

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 will introduce students to sound through a materialist lens, i.e., as a physical medium for creating contemporary artworks. In addition to discussing basic concepts of synthesis and composition, participants will explore a number of non-musical approaches to implementing sound in a creative practice, such as field recording, hardware hacking, and installation. Various artists and art movements significant to the field will be introduced so as to identify the emergence of sound art within a larger contemporary context. No musical experience is necessary.