Curious Cravings

Sophomore Seminar: Interdisciplinary
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Spring 2020, Mondays 9:00–12:00 PM
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Course Description

What are the concerns that drive one’s creative practice? How does one set the terms for its future development? Sophomore Seminar offers interdisciplinary strategies for the evaluation and communication of students’ individual practice as artists, designers, and/or scholars. Through essential readings, studio projects, and writing, students will generate narratives about how and why they make art. This section will explore making through the lens of intense curiosity and play with the opportunity to research and explore chosen topics and media. Students will dive into what they crave and define what they are running towards. We will consider the desire and needs to make through experimental-based approaches in creative production and presentation development. What risks can one take to increase the message in their work? This course will examine and map everyday making and spaces to consider and create for satisfaction and the modern viewer.
Course Texts

*Pirates and Farmers*, Dave Hickey
*How to Use Your Eyes*, James Elkins
*Against Interpretation*, Susan Sontag
*On Non-Objective Painting*, Bertolt Brecht

Major Assignments & Activities

Critique & Exchanges 1–3
You will share your work in a minimum of 3 critique workshops throughout the semester in various formats and styles to share with different groups and receive feedback in multiple manners. You will present your influences, your process, and work in all stages.

Experimental Research Presentation
This is more than a talk. It is your chance to be self-indulgent and explore what you love. You will create a presentation that is beyond your current body of work. What are you obsessed with? Step away from your current practice and explore. Your presentation can take form as a ritual, social experiment, reading, survey, demonstration, or even a performance. Show us what you love and take the stage in any form.

Exhibition, Artist Talk, Performance Review
Attend an event to research beyond your studio and report back in a critical essay.

Documentation of Practice
Documenting your work from the first thoughts to final product is part of a practice. You will do this throughout the semester and present.

Manifesto
Take a stand, make a point, and write.