

Lesson 3

**Accountable In Oakland  
Community Practice Studio I (200) and II (300)**  
B Building, Room 2 - Oakland Campus

***The Life is Living Festival and Seeing Ourselves In Community***

Friday 09/23/2016 9:00AM - 03:00PM

Description: Learn about multigenerational engaged work in Oakland. Visit with Hodari Davis, National Program Director of Youth Speaks to learn about the Life Is Living festival and dialogue about Susanne Lacy and Chris Johnson's *Roof Is On Fire* project. By looking at models of socially engaged work in Oakland we consider social and formal best practices for working in DeFremery Park, Life Is Living, and communities as a practice.

Understanding Goals:

- How can looking deeply through creativity and dialogue with others help to refine our understanding about Community?
- How can developing creative ecosystems cultivate community?
- How does expressing our individual selves in an inclusive way manifest interbeing – recognition of difference in us that at the same shows our interconnectedness?

Aims:

- A) Have participants peer review collaborative projects from Oakland as a way explores forms and ethics.
- B) View 1994 video *The Roof Is On Fire*:  
<https://vimeo.com/39865636>
- C) Dialogue with a local practitioner and resident Artist/Educator/Organizer Hodari Davis
- D) Practice Mindfulness

Materials:

“Community” and “Collaboration” rubric  
Mirrored sheets of Paper > 8.5” X 11”  
Acetates/Prepared Polyester sheets  
Lesson plan

Paint pens  
Pilot Ultra Fine Pens  
Participant photo portraits

*Lesson 3 Part 1 (9:00 – 12:00 – 180 minutes)*

**Multi Generational Community Engaged Projects In Oakland**

Methods:	A.) Mindfulness body-scan	15 minutes
	B.) Hodari Davis Presentation and visit	75 minutes
	C.) Break	10 minutes
	D.) Review Understanding Goals	5 minutes
	E.) Watch <i>The Roof is On Fire</i> vimeo	55 minutes
	F.) Discuss The Roof is On Fire and Audience	10 minutes

G.) Closing reflections

10 minutes

*Lesson 3 Part 2 (12:30PM – 3PM – 150 minutes)*

***Seeing Self In Community***

Description: This workshop begins by exploring the multifaceted concepts of Brett Cook’s artistic practice through examples of installations and successful partnerships. This introduction to installation is an inquiry to some of the social and formal considerations of working in DeFremery Park and Life Is Living. The second part of the workshop involves participants in expressing their individual selves in an inclusive way to manifest interbeing – recognition of difference in us that at the same shows our interconnectedness.

Understanding Goals (Same as above):

- How can looking deeply through creativity and dialogue with others help to refine our understanding about Community?
- How can developing creative ecosystems cultivate community?
- How does expressing our individual selves in an inclusive way manifest interbeing – recognition of difference in us that at the same shows our interconnectedness?

Aims:

- A.) Have participants consider multi disciplinary/multi media assemblages and how they affect viewer accessibility to ideas.
- B.) Consider engaged installations as conduits for dialogue.
- C.) Review our class rubric to articulate aspects of “Community” and “Collaboration.”
- D.) Create mirrored works or art that showcase the maker while reflecting in the viewer.

Methods:

- A) Mindfulness body-scan 10 minutes
- B) Review Brett Cook Art In Community presentation 50 minutes
- C) Looking to SEE warm up 5 minutes
- D) Using an 8” X 10” digital photo, draw a prepared polyester portrait. 20 minutes
- E) Contemplate answers to the question, “What are you made of? Using mirrored paper, first sign name on the non-reflective side. Second, write three sentences on the non-reflective side answering the question, “What are you made of?” 5 minutes
- F) Break 10 minutes
- G) Represent one or more of the sentences you have written on the mirrored side of the paper with paint pens. If other ideas come that are not one of the three answers from the non-reflective side of the paper, they can be represented too. 20 minutes

- H) Participants add their prepared polyester self-portraits from the previous day to magnify the reference of themselves in their work. 10 minutes
- I) Closing Announcements and Homework Review 5 minutes
- J) Closing reflections 15 minutes

*“There’s no separation between self and other, and everything is interconnected... your happiness and suffering depend on the happiness and suffering of others. This insight helps you not to do wrong things that will bring suffering to yourself and to other people. If you try to help your father to suffer less, you have a chance to suffer less. If you are able to help your son suffer less, then you, as a father, will suffer less. Thanks to the realization that there is no separate self, you realize that happiness and suffering are not individual matters. You see the nature of interconnectedness and you know that to protect yourself you have to protect the human beings around you. “ -Thich Nhat Hanh*

#### Readings and Resources:

- 1) Some, Malidoma Patrice. Ritual: Power, Healing, and Community Pages 47 – 54.
- 2) Berger, Maurice. *Reconsidering the Black Panthers Through Photos*. NY Times, September 8, 2016.
- 3) Cook, Brett. *Enlightenment through Collaboration*. Community Arts Network, MICA, 2006
- 4) Nelson, Alondra. Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party And The Fight against Medical Discrimination. 2001. Pages 1-22
- 5) Life is Living website: <http://www.lifeisliving.org/core>
- 6) Susanne Lacy and Chris Johnson’s *Roof Is On Fire* project: <https://vimeo.com/39865636> (from class)
- 7) Shames, Stephen. The Black Panthers: photographs by Stephen Shames (from class).
- 8) Bingham, Howard L. Black Panthers 1968 (from class)

#### Assignment:

1.) Interpret and respond to the theme of COLLABORATION by sharing a resource, media, or story of your choice. Your selection does not have to be your own work or a new work, it could be an existing video, an article or excerpt, a song, poster, artwork or ephemera - whatever resource best communicates your understanding or experience of COLLABORATION. To help think through the theme of COLLABORATION in relation to socially engaged art, I ask for your media to be accompanied by a short written explanation - no more than 500 words. Please see my Enlightenment Through Collaboration article as an offering of reference (though my essay is longer in length than I ask of you). Be prepared to present your resource or media and selection in class on Friday October 7th.

2.) By Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm you will be responsible for 1 post on Moodle that directly relates to this week readings and major concepts of your choice. This post should demonstrate engagement with the readings, your community experience, and our class discussion. Creative posts that demonstrate authentic engagement with the course materials, the community process, and your collaborators are highly encouraged. The post should be 500 words or the equivalent of approximately one double-spaced typewritten page. The essay should come from your own original thoughts and experiences as generally inspired by the texts.

3.) NO CLASS next week, Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Do the readings, and see if you can link/help with Life is Living partners if you have time.

4.) Life is Living Meeting, Tomorrow/Saturday September 24, 2016 **10AM**  
DeFremery Park (Little Bobby Hutton Park) 18<sup>th</sup> and Adeline Ave. Oakland CA