

**Course Title:**

City as Studio : A Research-Driven Studio Intensive in NYC

All Studio Majors

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Length: 2 weeks

Dates: 6/10/26 - 6/23/26

Credit Hours: 3

**Course Description:**

Exploration and investigation are foundational to an inspired studio practice. During this two-week summer intensive, students will fill their minds, sketchbooks and photo streams with the vibrant culture of New York City. Visiting a range of leading museums, galleries and studios, as well as public spaces and neighborhoods, students will gain exposure to the deep and broad reservoirs of global culture found in this world capital city. The rich research material students collect in this program will provide an ongoing source of nourishment and inspiration for their art practice and galvanize new modes of conceptual and material making.

With over 200 languages spoken and three million foreign-born residents, New York City is the most culturally diverse city in the world. The city has over 100 museums and 1,400 galleries, is a hub for modern dance and fashion and is the birthplace of many cultural movements, including the Harlem Renaissance; abstract expressionism; hip hop, punk, salsa, freestyle, pop art, and conceptual art. Artists have always been drawn to the city, and New York is the center of the global art market.

This course provides an important balance to student's increasingly mediated exposure to art and design through direct exposure to a melting pot of culture and the actual physical artworks they regularly study in art history courses, peruse on social media and save to their Pinterest boards. Cutting edge contemporary artwork at the Whitney Biennial, MOMA PS1 and Chelsea art galleries, design on display at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, public art on the High Line and the vibrant street life, cafes and boutiques of Brooklyn are all on the menu for this immersive around the clock experience.

Prior to departure for the trip, students will be asked to identify areas of research related to their practice and determine a mode of note taking, documentation and making that will be suitable for travel. Whether working in lens based media, drawing, or working digitally, students will create a body of reference material that will inform their practice for years to come.

The summer intensive will involve tours of various neighborhoods and group visits to contemporary art galleries and museums including the Whitney (Biennial), MoMA, MoMA PS1, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, the New Museum, El Museo del Barrio, the Studio Museum Harlem and the Dia Art Foundation. Faculty will provide a list of recommendations for independent visits including the Leslie Lohman Museum, The Frick, Brooklyn Museum, The Museum of Natural History, Film Forum, the Noguchi Museum, Ellis Island and more.

## **Itinerary**

The New York summer intensive will include pre-departure class meetings to discuss methods of studio based research and strategies for making the best use of student time in New York.

The class will take place in New York City for two weeks in June. Weekdays from 9am - 6pm students will participate in programmed group explorations of a variety of cultural institutions and neighborhoods. On weekends students will pursue their own customized agendas, guided by faculty suggestions, ranging from researching the ecological impacts of native plantings in city parks, to studying the power of art to express LGBTQIA+ experiences at the Leslie Lohman Museum to shooting a photo essay on the subway to Coney Island.

Daily walking tours will be built around neighborhoods, public spaces and cultural venues such as The High Line, Harlem, Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Williamsburg, Chinatown, and the Lower East Side.

## **Required and Recommended Materials and Equipment**

Most art materials are available in New York City. Any rare or specialized tools or materials particular to the student's studio practice should be brought from home. If a student plans to work digitally or with lens-based or audio media, it is recommended that they bring such equipment with them. This type of equipment can be purchased in New York but it would be best to be prepared to work starting day one. It is also recommended that students purchase their own individual hard drive or flash memory to ensure needed space and desired level of protection of their work.

## **Student Learning Outcomes and Grading Criteria**

Students will learn to:

1. Identify areas of research related to their studio practice.
2. Select an appropriate method for recording and documenting their research, taking into account the demands of travel.
3. Produce a collection of reference materials that will inform their practice for months and years to come. This body of work will serve as a source of inspiration and guidance in their future work and help them gain a deeper understanding of how research can inform and enhance their creative practice.
4. Develop their skills in a variety of self identified media.
5. Navigate and map their way through a major metropolitan city and move closer toward becoming global citizens as they experience a range of mission-driven cultural organizations.
6. Deepen students' understanding of the intellectual and technical tasks of curating contemporary art exhibitions. Students interested in curatorial practice will investigate a range of exhibitions and venues. Research and readings will invite an exploration of the history of global contemporary art exhibitions while they learn about the institutions and present-day practices of exhibition making through site visits and meetings with museum professionals, including curators, exhibit designers, gallerists and artists.

