

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY VENICE**  
Fall 2013 - 2014  
CFA AR 341/342: Painting Major I (4 credits)

**Luca De Gaetano**  
**Mon/Thu 3:00pm-6:00pm**

This course will provide each student with tools to immerse completely in the painting practice as an emotional, intellectual and physical investigation.

Thought-provoking projects will lead to unexpected visual responses and will expand awareness and freedom within the various choices and accidents that frame the painting process.

While building on what is learned during drawing and art history courses, we will consider composition and *Disegno* as the starting point of this class.

*Colore* will be discussed within the framework of the Venetian Painting Tradition and in the many possibilities offered by the incredible richness of the city, both working on-site and reconnecting collected source material.

Serious and intense studio practice will be the fundamental premise to the development of an exciting and engaging body of work that will reveal each Artist's interest and voice.

Theory and critical discourse will be introduced and distilled in the process of painting, in the form of texts, multimedia presentations, visits, and by fostering an open discussion among students.

The semester will start with a variety of short projects that will involve fast painting practice to learn from the fundamental physicality of the medium. Longer projects will follow.

The course will culminate with one or more final projects.

### **Course Requirements**

-Artists must attend all classes, lectures, field trips, and **must be punctual**. Tardiness is unprofessional and will not be tolerated. All Artists are required to attend classes with all necessary materials and **committed** to engage in class work and all discussions.

Homework assignments are required every week to reinforce what is learned during class and to explore/develop your own interests and livelihood as an Artist. Homework load/frequency will be adjusted to the specific needs of the assignment. Homework must be completed on the due-date to avoid damage to your grade. Students will be expected to present their work(s) during class.

A separate sketchbook must be brought to class for notes and preparatory drawings.

All assignments will be discussed in class.

-Homework expectation is 3-5 hours per week.

### **Grading**

-Portfolio of class work: 50%

-Weekly assignments: 20%

-Final project: 20%

-Participation: attendance, sketchbook 10%

'A' grade will be assigned to serious, ambitious and hard-working students.

All students are expected to dedicate time and to engage with enthusiasm and participation to class-work and assignments.

Students may re-work a homework assignment to raise a given grade in consultation

with me. Two unexcused absences will bring the class grade down half grade. Three or more unexcused absences can put the student in jeopardy of failing the course. It is the student's responsibility to make up work from a class missed for an excused absence.

**Attendance**

Boston University Venice students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trips required for the class.

**Religious Holidays**

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

"The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled."

## **Schedule:**

### **Week 1**

Sept. 9th

- Presentation, information, questionnaire.
- Project: "Masterpiece in an interior" : visit+sketch
- Assignment: analyze the composition of a masterpiece

Sept. 12th

- VISIT (during class time and beyond class-time): Venice Biennale (to be continued also independently during the weekend)
- Assignment: up to 5 small paintings in response to one pavilion of your choice  
continue analyze the composition of a masterpiece/interior: collage

### **Week 2**

Sept. 16th

- Short group discussion on assignments and on the Biennale
- Short presentation/discussion on composition
- Continue composition project: transition into painting, 5 sketches
- Assignment: 5 small painting on the relation solid/ transparent +"Color Walk"

Sept. 19th

- Short group discussion on sketches and color walk
- Continue composition project: finalize larger composition - paint in class
- Assignment: continue 5 small painting on the relation solid/ transparent

### **Week 3**

Sept. 23th

- Short group discussion on solid/transparent and on water/painting
- Project: "Narcissus"
- Assignment: 5 "water paintings" - mud to flawless

Sept. 26th

- Short presentation on gesture/ action
- Continue "Narcissus" and water paintings
- Assignment: continue 5 "water paintings" - mud to flawless

### **Week 4**

Sept. 30th

- Collaborative project: work in/outdoor
- Assignment: Continue collaborative project

Oct. 3rd

- Short group discussion on collaborative project and homework
- Short presentation on painting without paint (color, installation,site specific art)
- Continue collaborative project
- Assignment: make one proposal for a site-specific project

### **Week 5**

Oct. 7th

- Short presentation on medium/painting - slides, video.
- "Music Class": paint the figure
- Assignment: starting from the figure, make 5 paintings exploring/pushing different mediums

Oct. 10th

- Short discussion on homework

- Short presentation on figure/contemporary painting
- Continue medium exploration/figure painting
- Assignment: - continue the 5 paintings exploring/pushing different mediums
- list ideas for longer projects

## **Week 6**

Oct. 14th

- Short discussion on the 5 paintings
- Project: Explore *impasto* Vs. *Washes*, borrowing techniques from practices/ crafts other than painting on a theme of your choice.
- Assignment: embarrassing/confessional painting

Oct. 17th

- MID TERM CRITIQUE** + discussion on Final projects.
- continue *impasto*/sculpture painting
- Assignment: continue embarrassing/confessional painting

Oct. 19th

- Field trip to Vicenza

## **Week 7**

Oct. 21st

- Short discussion on homework
- Short presentation on large paintings/materials
- Start one large painting
- Assignment: write one line for each artist in the list

Oct. 24th

- Short discussion on contemporary artists and on the visit to the Guggenheim Collection
- Continue large painting
- Assignment: continue write one line for each artist in the list

## **Week 8**

Oct. 28th

- Short presentation on the *tempo* of a painting
- Continue the large painting
- Assignment: painting a masterpiece of your choice+short paragraph on its *tempo*

Oct. 31st NO CLASS

- Assignment: finish the large painting

## **Week 9**

Nov. 4th

- Short discussion on the large painting and on homework
- Short presentation on religious painting
- Project: Allegoric painting - narrative painting
- Assignment: narrative painting/family painting

Nov. 7th

- Short discussion on narrative painting
- Continue narrative painting
- Assignment: finish narrative painting/family painting

Nov. 9th

- Field trip to Bologna

## **Week 10**

Nov. 11th

Short presentation on architecture/painting

-Continue narrative painting

-Assignment: 5 quick utopian paintings

Nov. 14th

Short discussion on final project

-Continue narrative painting

-Assignment: continue 5 quick utopian paintings, short reading

Nov. 15th

-Field trip to Florence

## **Week 11**

Nov. 18th

-Short presentation on painting/text

-Work on final project

-Assignment: ephemeral still life - quick painting

Nov. 21st

-Meet early for visit to Palazzo Grassi

-Work on final project

-Assignment: ephemeral still life - quick painting

## **Week 12**

Nov. 25th

-Short presentation on Appropriation

-Work on final project

-Assignment: paint as forgery/appropriation

Nov. 28th

No Class - Thanksgiving Dinner in Padova

## **Week 13**

Dec. 2nd

-Short group discussion and touch-base

-Visiting artist

-Work on final project

-Assignment: make a copy of a painting you really hate

Dec. 5th

-Short discussion on student's work and on homework

-Work on final project

-Assignment: continue make a copy of a painting you really hate.

## **Week 14**

Dec. 9th

-Group Q+A, review

-Work on Final Project

Dec. 10th

-Final Critique

-CLEAN UP!

Dec. 11th

Open Studios