

MLAS 260 70: Found & Fabricated: Sculpture

Instructor: Professor Michael Aurbach

Found and Fabricated is a beginning course in sculpture that emphasizes additive processes. By approaching art through “assemblage,” we can address all kinds of matters related to the visual world and the liberal arts.

First Project: Create a Lure

If you were to go fishing for people, what type of lure would you use to attract them? What kind(s) of people do you want to attract? Do you bring them in through the typical human vices or do you seduce them in other ways? Mixed Media project

Second Project: Personal Baggage

Create a container or something that you can carry that sums up your personal history. Your “baggage” does not have to reflect the dark side of your life it can be a positive thing. Think about exterior surfaces as well as interior surfaces and spaces.

While you may use a variety of materials, it is important that you attempt to link the materials with the personal issues you are trying to advance. For example, your personal history may include some events that you rarely discuss with others. So.... you might think of the container as some kind of safe deposit box with locks and strong metallic fasteners (rivets, screws, bolts, etc.). Perhaps there are aspects of your life that you selectively share with others so materials like screening, transparent materials, doors, etc., might be used in the exterior surfaces.

Michael Aurbach is a Professor of Art and has taught at Vanderbilt since 1986. His early work (Final Portraits) often dealt with the subjects of death, identity, and the lives of socially disenfranchised groups. His Secrecy Series (ongoing) calls attention to the ways in which secrecy helps individuals and institutions maintain power.

MLAS 260 15: Art and Visual Culture in the Age of the French Revolution, 1785-1815

Instructor: Professor Christopher M.S. Johns

This seminar will examine European artistic production from the last years of the *ancien régime* to the fall of the Napoleonic Empire in 1815. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between art and politics; the emergence of new patterns of art patronage, and the disruption of traditional ones; the impact of culture on the formation of national identities; the threats to the national cultural patrimony posed by invasion, spoliation, and transportation of works of art from occupied territories; and the increased importance of museums in the cultural politics of Europe. Important artists to be studied include Antonio Canova, Jacques-Louis David, Francisco Goya, Casper David Friedrich, Joseph Mallord William Turner, Antoine-Jean Gros, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, and many others. Although the primary focus of

the seminar will be on such "high" art media as painting and sculpture, printmaking, architecture and the decorative arts will also be considered.