



STUDIO
ARTS
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL

ART548 MFA GRADUATE SEMINAR IN PHOTOGRAPHY: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM I

Fall 2020

Instructor: Jacopo Santini

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Meeting times: Thursdays 16:30 - 19:30

"The camera is an instrument invented to teach people how to see without a camera."

Dorothea Lange

DESCRIPTION

These seminars serve as an introduction to an in-depth exploration of the professional world of photography. Special emphasis is placed on an analysis of contemporary photography and its themes, on its networks and careers ranging from the photo-journalist to the fine arts photographer to the photography instructor. In order to gain a fuller sense of what working in the field of photography means today, students meet with professional photographers, printers, editors, gallery owners, and photography instructors. Emphasis is placed on reading and analyzing texts by photographers and photo-historians and discussing the artistic, documentary, scientific, and commercial potentialities of photography within relevant social, cultural, and political contexts.

Class time will involve lectures and, when possible, visits to exhibitions, galleries and photographic/art festivals, such as Camera in Turin and MAST in Bologna.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students will gain a deep and comprehensive knowledge of photography in its historical development up to the current "digital era," of how it has been affected by and has affected other media and sciences, society and social behaviors and, more generally, the way we see ourselves.

A fundamental goal of the course is an in-depth analysis of photography's *raison d'être* today and the many different issues that stem from such a question. Thanks to the digital revolution the medium is even more available and affordable to the masses than before. Billions of photographs are taken every day, edited, posted, attached, downloaded and uploaded. And the more images are used (and abused) the less people seem to be able to think about the reasons why they continue, sometimes compulsively, to photograph, to "*write with light*." Therefore, the unavoidable question is: why do we photograph? Why should we continue to do it? To what purpose? And, finally, will photography survive and, if so, in what form? Studying the past and learning how to be conscious of the present will doubtless help us toward an answer.

Students are required to keep two journals. One in which you will write class notes and keep all handouts. The second will be your creative journal where you will write your personal impressions and analysis about the topics discussed during the seminar. Be as creative and involved as possible.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips in this MFA Seminar are:

- "In the Folds of Italy," Carrara and Colonnata
- MAST, Bologna
- Camera, Torino

Important note: due to the current COVID-19 situation and to the possibility of a second contagion wave, the schedule is subject to change. Be conscious that, if the emergency so requires, the scheduled field trips (to Carrara, Bologna and Turin) prior notice could be canceled or, if applicable, shortened to one day.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance and full participation as well as promptness are mandatory. Two absences will result in one lower grade. Two late arrivals are equivalent to one absence. Eight minutes tardiness is equal to one late arrival. Critiques and exams cannot be missed. Check the final exam date on your schedule. No final exam absences will be excused; therefore, no flights can be scheduled before or on this date. Missing the final critique will greatly affect your grade, resulting in a high risk of failure. Only the co-directors and the Dean can make any exceptions to this rule. Please talk to us in advance if you anticipate anything in these regards.

GRADING

Students can achieve a passing grade by completing all of the requirements, having optimum attendance, participating in the MFA Seminar during critiques, during outside projects and by showing professionalism with guest visitors.

Standards:

- A = Work that far exceeds the minimum requirements in craftsmanship, presentation, and visual/intellectual order. Your concepts, ideas, and insightful participation in class and in critiques have to be of high level to obtain this grade.
- B = above average work that far exceeds the minimum requirements. Skillful handling of the materials with good concepts, showing initiative in critiques and in class.
- C = Average work completion with only adequate control of the materials. Minimum class and critique participation.
- D = Failure to complete assignments resulting from a minimum amount of effort, poor execution, and sloppy craftsmanship in the handling of the materials with little or no class participation.
- F = Little or no effort with consideration to the assignments. No participation in class or critiques.

SCHEDULE

Please note: All classes will take place via distance learning.

All outside and/or group and in-person activities including field trips and any other educational activity will be regulated by Italian COVID-19 restrictions and, as such, may be subject to changes or cancellation.

Week 1 Thursday, September 10

Contemporary Photography – from 1975 to the Present – Part One: Globalism, Technology and Social Change – Reading: from Mary Warner Marien's *Photography: A Cultural History*, Part Six – chapter 12 – Homework: *Adopt a photograph* (Exercise about *Ekphrasis*: choose a photograph within the

body of work analyzed during the lesson and write a short essay about it – one A4 page).

