

Course title: Photography and Botany Language of instruction: English Study year and semester: 2025 autumn					
Course coordinator(s) / lecturer(s): Judit Gellér geller.judit@g.mome.hu Anna Fabricius fabriciusanna1@gmail.com					
Level and Code: M-KF-E-301-FS-252601-14	Related curriculum: Photography MA	Recommended semester: 1-4	Credits: 5	Teaching hours: 48 Student workload: 36	
Related codes: M-KF-301-FS-252601-14	Type: lecture/ seminar/practice / <u>combined</u>	Is it open to sign-up as an elective? yes	Specific pre-conditions to sign-up as an elective: -		
Interlinkages: (prerequisites, parallel units)					
Aims and Principles: Plants are our partners in life on Earth. Depicting their beauty, examining their forms, monitoring their change, and collecting their benefits visually has a long history in photography. From a portrait of a flower to the landscape of the countryside, photography could tell us stories both in symbolic and scientific terms. The aim of the Photography and Botany course is for students to create new and innovative artworks with a reflection on human responsibility to our living planet, and have a strong focus on climate change. The indoor lectures will provide an insight into the wide aspects of botanical photography from historical examples to contemporary cases. After the lectures and discussions on the tasks, we are planning some field trips to botanical gardens and arboretums, and short hikes in the Budapest area.					
Intended learning outcomes (professional and transitive competencies): Knowledge: They understand the importance of analytical, critical, and historical thinking. Their knowledge is characterised by a broad spectrum of knowledge and a high level of literacy. Ability: Based on the experience gained during their studies, they are able to analyse, process, and manage basic knowledge, and to express their own opinions and critical approach within their own field of art (photography). They have the ability to collect and interpret relevant data for the development of their creative concept. Attitude: They think critically, looking for correlations of contexts. They strive to be informed. They persist with their found themes, understanding the role of time in becoming independent artists and authors Autonomy and responsibility: They research and develop their professional skills independently. Committed to learning and understanding the historical achievements of photography.					

Course content (topics and themes):

From Henry Fox Talbot to Mathieu Asselin, through Karl Blossfeldt, André Kertész, or Robert Mapplethorpe, plants were in focus from different approaches in photography and the visual arts. Nowadays, as the climate crisis increases, our attention must turn to combating extremes, changing our lifestyles, and breaking bad old habits. Photography is a powerful tool to bring changes and challenge our minds. The topics we'll deal with could expand and go individually but would be achievable as a group exhibition, a zine, or a seed of an archive.

Topics to be discussed:

- In the beginning
- Fences and trespasses
- Garden and landscape design
- Gaia and her sacred plants
- Anthropocene
- Artificial gardens
- Plants in the studio
- Green activism
- Guerilla gardening
- Garden of ...

Specificity of the learning process:

Teaching method: lectures and field trips

Schedule:

1. Lecture (at MOME)
2. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
3. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
4. Lecture (at MOME)
5. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
6. Student's presentations and discussions (at MOME)
7. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
8. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
9. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
10. Student's presentations and discussions (at MOME)
11. Field trip / outdoor activity (place will be discussed)
12. Student's presentations and discussions (at MOME)

Assessment: creative artwork that could fit in the collective's aim

Assignments: presentation

Assessment method: oral exam, presentation of the work created during the semester

Assessment criteria: class activity, attendance, final presentation

Calculation of grade: (weights of the achievements, assignments; ranges of rates or points)

50% class activity, attendance

50% elaboration and technical quality of the completed picture series, photo book, video, installation, etc.

Recommended readings:

Baatz, Willfried: Photography (Concise History), 1999

<https://archive.org/details/photography00baat/page/n5/mode/2up?view=theater>

Barbara Abbs, Tim Richardson: The Garden Book, Phaidon, 2005

Ian Jeffrey: The Photography Book, Phaidon, 2000

Further readings, documents, sources:

Laurie Cluitmans (Ed.) On the Necessity of Gardening: An ABC of Art, Botany and Cultivation, 2021

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Kostas Stasinopoulos: 140 Artists' Ideas for Planet Earth, Penguin, 2022

BBC [Botany: A Blooming History](#) series

Additional information: -

Prior learning recognition (based on application):

- *recognition is not applicable*
- *partial recognition may apply*
- *full recognition may apply*

Schedule and venue for personal consultation:

At a time and place that have been agreed upon in advance, if necessary.