



STUDIO
ARTS
COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL

ART548 MFA in Studio Art: Professional Practicum Seminar I (Second Year)

MFA in Studio Art - Fall 2020

Instructors: Daria Filardo and Pietro Gaglianò

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Meeting times: Tuesdays 17:30 – 20:30

THE PROGRAM

The whole world has been changed by the health crisis due to COVID-19 and the Art System is also going through radical and deep transformations. Each crisis is an opportunity, and that's what the art world is looking to grab from this historical moment. Institutions, galleries and art fairs, art schools, biennials have had to revisit their strategies, their plans their role, and even the extension of their mission. Artists, theorists, and gallerists, as well, have had to reinvent the dynamics of the basic relationships with the artwork, the space, and the audience.

In such a situation, all of the conventional tools usually in the art world need to be critically reinterpreted and profoundly revisited: the portfolio, the exhibition, the educational areas, the communication. The MFA second year prepares the students to face all these challenges, learn how to optimize the traditional tools and practices and how to find new strategies. Considering all these issues, the course provides students a deep knowledge of the art system in its troubled state, illustrating it through frontal lessons, workshops, and meetings.

The course aims both to foster and encourage the individuality of the artists, and their relationship with the global society and the art world, and to create the best conditions to learn competencies and skills professional artists should have to emerge and to establish themselves in the labor market, considering a huge range of possible positions. With continuous brainstorming and an encouraged confrontation amongst students and instructors, both areas are investigated starting from a theoretical and historical introduction to be developed into practical experiences, such as assignments or field trips. The course, indeed, is specially focused on direct experience and fieldwork.

The semester begins with a wide discussion about the changes in progress and the position (or the meaning) of the artists in the present society. In the following weeks specific seminars will be run on tools (self-presentation, portfolio, web site) and behaviors (studio visits or other professional occasions, interviews, etc.). Two lectures will present to the students a one-to-one meeting with an artist and a gallerist (the last one is scheduled at the conclusion of the portfolio assignment as a sort of verification of the work done on the presentation of oneself and one's work).

The second part of the semester involves the students in real professional challenges such as applying for residencies or fellowships. During this period, students will meet a collector and the director of Villa Romana, a relevant institution for art residencies in Florence.

MAIN ISSUES

I - SELF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ARTISTS AWARENESS

10 meetings of 3 hours each – online

Daria and Pietro will work collegially and individually.

Didactics: frontal lessons, simulations, workshop

Topics:

- **Self-presentation**
Contents: problems and opportunities of the current historical period; the relationship with galleries, critics, curators, institutions, artists, audience.
The self-presentation live and online: proxemics, dialog tools (with verbal and non verbal language).
- **Portfolio**
Contents: how to prepare biography, description of the works, general statement, medium (PDF, website, printed version, etc.)
- **Art Residency**
Contents: what an art residency is, how to find the most suitable for each artist's profile, how to apply.

II – CONNECTING TO THE WORLD

3 meetings of 3 hours each - online

Daria and Pietro will work collegially and individually meetings with professionals from the art world.

3 day field trips – in person*

All topics will be examined in consideration of the condition created by the enhanced space of relationship arose in the past few months. The course is co-taught and created by the intersection of the career and experiences of the teachers, both deeply active in contemporary art world.

MEANS OF EVALUATION

Grades range from A+ to F. The SACI grading scale follows:

A+	Outstanding
A	Excellent
A-	Nearly Excellent
B+	Very Good
B	Good
B-	Nearly Good
C+	Above Satisfactory
C	Satisfactory
C-	Below Satisfactory

- D Unsatisfactory
F Failure

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Punctual class attendance is mandatory and all students are expected to take an active role in protecting a serene learning environment.

- You are expected to stay for the duration of the class and to leave only during official breaks unless you explain in advance a medical necessity to the professor. Frequent missed time in class may be counted as an unexcused absence. For all online portions of the course this means adhering to the session time frame and being present in the virtual space and platform from the beginning until the end of the session. The expectation is that attendance is seen as students having their camera on at all times during the class session, unless specified by the instructor, and participating in the class in a manner similar to how they would during a classroom based session.
- If you are unable to attend class, you must inform your professor in advance.
- An absence is excused for documented and serious medical problems. An undocumented medical absence is at the discretion of the professor.
- If you must miss class for reasons other than a medical emergency, you should discuss with the professor the consequences of the absences. It is ultimately the professor's decision to assess how your absence may affect your academic performance. In exceptional circumstances (which do not include personal travel) the professor may decide to excuse the absence and provide you with alternative work to make up for missed classes, site visits or field trips if applicable.

COURSE SCHEDULE*

Session 1	Introduction to the course. What has changed? How will the art world change? How did you feel the change, as a person and as an artist? Do you feel ready? Self-presentation of each student (who are you/ what are you working on/ how is your work evolving/ future expectations).
Session 2	Portfolio construction (1 st home assignment) What is a portfolio: recipients, aims and utility; structure and contents: cv, texts and pictures. Case-studies.
Session 3	I. Workshop time for portfolio building (collecting materials, shooting, writing texts, selecting, ordering...).
Session 4	Online lecture with an Artist (to be confirmed)
Session 5	II. Workshop time for portfolio building (text review, image evaluation, caption correction and other devices)
Session 6	Visit to Museo del Novecento, Florence
Session 7	Final lesson about portfolio (presentation and discussion)
Session 8	MIDTERM BREAK (October 24 - November 1) Work on a given assignment: to write a paper about an assigned book.

- Session 9 Discussion with the teacher on the works for the collective exhibition (date to be announced, in the last week of November 2020)
Online lecture with gallerist, Marie Laure Fleisch (www.galleriamlf.com)
- Session 10 Art residencies I (2nd home assignment)
Introduction to the system of art residencies. Challenges and issues connected to the world of applications. How to find the proper one, how to apply, how to manage the residency, the project, the relationship with the site specific issue.
- Session 11 Art residencies II
Work on projects
- Session 12 Visit to the exhibition of *Flavio Favelli, Profondo Oro*, curated by Pietro Gaglianò, Arte in Fabbrica, Calenzano, and meeting with the collectors Fabio Gori and Paolo Gori.
- Session 13 Art residencies III
Presentation and discussion of the individual projects.
- Session 14 Studio visit to Villa Romana and meeting with Director, Angelika Stepken
- Session 15 Revision studios, portfolios and projects
Introduction to the solo shows scheduled in the 2nd semester.

*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. The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus when necessary and will inform the students if and when this occurs.