

Course description (topics)

Title of the course: Photo Book as Contemporary Art Form				
Tutors of the course, contact details: Kateryna Radchenko finestrad@gmail.com Jörg M. Colberg jmcolberg@gmail.com				
Code: B-SZ-301-MI-222302-02 M-SZ-301-MI-222302-02 M-SZ-E-301-MI-222302-01	Related curriculum (programme/level): Photography MA and BA	Recommended semester within the curriculum: -	Credit: 5	Number of class hours: 40 Student working hours: 110
Related codes:	Type: seminar/lecture/class work	Can it be an elective course: yes	In case of elective what are the specific prerequisites: -	
Course connections (prerequisites, parallelism): -				
Aim and principles of the course: This course aims to discuss recent developments of the Photo Book medium. We believe designing photo books can be best learned by doing. Students participating in the course will have the opportunity to discuss concepts, examine successful examples, experiment with materials and formats, and learn to edit and develop a final product. The course consists of two intensive workshops led by international experts who work with photo books and who represent different professional backgrounds in this field. The knowledge acquired during the two consecutive workshops will help students in conceiving their ideas and successfully develop these into a finished work of art (photo book) worthy of interest.				
Learning outcomes (professional and general competencies to be developed): Knowledge: They understand the importance of analytical, critical, and experimental thinking. A broad spectrum of inquiries characterizes their knowledge into technical solutions and empathy toward other artists' work. Ability: Based on the experience gained during their studies, they can discover, process, and combine specific knowledge and techniques to express their artistic ideas and critical approach within their field of art (photography). They can interpret existing best practices, discover patterns in alternative solutions, and understand relevant technologies 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 and understand the role of gaining practice through trial and error in becoming artists. Autonomy and responsibility: They research and develop their professional skills independently. Committed to learning and understanding the functions and achievements of the art form photo books.				

Topics and themes to be covered in the course:

Understanding photographs and editing into a coherent whole present two of the most challenging aspects of a photographer's practice. In this workshop, a method will be presented that addresses both and that can be used to overcome possible obstacles. Participating photographers will work with their photographs to create small units/groups of pictures. These groups form the basis for an eventual larger edit, and they also amplify the meaning and content of their constituent photographs. The workshop is fully interactive, and participants need to work with actual small physical (work) prints, a (cheap) notebook, and tape.



Kateryna

Curator, artist, photography researcher

Radchenko

Since 2015 – founder and director of the international festival Odesa Photo Days. Curated exhibitions in Ukraine, South Korea, Sweden, Georgia, France, Canada, Latvia, Poland, The Netherlands, Germany, and the UK. As an author, she has published articles in several international magazines and online platforms, such as Fotograf, Magenta, EIKON, the British Journal of Photography, and FOAM Magazines. In collaboration with the Finnish Museum of Photography wrote the book *Images Tells Stories*. In 2022 together with Christopher Nunn and Donald Weber published two volumes of *The Information Front*. Jury member of Fotograf Photo Festival (Prague,

Czech Republic), Capa Grand Prize (Budapest, Hungary), World Press Photo Contest 2023, etc. She has participated as a Portfolio Reviewer in many different photo festivals such as Riga Photo Month, Lodz Photo Festival, Suwon Photo Festival, Photo Wien, Landskrona Photo Festival, and Kranj Photo Festival.



Jörg M. Colberg

is a writer, photographer, and educator

His writing has been published on his blog CPhMag.com as well as in photography magazines, catalogues, and artist monographs. Jörg has taught at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, the Rhode Island College of Design, the University of Hartford, and Neue Schule für Fotografie Berlin. He is the author of *Photography's Neoliberal Realism* (MACK 2020) and *Understanding Photobooks* (Focal Press 2016). His first photobook, *Vaterland*, was published by Kerber Verlag in 2020.

Specificities of process organisation/organisation of learning:

Course structure, nature of the individual sessions, and their timing (in case of several teachers' involvement, please indicate the distribution of their teaching input:

March 20-24 / 13:40-17:00 with Kateryna Radchenko

Monday 13:40-16:30 (4x40 min)

Introduction

Lecture: Ukrainian photo books after Maidan

Tuesday 13:40-16:30 (4x40 min)

Practical day - open portfolio review of 5-7 portfolios (ideas for the book, drafts)

Wednesday 10:00-16:30 (it can be a full day or less, how you want)

Practical day - work together on the narrative of the photobook by Paraska Plytka Horytsvit (practical tools how to create a visual narrative, how to create different stories with the same images, how to work with unknown contexts, how to read images) // here could be 2 hours or more.

Thursday 13:40-16:40 (2x40 min)

Lecture: Ukrainian Photography from 70th till now (+ Q&A)

(it is important to schedule this lecture to be on Thursday afternoon because here expect a wider audience from the Photography BA and MA.)

Friday 14:30-16:30 (2x40 min)

Practical day - open portfolio review of 5-7 students

Conclusion

May 8-19 / 13:40-17:00 with Jörg M. Colberg

Monday through Friday afternoon. The second week of the workshop will coincide with the Work in Context Symposium and it will provide support during the preparation week.

Students' tasks and responsibilities:

in-class activity, completing the readings, active participation in discussions in the class

Learning environment: (e.g. classroom, studio, off-site, online, in-company placement, etc.)

classroom discussion, workshop practice

Assessment:

Based on the final product and the activity in class

Requirements to be met:

To qualify for a grade, students need to take part in class, complete the readings for designated classes and develop a photo book concept. Students will present one or more zine/book dummies prepared for the course during the end-of-term evaluation on the **25th of May**.

Method of assessment:

discussions in class, presentation of completed work

Assessment criteria (what is taken into consideration in the assessment):

Structure of the completed product, the relevance of the chosen format and techniques, effectively transmitting artistic concept, critical approach, contextualization of individual results

How is the mark calculated:

Classwork (30%)

Activity (30%)

Quality of the final product (40%)

Required Literature:

Colberg, Jörg M: Understanding Photo Books, Routledge, New York, 2017

Recognition of knowledge acquired elsewhere/previously/validation principle:

- No exemption from attending and completing the course will be granted,
- Exemptions from the acquisition of certain competences and the completion of certain tasks may be granted,
- some tasks may be replaced by other activities,
- full exemption may be granted

Out-of-class consultation times and location:

Based on an individual appointment