery, LAABF), Canadian Art, Carbon Paper, Four Poets and Editorial Magazine. His collaborative work with "Jimmy" James Evans and Carl Lance Bonnici, "10 Blankets" was a featured public installation in CONTACT Photography Festival 2016.

Installation

Workshop Description:

The workshop will take the students through the traditional design process, all the way from ideation to prototyping. Through the design process, students will explore how to critically engage with cultivating an idea through to creating a sensory pathway/object. The students will be divided into groups and will be given the task to design. The design task will be to create a toy, one that merges two sensory pathways for their specific audience.

Installation - Deniz Ural - <https://www.denizural.com/>



I wake up every day with the desire to create better experiences for people. I have a sublime passion and limitless inspiration for the power of sensory experience and performance in changing and healing people's lives. My aim is to expand, enhance and re-define everyday life.

I have lived all my life in Turkey until I was 16 when I have decided to move to Canada. Being away from home made me feel very isolated and disconnected at times. In addition to feeling disconnected, I have observed that loneliness is a real problem in Canada. This made me extremely passionate about creating a future full of connectedness for myself and others.

I am a very multi-disciplinary person and I love looking at different ways of creating impactful experiences that could change the way we live and connect. I have a performance background as a dancer & instructor with the National Ballet of Turkey, worked with an exhibit design firm in Toronto to choreograph dancing robots for a children's

museum in China, done extensive research on experiences that connect elderly with dementia & young children and also worked with kids with disabilities. All of these experiences fueled my fascination with how impactful sensory experiences can be to heal us. I have combined all my experiences and passions into one project called Sensorium1. Sensorium1 is awarded Cortex Design's User Experience Award in 2019 at ACIDO.

I will always work hard for the vision that I have for the future and will create value for myself and others. I will always fight for a more inclusive world in delivering my purpose in all my disciplines.

I want to be an inspiration wherever I go.