SYLLABUS
Queens College/CUNY
Department of Art/Art History

Summer 2016 Study Aboard in China

ARTS 185: Contemporary Art in a Global Society
(Fulfill the new General Education requirement AP, WC)
ARTS 393: Independ Internship
ARTS 728: Sculpture Technique
ARTS 729: Individual Criticism

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Contemporary Art In a Global Society: Classic and Contemporary Art in China

Course Descriptions:
The mission of this course is to give the student an opportunity to develop, explore, and heighten their technical, cultural, and aesthetic awareness of ceramics in a global context. Students will utilize the rich history and culture of China as a great resource. Studying in China provides an opportunity to learn and interact with resident artists, factory artisans, and to experience different technical processes during our visits to Sichuan University in Chengdu and the Jingdezhen Ceramics University or Pottery Workshop in Jingdezhen. In Xian the students will conclude by visiting Terra Cotta Warriors museums, cultural sites at the historical capital city. We will also visit a kiln site of folk pottery near Xian.

This class has two parts: i. Students will complete assigned research readings, discussions, presentations and expression in the visual arts of the media of ceramics and clay. Students will become familiar with and use vocabulary that will help in discussing ceramic work in terms of its visual and conceptual elements, historical and cultural context. ii. Students will have hands on experience in exploring technical processes, development of ideas, abstract thinking, aesthetic appreciation, and gaining an understanding of traditional and contemporary ceramics arts. Finally, students will continue to develop the skills necessary to look critically at their own work and the work of others. The most helpful learning devices will be active participation, interest and curiosity in art and culture, and a creative self-motivated open mind.

ARTS 185: Contemporary Art in a Global Society
Undergraduate Student.
Initially the student will be asked to complete a section of research, reading, and group activities on site in China. This will lead to artistic inspiration when visiting museums, architectural/cultural sites, factories, lectures, interactions, etc… A daily one page journal entry is required and will be graded. Student will be asked to complete a series of warm up assignments focusing on development of technical skill. Two assigned assignment are going to execute in Jingdezhen.

No previous art experience is required
**ARTS 393: Independent Internship**
Undergraduate Student in Studio Art.
This course will be concurrent with ARTS 185. Initially the student will be asked to complete a section of research, reading, and group activities on site in China. A daily one page journal entry is required and will be graded. After these are complete, the student will be able to discuss self-directed assignments.
Approval of self-directed projects by professors required.

**ARTS 728: Sculpture Techniques**
Graduate Student in Studio Art.
This course will be concurrent with ARTS 185. Initially the student will be asked to complete a section of research, reading, and group activities on site in China. This leads to an artistic inspiration when visiting museums, architectural/cultural sites, factories, lectures, interactions, etc… A daily 4 page journal entry is required and will be graded. Student will be asked to complete a series of warm up assignments focusing on development of technical skill. After these are complete, the student will be able to discuss self-directed assignments.
No pre-requisites.

**ARTS 729: Individual Criticism**
Independent Study for graduate students
Graduate Student in Studio Art.
This course will be concurrent with ARTS 185. Initially the student will be asked to complete a section of research, reading, and group activities on site in China. A daily 4 page journal entry is required and will be graded. After these are complete, the student will be able to discuss self-directed assignments.
Approval of self-directed projects by professors required.
Previous experience in ceramics is preferred.

**Expectations:**
We expect students to participate in all course activities and group events including field trips and lectures/presentations. As we are residents of Sichuan University and in Jingdezhen, working in the studio outside of class time is expected and required.

You will become exposed to basic material technical information including: clays, clay bodies, slips, stains, glaze and kiln loading/firing.

**Cleaning up is important.** Every material used in ceramics is potentially hazardous especially as airborne dust particulates. You are personally responsible for cleaning up after yourself. All areas of the classroom are to be kept in excellent condition. You will be graded on your ability to clean up after yourself!!!

**Critiques:**
Informal individual discussions with the professor will be on a daily basis. Formal group critiques are scheduled to discuss each project upon completion. In each critique, you will be asked to discuss your work as well as the work of your peers. It should be noted that critiques are not a personal criticism but are meant to help you further the ideas for your own work, and develop the skills necessary to participate in a critical dialogue of your work and the work of others. Participation in critiques is required and will affect your grade. **If you are not present for a critique your grade for the particular**
project will go down one full letter grade and you will receive one unexcused absence. Unfinished work will not be considered.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. You will receive a daily class participation grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of class. All projects and technical information will be presented in class and will not be repeated for tardy or absent individuals.

You will automatically receive an unexcused absence if you do not attend class. If you need to be absent, please let us know and we will discuss if it will be excused or unexcused.

Note: If you acquire more than 2 unexcused your final grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each additional absence.

**Grading:**

You will be graded on your overall participation/attendance, completion of projects, and sketchbook/journal.

**Materials:**

Clay, plaster, glaze, and firings included is not include in the program fee.
New Sketchbook/Journal (at least 80 pages)
Students can bring the following with them or purchase in China.
Fluffy Brushes – small, medium, large (1-3)
Lightweight dry cleaners bag (1-2)
Some ceramics tools (Suggested: pin/needle tool, knife, rubber rib, 45 degree angle tool, cutting wire, sponge, 1-2 loop/trimming tools)
Dust Mask (1-2 in a ziplock bag)
Rubber Gloves (3-5 pairs)

**Contemporary Art in a Global Society: Ceramics in China**

**Tentative Schedule:**

In Chengdu, students will focus on gathering information that can lead to an artistic production. A daily one page journal entry is required and will be graded.

