

CCST 503
Critical Curatorial Studies Practicum

September 2006
Scott Watson

The objective of the practicum is to realize a curatorial project. The project can be an exhibition, an event, a series of events (screenings), or an intervention. The project is formulated by the student and must be approved by the instructor.

Normally students and the instructor have met before classes commence in September and have already had discussions on the available options and have determined a direction.

The projects are realized in stages. Students are expected to write a proposal (perhaps in a grant application form), formulate a schedule, organize and account for the logistics of their projects including the budget. Writing tasks include the proposal, press release, curatorial statement, didactic material, and curatorial essay as well as correspondence necessary to the project.

The curatorial statement and essay must be presented at the exhibition's opening reception in the format of a didactic, brochure, or modest publication (depending on the project's budget).

The projects are realized under the aegis of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery and students will interact with the professional staff of the gallery as student/guest curators. The staff is available for consultations and to advise students on the gallery protocols, procedures, and planning of their project. As the staff are working on several projects and priorities at any given time, it is expected that students will be organized, schedule meetings and communicate with staff, and meet all deadlines for publicity, installation, budget, and other requirements for the project. Students receive an exhibition/project timeline in September and it is expected that students read and follow this guideline for their project.

In the seminar we workshop the projects and the students will be expected to present rationales, describe the logistics, present visual information, and enter into a dialogue about their projects, those of their colleagues, and issues pertaining to curatorial practice.

The project is marked on an assessment of its intellectual and artistic merit, the organizational skills deployed to realize it, and the writing done during the practicum.

Readings may be assigned on occasion.