**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ART**   
COURSE DESCRIPTION

For the elective component: **Art and Social Context**

in the courses: **IN DEPTH STUDIES 1 MKO104, ELECTIVE MODULES 1 KOK110, ELECTIVE MODULES 2 KOK120**and**ELECTIVE MODULES 3 KOK130.**

HT22/VT23

3 ECTS credits

MODULE CODE: ARTA

Course period: Spring 2023. Weeks 11, 12

Revised: 2022-02-02

Course Director: Olivia Plender   
Participating Teachers:  Emanuel Almborg, Joanna Zawieja

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

A two-week course which addresses how artists can work with communities, with reference to socially engaged projects, public art, but also film and other practices that may involve collaborating with groups of people or individual subjects outside of the art world.

**COURSE LAYOUT AND FORMS OF TEACHING**

Students will learn the following from the course: practical skills for collaborating with people, how to research a context, and establish a relationship to your subjects and a setting; conceptual tools for thinking about the power dynamics that arise when negotiating the representation of the people and communities in which you may be working and tools for building consent; as well as an overview of the field of social practice.

The course includes seminars with Olivia Plender and invited guests Emanuel Almborg (artist) and Joanna Zawieja (curator/architect, Statenskonstråd) in which we will present some of the projects that we have worked on with communities, as case studies for the students to discuss and learn from. These include film projects, public art and socially engaged projects. We will break these case studies down into practical skills and discuss some of the problems that arise in these types of projects, so that students can apply this to their own work.

Students will be asked to bring an example of a project of their own in which they have worked with a community or individual subject. I will facilitate discussion in groups about their experiences, so that they can begin to apply some of what they learn from the case studies to their own work.

Students will also plan a field trip of their own devising in groups, in order to practice mapping a site and analysing the complexities that a site contains.

We will look at some of the key reference points within the field of socially engaged practice, as outlined by artists and art historians. These include: New Genre Public Art in the 1990s, as outlined by Suzanne Lacy in her book *Mapping the Terrain*; the Community Arts Movement in the 1970s; and art historical overviews of the field such as Miwon Kwon’s *One Place After Another*, Grant Kester’s *Conversation Pieces*, and Claire Bishop’s *Artificial Hells*. Students will be given a text to read in advance, and will also be asked to read additional material together during the course.

The language will be English.

**SCHEDULE**

The schedule is presented through email at least two weeks before the start of the course.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATION**

The students will be expected to attend, actively participate in the sessions and demonstrate a capacity for critical thinking about the topic.

Your grade is reported in Ladok three weeks after the end of the course, at the latest. Should you receive an F (fail), you will be notified in writing. The written statement will entail an explanation for the grading and make clear what you need to do in order for you to receive a pass.

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GRADING CRITERIA**

You can find the expected learning outcomes in the course plans IN DEPTH STUDIES 1 MKO104, ELECTIVE MODULES 1 KOK110, ELECTIVE MODULES 2 KOK120 and ELECTIVE MODULE 3 KOK130 on the Intranet.

**The grade pass is awarded a student who:**

* can demonstrate in the discussions and seminars that they have critically engaged with the conceptual tools and topics presented and have some understanding of how to apply them to their own practice.
* can demonstrate a willingness and ability to collaborate with their fellow students in group discussions and the group field trip.

**COURSE LITERATURE AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES**

You will be emailed a text to read two weeks in advance of the course.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

At the end of the course, you will be sent an evaluation form where you will be able to answer questions about the course. The evaluation form is anonymous. The primary purpose of course evaluation is to form a basis for quality work and educational development here at Konstfack.

**COURSE ADMINISTRATION**

If you have any questions of a more administrative nature or about special needs, such as access to course literature as audio books, please turn to the course director ([olivia.plender@konstfack.se](mailto:olivia.plender@konstfack.se)) or to Bitte Andersson ([bitte.andersson@konstfack.se](mailto:bitte.andersson@konstfack.se)).