

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ART

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Art (ART) 311 - Lecture 02**

**Topics in Art  
“Public Art”**

**Spring 2014** (May 14-June 26)

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 10:30-12:20; AB 672

**Instructor:** Johanna Plant  
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**Web Page:** N/A  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description**

This is a special topics course that explores history, issues, and creative processes related to the commissioning, design, production, installation and reception of public works of art. The course includes experiential components and involves case study projects with public art works on campus and elsewhere in the city.

**Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites**

N.A.

Note: As per the University of Calgary Calendar: “Students may not register in courses at the 300 level or above until at least three full-course equivalents at the 200 level have been successfully completed unless the 300-level course is a first-year program requirement or they receive permission of the Associate Dean (Students).” (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/arts-3-2-7.html>)

**Objectives of the Course**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will

1. Be able to describe and critically analyze a number of approaches to public art, and be able to identify aspects of these approaches that are useful in their own artistic practices.
2. Be able to identify the various social, political, and economic factors that influence the creation, placement, and reception of public art in the Western world, with a particular focus on North America in the twentieth century.
3. Be able to knowledgeably discuss critical issues surrounding public art, including those related to content, form, funding, reception, location, degree of permanence, etc.
4. Have introductory knowledge of how materials, placement, maintenance and other factors affect the longevity of public art.

5. Have further developed transferable skills in critical thinking, research, writing, and oral communication.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

The following books will be placed on reserve at the library:

- Cartiere, Cameron and Shelly Willis, eds. *The Practice of Public Art*. New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Gérin, Annie, and James S. McLean, eds. *Public art in Canada: Critical Perspectives*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Knight, Cher Krause. *Public Art: Theory, Practice, and Populism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- Kwon, Miwon. *One Place after Another: Site-Specific Art and Locational Identity*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2004.
- Senie, Harriet F. and Sally Webster, eds. *Critical Issues in Public Art: Content, Context, and Controversy*. New York: Icon Editions, 1992.
- Brian Considine, Julie Wolfe, Katrina Posner, and Michel Bouchard. *Conserving Outdoor Sculpture: the Stark Collection at the Getty Center*. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 2010.

A number of chapters from these books will be assigned reading. It is not necessary to purchase these books unless you wish to do so.

Additional readings in the form of journal articles and websites will be assigned. You will be responsible for retrieving these readings from online databases or from hard copies of journals in the library.

A complete list of assigned readings will be provided at our first class.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Length/Duration</b>
<b><i>Public Artwork Research and Critique</i></b>	Friday, May 23	15%	1,000 words, plus at least one image
<b><i>Oral Presentation of Research and Critique</i></b>	Friday, May 23	10%	5 minutes. Visual imagery expected
<b><i>A Living Will for Public Art</i></b>	Monday, June 9	20%	1,000 words. Images optional
<b><i>Proposal for a Work of Public Art</i></b>	Monday, June 23	25%	1,500 words, plus one or more images
<b><i>Presentation of Your Proposal</i></b>	Monday, June 23 or Wednesday, June 25	15%	5 to 10 minutes. Visual representation(s) required
<b><i>Participation</i></b> Participation includes your contribution to our	Ongoing	15%	N/A

in-class debates and proposal critiques.

**Public Artwork Research and Critique:** For this project, you will write a critical analysis of a piece of public art and present your research/critique in class.

In the first week, you will be asked to come to class with three ideas for the works you would like to research. You should write about a work you have seen in person, whether on campus, elsewhere in Calgary, or anywhere else in the world. To ensure that the class is analyzing a wide variety of works, we will discuss our ideas and make sure each student is looking at a different work. Please do not select "Travelling Light," as we will be considering this work as a class. Also, note that it might be easier for you to find information about recent works of public art as opposed to older ones, especially if you are looking at art in Calgary.

The written component of this project should be approximately 1,000 words in length, and should include the following information:

- the work's formal title (and informal title, if applicable), when it was created, and by whom
- where the work is located
- its approximate size and materials
- information about the commissioning body, and the circumstances around its commission or creation: is it to commemorate a certain event or person? Is it part of a percent for art plan? Was it a private donation?
- any additional relevant historical information
- an analysis of the formal aspects of the work
- an analysis of how the work fits into its environment. How does the work of art relate to its environment? How does it relate to the community in which it is located?
- community feedback about the work (if available)
- an assessment of the "publicness" of the work. Making the assumption that public art must not only be in a public space, but also accessible to at least some members of the public on social, cultural, and intellectual levels, how public is this work?

Finally, based on your analysis, offer your opinion of whether this work is successful as a piece of public art. Do you have any suggestions for change or improvement?

Be sure to include at least one image in your written component.

As with any university-level assignment, you are expected to cite your sources and create a bibliography. Chicago Manual Style is preferred, but you may choose another style, so long as you apply it consistently across your paper.

You will have 5 minutes to present your critique in class. You can format this presentation however you wish, although you should include some visual representations.

Written component: **15%** of your final mark

Oral presentation: **10%** of your final mark

**Both parts are due Friday, May 23**

**A Living Will for Public Art:** For this project, you will assume the position of an artist and design a lifecycle for a piece of public art. You can choose to work with an existing piece of public art, or an imagined work you have designed yourself. Regardless of the scenario you select, you should know that your work will be installed outdoors in a city with a variable climate (i.e., Calgary, or a city with a similar climate).

