GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY
Syllabus

Walls of Power: Public Art, Fall 2013
ARTS-UG 1440-001
Tuesday, 6:20-9:00pm
1 Washington Place
Room #432

Instructor: Terry Culver
Tjc202@nyu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 5-6 & by appointment
Please email in advance

Office: 1 Washington Place, Room 429

Course Description
Walls of Power will explore how visual art, performance art, and activist art in the public sphere contribute to political dialogue and community building.

In doing so, the course will integrate the hands-on practice of public art making with the study of politics, community building, culture, urban planning, art history, and social issues as they relate to public art, with a special focus on New York City.

Course Objectives/Learning Goals
With a multidisciplinary approach, the course will examine the remarkable transformation of public art through history and the roles it has played to both support and to resist established political beliefs. Emphasis will be placed on defining public space, understanding the role of public art in society, and using public art as a prism to understand wider cultural and political trends. The course will examine selected historical examples of public art as well as contemporary ones, and take advantage of the public art throughout New York City.

A major component of the course will be a public art project that students will plan and execute during the semester. This semester, we will collaborate with Critical Massive to design, create, and produce a mural in New York City. Working with a team of professional graffiti artists, students will be an integral part of the process of the project, from its organization, conception, design, and completion. Students will keep a journal for the duration of the project, which will be used to evaluate the project and to connect it to the history of public art.

This course will build upon previous public art courses taught from 1999—2005 at Gallatin, which included public art projects at IS296, PS142, Brooklyn Firehouse 229, Soho Digital Projection Initiative, digital projections in Central Park, and a submission to the World Trade Center Memorial Design Competition.
Coursework will consist of artmaking, readings, several short-length papers, and contributions to the collaborative art project. High priority is placed upon quality of completed assignments, participation in class, close reading of materials, and original thoughts in writing.

**Required Assignments:**
- Readings
- Written assessments of public art works
- Participation in design and creation of community mural project
- Final research project and presentation

**Grading**
Grades will be evaluated by:
- Attendance, full participation in class, and completion of assignments (50%)
- Contributions to mural project (25%)
- Quality of final research project (25%)

**Academic Integrity**
As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website (http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html)

**CALENDAR**

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<th>September</th>
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<th>Welcome &amp; Introduction</th>
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<td>Core Issues in Public Art</td>
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<td>Case Study: Civic Virtue</td>
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<td>The Emergence of the Citizen Artist</td>
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<td>Contemporary artists in public venues</td>
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<td>Case Study: Lightness of Being</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Introduction of Mural Project</td>
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<td>Site Visit and guest speaker from Critical Massive</td>
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October
1 Collaborative Mural Project
   Neighborhood Assessment and Thematic Concepts
8 Collaborative Mural Project
   Design
15 Fall Recess—no Class
22 Collaborative Mural Project
   Design
29 Collaborative Mural Project
   Painting

November
5 Collaborative Mural Project
   Painting
12 Art and Activism
   Case Study: Creative Time
19 Spatial Politics
   Case Study: Union Square
26 Thanksgiving—no class

December
3 Final Presentations
10 Final Presentations