ART ON THE TOWN

Syllabus: Art 8, 603 - 3 units  Long Beach City College/Fall 2008
Instructor: Sarah G. Vinci  Classroom: K102  Monday 1 – 4 and 5 PM
E-mail: sarahvinci@charter.net  Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a 16-week class in art and art history for art majors and non-majors. Art on the Town is a study of how museums collect, preserve, exhibit, and educate the visual arts. The purpose of this class is to understand art as a visual language capable of communication ideas, to learn to critique art on this basis; and to understand the role a museum plays in this process. The Fall 2008 class will focus on the PORTRAIT in sculpture, photography, drawings, and prints from the Renaissance to Contemporary Art. Classes will be facilitated by image (power-point) presentations, discussions, and museum visits. Students are expected to read all material, attend field trips, visit the assigned exhibitions, and complete all assignments. It is your effort that will drive the class discussions. Communication is the purpose of art; therefore your communication skills will be judged and honed in this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Students will study the history of art by the following methods:
   a. Look at actual works of art in museums
   b. View reproductions of artworks via power point presentations
   c. Attend lectures and participate in discussions
   d. Read about artists and their art in books, periodicals and on the internet
   e. Write about art and make presentations based on your studies
2. Students will gain an understanding of the basic aspects of art:
   a. Aesthetics: visual and formal qualities
   b. Content: subject matter, ideas and their meaning
   c. Context: influences
   d. Technical aspects: medium, color, etc.
3. Students will learn to recognize, identify and differentiate between major western art-historical periods and between the different types and uses of art:
   a. Understand and articulate ways of analyzing art
   b. Learn basic vocabulary of art in writing and in discussions
   c. Describe individual works of art in formal, conceptual and technical terms
   d. Learn to recognize, identify and differentiate between the different materials and techniques used in creating art
4. Employ critical thinking where art is concerned
   a. Demonstrate critical thinking about art and its role in culture
   b. Demonstrate an ability to discuss & write critically about all aspects of art
   c. Examine patronage, collecting and display of art works in galleries
5. Professional attitude
   a. Attend all classes and field trips; be on time and prepared to work
   b. Contribute intelligently to class discussions, ask questions
   c. Present well finished work and be prepared to explain it

TEXT + READINGS + SUPPLIES
• The text for the class is Understanding the Art Museum, by Barbara A. Beall-Fofana
  ISBN 0-13-195070-3. It is available in the LBCC bookstore and mandatory for all students.
• Supplemental Text: Look! The Fundamentals of Art History, 2nd Edition by Anne D'Alleva,
  ISBN 0-13-174505-0
• ADDITIONAL Readings may be placed on reserve in the library.
• Purchase a small sketchbook and pencils for taking notes on field trips.

INSTRUCTION FACILITATION
The course is divided between field trips to museums, galleries, and artists studios; and lectures that will include presentations of art reproductions and videos. Transportation is not provided; students will be expected to either car pool, or take public transportation for all field trips.
A C A D E M I C  C O N D U C T
Honesty is expected from all students. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students are expected to use their own words in written assignments. Plagiarism is copying published works, websites, or the work of other students. Any form of cheating or turning in work which is not one’s own will be penalized with a failing grade for the assignment. LBCC policy requires instances of plagiarism to be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action and the consequences are severe.

A S S I G N M E N T S  +  E X P E C T A T I O N S
The beauty of this class is to learn about art history by seeing actual works of art, and to understand the role of a museum in presenting visual art. I want you to come away with an understanding of the complexities of art and why art is made. You must participate by speaking up in class, keeping notes and sketching images if you need help remembering them, and attending all field trips and lectures. There will be a scheduled mid-term exam based on the text and lectures; reading assignments, homework assignments based on the exercises from the text; and writing on what you have experienced. LBCC policy states that missing more than 20 % (= 3 classes) of course, you shall be dropped. You will be graded on attendance, worksheets, homework assignments, mid-term exam; and one final project. More than three absences from class will lower your grade by one letter, and so on for more absences. Late assignments will lose 1 point per week.

| Attendance: one point for each class attended and participated in = | 16 points |
| Assignments: 12 @ 5 pts ea = | 60 points |
| Mid-term Exam: = | 10 points |
| Final Project = | 14 points |
| TOTAL | 100 points |

The worksheet is a series of questions for you to respond to. The answers to these questions must demonstrate your understanding of the art and concepts covered on the field trips. Some of your responses will depend on additional readings, and/or research. They are not meant to be lengthy but concise. You will use these worksheets for class participation. And turn them in (TYPED) the week after a field trip, when we will be discussing the visit. Each week the worksheet is late, one point will be deducted. Worksheets will be provided to the students in advance from the instructor via email. You must have an email address to receive them.

The Final Project will be a creative project in lieu of a final exam; this will be based on an artist of your choice, and addressing the theme of portraiture. These will be presented on the final day of class. Details to be discussed in class.

