

ASSIGNMENT PROMPTS:

The work you create and submit should reflect one of the following three prompts derived from the syllabi of courses taught by Barbara DeGenevieve at SAIC.

1. The Body and Its Excesses

Invoke/evoke the abject and/or psychic excess in the viewer.

Abject —utterly hopeless, miserable, humiliating, or wretched: abject poverty. Contemptible, despicable, base-spirited: an abject coward.

Root this piece in a place of familiarity, but take what's familiar to you and distill its essence. Your familiarity may be closing your eyes to other possibilities. Research and find a new entry point or take a new approach entirely. Be subtle. Minimize everything. Subtlety doesn't just connote etherealness; it also suggests cunning, intrigue, Machiavellianism, deception, and profundity. This piece should differ from anything you've done before with the subject. Eliminate all visual elements except for your own body. Use the spoken or recorded word, silence, or sound. Because most, if not all, of you work with a lens-derived image, you will need to translate your ideas into a different form. Take some risks...

2. Constructed persona/confabulation

Invent a self, one that you like or don't like; the artist you want to be in 15 years?

Take the identity of a dead hero or anyone else who has died. Artists? Relatives? Someone who disappeared under mysterious circumstances who re-emerges into the public realm? Utilize artifacts, video, and audio: consider found material, such as a recorded voice on an audio tape, as an artifact. Find a chat room and be that person. Keep all conversations as documentation.

3. Expanded Media Assignments

a. Make a fool out of yourself. Base this performance or video documentation on that act, but approach it seriously.

b. Make a piece using a live video feed that addresses any or all of the following: looking, watching, voyeurism, exhibitionism, or surveillance.

- c. Make a piece that is guaranteed to offend or piss people off.
- d. Use found footage from the internet (footage that you find either offensive or somehow problematic).
- e. Make the most indulgent, narcissistic, selfish piece you can make.
- f. Lie to us, deceive us, punish us for believing you.
- g. Make a documentary about the most problematic issue you can imagine. Convince your skeptical viewer of its cultural importance.