Reminder: Midterm Exam Paper due October 24 - Title: Art Photography and Photography by Artists (a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages with bibliography).

Week 2 Thursday, September 17

Contemporary Photography – from 1975 to the Present – Part One: Globalism, Technology and Social Change – **Reading:** from Mary Warner Marien's *Photography: A Cultural History*, Part Six – chapter 12

Homework: Adopt a photograph (Exercise about *Ekphrasis*: choose a photograph within the body of work analyzed during the lesson and write a short essay about it – one A4 page).

Reminder: Midterm Exam Paper due October 24 - Title: Art Photography and Photography by Artists (a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages with bibliography).

Friday, September 18

In the Folds of Italy: Field Trip to Massa Carrara and Colonnata

Note: if the COVID-19 emergency so requires the field trip could be canceled, postponed.

Week 3 Thursday, September 24

Lecture: Maria Antonia Rinaldi: Writing a thesis – Ekphrasis and its structure – Part 1

Week 4 Thursday, October 1

Lecture: Maria Antonia Rinaldi: Writing a thesis – Ekphrasis and its structure (review) – Part 2

Contemporary Photography – from 1975 to the Present – Part Three: Into the 21st Century - Photography in the Digital Age – **Reading:** *A Cultural History*, Part Six – chapter 14 and excerpt from Fred Ritchin's *After Photography*

Homework: Adopt a photograph – Midterm Paper - Title: Art Photography and Photography by Artists (minimum of 5 double-spaced pages).

Week 5 Thursday, October 8

Lecture: Alessandra Capodaqua: Photography, the web and social networks (theory)

Week 6 Thursday, October 15

Work time

Reminder: Midterm Exam Paper due October 24 - Title: Art Photography and Photography by Artists (a minimum of 5 double spaced pages with bibliography).

Friday, October 16

Field Trip to Bologna: MAST Foundation

Note: if the COVID-19 emergency so requires the field trip could be canceled or postponed.

Week 7 Thursday, October 22

Lecture: Lucia Minunno: Writing a Thesis – Part 1

Guidelines for the writing of a final paper
Improving language and style
Preparing abstract

Presentation of the Midterm paper. Title: Art Photography and Photography by Artists (a minimum of 5 double-spaced pages with bibliography).

Friday, October 25

Midterm Review

The MFA Midterm Review will be conducted by the Co-Directors

Week 8 **MIDTERM BREAK (October 24 – November 1)**

Week 9 **Wednesday, November 4**

Sharifa Lookman (Writing workshop) - Part 1

Problems & Pitfalls – quotes, plagiarism, etc.

Constructing an effective introduction

Thursday, November 5

Lecture: Camilla Torna: Photography, the web and social networks (practice)

Start thinking about the final paper (a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages).

Theme to be submitted to the instructor by November 16.

Friday, November 6 – Saturday, November 7

Field trip to Torino for the exhibition of Paolo Ventura at Camera

link: <http://camera.to/en/mostre/paolo-ventura-carousel-2/>

Note: if the COVID-19 emergency so requires the field trip could be canceled, postponed or shortened to one day.

Reminder: Final paper due on December 19 (a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages with bibliography) – presentation: the final paper will be presented in front of the Graduate Review Board (the two Co-Directors of the MFA in Photography program and another faculty member appointed by the Co-Directors). A draft of the paper must be completed and sent to the committee members at least one week prior the presentation (December 12).

Week 10 **Thursday, November 12**

Lucia Minunno – Individual review for the writing of a final paper - Part 2

Presentation and review of abstract

Screening (if possible): *Visages Villages* by Agnes Varda and JR

Week 11 **Thursday, November 19**

Lecture: Tommaso Tanini – self-publishing

Week 12 **Thursday, November 26**

Lecture: Involuntary art and the role of photography

Source: Gilles Clement, *Short Treaty on Involuntary Art*

Friday, November 27

Sharifa Lookman - Part 2

Presentation & review of students' introductions

Week 13 **Thursday, December 3**

Lecture: The Visual culture studies and the Pictorial Turn

Week 14 Thursday, December 10

Work time.

