

Socially Engaged Documentary Filmmaking

Principles, methodologies and tools developed
by Dignicraft for collaboration and community
engagement

Instructor: Dignicraft
(Paola Rodriguez España, Omar Foglio, Jose Luis
Figuerola)

Description

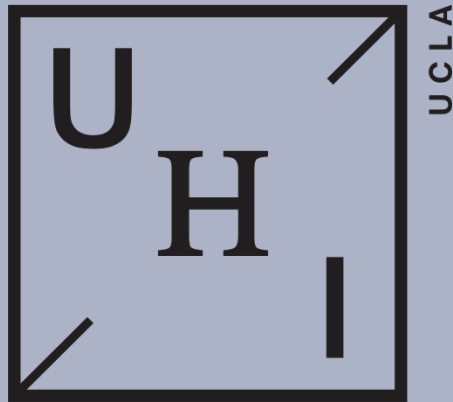
The members of the Dignicraft Film and Art collective, Paola Rodriguez, Jose Figueroa and Omar Foglio, share the conceptual principles they have developed over more than 20 years of experience as observer-participants, exploring their own realities and that of other people to try to understand them.

Dignicraft does this through methodologies such as documentaries, workshops, collaborative art projects and what they call Encuentros (encounters); and the practical tools required for a better and mutual understanding.

The workshop will be structured in three parts: 1) Conceptual principles, 2) Methodologies and 3) Tools, based on case studies of projects carried out by the collective addressing issues such as the Chicano, Mexican-American, and Latino communities in Southern California; the city of Tijuana and daily life in the US-Mexico border; immigration; traditional crafts; the Purepecha indigenous diaspora; and the periphery of Mexico City and the State of Mexico.

Finally, as part of the workshop there will be an opportunity to discuss details on projects being done by the participating students, exploring any of the concepts and elements of the methodologies/tools that are relevant to their own projects.





PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

Re-Mapping & Re-Imagining Pico Boulevard

Instructors: Francesco Siquieros & El Nopal
Press

Collaborator: Gustavo Leclerc

Description

The Urban Humanities Research Methods workshop, Re-Mapping & Re-Imagining Pico Blvd, will explore the potential and possibilities of printmaking as a research method for urban analysis. The workshop's focus will be Pico Blvd. from Santa Monica Beach to S Central Ave. in Downtown LA. We divided Pico Blvd. into eight two-mile sections. Students will work in teams of two students from different disciplines, and each pair will be given a section of Pico Blvd. to analyze, dissect, rearrange, and reimagine. The aim is to experiment with the image to provide us with a new way of looking, experiencing, and representing Pico Blvd.

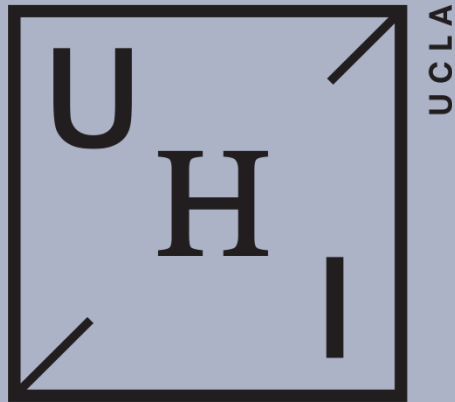
You can use or not your digital map as part of the image for your print. The map/image of your section of Pico should include relevant material and immaterial, real and fictional, concrete and imagined information. We encourage you to be experimental in concept, content, and, above all, representation. Your map/image can be entirely analog (drawings and images created by hand) or a hybrid of analog and digital (computer-generated drawing and imagery). We encourage you to be exploratory, adventurous, and even wild in remapping and reimagining Pico Blvd.

There has been a recent approach to Art History based on understanding and interpreting the history of places and people based on pictorial representation. This new approach has been a counter-position of the text-based history of Western society. In other words, the pictures, icons, and symbols become a visual language to read the text to read history.

Printmaking is a two-dimensional medium where the visual representation carries all the information and sends the message out. It is in the image that all the content is embodied.

The workshop will be in two days. Each pair of students will meet with Francesco for two hours to create the image and produce their print.





NIGHTTIME DESIGN

Rethinking cities' varied temporal landscapes

Instructors: Leni Schwendinger & Andrés F.
Ramirez

Description

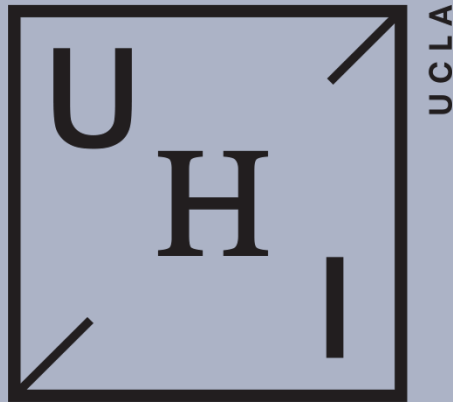
It is time to rethink cities' varied temporal landscapes; the perceptual and literal experiences of urban space after dark. The multi-faceted lens of nighttime design focuses on intersections of safety, health, and economics, as well as policy and nightlife. The proposed workshop, Nighttime Design (NTD), offers an interdisciplinary vocabulary, analytical framework and a practical approach to observe urban life at night.

Social life, economic vitality and public health can be dramatically influenced by nighttime conditions –most of which are underestimated and understudied. NTD encourages participants to appreciate the night as a place and a time-based discipline. The workshop offers a theoretical foundation to understand the urban nighttime, as well as a methodology to observe, evaluate and enhance it. From dusk to dawn, there is an ebb and flow of quantifiable activities and proximal illumination. Movement by foot, cycling and vehicular for work, play, entertainment and recreation can be documented. Lighting conditions include public illumination such as streetlights, shop and restaurant, and cultural venues' private lighting dependent on open and closing hours. There are also qualitative conditions to those same activities (walking, loitering, window shopping; ambience; human responses and social encounters). Issues of perception, such as atmosphere, are salient indicators for design research.

Learning Objectives for Nighttime Design :

- Situate nighttime within a growing field of research and practice
- Understand interdisciplinarity of NTD as a time-based field
- Recognize quantitative and qualitative methods for nighttime analysis
- Apply NTD and Shades of Night to produce an analytical project that incorporate social, economic, and public health dimensions





***FILM*ic SENSING**

Recording and analyzing the experiential
quality of contemporary urban places

Instructors: Lucas Reiner, Heather Seybolt &
Gustavo Leclerc



Description

Who are you? Discipline? Where did you grow up? what is your relationship to LA? 1 sense memory.

How do we make the time and space for the deep thinking? what is the difference between deep work, deep thinking and shallow thinking?

How do we create that space when space for realities is being reduced and reduced?

How do you feel an engagement with a place? see what is in front of you. let the space reveal itself to you. develop your peripheral vision. allow yourself to be surprised. forget what you know.

Remember: Texture, Color, Light / Shadow, Form, Movement, Sound (silent or single source found sound)

How does your body connect to the space? I smell, I hear, I see, I feel etc (what are your habits of seeing - look at something else) / grotowski singer exercise / you are catching rather than throwing the ball. What is happening just to the side of your vision?

trust your senses

discover along the way understand your constraints talk abstractly

don't be afraid to make a mess don't listen to your "I can't do" allow yourself to be aimless

be vulnerable

be defenseless

be helpless

shooting is doodling

shooting is letting the energy get recorded

editing is analyzing and shaping

editing is seeing and receiving the energy the image expresses

digress, uncover, find a new route

simplify simplify simplify

brighten the corners