

NTU Global Summer School Course Description

Photography and the Artists' Book

Credit Points: 5 (2.5 ECTS)

Duration: 5 days

This course is for people who are new to the theme of artists' books and its relationship to photography, but are competent when using a digital SLR camera in manual mode. You should have the require [English language skills](#).

Overview and aims

This course combines two interconnected disciplines of image and artefact creation: digital photography and the self-published artists' book. It is open to photographers, artists and designers of all levels and backgrounds.

Participants should be interested in image sequencing, layout and working with type, and are encouraged to investigate their photographs as components which work together to form their own place within the leaves of publications.

"Firstly it should contain great work. Secondly, it should make that work function as a concise world within the book itself. Thirdly, it should have a design that complements what is being dealt with. And finally, it should deal with content that sustains an ongoing interest." John Gossage, On Photobooks.

On this practical course you will begin by refreshing your knowledge of digital photography and improving your awareness of contemporary image making at a local, national and international level. You will then apply this knowledge to exploring craft-based presentation skills, namely the artists' book. On this course you will:

- learn how to make a selection of handmade books;
- research how the photobook has been used as an autonomous art form and use the research to develop a photography project specifically for a book;
- learn the basic techniques of Adobe InDesign to produce effective layouts;
- print your work using digital printing methods and learn about the print process;
- choose the appropriate binding method for your publication;
- hear how artists are using these techniques today;
- learn how different methods can be adopted for different audiences; and
- choose the appropriate method to complete an innovative piece of artwork.

By the end of the course you will have a contemporary hand-crafted book and the skills to continue making books in the future.

This course is ideal if you wish to develop image making for your photography, graphic design or fine art portfolio. It is also a great creative experience if you wish to develop this skill for personal interest.

Indicative reading

The following reading may be useful to refer to:

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/a/books-artists/>

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/a/artists-books-interviews/>

http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/new-foundation-to-focus-on-publishing-art-books/?_php=true&_type=blogs&r=0

<http://theartistbook.org/>

<http://www.selfpublishbehappy.com/>

<http://www.littlebrownmushroom.com/>

Books:

Bookbinding: A Step by Step Guide, Kathy Abbott. The Crow Wood Press, 2014.

Parr, M., Badger, G. The Photobook: A History, Volume 1,2,3

Parr, M. (2002) Common Sense. Dewi Lewis Publishing.

Billingham, R. (1996) Ray Is A Laugh.

Friedlander, L. (2005) Self Portraits

Digital reading:

Adobe Photoshop CC for Photographers: A professional image editor's guide to the creative use of Photoshop by Martin Evening

The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 5 Book for Digital Photographers (Voices That Matter) by Scott Kelby

Skin: The Complete Guide to Digitally Lighting, Photographing and Retouching Faces and Bodies by Rick Sammon and Lee Varis

Learning outcomes

After studying this course you should be able to:

- communicate an awareness of social or cultural issues through your photography and how it is presented in an artists' book;
- evaluate your own work and that of others;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary photography and book arts through your practice;
- create photographs and an artists' book that explores methods and practices of photographic image making; and
- demonstrate the appropriate selection, control and understanding of technical and practical skills in photographic production and book arts.

Teaching and learning

This course is taught via:

- Lectures and project briefings
- Studio workshops
- Technical demonstrations
- Verbal and visual presentations

Total contact hours: 25

In addition to the contact hours you should expect to spend no more than five hours before and during the course on preparation and reading.

Assessment methods

100% coursework. This will include a visual presentation of your project work.

Final assessment

You will receive a pass/fail mark for the course. Written feedback from your tutor will identify strengths evident in the body of work and include some pointers on what to focus on to improve your future work.

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