Environmental Portraiture

Overview

Photo-based work as site-specific or site-responsive project at the University of Guelph Conservatory/Greenhouse. This project will be developed through site visits, research, and practice-based engagement. Students will select photographic materials, processes, and technologies to engage based on their individual interests and explore making work in relation to a specific site/location.

Research

Review the supplied course content and reference material available through the website www.ajourneythatwasnt.org; develop your own sources of reference; participate and engage with in-class discussions, demos/workshops, and work periods.

Supplies

Whatever you need and have access to. Consider your economy of means and how that may or may not affect artistic production. You have a material budget via your lab fees for the course. Access and arrange your supplies through Richelle to make use of this!

Method

- Re-visit, research, and explore ways to engage with the site. This may be on a spectrum of specificity. Meaning, you could literally make work at the site, or in varying degrees of distance from the site. What are some interesting aspects of this site physically, historically, culturally? How do you want to engage with the site and how will you bring your practice into conversation with it and other forms of practices engaged there? Further consider the implications and possibilities of working in spaces outside the studio, or conversely bringing references from specific sites and places back into the studio. There are innumerable references to be worked with in relation to this site that relate to its specificity, for example: greenhouses & architecture; plants, biology & agriculture; materials & objects; atmosphere & environment; etc.
- Experiment! Take Risks! It is helpful to start with a frame of reference, idea, subject matter, departure point, and/or general concept, as otherwise the possibilities become endless. Consider display strategies and various ways to present your work.
- Present in process work for IP Crit, and final work for Critique. Use the "Crit Sheet" (last page of this PDF) as a guide to prepare for critiques.

Submit

In process work for the IP Crit.

A final work for this assignment. There are no uniform material constraints as this assignment prioritizes material, technological, and process engagements that are individually relevant to each of your practices. If any part of your work cannot be handed in due to size, installation considerations, etc., take images that document your project (could be a screen grab or links if digital) that you can submit via Course Link. Always submit a high-res tiff and lower res jpeg of your work for reference via Course Link in addition to the physical work. *

* Final edited digital image / scan / documentation of work TIFFs (2500-3000 pixels longest side)
JPEGs (1500 pixels longest side)

[do not resize/upscale files if they are smaller]

Evaluation

Assignments will be graded on visualization of intent, the level of conceptual development, thoroughness in commitment/ambition, originality, demonstrated level of technical skill, and on self-critique as reflection of the production process. Active and engaged participation throughout the course (in-class, course content & reference materials, website, etc.).

10% In Process Crit #1 (Feb 14) 20% Assignment #1 Crit (Mar 2)

Ambition and Risk-Taking Rewarded!

Name:
Assignment:

Crit Sheet

Type out your answers and have this sheet on hand during your IP and Assignment Crits. An average critique sheet length is 1.5 - 2 pages, 11 or 12 point font, single-spaced.

- 1 What was your idea, concept, and/or frame of reference for this project?
- 2 What was your motivation to make this project? List any references.
- 3 What aspects of your project work well to support the concept?
- 4 What detracts from the concept?
- 5 How does your work engage scale?
- 6 What role does colour, composition, materials, and/or scale play in this work?
- 7 What are some presentation qualities of your work that you considered?
- 8 What areas of your project would benefit from more work?
- 9 What did you learn in the process of making this work? Any notable experiences?
- 10 Rate your commitment to this project (1=Low 10=High). Explain