Disability: If you need any accommodations in this course, please notify me immediately. Students with disabilities must be registered with the DSPS office (call extension 4558).

R E S O U R C E S
Writing and Reading Center: The WRC is available to all students who need assistance in improving writing, reading, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation or research writing skills. Students are advised to come to the WRC at the beginning of the semester to arrange their schedule. FREE tutoring is available. Visit the website: http://wrc.lbcc.edu/

LAC Campus: L149 at the LAC campus. Spring 2004 hours: M-Th 8 am - 8 pm, F 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Sat 10 - 2. Closed Sunday. Contact by phone (562) 938-4520

PCC Campus: GG129 at the PCC campus. Spring 2004 hours: M-Th 8 am - 9 pm, F 8 am - 2 pm. Closed Saturdays and Sundays. Contact by phone (562) 938-3991

Grading:
90 – 100 = A
80 – 89 = B
70 – 79 = C
60 – 69 = D
50 – 0 = F
SYLLABUS ART ON THE TOWN – FALL 2008

Scheduled tours are subject to change

• The following field trips have been planned (dates TBD); students will meet at the location:

**Topic: The Role of a Registrar & Curator in a Museum, University Art Museum, CSULB**
The class will meet with Angela Barker, Registrar & Curator of Collections at the UAM. We will get an inside look at the role she plays in the museum, and explore a behind the scenes look at how art is stored and cared for. A visit to the vault is included to view the photographic portraits of Francis Benjamin Johnston.

**Topic: The Role of an Educator in a Museum, University Art Museum, CSULB**
What is the responsibility of a museum in terms of education? The next visit to the UAM will be to meet with Brian Trimble, Curator of Education, who will discuss how a museum interprets visual art for adults and children. Students will examine prepared materials for a k-12 program, and participate in a hands-on exercise developed for the upcoming *Warhol: 15 min/24 fps* exhibition.

**Museum Tour:**
November 22, 1:30 PM, *Warhol: 15 min/24 fps*, University Art Museum, CSULB – Docent led Tour
This exhibition will showcase the UAM's new acquisitions from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. The portfolio of 152 original Polacolor and silver gelatin prints produced by Andy Warhol from 1974 through 1985, includes iconic portraits of the rich and famous such as Dennis Hopper, O.J. Simpson, Lana Turner, and Issey Miyake; and candid photographs of the New York street and party scene, as well as many images of Warhol's friends and Factory regulars.

• The following three exhibitions are required to attend, all at The Getty:

**August Sander: People of the Twentieth Century** – through Sept. 14
People of the Twentieth Century, the collective portrait of German society made by German photographer August Sander, has fascinated viewers from its earliest presentation in a 1927 exhibition and the controversial publication of a selection of 60 images in the book *Face of the Time* published two years later. Despite Sander's dedication over five decades to the idea and compilation of this portrait atlas of the German people, the project remained unfinished. Nonetheless, his photographs remain compelling, in part because he chose to categorize his subjects by profession or social class. The images are thus representations of types, as he intended them to be, rather than portraits of individuals.

**Bernini and the Birth of Baroque Portrait Sculpture** – through Oct. 26
Gian Lorenzo Bernini (Italian, 1598–1680) and his contemporaries in Rome transformed the portrait bust into a groundbreaking art form. With dazzling virtuosity, these artists were able to coax the living presence and personality of their sitters—creating a "speaking likeness"—from the intractable medium of stone. Included in this exhibition are Bernini's portraits of Cardinal Richelieu of France, Charles I of England, Pope Alexander VII, and King Louis XIV of France.

**A Light Touch: Exploring Humor in Drawing** – Sept. 23 - Dec. 7 OR (SEE NEXT ENTRY)
As a result of its immediacy, drawing has for centuries been used to lampoon human character, ridicule physical characteristics, and satirize behavior. While some drawings were intimate objects viewed by individuals or small groups of people, others were transferred into prints with a wider agenda. Different drawing media (watercolor, pen and ink, etc.) often highlight diverse aims and effects. This exhibition will include works by Leonardo da Vinci, Urs Graf, Giambattista Tiepolo, Francisco de Goya, Thomas Rowlandson, and Pierre Bonnard, and will explore brands of humor, from wicked caricatures to wry observations of social injustice.

**Faces of Power and Piety: Medieval Portraiture**
AUG 18 – INTRODUCTIONS
- Lecture: Introduction to the Study of Art
- Class Exercise: What does art mean to you?
- Read: Chapters 1: Defining the Museum
- Homework: send an email to instructor, sarahvinci@charter.net with your name in the subject line.
- Assignment #1: Chapter 1, page 5 For Your Consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  - To complete the assignment visit 3 of the following 5 websites:
    - Getty http://www.getty.edu/
    - Los Angeles County Museum of Art http://www.lacma.org/
    - Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles http://www.moca.org/
    - Hammer Museum of Art, UCLA http://www.hammer.ucla.edu/
    - Orange County Museum of Art http://www.ocma.net/index.html
  - Type your response, no more than one page. Due Aug. 25 for class discussion.

