Queen’s University Department of Art History and Art Conservation
ARTH 380 — VENICE AND ITS BIENNALE
May 7-June 5, 2017

OVERVIEW:

The Venice Biennale is the world’s oldest, most prestigious, and most influential exhibition of international contemporary art. When the 1st Biennale opened in 1895, it ushered in a new era of interest in contemporary art, giving rise to the international art market as we know it today. For over a century, the Venice Biennale has been a benchmark by which standards of artistic achievement and value have been established.

For six months every two years the Biennale turns Venice into a massive, dynamic exhibition, featuring the works of hundreds of artists from over 75 countries in the national and regional Pavilions, as well as Collateral Programs in all corners of the city. This 4-week, 6-credit travel study course will give students the extraordinary opportunity to experience Venice and its Biennale first hand. Through onsite learning at the Biennale and other art institutions in Venice, students will gain in-depth knowledge of the history and structure of the Biennale, its role in existing and emerging art markets, the goals and challenges faced by participating artists and curators, and its past, present, and future as an incubator for artistic innovation.

APPLICATION:

• Applications will be accepted and reviewed from Monday, February 6 until Monday, February 27, 2017.
• Applications must be submitted electronically to Professor Jen Kennedy at jk131@queensu.ca with the subject line “ARTH 380 Application”
• Application forms are attached to the end of this document. They are also available in Ontario Hall room 315.
• Students will be notified of the result of their application by Friday, March 3, 2017.
• A wait-list for the course will be created.

How do I register for ARTH 380?

• Registration will take place between March 6 and March 10, 2017.
• After March 10, students who have not registered will lose their spot and registration will open to students on the waiting list.
• To register you must make an appointment with Professor Jen Kennedy (Ontario Hall room 315, jk131@queensu.ca)
• At the time of registration you must submit a non-refundable, certified cheque or money order for the $3,500 course fee and a high resolution headshot for your Biennale pass.
• Please note that enrollment in ARTH 380 will be limited to 16 students.
How do I register for ARTH 380 if I am not a Queen’s student?
Non-Queen’s students must have a letter of permission from their home University. After they have secured this letter they will be registered as a Queen’s student for the spring term. The 6-credits from ARTH 380 will be transferred to your transcript at your home institution upon completing the course.
• Contact Jen Kennedy for more information about how to register as a non-Queen’s student.
• Priority will be given to Queen’s students.

What do I need to register?
• $3,500 money order or certified cheque payable to “Queen’s University Department of Art”
• A high resolution photo (passport photos are not high enough quality) for your Biennale passes
• A registration checklist (attached to the end of this document)
• In order to register for the course, your SOLUS account must be free of any outstanding fees.

FINANCES:

What does the $3,500 course fee cover?
• Accommodation at Locanda Silva from May 7-June 5, 2017
• Admissions to all of the museums and galleries included on the syllabus (including the Guggenheim Museum, Grassi Collection, and Punta della Dogana)
• A Permanent Pass to the Biennale’s Giardini and Arsenale sites.
• A public transit pass for the duration of the course.
• Five group meals including welcome and farewell dinners.

What costs are not included in the course fee?
• Tuition for a 6-credit course is $1,267.80
• Flight: the costs of flights can vary but you should probably budget $1,000-$2,000. Flights will be less expensive if you book well in advance. Students are encouraged to book flights as soon as they register for the course. Flight costs will increase significantly by the end of March.
• Spending money for meals not covered by the course, souvenirs, and money for any weekend travel.

PRE-DEPARTURE:

How do I prepare?
• Once you have registered for the course, you are encouraged to book your flight as soon as possible. The course will have an OnQ site where students can coordinate their travel.
• Make sure that you have a valid passport. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after your expected date of departure from Italy. If you are leaving Italy on June 5, this means that your passport must be valid until December 5, 2017.
• Complete the Queen’s University Off Campus Activity Safety Policy (OSCAP) and Emergency Support Program Pre-departure training. You will receive an email with instructions for completing these programs when you have registered for the course.

Will there be a pre-departure orientation session?
• An evening orientation session will take place on Thursday, March 16 at 7pm. All students and their parents are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet your peers, learn more about the course, and ask any questions you may have about logistics, academics, or how to prepare.
• At the orientation session, students will receive a detailed pre-departure orientation package with information about how to prepare for the trip, what to bring, and what to expect once you arrive in Venice.

