

ESSAYING ART: PRACTICE TUTORIAL ARTISTIC RESEARCH

COURSE MANUAL:

Overview

form	: Practice tutorial 6 ECTS (168 hours / total period of 8 months)
tutor	: Emily Huurdeman
participants	: 4-6 first and second year students of master Artistic Research
period	: September to June
structure	: 8 events and 8 meetings (40%) : 3 hours per event and 5 hours meeting 4 artistic contributions (40%) : 5-10 minutes, 2 public and 2 private 1 Online Pillow Book (20%) : 4 short (300-500 words) theoretically underpinned formations

Schedule (with hyperlinks):

<u>Month 1</u> introduction <u>Huurdeman</u>	<u>Café Chercher #4.1</u> with <u>NICA presentation Essaying art</u> by <u>Emily Huurdeman</u>
<u>Month 2</u> on artistic Research	<u>Café Chercher #4.2</u> with <u>ARIAS</u> Artistic Research info night
<u>Month 3</u> on the unfinished	<u>Café Chercher #4.3</u> and Meeting #3 with student research presentations
<u>Month 4</u> on experimenting teacher <u>Oscar Santillan</u>	<u>Café Chercher #4.4</u> with students and meeting # 4 guest
<u>Month 5</u> on the critical <u>Giustina</u>	<u>Café Chercher #4.5</u> with s and meeting # 5 Guest teacher <u>Christina Della</u>
Month 6 on the speculative	<u>Café Chercher #4.6</u> with student and meeting # 6 Guest teacher Amy Pickles
Month 7 wild card	<u>Café Chercher #4.7</u> with student and meeting # 7 with <u>Alice Ladenburg</u>
Month 8 reflection and evaluation	<u>Café Chercher #4.8</u> with NECS/CCVA

Course description

The subject of the tutorial is the intertwinement of artistic and scientific research strategies and how you can use them in your artistic practice. The focus is on your work in progress: sharing, tracking, analyzing and reflecting. The tutorial is divided in a tutorial day every second Tuesday of the month and an event day by the name of Café Chercher (see below) every last Tuesday of the month.

The tutorial day will provide you with theoretical background, guest tutors, and peer feedback. On tutorial days you will share your reflections on your artistic contributions, formulate your own position towards the theory, and contextualize your artistic work and research. The theoretical framework is based on the artistic essay as approach, we will use four core characteristics of the essay as themes to discover and develop artistic strategies of researching. The meetings aim to provide a space in which you and your peers can share, discuss, analyze and reflect on your artistic process. Together we'll create an environment in which we can collectively *doubt*, *experiment*, *speculate* and *be critical*.

You will also share your artistic research works in an unfinished stage at Café Chercher. The platform is a public space where you will get feedback from a wide range of people. Café Chercher is an art cafe for presenting unfinished research projects. These projects typically exist in-between the realms of the arts and the sciences in an environment for artists involved in research and researchers involved in the arts. Events are filled with presentations, performances, dance, music, videos, soup and drinks. Participants are art practitioners, students, phd-researchers, alumni and professors from different disciplines and institutions. You will connect with a growing community of inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional artistic researchers.

Café Chercher (<http://cafechercher.org>) is organized between 18.30h and 20.30h. The evening is hosted at VOX-POP Creative Space of the UvA Humanities Faculty (Binnengasthuisstraat 9, Amsterdam)

Emily Huurdeman
www.egahuurdeman.nl
info@egahuurdeman.nl

Course structure

1) ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTIONS (4 total, 40%)

There will be at least four artistic contributions. These contributions are artistic works of your research project in an *unfinished* stage. Two are shared in the public and informal environment of Café Chercher and two are shared in the private environment of the meetings. The public environment provides feedback from a wide range of people, while the private environment will provide feedback from your peers and the tutor(s). The contributions are *experimental* and should be *critical* towards the used form and content. The contributions should have a *speculative* point of view towards your research and you should aim to search for the new and hypothetical rather than the safe and known. The contributions are in a conceptually coherent form (for instance: a try-out, prototype, workshop, lecture performance) and may use all different artistic disciplines and media (for instance: video, poem, dance, theater, music). The goal is to investigate different artistic forms of your research by being eclectic, by being influenced, by combining, by composing, by collaging, by associating, and perhaps even by collaborating.

