

**Visiting Artist Program Schedule & Syllabus – Art 120, Spring 2009**  
Department of Visual Arts and New Media

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 29</b>	<b>Opening Meeting</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 6</b>	<b>Gallery Opening – Fredonia Showcase</b> Rockefeller Art Center Gallery, Opening Reception 7 - 9 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 6</b>	<b>Gallery Opening – Figure and Form: Explorations of Humanity</b> Rockefeller Art Center Gallery, Opening Reception 7 - 9 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>George Hugh, Painter</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 26</b>	<b>Phil Hastings, Media/Video Arts</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>Nikki Blair, Ceramists</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>Gallery Opening – Senior Exhibit I</b> Rockefeller Art Center Gallery, Opening Reception 7 - 9 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>Alex Kanevsky, Painter</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>John Clement, Sculptor</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>Gallery Opening – Senior Exhibit II</b> Rockefeller Art Center Gallery, Opening Reception 7 - 9 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 7</b>	<b>Awards Night and Student Presentations</b> 209 McEwen Hall at 8:30 p.m.

**Lectures** of the Visiting Artist Program are held at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings in McEwan Hall, Room 209. Students are expected to arrive at 8:20 p.m. to receive their attendance coupon at the door. The doors to the lecture hall will be closed promptly at 8:30 and **no late admittance** will be permitted. Any student who is not in attendance by 8:30 will be counted as absent. **Disrespect** and/or inattentiveness **will not be tolerated**.

**Openings** of art exhibitions are also a required part of VAP. You may obtain your attendance coupon between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Coupons may not be turned in prior to 8:30 p.m. Openings are held on Fridays in the Michael C. Rockefeller Art Center main gallery.

**Attendance** is required at each lecture and opening. Students are expected to attend each presentation in its entirety. Students who arrive late or leave early will be considered absent. **Only one attendance coupon** will be accepted from any student. Students may not give their coupons to a peer to be handed in unless prior permission has been granted. Any student found guilty of submitting a fake or forged attendance slip will be **subject to automatic failure** at the discretion of the instructor/s.

Lectures will usually conclude before 9:45 p.m. **Only one excused absence is permitted** during the term. More than one absence will result in a "U" grade for the course whereby the student will not receive credit for the course and the GPA will be affected. Attending VAP is a requirement for all VANM majors.

Departmental secretary Dawn Geary handles all issues of attendance for this class. Any concern regarding individual attendance records should be directed to Dawn, who will notify related instructors and supervisors.

**One make-up** is possible due to **documented illness** or other **extreme documented circumstances**. To make up an absence, you must a) **provide a contact phone number** to Dawn of an authority who can document your illness/extreme circumstance b) **visit** a professional art gallery or museum, c) **compose a thorough 3 page critical review** of the exhibition **within two weeks of your absence**. Guidelines for make-up reviews are available on the ANGEL site for this course.

### Guidelines for VAP Make-Up Event Summaries

Students who miss more than one VAP lecture are provided with an opportunity to make up one absence by seeking out and critically analyzing another regional art-related exhibition or lecture. This guideline is created to provide you with what is expected in your written composition – a thorough 3 page critical review.

Think of this critical review as a brief review that would appear in an alternative weekly city paper or a student newspaper like *The Leader*. Imagine you are a critic who must describe the lecture/exhibition to a group of friends considering attending the exhibition or lecture series. One section will likely be devoted to a descriptive overview of the event and another to your analysis, reaction and opinion. Begin with the basics—what was title/theme of the event, where did it take place, how long is the exhibition on view? Move on to a general description and summary of the event and follow this with a close analysis of a few key artworks (if exhibition review) or salient points (if lecture). Was the exhibition or lecture worth attending in your opinion? Why or why not? What was the intended goal or point the speaker or artist or curator was hoping to convey? Were those goals met, in your opinion? Why or why not? You might even come up with a fictional journalistic name and persona for these reviews (but make sure your “real” name appears on the assignment too!).

Be as specific as possible in your summaries by replacing generic conclusions like “it was good” and “it was bad” with concrete examples of what you found to be compelling and/or disappointing about the event. Create a visual picture of the event for your reader so they can imagine it for themselves. Give your review a creative title that indicates its content and include the title at the top of the page. Go beyond reporting the “facts” and make it interesting to read.

- 3 pages double-spaced, 1” margin, 12 pt. Times Roman font, page numbers, stapled upper left, your name, title of review and **date of VAP absence**.
- Relevant events include: On-campus and local art exhibitions (such as student shows in the Emmitt Christian Gallery or Williams Center, local exhibitions at the Adams Art Gallery in Dunkirk or student off-campus exhibitions. Any special museum or gallery exhibition you might visit elsewhere during the term (in the Buffalo area this could include: Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Hallwall’s Contemporary Art Centre and CEPA). Please staple a pamphlet from the exhibition and your entrance stub to your review (if available).

#### Notes/Tips:

- all exhibition reviews must include: the name, location and duration of the exhibition reviewed; a summary of the exhibition; a close analysis of 1-2 specific art works; the name of each artist who created work under discussion; and the title, date and medium of the work.
- although you should select an exhibition or lecture in which you have a genuine interest, don’t be afraid to write a negative review if you truly felt an exhibition or lecture wasn’t worth your time. Just be clear and specific when describing the event.
- if you choose to visit the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, do not attempt to review the entire content of the museum. Select whichever small, focused exhibitions they are featuring at the time.
- instead of saying “what stuck out to me” try “what stood out to me” or “what struck me” or “I was impressed with”. Avoid words and phrases that are too colloquial or informal. Find other words for artwork than “piece/piece of art” try “artwork” or specific reference to medium like “this sculpture/film/painting/ photograph”. Find alternative verbs for the phrase “done by”. Try “created,” “produced,” “painted,” “formed,” “shot,” “executed” instead. Avoid using adjectives like “good,” “bad,” “interesting,” “beautiful,” and “unique.” These words are vague and subjective. Construct an argument whereby your reader will be convinced of an artwork’s “beauty” or “uniqueness” via thorough formal analysis and doesn’t just have to take your word for it.
- make sure your title is informative, creative, and hints at content of review and/or opinion
- in order to receive full credit, the review has to be so good it could be published in *The Leader* (free from typos, polished, not too informal, engaging, etc.)