

Fall 2022 Global Asias Art and Visual Cultures 21:082:281:01

Thursdays 2:30-5:20 p.m.

110 Warren St, Room 403

Final Presentation: Due December 8th, in class

Final Reflection Paper: Due December 8th, midnight

Instructor: Alexandra Chang

Contact: alexa.chang@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday (via Zoom) and Fridays, by appointment between 10am-Noon. Email: alexa.chang@rutgers.edu

Course Description

Students will be introduced to the concept of Global Asias and the different framings of Asian diasporic and transnational art histories. The course will explore artists and movements based in the local New York/New Jersey region that interconnect to global circulations, theory, art practices, and other contexts. The class will learn about Asian American Art movements and Asian American artists in particular during the midcentury. We will study modern art in the US and internationally and examine why Asian American artists during this time period are missing from the mainstream canon.

The course will incorporate arts writing practice and curation. Students will gain experience with curation through their participation on a collaborative exhibition project at Rutgers University-Newark's Dana Library with the Nori Morimoto collection. The class will also visit the Zimmerli Art Museum to view the work of midcentury Asian American artists in their collection. The course can be taken by those who have little to no background in art history.

Goals of the course:

Core Curriculum Learning Goals:

- **Students will understand and use methods and forms of inquiry specific to the discipline of Art History**

We will look at art theory and practice and experience hands on through curating an exhibition as well as reading and analyzing texts and artworks by and about artists. This engagement will include thinking through the artwork, practices, and art historical narrative through historical context, art theory, and issues concerning the artists and their work.

We will use methods of art historical analysis, contextualization, and narrative curation through art historic discourse/texts, oral histories, and archival research and study and will work on curating an exhibition with the Nori Morimoto collection. Through this process students will gain experience with writing, curating, and experiencing important methods and multiple forms

of inquiry that will culminate with an oral peer-to-peer conference-style presentation and final reflection paper.

• **Students will be able to read a variety of texts and cultural artifacts for meaning and informed analysis**

Students will engage in a range of readings in order to provide a background in Art History and Global Asias Art and Visual Cultures beginning with Asian American Art and expanding to practices globally in order to contextualize, analyze, and locate Global Asias theory and art practices in a regional framework with a focus on New Jersey and New York and its international context. They will learn, discuss, and employ analysis on current and intersectional issues and theory from framings of Global Asias framings in an art historical context through their readings, discussions, writing, and presentations. Students will engage in readings including art history texts to fiction to theory-based texts to online digital art historical modules and visual essays, and articles. They will also view and study slide/documentary/video imagery, and come into contact with cultural artifacts including artwork and artist's archives.

Art History Curriculum Learning Goals:

- Students will be able to apply Art Historical concepts and vocabulary.
- Students will be able to place art in historical, stylistic and cultural contexts.

Students will be tested on art historical concepts and vocabulary their presentation and writings. They will write short essays that engage on readings, classroom topic discussions, and preparation for their final projects. They will also be required to participate in classroom discussion on readings on artists and art and cultural theory, and think through how artists and their work are contextualized through various vantage points. Their final projects will involve the development of art historical narratives to present the work of artists in relation to their work, lives, practice, and larger theoretical framings and historical contexts.

Readings:

All readings are listed within the syllabus as weekly assigned readings. You will not be required to purchase any books. Readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

Classes:

Each class day will differ, ranging from working in group settings on projects, learning about curatorial and narrative-making practices, and researching artists and learning about artworks and art histories of artists. You will participate in classroom discussions on our readings.

Homework and Classwork: You will be expected to do homework and classwork for each class. You will work together on a collaborative class project, which will be an exhibition. You will write a journal reflection about your readings and experiences in class. These are not graded, but will count as being complete/incomplete toward your grade.

Final Reflection paper and presentation:

The Final Reflection Paper will be 5-6 double-spaced pages at 12 point font. The final Reflection Paper will require the student to think about a specific aspect of our exhibition or readings and to comment on this deeply. Please use citations where necessary. Each student will also be required to give a presentation of five minutes at the end of the semester based on the final reflection paper.

Grade make up:

Your grade will be made up from attendance, the completion of your homework and classwork, including your participation with the exhibition as well as your final reflection paper and presentation of 5 minutes.

There will be no final exam.

