



HDK-VALAND - ACADEMY OF ART AND DESIGN

VBKHAP How to Make a Happening - On the Blurring of Art and Life, 7.5 credits

Hur man gör en happening - om sammansmältning av konst och liv, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Valand Academy on 2016-05-31 and was last revised on 2019-11-07 to be valid from 2019-11-17, spring semester of 2020.

Field of education: Fine Arts 100%

Department: HDK-Valand - Academy of Art and Design

Position in the educational system

The course is given as an elective course with in the below program courses.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) BFA Programme in Fine Art (K1FRI), 2) Master of Fine Arts Programme in Film (K2MAF), 3) Master of Fine Arts Programme in Photography (K2FOT), 4) Bachelor's Programme in Film Composition (K1FIG), 5) BFA Programme in Photography (K1FOT), 6) Master of Fine Arts programme in Fine Arts (K2FRI) and 7) Bachelor of Fine Arts Programme in Literary Composition (K1LIT)

Main field of studies

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Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- use the terms 'happening' and 'everyday life' to present ideas associated with these concepts based on the course themes
- explain the concept of a happening, its origins and its development up until today
- give examples of happenings, describing their characteristics and contexts
- discuss own experiment in the context of the concept of "happening"

Competence and skills

- plan, initiate and develop an art project based on an idea, or critique, of the happening as a format
- use activities, materials and other elements of everyday life as components of an artistic experiment

Judgement and approach

- explain the choice of activities and other elements in a happening in terms of artistic intention
- compare and critically discuss the student's own artistic work and that of other students in relation to the references and examples provided in the course

Course content

The course uses Allan Kaprow's lecture *How to Make a Happening* as the point of departure and handbook for testing and interpreting different happenings and the ideas concerning the fusion of art and life that the term relates to. Although the format 'happening' was not invented by Kaprow, his description of a performance piece on the verge of non-performance, in which the audience plays an active part, is of vital importance.

The course is primarily practical, but will also involve critical examination of how the happening as an art form and concept has developed from the late 1950s until the present. We will also examine ideas regarding the theatricality of everyday life within sociology and anthropology. During the course, we explore questions such as: What means can be used to stage a situation? What is and does an audience do? How do happenings relate to painting, sculpture, film, theater, etc?

We will review and test a number of happening-related artworks, and do experiments with materials as well as more performance-based actions in order to explore how material-based experiments are related to a "happening"?

Form of teaching

The teaching consists of workshops, seminars and project work. The course's core element consists of a series of collectively organized happenings. We will recreate previously performed happenings and try new forms through workshops. The course will also include an introductory lecture and a number of seminars where we look at documentation of happenings, read and discuss texts that affect the subject in different ways.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

Assessment

The learning outcomes are assessed by:

orally in examining seminars;
group project work.

In case of absence, seminars are examined by written assignments. In special cases alternative accounting methods can be discussed and decided by the responsible teacher.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Course evaluation

Students participate in an oral evaluation of the course. They are also asked to complete an anonymous online evaluation. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.

Additional information

The student will pay any costs incurred for completing the courses project work.