

Art 355: Materials in Context: Soft Sculpture
WINTER 2016
TTH 11:30-2:20pm Room: Art 207

Instructor: Timea Tihanyi

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Office: ART 328J

Office hours: email for appointment

Course Description

During the course of quarter, we will explore the sculptural possibilities of soft materials. Through experimentation with traditional techniques and inventive novel processes, we will strive to understand and redefine the forms, material qualities, functions, and roles these objects can take.

Bring your curiosity!

You will expand the scope of your skills and concepts while working on a variety of assignments.

Course Objectives

- Gain experience with a variety of natural and synthetic materials.
- Further your understanding of sculptural concepts, formal elements of 3D constructions, and their relationship in space and time.
- Broaden your skill set with different techniques of 3D construction: sewing, felting, mold making and casting, hollow structural construction with armatures.
- Gain familiarity with major contemporary art movements and their representatives.
- Develop projects for your portfolio.
- Most importantly: Challenge yourself! Strive to fresh ideas! Be creative.

Expectations

- Experiment.
- Work hard.
- Participate in class. (Including: in-class work days, discussions, and critiques.) Showing up does not equal participation. If you miss a demo, you are still responsible for knowing the steps of that particular technique and being able to use them on your own. I will not be giving make-up demos.
- Turn off and put away phones and other personal electronics. Take notes.
- Be prepared for class. Demonstrate your preparedness by having your sketchbook full with ideas, notes, and prep drawings, as well as your tools, materials, and work in progress with you in every class. Participation and preparedness is 40% of your final grade.
- Always leave your work area and shared equipment clean. Clean, dry and put away tools and equipment.
- No late arriving or early leaving. Important information may be covered in the first and last minutes of class.
- All projects must be completed and turned in on time. Late projects will not be accepted. Extensions will be given only in the event of documented illness or extreme family emergency.
- If you have any questions, concerns regarding the class or need extra help, talk to me.

Evaluation

You will receive feedback on each project completed. Your final grade will be determined by the following:

40%:

- Participation and Preparedness (critiques, in-class projects, class discussions)
- Professional manner (turning in projects on time, individual effort, commitment, progress)

60%:

- Quality of projects based on the following criteria:
 - thought process,
 - design,
 - experimentation,
 - development,
 - craft

Critiques

Final reviews will be happening on Wednesday, March 16th 4:30-7pm

- Critiques on the final projects and review of all projects
- Collective classroom clean-up
- All student work and possessions must be removed from the classroom by this day.

Sketch book

You are required to keep a sketch/scrap book to collect your references, ideas, notes, and sketches for this class all in one place. Bring it to every class. I may ask to see it any time and it will be reviewed during final grading.

Course Canvas Page

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1020478>

Your Resources

SOA Library (1st floor)

Art Building Woodshop and Digital Design and Fabrication lab (1st floor)

SOA Computing Center and 3D lab (2nd floor)

Handouts, in class demos and slide presentations, and discussions

Local museums and galleries (First Thursday Gallery walks)

Room code: _____

Room is open for work: _____

Remove everything from the classroom by March 16th. Failure to do so will result in penalty on final grade.

Course fee (\$40)

goes towards purchasing shared materials such as wool for samples, fabric and paper, chicken wire, plaster, paper pulp, plastic demo materials and some miscellaneous studio equipment and supplies. Each project will require specific materials that you'll have to purchase on your own.

Wool is fairly inexpensive. Little (\$20) goes a long way.

Plastics, like latex and urethane rubbers, are expensive. Their use will be demoed in class but you are not required to use them in your project.

Craft mega-stores, like Michaels, are great for lots of things but are off-limit for this class. The materials sold there are of inferior quality and often produced in a non-sustainable way.

Think of creative and economical solutions: Explore thrift stores, fabrics stores, hardware stores, family member's attics and basements, etc. for inspiring materials and ideas. Upcycle and reuse. Be mindful with shared materials as not to create waste.

Equal Opportunity

The School of Art reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with UW policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Disability Accommodation

If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924 (V/TTY) or uwdss@u.washington.edu.

If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present the letter to me on the first day of class so we can discuss the accommodations you might need.

Participation Policy

Absences from class prevent participation and may negatively affect grades.

If you miss class due to illness or emergencies immediately notify your instructor and insure that all missed assignments and exams are completed.

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Required Supplies

These are the basics.

Please be advised that individual projects may require other specific tools or materials.

These will be discussed in advance.

For every class:

- sketch book, pencil, drawing tools, Sharpie
- retractable tape measure or measuring tape, *optional: metal straight-edge ruler*
- retractable utility knife with spare blades, scissors
- masking tape, your choice of adhesive
- sewing kit: sewing needles, thread *optional: pins, notions, yarn, etc.*
- 2-3 large garbage bags or a few large and sturdy shopping bags
- Apron, rubber gloves

Supplies for felting:

- old towel/s
- small dish pan or large bowl
- a large sushi mat or a small matchstick blind or bubble wrap
- 2 yards of synthetic sheer fabric like voile (non-textured, see-through curtain material)
- **Wool: NZ wool Coriedale \$2.30/oz from Weaving Works. Located on 6514 Roosevelt Way NE**
<http://www.weavingworks.com/>
- Dish soap, like Ivory or Dawn
- For larger projects: 1 yard of thick canvas (may share a yard with someone else)
- *Optional: Iron, wooden spoon for shaping the project, felting needles (if you want to needle felt details)*

Supplies for armature work:

- Galvanized Steel Wire (gauges 18-22)
- a packet of chopsticks, scrap wood, any kind of linear material that can be assembled into a structure
- *Optional: pliers, wire cutter*

Supplies for casting:

- several large plastic containers
- *optional: latex, urethane resin or ICE-resin*
- ½" or 1" throw away brushes