**Course Title:** Advanced Projects in Visual Arts – Artistic Research: From Bauhaus to Our House

**Course Description:**
This class explores the legacy of the German Bauhaus Movement and its relation to contemporary artistic practice and research, including how it intersects with the history of the arts at MIT. The 150th Anniversary this year of MIT is an apt moment to explore this rich history.

The Bauhaus Movement established a new pedagogy combining education in architecture, art and crafts, and spatial experiments, with new media such as photography and film. They were impelled by the idea that good design should be the province of everyone – not just the elite. The legacy of the Bauhaus Movement is also reflected in educational institutions in the U.S., such as Chicago’s New Bauhaus and Institute of Design, and the Black Mountain College in North Carolina, all established by Bauhaus faculty who fled Nazi Germany.

AT MIT, the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) also had its roots in the German Bauhaus Movement, The Hungarian artist György Kepes, a close collaborator of Bauhaus professor László Moholy-Nagy, founded the CAVS and applied the Bauhaus philosophy to his pedagogy at MIT. Kepes was also interested in the social role of the artist and argued for art on a civic scale. The German artist Otto Piene, a member of the Zero Group, succeeded Kepes as Director of the CAVS. During his tenure Piene focused on the collaboration between artists, scientists, and engineers, as exemplified by his “Sky Art” project.

This class explores the CAVS Archive containing a record of 40 years of artistic investigation and transdisciplinary collaborations. We examine questions related to the documentation of artistic practice and also addresses notions of display and dissemination. Student’s in class presentations and individual and collective assigned investigations will be reflected in video interviews with guests, a course blog and publication that we develop and edit together, and that will become part of ACT’s “Future Archive” project.

The CAVS merged with the MIT Visual Arts Program in 2009 to create the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT). ACT continues in the tradition of its predecessors, and we will examine some of the research being conducted today by the ACT faculty and fellows.

Recitation will be held Monday evenings from 7-9pm and will include the spring term Art, Culture and Technology lecture series titled **Collision 2 – When artistic and scientific research meet.**
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at both the Tuesday class and the Monday night lecture series is mandatory.

LAB FEE: A lab fee of $110 will be charged to your account on add date.

GRADING: Grading is based on: contribution to discussions (class and lecture series) 15%; attendance (class and lecture series) 10%; research assignments, including in class presentation and contribution to video interviews, blog and publication 40%; midterm presentation 15%, final presentation of contributions to external reviewers 20%.

COURSE SCHEDULE: NOTE: *denotes related ‘Crossroads’ Lecture Series (Optional Attendance)

WEEK 01)
Tues. 02/01 Class: (First Day of Class) Introduction in first half of class. At 11:40p, visit to CAVS archive and exhibition AR – Artistic Research in lobby of media lab complex (in the Wiesner building) with Alise Upitis, Public Art Curator of MIT’s List Visual Arts Center.

*Wed. 02/02 Lecture: 2:00p in E15-207: JAE RHIM LEE – Parallel / Peripheral: Working at the Intersection of Art and Other.
5:30p in E15-207: APOLONIJA ŠUŠTERŠIC.

*Thurs. 02/03 Lecture: 2:00p in E15-283A: SUNG HWAN KIM.

*Fri. 02/04 Lecture: 10:00a in E15-207: JEFF LIEBERMAN.

WEEK 02)
Tues. 02/08 Class: First half of class: TBD. Second half of class (11a-12:30p): Intro demo of video equipment for interviews, sound equipment and lightning in cube (lower atrium level, E15 Wiesner building) with Chris Clepper.


WEEK 03)
Mon. 02/14 Lecture: FLORIAN DOMBOIS – Luginsland (On Art as Research).
Luginsland (Belvedere) is an installation and a sound piece by Florian Dombois, winner of the 2010 German Sound Art Award. Dombois’ work focuses on landforms, labilities, seismic and tectonic activity, scientific and technical fictions, as well as their various representational and media formats. In his dissertation “What is an Earthquake?” Dombois undertook a comparison of historical, contemporary, artistic and scientific representations of earthquakes and developed the “Art as Research” method. In his talk, Dombois will also introduce the international “Journal for Artistic Research” and give a short overview of activities and research projects going on at the institute Y – Institute for Interdisciplinarity at the Bern University of the Arts. Florian Dombois is the Head of Y-Research, and founder of the Y – Institute of Interdisciplinarity at the Bern University of the Arts, Bern, Switzerland.
**Tues. 02/15 Class:** Video interview and discussion about artists who engage in research, and collaborate across disciplines with special guest Florian Dombois, who studied geophysics and philosophy in Berlin, Kiel and Hawaii, and wrote his PhD in Amsterdam and Berlin. After that, he has developed a concept of “Art as Research” to extend scientific modes of expression. Blog structure.

