

Colorado State University – Pueblo
College of Humanities and Social Sciences // Department of Art
Fall Term 2011 // Seminar: Performance Art Approaches // ART491
MW, 4-6:30pm, Room AM-110

Instructor: Ellen Mueller

Office: AM-102A

Hours: Mon & Tue, 3-4pm, and by appointment

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COURSE SITE: <https://teaching.ellenmueller.com/intro-to-performance-art>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a survey of some of the origins, influences, theories, processes, and manifestations of performance art. We will read, watch, and discuss perspectives on performance art written/created by artists, curators, art historians, and critics. We will view work by artists who consider themselves performance artists. Using this information as a springboard, we will create our own performances, which may include designing, writing, performing, and critique. Specifically, we will think about/discuss/experience:

- Influences / precursors to performance art forms and processes
- The relationship between performance art and popular culture and other art forms
- How performance art has become a means for exploring and debating issues of contemporary and historical concern
- How performance art utilizes the elements and principles of four-dimensional design (including sound/movement/time/space)
- How the work of performance artists, historians, theorists, curators, and critics can be useful to our own artistic practices
- How our work relates to current thinking about performance theory and practice

INTENDED STUDENT COMPETENCIES & OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will have:

1. Basic knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary surrounding performance art and its history, as well as enhanced fluency of visual and time-based language, and the ability to use that language in both their performance practice and critique
2. Analytical skills in determining what elements and principles of design (2/3/4D) are employed in a given performance piece
3. Developed a cursory understanding of their own performative sources and influences
4. Refined skills in experimenting with unfamiliar media
5. Read about and reported on how other artists utilize performative media
6. Discipline to work effectively both in and out of class (timeliness & focus)
7. Increased ability to critically analyze each other's work as well as their own