Week 15 Thursday, December 17

Final paper due (a minimum of 10 double-spaced pages with bibliography) – presentation: the final paper will be presented in front of the Graduate Review Board (the two Co-Directors of the MFA in Photography program and another faculty member appointed by the Co-Directors). A draft of the paper must be completed and sent to the committee members at least one week prior the presentation.

RECOMMENDED READING

In compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act Textbook Provision, SACI provides, when possible, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and retail price of required and recommended reading. Note: Many required and recommended texts are available for loan or can be consulted in the SACI Worthington Library.

Frizot, Michel Frizot, *A New History of Photography*, Könemann, 1998.
ISBN: 9783829013284 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Marien, Mary Warner, *Photography: A Cultural History*, Laurence King Publishing, 2014.
ISBN: 9781780673325 (Retail price: £35)

Well, Liz Wells, *Photography: A Critical Introduction*, Routledge, 2007.
ISBN: 9780415307048 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Cotton, Charlotte, *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*, Thames and Hudson, 2009.
ISBN: 9780500204184 (Retail price: \$20.95)

Ritchin, Fred, *After Photography*, W.W. Norton & Company, 2009.
ISBN: 9780393050240 (Retail price: \$29.95)

Ritchin, Fred, *Bending the Frame*, Aperture, 2013.
ISBN: 9781597111201 (Retail price: \$19.95)

Berger, John, *Ways of Seeing*, Penguin Books, 1977.
ISBN: 9780140135152 (Retail price: \$16)

Berger, John, *About Looking*, Vintage International, 1991.
ISBN: 9780679736554 (Retail price: \$15.95)

Berger, John, *The Shape of a Pocket*, Bloomsbury, 2001.
ISBN: 9780747558101 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Berger, John, *Photocopies*, Editions de l'Olivier, 1999.
ISBN: 978-2879292120 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Berger, John, *Another Way of Telling*, Vintage, 1995.
ISBN: 9780679737247 (Retail price: \$21)

- Berger, John, *Understanding a Photograph*, Aperture, 2013.
ISBN: 9781597112567 (Retail price: \$24.95)
- Didi-Huberman, Georges, *Images in Spite of All*, The University of Chicago Press, 2008.
ISBN: 9780226148175 (Retail price: \$26)
- Frizot, Michel, *Photo Trouvée*, Phaidon, 2006.
ISBN: 9780714845791 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Celant, Germano, *Fotografia Maledetta e Non*, Feltrinelli, 2015.
ISBN: 9788807105104 (Retail price: €25)
- Carli, Enzo, *Mario Giacomelli*, Charta, 1995.
ISBN: 8881580365 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Celant, Germano, *Mario Giacomelli*, Photology-Logos, 2001.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Falletti, Franca, and Johnathan Nelson, eds., *Mapplethorpe: Perfection in Form / La perfezione nella forma*, TeNeues, 2009.
ISBN: 9783832793685 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Danto, Arthur C., *Playing with the Edge*, University of California Press, 1996.
ISBN: 9783888144899 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Jodice, Mimmo, *Mediterranean: Mimmo Jodice*, Aperture, 1995.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Fontcuberta, Joan, *Pandora's Camera*, Mack, 2014.
ISBN: 9781910164037 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Curti, Denis, and Sara Dolfi Agostini, *Collezione Fotografia*, Contrasto, 2014.
ISBN: 9788869655081 (Retail price: €21.90)
- Dyer, Geoff, *The Ongoing Moment*, Abacus, 2007.
ISBN: 9780349120119 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Flusser, Vilém, *Towards a Philosophy of Photography*, Reaktion Books, 2000.
ISBN: 9781861890764 (Retail price: \$18)
- Auster, Paul, *Leviathan*, Penguin Books, 1993.
ISBN: 9780140178135 (Retail price: \$16)
- Williams, Gilda, *Boris Mikhailov*, Phaidon, 2001.
ISBN: 9780714891675 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Gibson, Ralph, *Chiaroscuro*, Marval, 1990.
ISBN: 9782862340456 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Gibson, Ralph, *Ex Libris: Ralph Gibson Photographs*, PowerHouse Books, 2001.
ISBN: 9781576871003 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

