

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Visual Arts

Course: Practicum  
Title: SA 4605  
Time: Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30-11:30  
Room: JLVAC 300 and 148  
Term: Fall 2022/ Winter 2023  
Professor: Anna Madelska (abarelk@uwo.ca)  
Office Meetings can be arranged by Appointment.

### **Course Description**

Practicum is a studio course designed to allow students to develop an individual studio practice in the context of contemporary art issues and a variety of media processes. It will, at all times, emphasize critical analysis and energetic discussion in combination with an intensive commitment to probing ideas through creative exploration.

Alongside the independent material and theoretical research, students will be introduced to the business of a successful art practice. This course will discuss the Canadian gallery system, the Canadian Arts Councils, the successful writing of artist statements, application processes for exhibitions, residencies, grants and schools, how to develop artist talks and how to build an online presence.

Students are immersed in the contemporary art scene through a series of class trips that focus on experiencing art in a wide variety of locations. The class will visit galleries in London and Toronto, and organize a class trip to New York City for four days in November.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Present a honed and cohesive independent body of work and research.
- Demonstrate perceptual, visual and conceptual skills through art making and as a critical viewer.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional artist career trajectories and how these may relate to their own practice.
- Create a professional artist dossier and present their work in a professional manner.
- Prepare written and visual work for publication through the creation of a catalogue.

Demonstrate a grasp of historical and contemporary issues relevant to the making and evaluation of contemporary practices in the visual arts.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- A. Autonomy and Professional Capacity

- Students will understand the range of opportunities for artists within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.
  - Students will understand the range of opportunities for art researchers within and beyond the academic setting, and will have an awareness of the routes that must be taken to make advancements toward further study and/or professional practice.
- B. Application of Knowledge
- Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects in order to create a body of work.
  - Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works.
- C. Communication Skills
- Students will be able to communicate in writing and orally regarding their projects and regarding relevant art and culture, and will recognize the range of language suited to differing communication opportunities (i.e. a grant application vs. a grad school application).
  - Students will be able to communicate orally and in writing with regard to their research, and will be able to utilize different genres of writing for different purposes (i.e., to write an academic paper, or a magazine article).

## Course Requirements

Practicum meets twice a week for a total of 6 hours of in class time. Practicum is a double credit course which means that's students are also expected to spend a minimum of 12 hours a week outside course time on studio work and research.

Students must work on their independent projects consistently. Meetings with the instructor and TA are scheduled weekly, and there must be new work to show for each meeting. Each meeting should be seen as a form of deadline and students should be prepared to introduce what they have done since the previous meeting. This allows each student to progress gradually and build on feedback and consultation in their work.



positions will often rely on each member to do a good job, so good planning and communication are essential.

### Grading Breakdown Per Term

#### TERM ONE

Independent Studio Project: Midterm	15%
Independent Studio Project: End of term	20%
Research File	5%
Preparing Applications	5%
Participation	5%

#### TERM TWO

Independent Studio Project: Midterm	15%
Independent Studio Project: End of term	20%
Artist Talk	5%
Website	5%
Participation	5%

### Evaluation

Students' work and performance will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and numerical grades will be posted on the course Owl site at the end of each project. All student work will be evaluated according to the following criteria (for more detail on terms of reference for studio grading see [Department Grading Criteria](#) below)

### Department Grading Criteria

#### 90-100 (Outstanding, A+)

The **studio work** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement.  
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them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

**70-74 (Good, B)**

The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production en a7 Tdhn



duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

**Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th) (Subject to change):**

The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:00pm each night Monday to Friday. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00pm-5:00pm unless otherwise posted; access by side entrances only. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:00pm and 5:00pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

**Permission re: Promotion:**

You grant permission for Western University to reproduce your name, information describing your artwork, representations of your work and any other information you have provided for the purpose of display, promotion and publicity either now or in the future.

By installing your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you grant Western University an irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free world-wide licence to photograph your artwork and use such photograph(s) for the promotion of your artwork and/or Western University, including, without limitation, advertising, display, editorial, packaging, promotion, television, social media, the Department of Visual Arts website, flickr, Twitter, Instagram etc.). Students wishing to not have their work photographed should not exhibit it in the Visual Arts Centre, Artlab Gallery or Cohen Commons. As the area is open to the public, students, faculty, staff and other visitors will not be prohibited from photographing your artwork while on exhibit at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre.

You otherwise retain all ownership in your artwork.

**Artwork Installation Liability Release:**

You understand that the area where your artwork will be hanging or displayed is unsupervised and is in a part of the building that may be open to the public, day and evening, whether or not the building is open. Western University accepts no responsibility for damage to, or loss of, artwork at any time while on display or while being transported to or from the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. By displaying your artwork in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, you accept all risk of loss or damage to your artwork. Western University does not provide insurance for the artwork on exhibition. If you wish to insure artwork, it is your responsibility to do so.

**Removal:**

Western University reserves the right to dispose of artwork not picked up by April 15th of each year.

**Support Services:**