Participation in curricular programming will be very important. Student engagement and work completed will be assessed over the duration of the course instead of grading projects individually. Students will have one-on-one meetings with the instructor during class times, as well as group conversation opportunities. Students will upload documentation of all research work to be considered for final grading to a shared google folder.

Student achievement will be assessed based on the following criteria.

Participation (50% of overall grade)

- Thoughtful, purposeful engagement with all group visits and tours, material, information, and processes presented in the coursework.
- Gain a greater awareness of individual studio practice as it relates to various cultural engagements in New York City.
- Engage with classmates and the community in a professional, respectful, manner.
- Design and execution of self directed research goals.
- Active participation in group discussions and projects.
- Students are expected to be present and actively engaged during class time.

Studio Research (40% of overall grade)

- Identify and research relevant artists, techniques, art movements, social movements, environmental issues, cultural institutions, historical events or other related aspects of the program that are important to one's individual studio practice.
- Depth and consistency of self-directed research.
- Following up on relevant suggestions and studio conversations in pursuit of creative solutions.
- Ability to make connections between materials, processes, and concepts through independent research.
- Continued, consistent effort and engagement in all aspects of the coursework.
- Continued growth and development (both conceptual and physical) of projects over the course of the term.
- Open-mindedness and thoroughness of studio investigation.
- Quality and care of presentation of work.

Critical Skills (10% of overall grade)

- Ability to generate creative, compelling projects and ideas
- Ability to discuss the formal, conceptual, and aesthetic qualities of artworks.
- Active and thoughtful contributions to class discussions and activities.
- Synthesize information into source material for current or future projects.
- Utilization of this unique opportunity to learn about culture, place, and materials as source material for work in an appropriate and ethical manner.

Participation and attendance are expected. They are not assigned a point value, but will impact your final grade. Students who are marked present in our course are ACTIVELY ENGAGED and on task.

Attitude and effort speak volumes.

## Grading and Assessments

Letter Grade	Percent Value	4.0
A	93-100	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	2.7
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	65-66	1.0
F	Below 65	0.0

Due to the compressed nature of this course, students are encouraged to keep a planner for deadlines that pertain to their individual goals. Planning, preparation, and communication is key.

### Methods of Assessment

Students will have one-on-one meetings with the instructors during class times, as well as group conversation opportunities. Assignments, deadlines, and class material presented by the instructors count toward your overall final grade in the course. All work documentation will be submitted via a shared google folder.

### KCAI Institutional Attendance Guidance

The course instructor determines attendance policies. Instructors are required to report absences in their [MyKCAI portal](#) within 48 hours of the class meeting.

KCAI values our student's health and wellness, which is why each course allows a specified number and/or percentage of total absences before the absences impact the final course grade. In the instance that you will not be able to attend a class or course activity, please reach out to the instructor. Faculty and staff across the campus are here to help support you in your academic career. However, it is your responsibility to manage your absences and ask for the help that you need throughout the semester to ensure your success. You can access various helpful on-campus and telemedicine resources through the MyKCAI portal at [https://mykcai.kcai.edu/ICS/Student\\_Services/](https://mykcai.kcai.edu/ICS/Student_Services/)

If you are unable to attend class due to an illness, notify your instructors prior to missing class.

If you are unable to attend due to a chronic illness or injury, follow the policy/procedures outlined in KCAI's Disclosure of Disability and Student Accommodation Process, located on [MyKCAI/Campus Policies](#).

Please refer below for information regarding important campus policies. All of these and other campus policies can be found on the MyKCAI portal at [MyKCAI/Campus Policies](#).

*Click the linked headings below for complete policy information:*

- [Attendance of First Day of Class Policy:](#) Attendance at the first class meeting of the semester is mandatory for all students. If a student fails to attend the first class meeting of the semester without receiving permission from the instructor in advance of

the first class, the student's enrollment in the class will be forfeited so that the first student on the waitlist for the class may be enrolled. Once the Registrar has been notified of the absence, the student will be dropped from the class, and the first student on the waitlist will be notified by the Registrar that they are being enrolled in the class. Students on the waitlist are not allowed to attend class until receiving notification of their enrollment from the Registrar.

