**Course title: What can Art do?**

**Instructor: Dr. Lucy Bartholomee**

**Location: FA 2105A**

**May 15-31, 2023; MTWRF 1:00-4:45 pm**

**Format: In person with off campus field experiences**

**Three field trips to Fort Worth museums and galleries are scheduled. Students must provide their own transportation or rideshare.**

**Course Description**: Artists all over the world are leading the global conversation in response to extraordinary challenges and social uprisings. This course provides the opportunity to engage with the visualization of protest and social justice issues and ideas, the aesthetics of activism, and the particular ways that art is both a catalyst for change and an expression of the human experience in this setting.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Understanding and communicating with others about contemporary art is fundamental to the study of art and art making. Students in this course will analyze aesthetic principles of artwork, including media, processes, techniques, themes, and functions with a particular emphasis on issues of social justice and public engagement with monuments, art, and visual culture.

In our increasingly global society, artworks can have varied interpretations that change over time and from different viewpoints. Students in this course will research and discuss visual reactions to contemporary issues on a global scale, tracing influences across boundaries of language, distance, and culture.

1. Students will investigate and analyze responses to global issues of race, equity, inclusion and other social justice issues from the international art world (museums, galleries, art fairs, biennials).
2. Students will research and critique contemporary artwork, political events involving artwork, and artmaking practices related to themes and topics in the course, with opportunities for writing and creative expression.
3. Students will demonstrate a developing ability to act as knowledgeable professionals by leading a dialogue (class discussion) and to engage with peers about art and visual experiences.
4. Students will design and create compelling artwork in a visual response to issues discussed in the course.

Course curriculum will include the following major topics:

1. Global artists addressing BlackLivesMatter, anti-racism, and other social justice issues.
2. Protest art visual and material culture (handmade signs, painted murals, props and costumes).
3. When art is protested (removal of certain images by crowds; issues of censorship).
4. Contemporary global artists (regional indigenous visualization, gender and equity).
5. Digital Dissent: new media artists, imagery, and digital visual culture.
6. How museums are addressing the BlackLivesMatter movement & a range of diversity and representation issues.
7. How gallerists are addressing these issues and representing diverse artists.
8. Equity in art education (traditional cannon vs. diversity; approaching social issues through school art).
9. Biennials, Art Fairs, and the global art market in terms of diversity and equity.

A parallel topic in this course is the global pandemic and its impact on the art world in each of the areas named above.  For example, during the classes focused on museums we will also look at how they adapted and responded to the health crisis and closures.

**Text for the course**

Required Textbook: *The Art of Protest* by Jo Rippon (2020) Imagine Publications

ISBN #: 978-1623545055

Selected news articles, chapters, and excerpts will be provided in Canvas from the following list. Careful reading of this material is expected prior to each class.

The syllabus is a planned guide and is subject to change. Such adjustments will be kept to a minimum, such as for severe weather cancellations. You are responsible for completing assignments announced in class as well as those noted in the syllabus. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for information regarding missed work, class notes, and handouts.

**Grading policy**

Points earned for each assignment will be **added together** using the following grading scale to determine the final course grade.

A 900-1000

B 800-899

C 700-799

D 600-699

F Below 599

**Assignments**

1. **Creative Messaging Box Kite (100 points) [SLO 1,4]**

Select a social issue that is important to you and create a box kite to creatively express ideas using **text as a visual element**.

Some examples of text to consider:

* Write a speech for a specific person (yourself, a hero, celebrity, artist, etc.)
* A quote from a public figure, writer, etc.
* Song lyrics
* Poem or expressive prose writing
* Dialogue between two artworks or people.
1. **Global Current Events (twice during the course, 50 points each) [SLO 1,3]**

Students will seek out current events related to topics from the course from around the world. This will be organized on a scheduled plan to discuss global regions and continents. Students will post the article to a discussion board with a summary and then lead a short discussion with the class (10 minutes).

1. **Museum or Gallery Visit and Reflection (twice during the course, 75 points each) [SLO 2,3]**

Many museums and galleries have made changes to events and exhibitions related to ideas of equity and inclusion, the BLM protests of 2020, and other issues. Museum visits are scheduled for this course. While visiting the museum, seek out and document events, exhibition themes, didactic material, and other evidence of such changes or the need for improvements. Write a one-page reflection to describe what you observed and your views.

