

## Special Topics

### Fall 2022

**ART 327 *Useful Art***, Professor Jess Perlitz

This course explores various ways art might intentionally serve a purpose and be useful. Through exploring historical and contemporary examples, alongside reading, writing, talking, and making art, we will explore what it means to ask art to do something. In her manifesto on useful art, the artist Tania Bruguera states, “Arte Útil moves beyond a propositional format, into one that actively creates, develops and implements new functionalities to benefit society at large.” She wants art to function like a tool. We will consider her proposition, amongst others, and explore various functionalities, contexts, and audiences, ultimately coming to our own individual conclusions on how and why we want the art we make to respond and shape our contemporary landscape. To explore our questions about useful art, the course is organized around three themes: symbolic production, social utility, ideological insertion.

### Spring 2023

**ART 327 *Sound Art***, Professor Dann Disciglio

This course explores sound as a medium of art-making with a rich history and radical potential within contemporary culture. Techniques covered will include non-musical scores, field recording, basic computer-based audio manipulation, and building lo-fi electronics for experimental sound synthesis. Accompanying readings draw from acoustic ecology, critical sound studies, afro-futurism, and media theory to contextualize collective exploration. Students will be expected to create studio-based art for critique. No musical experience is required.