- Gibson, Ralph, *Ralph Gibson: Deus Ex Machina*, Taschen, 1999.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Barbieri, Gian Paolo, *Equator: Exotic Nudes*, Taschen, 2003.
ISBN: 9783822823439 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Rossi, Aldo, and Roberta Valtorta, *Gabriele Basilico. Porti di mare*, Art&, 1990.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Basilico, Gabriele, *Basilico: Interrupted City / La ciudad interrumpida*, Actar, 1999.
ISBN: 9788489698536 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Basilico, Gabriele, ed., *Appunti di viaggi ordinari*, Basilichi/Fondazione Studio Maragoni, 1998.
ISBN: To Be Determine (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Corà, Bruno, and Filippo Maggia, eds., *Araki: Viaggio sentimentale*, Gli Ori, 2000.
ISBN: 9788887700190 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Slyce, John, Russell Ferguson, Donna De Salvo, *Gillian Wearing*, Phaidon, 2011.
ISBN: 9780714838243 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Matthew Higgs, Pamela M. Lee, and Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe, *Uta Barth*, Phaidon Press, 2004.
ISBN: 9780714841533 (Retail price: \$45)
- Perrella, Cristina, ed., *Gligorov*, Overground Arts, 1997.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Immediate Family by Sally Mann*, Aperture, 1992.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Mann, Sally, *Still Time*, Aperture, 1994.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Ritchin, Fred, *In Our Own Image: The Coming Revolution in Photography*, Aperture, 1999.
ISBN: 9780893818579 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Santini, Loretta, *Inferno: James Nachtwey*, Phaidon, 2003.
ISBN: 9780714838151 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Sisi, Carlo, and Diego Mormorio, *Italia Metafisica - George Tatge*, Contrasto, 2015.
ISBN: 9788869655951 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Ghirri, Luigi, *It's Beautiful Here, Isn't it...* Photographs by Luigi Ghirri, Aperture, 2008.
ISBN: 9781597110587 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Ghirri, Paola ed., *Luigi Ghirri - Polaroid: Opera Completa 1979-1983*, Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2003.
ISBN: 9788880895541 (Retail price: To Be Determined)
- Ghirri, Luigi, *Luigi Ghirri*, 2001.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Ghirri, Luigi, *Lezioni di Fotografia*, Quodlibet, 2009.
ISBN: 9788874623129 (Retail price: €22)

Ghirri, Luigi, *Kodachrome*, Mack, 2012.
ISBN: 9781907946240 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Celant, Germano ed., *Joel-Peter Witkin*, Charta, 1995.
ISBN: 9788886158466 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Goldin, Nan, *Nan Goldin*, Phaidon, 2005.
ISBN: 9780714845531 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Goldin, Nan, *Nan Goldin: The Devil's Playground*, Phaidon, 2003.
ISBN: 9780714842233 (Retail price: €99.95)

Goldin, Nan et al., *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, Aperture, 1986.
ISBN: 9780893813390 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Goldin, Nan, *The Other Side*, Scalo Publishers, 1993.
ISBN: 3905080389 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Caponigro, Paul, *Paul Caponigro*, Aperture, 1967.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Galassi, Peter, *Philip-Lorca di Corcia*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2005.
ISBN: 9780870701450 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Guerra, Tonino, *Andrej Tarkovskij: Luce Istantanea*, Edizioni della Meridiana, 2002.
ISBN: 9788887478549 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Biasiucci, Antonio, *Antonio Biasiucci: Corpus*, Art&, 1995.
ISBN: 9788886550055 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Biasiucci, Antonio, *Antonio Biasiucci: Magma*, Federico Motta, 1998.
ISBN: 9788881791835 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Parr, Martin, *Common Sense*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, 1999.
ISBN: 9781899235070 (Retail price: \$50)

Parr, Martin, *The Last Resort*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, 2002.
ISBN: 9781899235162 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Brougher, Kerry, *Jeff Wall*, Museum of Contemporary Art, 1997.
ISBN: 9780914357476 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Waplington, Nick, *Nick Waplington: Truth or Consequences*, Phaidon, 2001.
ISBN: 9780714840543 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Ballen, Roger, *Outland*, Phaidon, 2001.
ISBN: 9780714840581 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Ballen, Roger, and Robert A. Sobieszek, *Roger Ballen: Shadow Chamber*, Phaidon, 2005.
ISBN: 9780714844664 (Retail price: €49.95)

