

**AR2240 6(0-0-6) (UT Pending) (Full Year)**

**TECHNICAL INTERNSHIP**

**Instructors:** The Director of the Prairie Gallery and other qualified community resource people will supervise students in this on-the-job internship program. The placement and progress of the students will be monitored by the Chairperson of the Visual and Performing Arts Department or by a designated full-time instructor from the Visual Arts Section.

**Times:** Students must arrange a schedule with the Director of the Prairie Gallery totaling 6 hours of work and study. This schedule must not conflict with any other college courses in which the student is enrolled.

**Prerequisites:** AR 1010, AR1020 or AR1310, and consent of the Department. The student should also be enrolled in a studio art course.

**Course Description:** This is an introductory level course that will provide students with the basic information related to the production, and installation of exhibitions of original art. Students will work with art gallery staff who have training in these areas. They will also have hands-on experience in working with artists and guest curators.

**Calendar Description:** An internship course that will provide art students and interested others with first hand experience in the production and installation of art exhibitions in a professional art gallery setting. This is an introductory course that will provide incumbents with experience working with all media.

**Course in Perspective:**

This course will cover the basics in production of exhibitions of original art. Students will learn how to arrange details for both incoming and outgoing shipping for exhibitions; how to condition-report artwork. They will also learn how to prepare wall surfaces; how to work with track lighting in exhibition spaces; how to handle artwork; how to package artwork; shipping details through contacting various shipping companies in Canada and elsewhere. There will also be opportunity to work on the development and placement of signage (didactic panels, labels and lettering) for educational needs.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will:

1. Learn about components of producing an art exhibition.

2. Develop skills related to the technical aspects of working in a gallery setting.
3. Develop a critical and aesthetic overview related to the mounting of exhibitions.
4. Broaden awareness and understanding about contemporary art, with a major focus on artists from Alberta; secondary focus on artists from other provinces in Canada and a partial focus on international artists.

#### **Course Outline:**

The following areas will be covered within the period of course:

The role of art galleries: An introduction/overview on the role of a public art gallery in its resident community, region, province and country. The history of the Prairie Gallery.

Submissions and Selection: How to validate the need for a particular type of exhibition. How to organize and host an effective exhibition opening. Planning complementing exhibitions. The emphasis is on the need to balance exhibitions, content, et al. How to program for the community. How to plan complementary exhibitions. How to approach artists and discussing their art work with them in general terms. How to be objective about discussing art with artists and visitors to an art gallery.

Documentation of artwork and installation: Receiving and shipping of art work. Climatization of artwork, crating, uncrating, packing and condition reporting of artwork. How to approach an insurance claim and how to notify artists regarding damages of artwork. There will be an in-depth approach on how to handle artwork, how to store it and ensure that it is kept clean and free of damage.

Installation of art work involves a great deal of preparation. Preparation of gallery walls, repainting, spackling and sanding will be covered. Placement of vinyl lettering and signage (didactic materials and labels) will be covered. A variety of ways to hang artwork, combine two and three dimensional artwork in one space; salon installation and working with varied subject and media will be covered.

Production and effective installation: The physical planning of producing and installing an exhibition. Curating to installation will be covered more in-depth. The details, from the securing of a liquor license for the reception, to making visitors feel welcome in the gallery setting and to discussing the exhibitions with visitors, artists and sponsors, will be covered.

Lighting: How to create an arch over artwork that will provide the best effect. How to light a variety of exhibitions, photography vs. sculpture; mixed media vs. painting. How to light artwork depending upon the

chroma of the palette in the work.

**Promotion, advertising:** In order to reach an audience it is necessary to promote art exhibitions, either through a newsletter, brochure, radio/television advertising, newspaper advertising. How to put together information that is concise yet thorough will be covered. How to approach the various media that advertise. How to follow through on surveys to monitor what is the most effective means of advertising.

**Working relationships:** Teamwork and group dynamics are a fundamental factor when it comes to working in an art gallery. There are high stress periods, such as during dismantling exhibitions and installing new ones. Teamwork means assisting co-workers. How to work well together in an open and honest communicative manner will be stressed.

### **Reference Materials:**

Various publications and books on exhibitions that have taken place all across Canada are available. There are also subscriptions to visual arts magazines. Working hands on with professional staff and guest artists and curators will provide excellent resource. Reference materials will be provided on an ongoing basis

### **Criteria for Evaluation (Grading):**

A grade will be assigned by the Department Chairperson or the designated Visual Arts Instructor. This will be done on the recommendation of and in consultation with the Director of the Gallery and other resource people. Students will be graded on: (1) participation and effectiveness; (2) journals and critiques; (3) and class and home assignments. The following weighting will be applied:

- I. Participation and Effectiveness: 60%  
The ability of the student to follow direction and act accordingly when directives are given will be monitored. Likewise, the student's contribution to assisting in the production and installation of exhibitions will be monitored. Enthusiasm, commitment, dedication, objectivity and confidentiality are qualities that will contribute to the student's grade.
- II. Journals, Critiques, Class and Home Assignments: 40%  
Students will be expected to keep a journal, noting facts, ideas and alternatives as they are shared. Students will be required to write critiques on exhibitions. Students will be expected to attend exhibition openings.

**Tardiness will be noted. More than 10% absenteeism will constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances, in which case a doctor's letter will be required. Supervisors must be notified if absence is necessary.**