June 6: Monday
10-noon       Arrive Sichuan University
6-8            Welcome dinner and Orientation

June 7: Tuesday
9-11           Chinese Language
Lunch
13-17          Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center

June 8: Wednesday
9-11           Chinese Language
13-17          Tibetan Lunch, Jinli Old Street

June 9: Thursday
June 10: Friday
9-11 Chinese Language
Lunch
13-17 Visit Art School
20:30-23:00 Tea House – discussion: Chinese History and sharing thoughts

June 11: Saturday
8-18 Leshan Giant Buddha, Thousand Buddha, Cliff Jiajiang

June 12: Sunday
Free

June 13: Monday
Depart Sichuan University
Either travel by flight or by train to Nanchang, then take bus to Jingdezhen.
Train: depart 11:52am form Chengdu East station (20 minutes from University
RMB$22, Train from Chengdu to Nanchang 26hrs RMB$575-592, average RMB$586)

June 14: Tuesday
Arrive Jingdezhen
Flight: depart 2:45pm (2hrs flight RMB$1250=US$198.70)

**Tentative Jingdezhen Schedule:**

June 15: Wednesday
10-12 Introduce warm-up projects
Lunch
1-4 Tour in the Sculpture Factory, Supermarket, Tool Shop, Brush Store, Transfer Paper & Decal Shop, Stationary Shop (by taxi)

June 16: Thursday
10-12 Work on warm-up projects/discuss ideas for self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 Demonstration of mold making workshop (by local artisan)/doing own work

June 17: Friday
10-12 Complete warm up projects/Begin self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 Prepare drawing or images for tissue transfer or decal paper (optional)/doing own work

June 18: Saturday
10-12 Critique warm up projects/ continue self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 Visit glaze shops, and various workshops at Old Factory and Wan Neng Da, order decal & tissue paper (optional) (by taxi)

June 19: Sunday
10-12 Self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 Demonstration of slip casting & press molding (by local artisan)/doing own work

June 20: Monday
10-12 Self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 doing own work

June 21: Tuesday
10-12 Self-directed form & surface projects (start drying projects)
Lunch
1-4 Demonstration of underglaze painting (by local artisan)/tissue paper decoration, own attempts at underglaze painting and tissue paper decoration/doing own work

June 22: Wednesday
10-12 Self-directed form & surface projects
Lunch
1-4 Demonstration of carving/doing own work (by local artisan) (continue drying projects)

June 23: Thursday
10-12 Finish self-directed form & surface projects (continue drying projects)
Lunch
1-4 Ancient Kiln Museum, Big Pot Factory, Water Hammer, Sanbao International Ceramic Studio (by taxi)

June 24: Friday
10-12 Load bisque
Lunch
1-4 Demonstration of on-glaze enamel painting (by local artisan), practice demonstration techniques

June 25: Saturday
10-12 Clean studio/ bisque kiln firing
Lunch
1-4 Continue cleaning if needed/doing own work/prepare for glazing

June 26: Sunday
10-12 Unload bisque/glaze projects
Lunch
1-4 Continue glazing

June 27: Monday
10-12 Load Glaze
Lunch
1-4 Clean up/wrap up
June 28: Tuesday
10-12 Fire glaze kiln
Lunch
1-4 Gaoling Mountain, Yaoli Village, Dragon Kiln (by rental bus)

June 29: Wednesday
10-12 Unload glaze kiln
Lunch
1-4 Critique & Package studio work for departure

June 30: Thursday
Time TBA Fan Jia Jing- fake antique market, The Jingdezhen Historical Museum, Big Tile Factory
(by taxi)
Lunch
Time TBA Farewell Dinner/prepare luggage for departure to Xian

July 1: Friday
Old City Wall
Bell Tower
Muslim temple
Wild Goose Pagoda

July 2: Saturday
Terra Cotta Warrior Museum
Banpo Neolithic Village Museum
Emperor Qin tomb

July 3: Sunday
YaoZhou Ceramics Museum
coach transfer to visit Fu Ping International Ceramics art Village
Chen Lu Pottery village, (Shaanxi Mud Houses)

July 4: Monday
Depart Xian to New York

Readings:
*Chinese Ceramics: A Short History* by Masahiko Sato, Published jointly by John Weatherhill, Inc.,
New York and Tokyo, 1981
Chapter 31 to 34 pp.206-243

*Cultural China Series: Chinese Ceramics* by Fang Lili, translated by William W. Wang, China
Intercontinental Press, 2005
Chapter 8-14 pp.69-133

Warm Up Assignments

This project covers basic handbuilding techniques and allows students to begin working with the PWS
clay. There will be many visual inspirations at the various museums and sites we visit in Chengdu and
Jingdezhen to aid you in designing pieces for this project.
The basic handbuilding techniques are:

- Slab
- Coil
- Pinch

Create a series of cups or drinking vessels using these basic techniques demonstrated in class. Be sure to concentrate on form, texture, and weight as well as rim to foot relationships. (a minimum of 3 pieces is required, but students may make more pieces depending on their ideas & goals for this project)

**Form & Surface Assignments**

The bulk of studio work at the PWS will focus on 2 self-directed projects that explore form & surface. The first project will be sculptural and the second project will be functional. These projects will be built simultaneously, and fired at the end of the course in one bisque kiln and one glaze kiln.

Students are encouraged to explore the different motifs and patterns found in Chinese ceramics, textiles, architecture, and landscape. Trips to nearby factories and local artisans’ demonstrations will provide vast surface techniques. Students can then take the knowledge gained from the demonstrations and apply these techniques to the projects. Students are encouraged to explore underglaze and overglaze surface treatment. Local factories are able to produce ceramic decals at a very low cost. Students can take advantage of this opportunity if they wish, but remember that the cost of the decals is not included in the program fee.

Options (select or combine):

- Sculpture – tile, relief, multiples, 3d form(s), etc…
- Functional – set, series, place setting(s), etc…