**WEEK 04)**  
**Mon. 02/21 Lecture:** *(President’s Day – No Classes)*

**Tues. 02/22 Class:** Demo of video editing suite in the Cube and the IEL with ACT media assistant Chris Clepper.

**WEEK 05)**  
**Mon. 02/28 Lecture:** GUILLERMO FAIVOVIICH & NICOLÁS GOLDBERG – A Guide to Campo del Cielo  
In 2006, Guillermo Faivovich and Nicolás Goldberg began working on A Guide to Campo del Cielo, a project that revolves around researching the cultural impact of the Campo del Cielo meteorites by studying, reconstructing, and reinterpreting their visual, oral, and written history, aiming to identify it’s historical and contemporary problematics. In 2007, they conceived a 3D stamp depicting the 37-ton El Chaco, second largest meteorite on Earth, which was issued by Argentina’s Postal Service. In 2010, their exhibition Meteorit „El Taco“ was held at Portikus, Frankfurt, brought together the two halves of the El Taco meteorite after almost 45 years of being apart between the US and Argentina. That project involved a collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina. The book The Campo del Cielo Meteorites – Vol 1: El Taco is produced by dOCUMENTA (13) and the project will culminate in an exhibit at the 2012 dOCUMENTA (13). Their artistic research methods involve bibliographical inquiry, archival research, oral history and scientific investigations. Faivovich and Goldberg live and work in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Tues. 03/01 Class:** TBD.

**WEEK 06)**  
**Mon. 03/07 Lecture:** LAURENT GRASSO – TBD.

**Tues. 03/08 Class:** TBD.

**WEEK 07)**  
**Mon. 03/14 Lecture:** JAE RHIM LEE– Parallel / Peripheral: Working at the Intersection of Art and Other. Lee's current work, the Infinity Burial Project, proposes alternatives for the post-mortem body and features the training of a unique strain of an edible mushroom to decompose and remediate toxins in human tissue. Jae Rhim Lee’s work challenges the boundaries prescribed by society and culture between self and other by proposing unorthodox relationships for the mind/body/self, and the built and natural environment. As a Visiting Lecturer at the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) in 2008, Lee founded and directed the MIT FEMA Trailer Project. Lee has exhibited both nationally and internationally and she is a recent recipient of a Creative Capital Foundation Grant (2009), Institut fur Raumexperimente/Universitaet der Kunste Berlin Grant (2010), and the MAK Schindler Center Scholarship, Los Angeles. Lee is currently a Research Fellow in
the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology in Cambridge, MA.

**Tues. 03/15 Class:**  TBD.

**WEEK 08)**  *(Spring Break Vacation – No Classes)*

**WEEK 09)**

**Mon. 03/28 Lecture:**  RICARDO DOMINGUEZ, UCSD, who is a co-founder of The Electronic Disturbance Theater (EDT), a group who developed Virtual-Sit-In technologies in 1998.

**Tues. 03/29 Class:**  TBD.

**WEEK 10)**

**Mon. 04/04 Lecture:**  ATILLA CSÖRGÖ – Turning Out the Space.

Attila Csörgö’s work – Peeled Spaces, Platonic Geometry and Spaces – uses the language of geometry, physics and ‘low technology’ to describe and reconfigure spatial relationships between objects. The tools used to create these pieces include fruit peel, self-made cameras, and kinetic sculptures. His work finds cohesion in mathematical structures and geometry, which he defines as tools for spatial self-orientation. Csörgö’s work has been exhibited both in his native country Hungary, as well as internationally, in Europe and the United States. His projects are featured in the first AR – Artistic Research installation, until February 23, 2011, in the Media Lab Complex Lobby.

**Tues. 04/05 Class:**  TBD.

**WEEK 11)**

**Mon. 04/11 Lecture:**  TBD.

**Tues. 04/12 Class:**  TBD.

**WEEK 12)**  *(Patriots Day – No Classes on Monday or Tuesday)*

**WEEK 13)**

**Mon. 04/25 Lecture:**  TBD.

**Tues. 04/26 Class:**  TBD.

**WEEK 14)**

**Mon. 05/02 Lecture:**  set up for external reviews, run through blog and all presentations

**Tues. 05/03 Class:**  Final presentation with special guest critics.

**WEEK 15)**  *(Last Week of Classes)*

**Mon. 05/09 Lecture:**  finish of documentations, blog etc

**Tues. 05/10 Class:**  final internal round and discussion, class evaluation and grading session.
COURSE REFERENCES:

MIT Center for Advanced Visual Studies
http://cavs.mit.edu/

Bauhaus Archives, Berlin
http://www.bauhaus.de/
http://www.bauhaus.de/bauhausarchiv/index+M52087573ab0.html

Bauhaus Archives, Dessau

Bauhaus Archives, Weimar
http://bauhaus-online.de/en/klassik-stiftung-weimar
http://www.klassik-stiftung.de/index.php?id=516&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=807&cHash=2ca556ca08f0c0899653e687a6cea9a1

JAE RHIM LEE
http://www.jaerhimlee.com/

FLORIAN DOMBOIS
http://www.auditory-seismology.org/version2004/
http://www.hkb.bfh.ch/de/studium/fachbereiche/y/

GUILLERMO FAIVOVICH & NICOLÁS GOLDBERG
http://www.faivovich.info/

LAURENT GRASSO
http://www.skny.com/artists/laurent-grasso/

RICARDO DOMINGUEZ

ATILLA CSÖRGŐ
http://www.c3.hu/~acsorgo/angol/projektek_terkep2.html