



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts

KONT27, Wake Up? Sleep, Soma, a Studio in Our Head, 3 credits

Vakna? Sömn, soma, ateljén i vårt huvud, 3 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Department Board of Malmö Art Academy on 2022-12-15 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester 2023.

General Information

Lund University, Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Malmö Art Academy.

Optional course for the MFA in Fine Art (KAFKO).

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Fine Arts

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

AXX, Second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Learning outcomes

Theoretical course.

The aim is to provide the students with deepened knowledge and insight in both the artistic field which their work will be a part of and the history of how that field has developed.

To integrate analytical knowledge into their own artistic work, both in the spoken and the written language, will be given special attention.

The course aim is to enhance the students' ability to formulate and show a well-motivated artistic wholeness.

The goal is that the students shall develop a deepened understanding of artistic work.

Course content

In *Woman Sleeping* (1981) Liz Magor interprets one famous sculpture of Constantin Brancusi, *Sleeping Muse* (1910). Stating that women have been, for so long, artists

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

“put at sleep” and struggling to wake up, Magor’s photomontage associates the passivity of Brancusi’s beautiful head to a space for elaborating a practice, a studio – as when she says that being slow is a method, a different pace for thinking, moving and producing, and incidentally, a way to deal with the brutality of the art market.

This seminar will take “sleep” as a ground to explore art practice through the way it is linked to different kinds of awakening and to the possibility of developing multiple nuances of attention, as well as the part played by the body, the soma, in the artist’s experiments and projects. Alternation and porosities between sleep and awakening are discretely shaping our lives. Stating that art embodies and renews awareness, we will explore the working process and ask ourselves what is at work in the studio that we are.

Biological rhythms of activity and rest have a social and political history. Indeed, both the duration and structure of sleep have been governed by a succession of norms. Jonathan Crary’s book, *24/7 Capitalism and Sleep*, details the political stakes attached to this supposedly unexploitable moment. Roger Ekirch, by researching segmented sleep in preindustrial societies, has excavated long term politics of sleep and the invention of insomnia - initiating what is now called Sleep Studies. Modernity wants the body to be “recycled” overnight. The contemporary world cultivates and exploits the ideology of sleep disorders. Meanwhile, the most dispossessed among us, in metropolises the world over, sleep outside.

Falling asleep stays a resistance –to the principles of blind exploitation that ruled the planet, to permanent solicitations of commercialized exchanges -, an escape - to socialization and its orders, to the brutality of the real, and sometimes a luxury.

Art settles sometimes some reactivation of sleep, some hallucinatory experience, by imbedding the viewer’s body into montages of sound, visual mirages and their woven narratives, like in the cinema projection theater and the black cube today. We’ll question experimental practices addressing more directly to a somatic regime that stresses our proximity with the other living organisms on the planet. Moreover, they bring what anthropology today is stressing by contesting the opposition between nature and humans, and denying the human specie the ownership of the planet, as in the approaches opened by Viveiros de Castro or Philippe Descola. The daily cycle of rest is our intimate winter, when we are most in phase with our planet rhythms and of other species, as well as with the unknown that we contain. In this contradiction stay perhaps some forces.

As sleep engenders various degrees of presence, making our consciousness oscillate among emotions, facts, sensations forgotten or repressed, hallucinating and inventing, we will consider it as a life process, a studio in our head and body, a somatic entry in the living.

Course design

The course consists of lectures and seminars with a vital element of discussion supervised by the responsible teacher/s.

There may be a task in form of a writtent text.

Assessment

For the grade pass the student needs to be at least 80% present at lectures and seminars and receive the grade pass on tasks, if any.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the

regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

Entry requirements