Attendance: (20% of grade) Your presence in class important to the successful completion of this course. During class, we will discuss material that is both covered and not covered in your readings. In addition, the work with and interaction with your peers is extremely important aspect of this class. If you need to be absent from class, make sure to let me know, and preferably in advance if possible.

Homework and Classwork: (40% of grade) You are expected to complete all homework and classwork. Please contact me if you are absent from class.

Final Reflection Paper and Presentation: (40% of grade) This is an individual grade on your paper and a five minute presentation about it.

Office Hours: Please email me with any questions that may come up or if you would like to meet to speak and we will find a mutual time to either have an in-person or Zoom meeting. Office hours are Wednesday (via Zoom) and Friday from 10am-Noon. Please email me to set an appointment at: alexa.chang@rutgers.edu.

Week I — Sept 8: Class Overview / Asian American Art

We will begin class by going through the syllabus for the semester and introductions.

We will review signing into Canvas. All our homework assignments will be uploaded there and your Final Reflection Paper will also be uploaded via Canvas.

Please have a piece of paper and a writing instrument or computer for typing ready for class for a beginning writing activity.

We discuss the terminologies of Global, International, Hemispheric, Diaspora, among them in relation to the concept of Asias. We will focus on Asian American art, the terminology and the

Asian American art movement in the U.S. We will also view some objects from the Nori Morimoto Collection with which we will work during this semester.

Optional further reading: *Envisioning Diaspora: Asian American Visual Arts Collectives From Godzilla, Godzookie to the Barnstormers*. Foreword and Chapters 1-3 p. xvi-87.

“The West and the Tropics of Area Studies” by Naoki Sakai in *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*. Guest editors Ana Paulina Lee and Anna Kazumi Stahl, New York University and Concordia University. Vol 2, Issues 1-2, Spring 2016.

Week 2 — Sept 15: Kuniyoshi, Noguchi and the Morimoto Collection

This week we will go over the artwork and lives of Yasuhiro Kuniyoshi, Isamu Noguchi and the Nori Morimoto collection.

We will discuss ideas for the exhibition and speak with Risa Morimoto, the daughter of Nori Morimoto.

We will take a close look at the Morimoto collection with which we will work on an exhibition for Dana Library.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week’s activities and readings.

Readings:

Isamu Noguchi’s Modernism: Negotiating Race, Labor, and Nation, 1930-1950. by Amy Lyford. P. 160-201.

“The Tip of the Iceberg: Early Asian American Artists in New York” in *Asian American Art: A History, 1850-1970*. by Tom Wolf. P. 82-109.

Review the exhibition website for *The Artistic Journey of Yasuo Kuniyoshi*

<https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/kuniyoshi>

Read the essay by co-curator Joann Moser:

<https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/kuniyoshi/online/essay>

Week 3 — Sept 22 — The Politics of Bauhaus and Abstract Expressionism Meet at Dana Library, 4th Floor

We will view the objects of the Nori Morimoto Collection for the exhibition. We will map out the floor plan and think about possible narrative and curatorial design ideas.

We will discuss our readings.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week's activities and readings.

Readings:

Women Designers at the Bauhaus. by Marisa Vadillo. p.11-24 and p.33-44.

Modern Art in the USA: Issues and Controversies of the 20th Century. by Patricia Hills. p. 129-150.

"Tactile Sensibility" in *Annie Albers On Weaving*, New Expanded Edition. p. 44-52.

Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa. by Marilyn Chase. p.69-108.

**Optional event: Sawyer Seminar — Sept 28 —
Responding to Anti-Asian Hate: Politics, Organizing, and Education**

10am-4:30pm Program via link below

<https://sawyerseminar.rutgers.edu/event/responding-to-anti-asian-hate-politics-organizing-and-education/>

Attend the Sawyer Seminar for extra credit of 1 point toward your final grade. Turn in a 150-word reflection on the panel or talk you attended.

**Week 4 — September 29 — The Norimoto Collection Exhibition Planning
Meet at Dana Library, 4th Floor**

We will visit Dana Library's 4th Floor to think about vitrine placement and materials we would like to use for the exhibition.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week's activities and readings.

Readings:

"An Interview with Artist Fred Wilson: Artist Fred Wilson and Mark A. Graham," *The Journal of Museum Education*, Vol. 32, No. 3, Place-Based Education and the Museum (Fall, 2007), p. 211-219

“Mining the Museum,” Fred Wilson and Howard Halle. *Grand Street*, 1993, No. 44 (1993), p. 151-172

The Metabolic Museum by Clémentine Deliss Chapters: “Agency and Collections” (p. 63-67), “Models of Inquiry” (p. 68-73) and “Manifesto for Rights of Access to Colonial Collections Sequestered in Western Europe,” p. 114-119.