LOGISTICS:

When does the course take place?
• The course runs from May 7-June 5
• Students must arrive in Venice in time to attend an orientation session at 6pm on Sunday, May 7 and may leave Venice on the morning of June 5.

Do I need a visa?
• Students with a valid Canadian passport do not need a visa to spend a month in Italy.
• Students who are not Canadian citizens are responsible for ensuring that they have the visa/documentation for the passport they hold.

How do I get to Venice?
• Students are required to make their own travel arrangements. The reason for this is to accommodate different methods of payment and travel schedules. This means that if you want to use frequent-flyer points to pay for your flight you will be able to do this. Also, if you decide to stay in Europe or travel after the dates of the course you can arrange to do that too.

Where will I stay in Venice?
• All students will stay Locanda Silva, a centrally located pensione, http://www.locandasilva.it.
• Locanda Silva is just a five minute walk to San Marco Square in one direction and a five minute walk to the Rialto Bridge in the other.
• Locanda Silva has wireless internet and provides a daily linen service. It is also close to two grocery stores, a laundromat, several coffee shops, fruit and vegetable vendors, and a pharmacy.
• Students do not have access to a kitchen at Locanda Silva but they are welcome to keep non-perishable snacks in their rooms.
• Locanda Silva has been the home of Venice Summer School students for nearly five decades.
• Students share rooms with their peers (doubles, triples, and quads), some of the rooms have a private bath and other have a shared bath with a limited number of other guests.

ACADEMICS:

ARTH 380 offers students the unique opportunity to see and study works by acclaimed contemporary artists from around the world in one place, and to experience art that is being exhibited for the first time.

Lessons will introduce students to key people, ideas, and trends in contemporary art, focusing on the Venice Biennale’s influence on the production and reception of art in the late-twentieth and twenty-first centuries. By the end of the course, students will have developed tools to analyze and discuss contemporary art and will have a strong understanding of the international art market and the practical concerns of mounting large-scale, international exhibitions.

The course is divided into four modules, each one building upon the last. Each module examines one aspect of the Biennale and its relationship to the economics, institutions, and discourses of contemporary art. By the end of the month, students will have a strong understanding not only of the Venice Biennale, but also of the mechanics of the world of international art writ large. While most topics will be explored through site visits to the Biennale or other exhibition spaces, some introductory seminars and guest lectures will take place in a traditional classroom.

The class will meet on weekday mornings. Students will intern at the Canadian Pavilion in the afternoons and on weekends. Internship hours will count toward course credit.

INTERNSHIPS:

All students in ARTH 380 will participate in internships at the Geoffrey Farmer exhibition at the Canadian Pavilion run by the National Gallery of Canada. Internships will be arranged in afternoon and weekend shifts and will never interfere with class time. Students can expect to intern approximately one-two afternoons each week and two-three weekend shifts over the course of the month. All students will have at least one weekend free. The internships are an exciting and rare opportunity to see behind the scenes of the Venice Biennale and to work with National Gallery of Canada staff. Student interns will be representing both Queen’s University and the National Gallery of Canada and are expected to present themselves accordingly.
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Application Form

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name:
Student Number:
Phone number:
email address:
Permanent address:

II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

Year of study:
Major/Minor:
GPA:

In the space below, list any previous experiences that have prepared you to take this course (travel, interest in contemporary art or arts administration, art history or fine arts courses, knowledge of Italian culture, etc.):

III. REFERENCE (academic or professional):

Name:

Phone number: email:
address:

IV. PERSONAL STATEMENT:

With this form please submit a 250-500 word statement explaining: 1) Why you want to study abroad; 2) What interests you about this course; 3) What impact this opportunity will have on you (academically, personally, or for your future goals)?

Registration forms and course fees should be submitted to Ontario Hall room 316B
Please email any questions to Prof. Jen Kennedy (jk131@queensu.ca)
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Registration Checklist

☐ Complete the application form and submit it to Professor Kennedy at jk131@queensu.ca

☐ Make sure that your SOLUS account is free of any outstanding fees.

☐ Receive email notification of your application result.

☐ Secure a money order or certified cheque for the $3,500 course fee, payable to “Queen’s University Department of Art”

☐ Print a high quality headshot for your Biennale Pass.

☐ Set up a registration meeting with Professor Kennedy (remember to bring your certified cheque or money order for the course fee, your photo, and this checklist!)