Assessment for *VIS4001 Essay(ism) Beyond Text* (2024-25)

The main assessment for this elective is piece of **Essayistic Research**, or a personal, intellectual enquiry in a primarily non-textual form.

For this, you will create a body of essayistic practice that explores, in rigorous but personal ways, a theme, object, experience or passion that you select.

In most cases this will be take the form of a single essayistic output. There can be flexibility in the form of this output (e.g. photographic essay, video essay, graphic essay, etc.) but it will be primarily non-textual, and will draw on your skills and knowledge of your studio practice.

The topic of your essay is up to you, but we will provide guidance. Your aim is to carry out an essayistic enquiry, drawing on literature and other research material that is relevant to your essay topic, and to your studio practice.

The **formative assessment** is a proposal for your essayistic research.

It will be a **short presentation** (2-3 minutes) outlining your intentions:

-what is your essayistic research focused on?

-why have you chosen this topic?

-how are you carrying out your research?

-why are you working on it in this way?

You'll give this presentation in our session on **Thursday 5th December 2024**.

We'll discuss the formative presentations in more detail during the course.

The **summative assessment** has two parts:

1. Your essayistic research output (see guidance on next page)

2. A rationale, in which you critically reflect on your essayistic research output.

The rationale is short written text (1,000 words, +/- 10%), the main aim of which is to consider some of the ways in which your essayistic research could be seen as essayistic.

It will highlight key aspects of your essay, and contextualise and theorise them in light of literature and examples we look at together on the elective, and material you find from your own research.

The **deadline** for the **summative** is **Thursday 30th January 2025**.

Where to submit your work:

- submit your Essayistic Research output in the Essay(ism) 'Visual Essay' folder on MyLearning.

- submit your Rationale (with any transcripts) via the VIS4001 Summative Assessment Turnitin link on MyLearning.

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Forms of essay

The essayistic practice that you engage in for your **Essayistic Research** needs to be assessed, so we are asking you to create an essayistic output of 10-15 images or equivalent. Exactly what 'equivalent' means in practical terms can be discussed during the elective – it will depend on the kind of essayism you intend to engage in.

You might generate much more material than this (we hope you do), but the output that you submit needs to be selective and focused. In a way, the idea of setting a target like this goes against the open-ended inquiry that happens when we engage in essayistic practice. However, essays are often contradictory, and we will have to tolerate (or embrace?) this contradiction for now.

Below are some suggestions, organised by form of essay.

Please note: These are starting points for discussion, not absolutes.

- **Graphic / sequential art essay**
  Size: Up to 700 words & 32 pages of linear drawing
  What to submit: Hard copy + PDF; or Digital artifact + PDF
- **Photographic essay**
  Size: 10-15 images
  What to submit: Hard copy + PDF; or Digital artifact + PDF
- **Essay film / Video essay**
  Size: 5-6 minutes
  What to submit: MP4 + transcript in Word
- **Sound / audio essay**
  Size: 5-6 minutes
  What to submit: MP3/4 + transcript in Word
- **Performance essay**
  Size: 5-6 minutes
  What to submit: MP4 recording of performance + photographic documentation (if relevant) + transcript in Word
- **Exhibition / installation essay**
  Size: 10-15 images / artifacts
  What to submit: MP4 recording of a walk-through + photographic documentation + 'transcript' (of any textual elements) in Word
- **3D / Object essay**
  Size: To be confirmed - discuss this with Peter
  What to submit: MP4 recording of the object + photographic documentation + 'transcript' (of any textual elements) in Word