Week 5 — Oct 6 — Objects and Collections

Meet at Paul Robeson Galleries at Express Newark Workshop 2

Express Newark is located at 54 Halsey Street on the second floor of the Haynes Building. The Gallery workshop is located on the 2nd floor of Express Newark past the gallery in the back hall Through the double doors.

We will visit Paul Robeson Galleries to look at kate’s exhibition and have a workshop with kate-hers RHEE and conversation with Eleanor Hyun, curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry that includes at least two questions for artist kate-hers RHEE and Eleanor Hyun.

Readings:

Review the artist kate-hers RHEE’s website: <https://www.estherka.com/>

Review information about Eleanor Hyun:

<https://www.ahlfoundation.org/ahl-foundation-and-korean-cultural-center-new-york-start-their-online-public-lecture-series-2-2/>

Week 6 —Oct 13 — Class via Zoom — Exhibition Planning — Leo Amino

We will discuss the artist Leo Amino’s work.

Work collaboratively this week on Exhibition Planning design and didactics for vitrines. Didactics will be finalized and printed.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week’s activities and readings.

Readings:

Leo Amino Exhibition website:

<https://www.davidzwirner.com/exhibitions/2020/leo-amino-the-visible-and-the-invisible>

Week 7 — Oct 20 — Exhibition Install

Meet at Dana Library, 4th Floor

We will continue to work on our exhibitions together.

Week 8 — Oct 27 — Exhibition Install

Meet at Dana Library, 4th Floor

Begin to think about Exhibition's online presence together

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on what you would like to see in terms of an online presence for the exhibition. Also, think about ways in which you would like to present the exhibition to an audience as a docent/guide.

Week 9 — Nov 3 — Exhibition Online Presence

Begin to work on presence/description and images for the Nori Morimoto Exhibition.

Work together in groups to think about different ways to present the exhibition as a docent/guide.

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week's activities.

Practice your comment about the exhibition for the opening.

Week 10, Nov. 10 — Exhibition Opening — groups will talk about the exhibition

Homework:

Journal Entry — Go onto Canvas and enter or upload a journal entry of approximately 250 words reflecting on this week's activities.

Week 11, Nov. 17 — Debrief on the Nori Morimoto Exhibition

Class Debrief on the Nori Morimoto Exhibition.

Review materials on Yasuo Kuniyoshi and the video of Tom Wolf's lecture.

Homework:

Draft Due of Final Class Reflection

Please pre-purchase tickets for NJ Transit for next week's visit to the Zimmerli Art Museum. You will be provided with the funds to purchase the tickets if you do not have an unlimited pass for NJ Transit.

View video: <https://americanart.si.edu/videos/reflections-artistic-journey-yasuo-kuniyoshi-art-historian-tom-wolf-153948>

Please note it is Thanksgiving Break on Nov. 24th, Thursday.

Week 12, Dec. 1 — Visit to Zimmerli Art Museum

Meet at Newark Penn Station NJ Transit Ticketing area/Lobby. We will travel together to the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

We will visit the museum with the Zimmerli curator Donna Gustafson and scholar Tom Wolf, Bard College.

Homework: You will receive your reflections back to work on to turn in for next class.

Readings: Review notes/material on Yasuo Kuniyoshi

Week 13, Dec. 8 — Final Reflection Presentations — Final Class Debrief

In class, the class will present 5-minute presentations of their final reflection papers. We will review our readings together and think about our class together.

Homework: Your Final Reflection Papers are due at midnight tonight.

Please note that this syllabus may change throughout the semester as it is meant to be a guideline that will be responsive to the class's needs and goals. The most up-to-date syllabus will be posted on Canvas.

Please turn off or set cellphones on silent and refrain from using during class.

Masks are required in classrooms. If you wish to take off your mask to drink or eat, please move out of the classroom to do so.

Academic Integrity: As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Accommodation and Support:

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu.
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <http://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harrassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. To submit an incident report: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **NOT** have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or run.vpva@rutgers.edu.

Learning Resources:

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847
nwc@rutgers.edu
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>