

Western University
 Department of Visual Arts
 VAS 2275B

ART NOW II: LIVE (Survive)

Term/Session	Winter 2016
Time	Thursday 7-10pm
Location	NCB113 (unless otherwise notified)
Professor	Christof Migone, cmigone@uwo.ca
Office Location/Hours	VAC room 214, Tuesday 3-5pm, Thursday 10-11am, and by appointment
TAs	Paul Chartrand, lchartr@uwo.ca ; and Ido Govrin, igovrin@uwo.ca
TA Office Locations/Hours	tba
OWL/Sakai	https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/2e443997-73f5-452d-bf00-4fe8af834682

Course Description/Objectives:

An introduction to contemporary artistic production, research and practice, featuring dialogues with artists on their work, cultural workers on their projects, plus curators and critics on the role criticism in contemporary art. Emphasis will be placed on major recent art movements and tendencies defined in an expanded sense. The course will also focus on developing critical writing skills and team work. This semester's theme, *LIVE (Survive)*, proposes a multi-layered examination of liveness and presentness. To live, and to be (a)live. In other words, we will be starting with the basic conditions denoting life and the act, the performance, the gesture that brings (a) work to life. Accent on the here and now—or as Clarice Lispector writes: "I plan nothing in my intuitive work of living. I let myself happen." Verbs come to mind: to breathe, to scavenge, to improvise, to hyperventilate, to read, to converse, to make, to play—all activators, prompts, triggers. The unabashedly eclectic series of guest speakers was devised so as to examine a variety of facets in contemporary art discourse and practice as they intersect with everyday life and the tensions at play when survival is at stake. What this course aims to highlight is the complexity of the questions *raised by* art and simultaneously *asked of* art within the context of the topic developed for this semester; the course will respond every week with a requisite set of thorough experimental investigations.

Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course can expect to:

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge
 - Develop a knowledge of the diverse contemporary art practices and artists featured in the course and their connected key critical and theoretical frameworks.
 - Develop critical thinking and visual and aural analytical skills.
2. Knowledge of Methodologies
 - Develop knowledge of various methodologies, both paradigmatic and idiosyncratic.
 - Develop abilities to discern ambiguities and their generative potential.
3. Application of Knowledge
 - Produce innovative and inventive contributions to in-class discussions and through the various assignments.
4. Autonomy and Professional Capacity
 - Become familiar with the range of professional possibilities afforded to artists, theorists and curators in and out of the academy.

Visual Arts Studio Grading Rubric

90-100 (Outstanding, A+) - The studio work shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A) -

**The University of Western Ontario
Visual Arts Department**

POLICIES