AUG 25 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
- Homework Due: Assignment #1
- Class Discussion: What is the Mission of the Museum you researched?
- Lecture: How to evaluate Art: Aesthetics, Content, Context & Technical Aspects
- Read: Chapters 2 & 3: Mapping the Museum, Presenting the Art
- Assignment #2: Chapter 2, page 13 For Your consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  - Visit the Long Beach Museum of Art, Ocean Blvd., Long Beach - Answer the questions in the exercise, type your response, no more than one page. Due Sept 8
  - Choose one piece of art in the museum, preferably a Portrait, record the label information and take a picture of it, or obtain an image from the museum, and evaluate its Aesthetics, Content, Context & Technical Aspects – bring to class on Sept. 8.

SEPT 1 – NO CLASS
- Assignment #3: go to the library and check out an art book that contains an image of a painting, sculpture, or photograph of a portrait that you find beautiful – bring to class on Sept. 8.

SEPT 8 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
- Homework Due: Assignment #2
- Class Discussion: on assignment #2 & 3
- Lecture: Portrait
- Read: Chapter 5: Talking About Art, and Chapter 6: Writing About Art
- Assignment #4: Chapter 5, page 33 For Your Consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  - Use Google to find a color image of the two works in question.
  - Respond to the question
  - Type your response, no more than one page. Due Sept. 15.
- Visit the Getty Museum exhibition: August Sander: People of the Twentieth Century
  - Assignment #6 – due Sept. 29 (see below)

SEPT 15 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
- Homework Due: Assignment #4
- Lecture: Portraits in Sculpture
- Read: Chapter 4: How Do Museums Know What They Know? AND Chapter 10 Inside the Art Museum
- Assignment #5: Chapter 4, page 24 For Your Consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  - Respond to the question, use the web and/or books for research
  - Type your response, no more than one page. Due Sept. 22.

SEPT 22 – TRIP TO UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM, CSULB – Angela Barker, Registrar & Curator of Collections
- Meet at UAM, lecture at 1:30 pm.
  - Bring your sketchbook/notebook and pencils for note taking.
- Homework Due: Assignment #5
- Read: Chapter 6: Writing About Art
- Assignment #6: Chapter 6, page 40 For Your Consideration: Exercise 3 (paragraph 2)
  - Using the August Sander exhibition you visited at the Getty, write a critical review
  - Type your response, 250 words on one page, due Sept. 29
- Assignment #7: Worksheet UAM Collection – respond to questions (instructor provided)
SEPT 29 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Homework Due: Assignment #6
• Lecture: Portraits in Landscape
• Read: Chapter 7: What is the Meaning of the Art?
• Assignment #8: Chapter 7, page 44 For Your Consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  o Using either a work of art you have seen in a museum or in a book, respond to the question
  o Type your response, one page, due Oct 6.
• Visit the Getty exhibition: Bernini and the Birth of Baroque Portrait Sculpture
  o Assignment #9 – due Oct. 13 (see below)

OCT 6 – MEET AT UAM, CSULB – Brian Trimble, Curator of Education
• Meet at UAM, lecture at 1:30 pm.
  o Bring your sketchbook/notebook and pencils for note taking.
• Homework Due: Assignment #8
• Read: Chapter #8 Art and its Context
• Assignment #9: Chapter 8, page 48 For Your Consideration: Exercise 1 (paragraph 1)
  o Use the Getty exhibition Bernini to respond to this question
  o Type your response, one page, due Oct. 13.
• Review all chapters and class notes for an Mid-term Exam on Oct. 13. Instructor to provide study guide.
• Assignment #10: Worksheet UAM Education – respond to questions (instructor provided) due Oct 13.

OCT 13 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Mid-term Exam
• Class discussion: Assignment 9 and 10
• Lecture: Portraits in Drawings & Paintings
• Assignment #11 – VISIT the Getty exhibition A Light Touch Exploring Humor in Drawing through Dec 7
  o Write a critical review on the exhibition

OCT 20 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Class discussion: Assignment #11
• Lecture: Photographic Portraits
• Homework: Bring a photographic portrait from home, this can be of an ancestor, family member or stranger, but it must be a formal portrait.

OCT 27 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Class discussion: student photographs; final assignment
• Lecture: Pop Art & the Portrait

NOV 3 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Film: Andy Warhol

NOV 10 – NO CLASS

NOV 17 – MEET AT UAM, CSULB – Exhibition: Warhol 15 min / 24 fps
• Meet at UAM, lecture at 1:30 pm.
  o Bring your sketchbook/notebook and pencils for note taking.
• Assignment #12 – UAM exhibition Warhol - respond to questions (instructor provided)

NOV 24 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Class discussion: Assignment #12
• Lecture:

DEC 1 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Class discussion:
• Lecture:

DEC 8 – MEET IN CLASSROOM
• Class discussion:
• Lecture:

DEC 15 – FINAL PROJECTS DUE