Lifson, Ben, *Samaras*, Aperture, 1988.
ISBN: 9780893812416 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Pierini, Marco ed., *Robert Pettena: Noble Explosion*, Silvana Editoriale, 2014.
ISBN: 9788836630400 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Favrod, Charles-Henri, *Shanta Rao: Stories of Women*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, 1995.
ISBN: 9781899235308 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Dabashi, Hamid, *Shirin Neshat*, Edizioni Charta, 2002.
ISBN: 9788881583607 (Retail price: \$31.95)

Misrach, Richard, and Susan Sontag, *Violent Legacies. Richard Misrach*, Aperture, 1994,
ISBN: 9780893815691 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Sigmar Polke: Photoworks: When Pictures Vanish, Museum of Contemporary Art, 1996,
ISBN: 9780914357445 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Pesaresi, Marco, intr. by Francis Ford Coppola, *Underground. Travels on the Global Metro*,
Aperture and Bay Area Video Coalition, 1998.
ISBN: 978-0893817534 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Campigotto, Luca, *Venice: The City by Night*, Thames & Hudson, 2006.
ISBN: 9780500543184 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Delahaye, Luc, *Winterreise*, Phaidon Press, 2000.
ISBN: 9780714839974 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Delahaye, Luc, *L'autre*, Phaidon Press, 1999.
ISBN: 9780714838427 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Minkkinen, Arno Rafael, *Arno Rafael Minkkinen: Body Land*, Federico Motta, 1997.
ISBN: 9788871791470 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Bright, Susan, *Auto Focus: The Self-Portrait in Contemporary Photography*, The Monacelli
Press, 2010.
ISBN: 9781580933001 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Martin, Lesley A. ed., *Rinko Kawauchi: Illuminance*, Aperture, 2011.
ISBN: 9781597111447 (Retail price: \$60)

Vann Denderen, Ad, *Go No Go, Paradox*, 2003.
ISBN: 9789080265561 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Parke, Trent, *Minutes to Midnight*, Steidl, 2014:
ISBN: 9783869302058 (Retail price: \$45)

Aue-Sobol, Jacob, *I, Tokyo*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, 2009.
ISBN: 9781904587682 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Caujolle, Christian, *Michael Ackerman End Time City*, Scalo Publishers, 1999.
ISBN: 9783908247135 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Ackerman, Michael, *Fiction*, Kehayoff Verlag, 2002.
ISBN: 9783934296220 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Ackerman, Michael, *Half Life*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, 2011.
ISBN: 9781907893001 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Stahel, Urs, and Hripsimé Visser, eds., *Peter Hujar: A Retrospective*, Scalo Publishers, 1994.
ISBN: 9781881616351 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Calle, Sophie, *Sophie Calle: M'as-tu vue*, Prestel, 2003.
ISBN: 9783791330358 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Calle, Sophie, *Sophie Calle: Suite Venitienne*, Siglio, 2015.
ISBN: 9781938221095 (Retail price: \$34.95)

Calle, Sophie, *Sophie Calle: The Address Book*, Siglio, 2012.
ISBN: 9780979956294 (Retail price: \$29.95)

Boltanski, Christian, *Advent and Other Times*, Ediciones Poligrafa, 1996.
ISBN: To Be Determined (Retail price: To Be Determined)

Alain Borer, ed., *The Essential Joseph Beuys*, The MIT Press, 1997.
ISBN: 9780262024310 (Retail price: To Be Determined)

DVD: *The Genius of Photography*, BBC, 2009

DVD: *CONTACTS 2* - based on an idea by William Klein

DVD: *CONTACTS 3* - based on an idea by William Klein

DVD: *Hot Spots: Martin Parr in the American South*, by Neal Broffmann

DVD: *Roger Ballen: The Asylum – Memento Mori*, by Saskia Vredevelde

DVD: *Visages Villages* by Agnes Varda and J.R.