ART 591: GALLERY EXHIBITION DESIGN

Semester: Fall 2016
Schedule Number: 20185
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 to 3:10 p.m.
Location: Art South 473
Instructor: Professor Tina Yapelli
Office: Art North 420
E-mail: tyapelli@mail.sdsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Off Campus: SDSU Downtown Gallery
725 West Broadway @ Kettner, San Diego, 92101
619.501.6370
Gallery Hours: Thursday through Monday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Course Description, per SDSU General Catalog
Fundamental art elements and principles applied to the theories and techniques of gallery exhibition design.

Purpose and Scope
Art 591 is an upper-division elective that provides seniors and graduate students an opportunity for theoretical and hands-on experience in the process of curating, designing, and installing exhibitions. Through illustrated lectures and visits to museums and galleries in the San Diego region, the course also offers students exposure to various examples of curatorial practice, exhibition design and installation, and viewer experience. In addition, it allows students to be involved in the presentation of adjunct educational programming and special events on campus and at the SDSU Downtown Gallery.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, students will: 1) understand the curatorial process, 2) be able to develop a checklist of artworks for a thematic exhibition, 3) comprehend the role of exhibition design in promoting the appreciation and enjoyment of artworks and other objects of material culture, 4) be able to design a floor plan and construct a scale model for an exhibition, 5) be able to author curatorial and design statements, 6) know best practices for handling art and artifacts, 6) know best practices for composing and installing gallery graphics and didactic information, 7) be able to analyze, through written critique and audiovisual presentation, the efficacy of exhibitions.
Attendance and Etiquette
Attendance is vital at each class meeting. Arrive on time and stay for the entire session. No late assignments will be accepted. Electronic devices are allowed for research and note-taking at the discretion of the instructor. No phone calls or texting are allowed at any time. In case of emergency, notify the instructor. Music will be allowed during working sessions at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Documents
All instructor-provided course documents will be available on Blackboard. Please consult the site for class announcements.

Course Requirements

1. **Class Attendance:** 5 hours per week; Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 3:10 p.m. (includes ten-minute break)

2. **Installation Assistance:** Thursday, November 10 and Tuesday, November 15, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. (shorter session, no break)

3. **Assistance at Receptions:** SDSU Downtown Gallery; Thursday, September 15 and Thursday, November 17 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in lieu of the respective Thursday class meetings

4. **Attendance at Artist Gallery Talk:** SDSU Downtown Gallery; Friday, December 2 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. in lieu of Thursday class meeting on October 13

5. **Attendance at Artist Lecture:** Storm Hall West 011; Friday, December 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in lieu of Thursday class meeting on November 22

6. **Two Museum/Gallery Written Critiques**
   Each museum/gallery written critique will consist of a three-page, typed (double-spaced) paper discussing installation design, traffic flow, color, lighting, didactic information, interpretive programs, title wall graphics, organization of objects, general success/failure of the installation. A class discussion of the museum/gallery visit also will take place.

7. **Museum/Gallery PowerPoint Presentation**
   A PowerPoint presentation on an exhibition installation at an area museum, discussing the topics included in the museum/gallery critiques above.

8. **Four Field Trips to Regional Museums and Galleries and Four Written Reports**
   Field trips will occur on Thursdays September 1, September 29, October 27 and December 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. A two-page, typed (double-spaced) report will summarize each field trip.
9. **Final Project: “Experience Movement” Exhibition**

http://commonexperience.sdsu.edu/dus/commonexperience/

A theoretical exhibition will be conceived, curated and designed, and a scale model will be constructed to represent the exhibition. The exhibition will be based on the SDSU Common Experience theme “Experience Movement.” The exhibition may explore conceptual and/or formal sub-themes. For example, sub-themes may include conceptual concerns, such as:

- societal, cultural, political, or economic paradigm shifts known as “movements”
- human migration patterns
- physical phenomena found in the natural environment, cellular biology, or physics

and/or formal concerns, such as:

- implied movement as conveyed through the elements and principles of art and design
- actual movement as conveyed through kinetic art objects
- illusive movement as conveyed through a rapidly changing sequence of still images (film or video).

The exhibition can be a traditional art and/or design exhibition, or a scientific-based exhibition that is more didactic than expressive.

Scaled representations of the curated objects (artworks or artifacts) will be presented in a model (scale: 1/2" = 1’) based on the dimensions of the San Diego State University Downtown Gallery and designed specifically for their installation. The exhibition must include three-dimensional objects (requiring the use of pedestals, cases or platforms). The design of the model should include consideration of traffic flow, visual accessibility of objects, wall color (may not be only white), organization of objects and wall graphics.

The model will be accompanied by an exhibition booklet that includes a curatorial statement (one-page minimum) explaining the theme(s) of the exhibition, a design statement (one-page minimum) explaining the exhibition design concepts, short biographies (one-paragraph minimum each) of the artists/designers/communities whose objects are included, illustrations of the objects (photocopies or downloaded images), and a checklist of the objects (artist, title, date, media, dimensions).

The model (with scaled representations of the objects) and exhibition booklet will be presented and discussed in a class critique.
Grading Policy

Grades for Undergraduate Students, per the SDSU General Catalog

A = outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment
B = praiseworthy performance; definitely above average
C = average; awarded for satisfactory performance; the most common undergraduate grade
D = minimally passing; less than the typical undergraduate achievement
F = failing

Grades for Graduate Students, per the SDSU General Catalog

A = outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment
B = average; awarded for satisfactory performance
C = minimally passing
D = unacceptable for graduate work; course must be repeated
F = failing

Plus-Minus Grading, per the SDSU General Catalog

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
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Grades will be based on the following:

10% = Attendance; participation in class discussion and critiques of student work

20% = Four field trips and four written reports (5% per field trip and report)

10% = Exhibition preparation and event assistance (six off-campus meetings in lieu of classroom meetings):

Exhibition preparation may include unpacking, handling, installing and repacking artwork; lighting; and fabricating and applying labels and gallery graphics. Event assistance may include opening receptions, gallery talks and artist lectures.

10% = Museum/gallery written critique #1

10% = Museum/gallery written critique #2

10% = Museum/gallery PowerPoint presentation

30% = Final project and its presentation
Cheating and Plagiarism, per the SDSU *General Catalog*
Neither cheating nor plagiarism will be tolerated and will result in failure of the course and reporting to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. According to the “University Policies” section of the *General Catalog*: “Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work by the use of dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means.” Also according to the *General Catalog*: “Plagiarism is defined as the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the university as one’s own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source.” Examples of cheating and plagiarism, and more information on SDSU policy, including disciplinary action, can be found at [http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/cheating-plagiarism.aspx](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/srr/cheating-plagiarism.aspx)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services (contact information below). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Student Disability Services**
Web: [http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/contactinfo.aspx](http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/sds/contactinfo.aspx)

Office: **Calpulli Center**, Suite 3101 (third floor)
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 619.594.6473
Email: [sdsinfo@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:sdsinfo@mail.sdsu.edu)