Craft and Object in Contemporary Art (2900-071)
Faculty: Stacia Yeapanis, Adjunct Assistant Professor

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 look specifically at the role of labor in artistic practice and will include texts and discussions specific to craft’s engagement in contemporary art.

Readings
- Regarding the History of Objects by M. Anna Fariello
- Replacing the Myth of Modernism by Bruce Metcalf
- Put Your Thing Down, Flip It, and Reverse It by LJ Roberts
- Sloppy Craft: Postdisciplinarity and the Crafts (2015) by Elaine Cheasley Paterson (Editor), Susan Surette (Editor)
- A Labor of Love by Marcia Tucker
- Steps Towards Decolonizing Craft by Aram Han Sifuentes

Writing assignment (in addition to shared Sophomore Seminar assignments)
Not My Artist Statement: Choose a living artist/craftsperson/designer who shares the concerns of your practice. You should thoroughly research their online presence (or see their work in person if that is possible). Do NOT read anything about their work. AVOID their statement and any press about them. Look at all the images of the work that you can find. Write a 250-350 word artist statement in the first person as if you were that artist.

Critiques
The purpose of critique is two-fold. Yes, it is an opportunity to get feedback on our work. AND, it is an opportunity to hone skills in speaking about art. During our three critiques, every student will participate vocally and in writing.
- Critique #1: Re-Critique a work from a previous semester
- Critique #2: In-Process Critique for a project from another class; you will lead this critique
- Critique #3: Remake/refine the work from your re-critique

Other assignments:
- Introductory Slide Slam: we will introduce ourselves to one another via images of our work, our visual influences, our textual influences, our pets/family, our homes, and some cultural favorites.
- Every class, we will do 15-minute free write sessions using prompts from the Documentation of Practice assignment, as well as topics pertaining to the experiences and concepts of Craft and Labor.
- Oral presentation: Imagine you are curating a two-person exhibition of your own work and the work of another artist. They may be long dead or a contemporary, but not someone you have actually met. How is your work connected to theirs? Through style, material, process, content or strategy? What is the title of the show? Perhaps you are furthering something they started in their work. Maybe you are contradicting their work. Maybe you have differing views on the same subject. Present your proposed show as a 5-7 minute pitch with images. This is an oral curatorial statement.