1. **Contemporary Artists Research & Share (100 points) [SLO 1,2,3]**

Each student will research and present/share the artwork, messaging, or visual material from to an artist or collective related to the course. Present images on a PowerPoint or Adobe pdf document along with a description and critique of the visual culture material and discussion questions.

1. **Creative Conversation (100 points) [SLO 1,3, 4]**

This assignment is designed to stimulate an aesthetic creative interaction with a selected artwork that is on display in the DFW area. Visit this artwork in person and plan to spend at least 30 minutes with this work. While with the artwork, **create an artifact** that expresses some idea or image inspired by the work. These artifacts could include, but are not limited to: poetry, song lyrics (with or without music), a paragraph of prose writing, a short story, a sketch or artwork inspired by (but not duplicating) the original work. On the designated class, each person will display the selected artwork on screen and share their artifact.

1. **Mapping Public Art (50 points) [SLO 1,4]**

The students and the professor will construct an interactive map noting places in the DFW area where public artwork related to the topics of the course can be found. Each person should expect to contribute at least two locations.

1. **Major Artwork – Final Assessment (300 points) [SLO 1,2,4]**

Create a series of three major artworks centered around a particular issue of compelling interest and relevance. This work will effectively and creatively express visual ideas related to the topic. An artist’s statement and evidence of creative planning are required in support of this major studio work.

1. **Participation (100 points) [SLO 1-4]**

Full participation is required for the benefit of yourself and the community of our class. Your ideas, questions and dialogue are necessary to enrich our discussions, and your own diverse histories will add important thoughts at every class gathering.

**Preliminary Course Schedule**

Class 1

* Introduction to the course
* Begin assembling box kites (Asmt. 1)

Class 2

Topics and Readings: (a) Global artists addressing BlackLivesMatter, anti-racism, and other social justice issues; (b) Protest art visual and material culture.

* Continue construction of box kites

Class 3

Field Trip to Fort Worth

* Visit to the Carter Museum in FW to see two exhibits (*Emancipation: The unfinished project of Liberation* and *Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures.)*
* Meet at Darryl Lauster’s sculpture, *Testament*, at 1:20 pm.
* After a guided introduction to the exhibits, we will have some free time in the galleries to facilitate assignments 3, 4 or 5.

Class 4

Topics and Readings: (c) When art is protested (removal of certain images by crowds; issues of censorship).

* Due: First Global Current Event (1/2 of class presents) (Asmt.2)
* Submit plan for Assignment 7 of three major artworks
* Due: First Museum/Gallery reflection (Asmt.3)

Class 5

Topics and readings: (d) Contemporary global artists (regional indigenous visualization, gender and equity).

* Due: Box Kites – show and tell
* Due: First Global Current Event (other half of class presents) (Asmt. 2)
* Due: Contemporary Artists Research & Share (first group presents) (Asmt. 4)

Class 6

Topics and Readings: (e) Digital Dissent: new media artists, imagery, and digital visual culture.

* Due: Creative Conversations (show and tell) (Asmt. 5)

Class 7

* Kinfolk House in Fort Worth
* Community Arts Center in Fort Worth

Class 8

Topics and Readings: (f) How museums are addressing the BlackLivesMatter movement; diversity and representation issues; (g) How gallerists are addressing these issues and representing diverse artists.

* Due: Second Museum/Gallery reflection (Asmt.3)
* Second Global Current Event; discuss topics in class (Asmt. 2)

Class 9

Topics and Readings: (h) Equity in art education (traditional cannon vs. diversity; approaching social issues through school art).

* Due: Mapping Public Art (Asmt. 6)
* Contemporary Artists Research & Share (second group presents) (Asmt. 4)

Class 10

* Visit to the Modern in Fort Worth (free Fridays!) for a tour and to facilitate Asmts. 4 and 5.
* Meet in the lobby at 1:30 pm. After our planned activities, meet at 4:00 for class discussion.

Class 11

Independent **studio work** today.

Class 12

Topics and Readings: Remaining portions of the textbook.

* Any remaining presentations.
* Studio time in the classroom.

Class 13-14 – final class day

Present and discuss your studio artwork (Assignment 7; consider this the final exam.)