The governing body that has commissioned your work has funding to look after it for 5 years, but is not sure if it will have money after that. Based on this information, write a “living will” for your work, outlining how you would like it to be treated over the course of its life. After the five year period, what would you like to happen? Should the work be removed? Should it be destroyed? Left to decay naturally? If the governing body receives additional funds, how should the work be treated? Where would you like the work to be in 50 years? In 200 years?

You should also consider a number of other scenarios: what would happen if the work were vandalized? Could graffiti be part of the work, or should it be removed? How do the materials out of which you have constructed the work affect its life? Could you include sheltering components to extend its life? Do you have other concerns about the life of your work?

In preparing this plan, you should consult books and periodicals on the topic of conservation, such as *Conserving Outdoor Sculpture: the Stark Collection at the Getty Center*. This book has been put on reserve at the library.

As with any university-level assignment, you are expected to cite your sources and create a bibliography. Chicago Manual Style is preferred, but you may choose another style, so long as you apply it consistently across your paper.

Create a 1,000 word plan for your object. Images are optional.

Due **Monday, June 9. 20%** of your final mark

**Public Art Proposal:** For this assignment, you will create a proposal for a new work of public art on the University of Calgary main campus. We will select the location for the work as a class, and all students will make a proposal for the same space.

Your proposal will consist of both a written component and an oral presentation. The written proposal should be approximately 1,500 words in length, and should include the following:

- a description of the work, including its size, colour, and proposed materials
- discussion or images indicating how your work will fit on the selected site
- information about how it relates to its immediate environment, including buildings and artworks in the area
- an artist statement explaining the concept behind your design and your approach to public art. Will you create the work alone, or will you incorporate a community in its design?
- proposed lifespan: is your work temporary or permanent? (You can draw on what you have learned through the Living Will project). What maintenance work do you anticipate?
- other relevant information: lighting, impact on foot traffic, anti-vandalism tactics, participatory aspects, or any other issue pertinent to your proposal
- one or more diagrams/illustrations/images of the proposed work

For this project, you can assume one of two roles: you can be an artist making the proposal, or, if you are not confident in your artistic skills, you can be a project leader who is suggesting the work of a known public artist for this location. If you choose the second option, you must explain how this work will be different from the artist’s installations in other cities.

As with any university-level assignment, you are expected to cite your sources and create a bibliography. Chicago Manual Style is preferred, but you may choose another style, so long as you apply it consistently across your paper.

You will present your proposal in class, and can do so using any means you wish. Visual representations (either 2- or 3-dimensional, or both) are expected. You will have 5 to 10 minutes for your presentation, followed by several minutes of questions and constructive feedback from the class.

Written Proposal: **25%** of your final mark, due **Monday, June 23**

Oral Presentation: **15%** of your final mark, due **Monday, June 23** or **Wednesday, June 25**  
(presentation dates will be established in advance)

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

## **Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO**

### **Late Assignment Policy**

Assignments should be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late penalties will be assessed at a rate of 4% per day or part thereof, unless appropriate documentation (such as a doctor's note) is provided.

### **Additional Information**

Students are expected to create two- or three-dimensional visual representations as part of some of their assignments. The materials used in creating these representations will be left to the student's discretion.

### **Approved optional &/or mandatory supplementary fees**

None

### **Course Activities**

This course includes two field trips to view public art. One will be on campus, and one will be off-campus, in downtown Calgary. Students are advised that they may incur transportation costs for the off-campus trip (i.e., transit tickets or parking fees). The use of public transit is strongly recommended for the off-campus trip. Students should be prepared for inclement weather on both of our trips. Both trips will take place during regular class hours.

We will be having a number of guest speakers visit our class to share their experiences working in contemporary public art. Attendance at these classes (and at all classes) is strongly encouraged.

Students will be engaging in at least two in-class debates. These debates will be announced in advance, and students will have the opportunity to prepare for them. These events offer an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and ideas and to develop oral presentation skills. They will also be used in determining participation marks.

A full schedule of lectures and readings will be provided on the first day of the course. While efforts will be made to ensure the accuracy of this schedule, some flexibility may be required to accommodate guest speakers and/or other special events.

### **Grading Method/Grading Scale:**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>G.P.A.</b>	<b>Grade Definition</b>
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive

			understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### **Studio Procedures**

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your class mates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information**

Students should restrict their use of electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, etc.) in class to relevant tasks. Cell phones should be turned to silent during class time.

Most classes include a short break, and it is expected that students will text or make calls during that time.

### **Academic Accommodation**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

### **Academic Standing**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

### **Deferral of Exams/Term work**

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)

### **F.O.I.P.**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

### **Writing/Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### **Student Misconduct**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Student Union and Student Ombudsman**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **Lockers**

The Art Building lockers are administered by the Students' Union in 251 MacEwan Student Centre. There are various shapes and sizes of lockers for rent. Please write down the barcode numbers (top left of each locker) for the locker shape that you require and bring this list with you to the SU office between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m., Monday-Friday. **Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Models**

In this class students may be expected to draw from nude models. A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.

### **Portfolios and Assignments**

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

**All unclaimed work will be disposed of two weeks after the end of classes.**

### **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

### **Campus Security/Safewalk**

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

## **Emergency Evacuation**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.