2) MEETINGS AND EVENTS (16 total, 40% total)

2.1) MEETINGS (8 total, 20%)

The first meeting is an introduction of practice based artistic research methodologies and projects. The other meetings have one of the following four themes: “unfinished”, “experiment”, “critical” and “speculative”. These words connected to both artistic as well as scientific domains. and are intentionally broad. The four themes become defined by using them in relation to each other and in relation to your own artistic and theoretical research context. You will prepare each meeting by reading an assigned paper, selecting a paper, listening to a lecture. The meetings revolve around peer feedback, and reflections on the artistic progress of your research.

Formulations (300-500 words)

In preparation of the meetings you will formulate and theoretically underpin what your definition of the discussed theme is (this can be theoretically, artistically, personally, politically, etcetera). This also includes reflecting on how your formulation of the theme relates to your own artistic practice and research. Think of conceptually coherent forms (for instance: report, list, essay, diary entry, poem, song, video, subtitles, voice recording) and add it to your Pillow Book (see point 3).

Summary:

every meeting you prepare by formulating your own definition and use of the theme that is discussed
every meeting we discuss and reflect on Café Chercher and the contributions
in two meetings you share an artistic contribution

2.1) EVENTS (8 total, 20%)

You partake in the monthly event by contributing with artistic contributions as described in paragraph 1, and by helping at the events (for instance: help at the bar, be a host(ess), think of a funky soup). We will reflect the events every following meeting and discuss possible changes to the format and experiment with them. Additionally you can document an event in any way you like (for instance: voice-recording, poetry, video, photography), make a clipping or make a video for on the bar (See [Café Chercher Clippings](#)). They are not mandatory, but can be used as an artistic contribution,

Summary:

at the events you help out with the event and preparations
two events you share an artistic contribution

3) MAKING AN ONLINE "PILLOW BOOK" (20%)

The Zuihitsu is a form of Japanese literature related to the essay. It incorporates drawings and different forms of writing (lists; scribbles; dreams; quotes; etcetera), the Zuihitsu uses the visual and textual in a fragmented, nonlinear, way. One of the most famous Zuihitsu's dates from 1002 and is called "Makura no Soshi" which translates into “The pillow book”. A modern-day Zuihitsu could incorporate sound, video, images, and web-links. The perfect place to facilitate this form is the workspace of the [Research Catalogue](#) from the Society of Artistic Research. Students create a workspace and update this space over the course of the 8 months. The goal is to archive material and to track an artistic thought-process. In the meetings you will reflect on your artistic

contribution and you will get feedback from peers which you can include in your Pillow Book. The pages will be shared in the meetings and will contain your formulations.

Summary

sign up for the [research Catalogue Workspace](#) and make a 'Pillow Book' workspace

include at least 4 formulations

you include additional non-textual elements

Course schedules:

Schedule indication for the tutorial day:

10.00 - 10.45	45 minutes	discussing Café Chercher (reflection and feedback)
10.45 - 11.15	30 minutes	discussing the the previous contributions (reflection and feedback)
break	15 minutes	
11.30 - 11.45	15 minutes	artistic and theoretical introduction of the theme
11.45 - 13.00	75 minutes	discussing the formulations and readings
break	30 minutes	
13.30-15.00	90 minutes	watch a video essay (2017) 2-3 contributions with peer feedback (2018)

Schedule indication for the event day:

17.00-18.00	60 minutes	arrival of core team
18.00-19.00	60 minutes	build-up with full team
19.00-19.30	30 minutes	home made soup
19.25	5 minutes	introduction talk
19.30-21.00	90 minutes	program:
	10-15 minutes (30 minute window)	2 speakers presenting their projects room for questions
	5-10 minutes (15 minute window)	1 or 2 performances (art, music, dance, theatre, poetry)
	5-10 minutes (15 minute window)	1 video screening (Clipping)
	continuous	(on the bar) 1 video screening on a tv (Clippings)
21.00-21.30	30 minutes	drinks and small snacks
21.15-21.45	30 minutes	build-down with full team

events: sign in for two dates

30 January	#4.4 Café Chercher	name:
30 January	#4.4 Café Chercher	name:
27 February	#4.5 Café Chercher	name:
27 February	#4.5 Café Chercher	name:
27 March	#4.6 Café Chercher	name:
27 March	#4.6 Café Chercher	name:
24 April	#4.7 Café Chercher	name:
24 April	#4.7 Café Chercher	name:
(29th May	#4.8 Café Chercher	name:)

MEETINGS: sign in for one date

13 February	#4 experimenting	all
13 March	#5 on a critical note	name:
13 March	#5 on a critical note	name:
10 April	#6 on the speculative	name:
10 April	#6 on the speculative	name: