

25. Object Lessons in Resistance and Resilience

Course Code: **OE2025** | Seats: **14**
CAMPUS: Gandhinagar

COURSE FACULTY **Michael Longford**



Experience:

Worked as a university educator, and researcher for twenty years.

York University, School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design

Education:

Bachelor of Applied Arts from Ryerson University, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University, Master of Fine Arts from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Whitney Independent Study Program in New York City

Keywords

objects, memory, storytelling, material culture, ideologies, climate crisis, mass migration, human condition, transformation

Overview

In this experimental workshop, students identify objects from the past and present imbued with stories of resistance and resilience that can be shared today, and carried into the future. Students explore the power of objects as symbols of transformation, repositories of memory, and as catalysts for storytelling, dialogue and change. In the face of polarizing nationalist ideologies, increasing economic disparity, the climate crisis, mass migration, and the fracturing of collective and individual identities we need stories of survival, resistance and resilience that engender hope, empathy and a shared understanding of the multiplicity of the human condition.

Inspiration – work and related projects by other artists and designers include the “Museum of Material Memory” by New Delhi-based artist and oral historian Panchal Malhotra, projects for “Border wall as Architecture” by architectural researcher and educator Ronald Real, and photographs of atomic bomb artefacts from Hiroshima taken by Japanese photographer Pishachi

Objective

Having identified an object, students will examine the history and cultural significance speculate about its future resonance whether it becomes a family heirloom, reside in a museum, migrate to social media or memorialized on a website? Further, there will be a proposal to how objects and its stories will circulate through society to influence cultural values, attitudes and events.

Methodology

Will include brief lectures supplemented by readings, regular feedback, demonstrations meetings and guidance. Working in a group of three, the students have to present their progress at the end of Week-1 Participate in final presentation and critique at the end of Week-2. Part-1: Research –Identify an object connected to stories of survival, resistance, its history Part-2: Analysis and Synthesis- Interpretation and storytelling, Part-3: Presentation of object, stories, and documentation for a final critique and exhibition at the end of workshop.

Deliverables

Final projects will be included in the Open Electives exhibition.