- [Disclosure of Disability and Student Accommodation Policy:](#) KCAI students with disabilities are invited to disclose any disabilities they may have, but such disclosure is not mandatory. Once documentation of a disability is received, students are provided with reasonable accommodations, which are designed to provide equal access to the material and environment of the classes that the students are enrolled in. Unlike the services that are available to the student body in its entirety, accommodations are mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the

Rehabilitation Act and are dependent on appropriate documentation. Students are encouraged to notify the Assistant Director of Student Support [disabilityservices@kcai.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@kcai.edu) if accommodations are requested. To request accommodations, please fill out the request form on MyKCAI ([https://mykcai.kcai.edu/ICS/Student\\_Services/Disability\\_Services.jnz](https://mykcai.kcai.edu/ICS/Student_Services/Disability_Services.jnz)). Disability Services is located on the second floor of DeBruce Hall.

- [Preserving the Sanctity of the Classroom/Studio:](#) Class lectures, discussions, and materials (including but not limited to PDFs, videos, exams, and assignments) that teachers post/upload on Google Classroom may not be recorded, reproduced, or shared. The only students permitted to record class activity, and pre-recorded lectures are students who have been approved for academic accommodations through KCAI's Disability Services ([disabilityservices@kcai.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@kcai.edu)). Refusal to adhere to these conditions may violate the [Student Code of Conduct/Academic Honesty Policy](#).

- [Academic Honesty Policy:](#) The Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI) is committed to creating and maintaining an environment where individual and institutional responsibility combines to promote each student's development. Students are encouraged to help create an environment that stimulates their education and is consistent with the values of the college. With that freedom comes a responsibility to respect others. All individuals at KCAI are considered adults, and it is assumed they will maintain standards of conduct and academic honesty appropriate to membership in the college community. The college accepts and retains students on the condition that they observe these standards.

- [Sexual Harassment and Title IX Policy:](#) Kansas City Art Institute prohibits Sexual Harassment (including quid pro quo, hostile environment, sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking) that occurs within its educational programs and activities. Sexual misconduct that falls outside the jurisdiction of KCAI's Sexual Harassment Title IX policy may be a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

- [Discrimination and Harassment \(Related to Protected Classes\) Policy :](#) KCAI is committed to a campus environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, and where each individual has the right to a positive atmosphere that promotes equal opportunity. The Kansas City Art Institute prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, gender, gender identity, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, parental status, genetic information, citizenship status, veteran status, or any other characteristic prohibited by federal, state or local law.

- [Mandatory Reporting:](#) KCAI is committed to preserving a safe and welcoming educational environment for all students. As part of this effort, all KCAI faculty, staff, and Resident Assistants are Campus Safety Authorities/CSAs and have an obligation to report certain issues relating to the health, safety, and well-being of campus community members. Faculty and staff must report alleged violations, including but not limited to, Sexual Harassment (Title IX), Discrimination and Harassment, Student Code of Conduct, and Clery reportable crimes (sex crimes, serious persons crimes, burglary, auto thefts, and/or arson). Reports should be made to the Director of Safety and Security, Vice President and Dean of Students, or Associate Vice President of Student Affairs.

- [Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Conditions Policy](#)

- **Freedom of Expression:** Our rich institutional heritage challenges us to engage in and provide leadership for addressing the critical social and political issues of our time. The College is committed to the ideal of free and open inquiry in all matters, as freedom of expression allows us to continually strive to better society and to address injustices. Freedom of expression is invaluable to the institution because it brings together multiple opinions, allows them to coalesce and/or clash, and opens them to the community's reflections, analyses, and critiques.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. We have obligations to protect the dignity and security of all members of the College community from those who would seek to use speech primarily to deprive others of their freedom to learn, their freedom to contribute, and their freedom to participate in our community. Thus, the College may seek to restrict expression that: 1) violates state or federal law; 2) constitutes slander, threats, or harassment; 3) unreasonably invades individual privacy or violates confidentiality interests; or, 4) is directly incompatible with the functioning of the College.