

Sean Ward

Course Title: **THIS TO THAT: Interdisciplinary Foundations**

9-12 Grades

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Course Description

In the course THIS TO THAT: Interdisciplinary Foundations, you will learn how artists alter and manipulate simple materials into something unseen before and to discover their own intuition. You will employ various techniques such as collage, painting, video, sound, photography, sculpture, performance and writing. Through this idea of transformation, you will link and connect these various mediums together. You will find yourself asking “how do you turn this drawing into a video performance?”

Transformation is defined as a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance and this is done through a process or cycle. THIS TO THAT: Interdisciplinary Foundations is a class dedicated to teaching you about artistic process, cycles, and helping you to develop one of your own through examples and hands on physical construction. Creating and writing are important tools to build an artistic practice that is clear and supports itself far into your artistic career. The final project is a series of works designed by you, implementing three different mediums we learned in the classroom based on a concern from your writing.

Activities in the Classroom

- Students will write and answer prompts at the beginning of each class through writing. This writing will help guide their thoughts throughout the class.
- Students will learn how to effectively use the video and camera equipment as well as digital software such as Final Cut Pro, GarageBand and Adobe Photoshop that is necessary to edit our projects.
- Students will also learn painting and drawing techniques that will help them understand the fundamentals of art and the language/ vocabulary associated with visual culture.
- Students will create connections between the various mediums by translating one to the another. For example, taking a drawing and creating a sculpture inspired by it.
- Students will learn about various artists in association with each medium we explore. We will have lectures and presentations on artists, demos on software and equipment and critiques.

Equipment

Digital Video Cameras

Digital SLR Cameras

Digital Point-n-Shoot Cameras

Basic Painting and Drawing Supplies

Scrap Material (Cardboard/Fabric)

Software

Final Cut Pro

GarageBand

Adobe Photoshop

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn these key terms:

Process / Artistic Practice: The students will learn what an artistic practice is and the definition of process in relation to this, by examples of Artists at work in their studio, slide lectures on significant artists with distinct practices, and through visiting artists.

Transformation: We will discuss what transformation is, defining it through examples of artistic practice and a short introductory lesson on the practice of alchemy. By the end of the class, students should have a strong understanding of transformation, and how they can use it in their own practice.

Observational Translation: Students will use observation as a skill to transform materials. For example, taking a sculpture a student made and translating it into a painting. This idea of translation forms helps students develop a rich visual vocabulary as well as a long list of content for their work.

Observation through Writing: Writing is essential to understanding this idea of transformation and translation. Students will use writing to document the similarities and differences from one form to another. For example, how does translating a sculpture into a painting transform it? What properties have changed? How do you approach it?

Performance: Creating a performance around an object can give it a history and narrative. The idea of role playing or acting out a scene is important in transformation and I want the students to learn that it is a possibility to use what they have made, like objects, images, and painting as tools in video, photography and performance work.

Intuition / Imagination: The students will learn that intuition, their gut feeling is a path that can carry them far. With this intertwined with their imagination, this will help produce a path and guide for students to follow their interests. I will use writing to help them work through mental blocks and fixate on their interests.

Documentation: I want to show students that documentation is not only a way to show your work but it can be the work as well. Here we will use photography and video to translate and transform objects into photographic works and use video as a way to produce narratives. The students will learn that documentation is not the end of the artistic process.

Empirical / Experimentation (Trial and Error): The students will create an understanding of empirical learning. Through observation, and experience students will develop a sense of the trial

and errors awarded them in the artistic process and how mistakes can lead them into unexpected territory.