

Art Practices: Exploring the Role of the Object

Fall and Winter 2024-2025 (16 credits)

Faculty:

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Program Description:

This studio arts program examines the role of the object in visual art and art history. In this program we will focus on ceramics and fine metals as we explore the relationship between image, object, artist, and viewer. In the fall, our introductory thematic focus will be on the “still life” object: how objects reflect and represent us, embodying our tastes, values, hopes, and identities. In winter, our focus will be on 20th century readymades, Pop art and postmodern artists uses of objects. During both quarters each student in the program will create a series of creative works related to the object. Throughout both quarters, students will have opportunities to develop technical skills in ceramics and fine metals while learning about the history of these two mediums. Students will learn both sculptural and functional approaches to making ceramic and fine metals artworks while combining 2- and 3-D techniques. There will be particular emphasis on the relationship between these two studios and the way surfaces such as glazes and enamels are fired over dimensional forms, and casting can be used in either metal or ceramics. Through lectures, readings, seminars, and critiques, we will explore how humans historically used inanimate objects to represent religious, allegorical, personal, and political ideas, and how these objects and symbols impact our culture today. This program is designed for students who have a strong work ethic, self-discipline, and who are willing to work long hours on-campus in the art studios. It is ideal for students who have some visual art experience in any medium and would like to apply their previous experience to making 2- and 3-D functional and sculptural ceramics and fine metals pieces. Students who fully engage in the theory and practice of this program can expect to leave the program prepared for more intermediate to advanced studies in the visual arts.

Class Standing: Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Required Fees: \$200 each quarter for entrance fees, studio supplies, and required studio fee.

Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday 10-4

Wednesday 10-1

Thursday 10-4

Theory to Practice / Practice to Theory: Art-making takes a lot of time, patience and persistence. Please be prepared to put in **at least 40 hours** per week on your program work. The more time you put in, the more your work will develop. The intent of our studio work will be to develop a verbal and visual vocabulary in ceramics and fine metals, especially in the ways we design, use and make objects that have historical and cultural significance. It is necessary for everyone in the program to work together as a community of learners and remain open to sharing your findings and receiving feedback from your peers.

Fall Quarter Credit Equivalencies

4 Introduction - Intermediate Ceramics

4 Introduction - Intermediate Fine Metals

4 Visual and Critical Studies Seminar

4 Material Culture Studies