USC ROSKI SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN
PERFORMANCE ART MINOR

Title  Performance Art Minor hosted by Roski School of Art and Design

Description

This interdisciplinary minor is designed for students who wish to engage in the experimental discipline of performance art, a mode of creative expression in which live or mediated bodies perform in theatrical or virtual settings for an audience. The minor offers two required courses, one in video and media installation and one in performance art, along with a broad range of electives from Roski and partner schools in Dance, Theater, Music, Cinema, and Dornsife. It is open to any USC student regardless of prior experience, especially those interested in creating new stories, actions or personas or those who want to explore the kind of disciplinary boundary-breaking and individual expressivity that is characteristic of the field. Practitioners in performance art come from a variety of backgrounds and crossovers between performance art with studies in popular culture, social media, community activism, theater, and dance are common. Performance art also highlights intersections among postcolonial and decolonial, ethnic, and sexuality/gender studies, making it an effective medium to explore and express identity and its politics. Total number of units required is 20*.

*Rhighly recommended at least one topics-based course

Rationale

Performance art is a burgeoning experimental mode of creative expression in which live or mediated bodies perform in theatrical or virtual settings for an audience. Visual artists have long experimented with time-based aesthetic forms, engaging theater, music, cinema and dance practices to create artworks that challenge disciplinary boundaries and open up new artistic possibilities. In this way they work across genres with artists who experiment on the edges of their own disciplines, expanding what is known, for instance, about where theater appears, what sounds constitute music, or why dance belongs in a museum. A performance art minor provides a nexus of creative and intellectual points of inquiry essential to pulling together arts and humanities faculty and students concerned with time, space, art, and the social sphere.

Given USC’s preeminence in forms of creative performance and performance studies, Roski School of Art and Design—which has over the past six years substantially increased our faculty with expertise in performance art (including the hiring of Edgar Arceneaux, Nao Bustamante, Patty Chang, Amelia Jones, and Suzanne Lacy)—seeks to connect faculty and students across campus to offer an interdisciplinary 20-unit Performance Art Minor. The minor will draw on expertise in embodied and time- and space-based forms of creativity at Roski but also among the faculty of Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, School of Dramatic Arts, Thornton School of Music, the School of Cinematic Arts, and Dornsife to provide a pathway to understanding and creating performance art. Furthermore, the minor will complement the new Performance Studies Graduate Certificate, centered in Roski but with collaborating faculty from Dramatic Arts, Dance, Music, Cinema, and performance studies scholars across USC.
As it includes the study of histories and theories of performance, the minor will also connect to humanities and social sciences disciplines. Given the emphasis in performance studies on addressing issues of identity, for example, American Studies and Ethnicity undergraduates would find much of interest in the performance art minor. The program expands the potential for recruiting diverse students from varying disciplines across USC, highlighting intersections among postcolonial and decolonial theory, ethnic and sexuality/gender studies. While framed within the field of performance art, this minor also supports Roski’s growing time-based arts curriculum, important updating of our offerings to match changing art practices in installation, performance, video, project-based, live art, contextual and social practices.

With the Performance Art Minor, we hope to offer a much-needed locus for students coming from a range of backgrounds to explore performance art and its related discipline of performance studies (a humanities discipline including history and theory of performance art, but also performance in its broader ritual and popular culture aspects). This minor is a crucial addition to Roski’s curriculum, solidifying synergies across undergraduate and graduate programs, but also strengthening our growing connections with performance modes at the other art schools, as well as with scholars at the forefront of performance studies innovations across Dornsife departments. The minor will embrace students from across USC and create a coherent and energized site for the practice and study of performance art.

**Targeted Audience**

The minor will be of particular interest to students in the four art schools who are cooperating in this offer. Students in Price School of Public Policy and Rossier School of Education who are interested in working in community development will find beneficial strategies of engagement as “audience” is a key issue in performance art studies. Annenberg students will find connections with their studies in public communications and journalism. Keck Medical School with its clowning program might have students interested in the exploration of interactions between performer and audience as seen in performance art. Dornsife students will find performance art is often engaged with issues of race, ethnicity, gender and, in general, identity studies. Many students interested in the intersection of personal identity, group representation, and social change will find a place for new answers to their research questions.

**New Course Catalogue Descriptions**

We will seek approval of two courses  Art 462 Performance Art Workshop and ART 463 Performance Art and the Frame.

**Art 462 Performance Art Workshop 4 units**
This course will introduce students to basic principles of performance art, using the body in time and space in relation to an audience to convey meaning.
Grading Option  Letter

**ART 463  Performance Art and the Frame  2 units**
Performance for the Camera is a course for those interested in the performative and narrative dimensions of their work through snapshots and/or moving images.
Curriculum Plan

4 units Lower Division required

- ART 260 Introduction to Video Projection and Virtual Worlds 4 units

4 units Upper Division required

- Art 462 Performance Art Workshop

12 units Upper Division electives (at least one Critical Studies course highly recommended*)

ART 361 Post-Internet Art and Aesthetics, 4 units
ART 362 Ideas in intermedia Units, 4 units
ART 460 Post Studio Roundtable, 4 units
ART 461 Techniques in After Effects, 2 units
ART 463 Performance Art and the Frame, 2 units
ART 484 Contemporary Issues in Art, 4 units
CRIT 415 Event, Action and Situation Performance Since Art Since 1960s, 4 units
CRIT 425 Identity and Visual Representation, 4 units
THTR 488 Theatre in the Community, 4 units
THTR 395m Drama as Human Relation, 4 units
THTR 405m Performing Identities, 4 units
THTR 406 Theatre on the Edge/ToE, 4 units
THTR 476m African American Theatre, Dance, and Performance, 4 units
THTR 312 LGBTQ Theatre, 4 units
THTR 456 Latinx Theatre, 4 units
THTR 460 Asian and Asian American Theatre, 4 units
DANC 363 Dancing on the Screen, 4 units
DANC 302g Hip Hop Don't Stop: Exploring Black Vernacular Dance, 4 units
DANC 312gw African American Dance, 4 units
DANC 333gw Origins of Jazz Dance, 4 units
DANC 342gp International and Historical Perspectives on Dance, 4 units
AMST 305 Art and Performance in the Americas, 4 units
CTPR 457 Creating Poetic Cinema, 2 units
IML 477 Embodied Storytelling and Immersive Docu-Narratives, 4 units
IML 328 Sonic Media Art, 2 units
IML 365 Future Cinema, 4 units
CTCS 412 Gender, Sexuality and Media, 4 units
CTAN 466 Projection Mapping Design and Production, 2 units
CTAN 495 Visual Music, 2 units
CTAN 452 Introduction to 3d Computer Animation, 2 units
CTAN 453 3d Animation for Motion Graphics, 2 units
MUSC 320gmw Hip-hop Music and Culture, 4 units
MUSC 372g Music, Turmoil and Nationalism, 4 units