

2024-2025 Course Proposal

Christof Migone, Associate Professor, Visual Arts Department

Course Title: Theories, Practices, and Politics of Sound and Silence

Description: This course examines the vexed entwine between sound and silence. The former is formulated as a field of study and artistic practice. The latter manifests as a spectre to sound and as a strategy of refusal and resistance (and also of waiting, pondering, slowing down). Silence haunts all creative acts, and provides the constitutive ground for these acts—it is the not-so-empty vessel, the syncopal background agent that rhythms the foreground. One of the sites where silence studies intersects with sound studies most productively is, paradoxically, the visual field. This course will focus particularly on the tactics and strategies by which audio art interrupts, infects, and interpenetrates the visual field. The myriad methods of curation and diffusion and the connected issues of intention and reception will be considered in the same breath as issues of technique and technology. A broad selection of texts will be considered from diverse fields: literature (Celan, Kafka, Sarraute, Lispector, Moten, Robertson, Cha, Cascella, Carson), philosophy (Cavarero, Deleuze, Lyotard, Blanchot, Lefebvre), dance (Lepecki), music (Barthes, Barrett, Robinson), sound (Cage, Voegelin, Sterne, Kahn, Kim-Cohen, Ochoa, Oliveros), visual arts (Sontag, Bois, Camp), cinema (Tati, Duras, Debord, Bresson, Jarman, Marker, Minh-ha), amongst others.

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