

Master Class Artistic Research

Working With Waste



Image: film still, Reproductive Exile, 2018, a hybrid film exploring hormonal multispecies pharmaceutical relationships. Image courtesy the artist Lucy Beech

The Programme

This year's Masterclass 'Working with Waste' is conceived as a mentor-led research group open to professional artists/filmmakers or students at MA/PhD level who are interested in developing their artistic strategies and building new research-based methodologies. The programme consists of mentorship, project work and a series of lectures, screenings and workshops that explore relationships between waste, creativity and transformation. The mentors are a group of international artist filmmakers including guest professor in film and artistic research Lucy Beech and James Richards who represented Wales in the 55th Venice Biennale.

Dates

- **15th June, 2022: Submission Deadline**
- 18th July, 2022: group introductions (zoom + on-site at Film University Baberlsberg)
- 19th-23rd September: 5-day hybrid programme (zoom + on-site at Film University Baberlsberg)

Key themes: hybrid filmmaking, transdisciplinary & experimental research, waste politics, care, feminist science and technology studies, biodiversity discard studies, hormone biopolitics, interdependence, queer studies, new materialisms.

Participants are encouraged to:

- apply with a research proposal/ an idea for an artistic project that activates waste materials or explores the meanings and potential of waste in various socio-cultural settings.
- develop an audio visual project over the summer that builds on their research proposals.
- gain feedback from mentors and research group participants on how their research innovations might be transformed into expanded audio-visual projects
- explore how their projects might be mounted within public contexts such as exhibitions, performances, seminars or publications.

Thematic Framework

What do we mean when we talk about waste? Bodily waste such as human and animal urine has long been a resource material for biomedical pharmaceuticals whilst practicalities like repair, adaptation or reuse of material culture have been concerns of physical science throughout history. In industrial contexts slaughterhouses too have perfected ways to extract value from all of the biological materials of industrial animals including methane, bones and fecal matter for biodiesel, glue and cosmetics. Beyond more conventional notions of trash; climate conscious tropes like sustainability and processes that extend the life of material resources; the research group will develop projects that expand definitions and ideas of what constitutes waste. Together participants are invited to collectively explore the meanings and potentials of waste in various socio-cultural settings.

We will look to the work of creative and scientific practitioners who incorporate waste and other discarded materials into their creative/ scientific work and explore the power dynamics inherent to working with and conceptualising waste materials. The programming revolves around questions such as how do we archive, improvise, share, and reactivate waste materials? What kinds of creativity are involved in working with waste, what are the historical legacies of reusing discarded materials across different scientific and artistic contexts and how do attitudes to waste shape infrastructures and norms?

Participation

All participants are welcome to attend in person at the Film University Babelsberg, please note that the costs of travel and accommodation are not covered. The working group adopts a hybrid model of learning, which allows participants to attend lectures either in person or virtually through their own device so as to adjust to the individual needs of each participant. Sessions will be timed to accommodate the various time zones of the international participants. Please note all participants must be able to attend all of the programme dates.

Eligibility

We accept applications from:

- Students currently enrolled in higher education institutions at MA/PhD level
- Artists/filmmakers who have completed a professional qualification in the arts
- Artistic practitioners who can provide evidence of professional artistic activity in their field that extends over a number of years

Selection Criteria

The decisive criteria for the selection process are:

- an interest in exploring the meaning and potentials of waste materials.
- an interest in working experimentally at the intersections of art, science, research and filmmaking.
- the forward-looking and sustainable draft of a research proposal which outlined the following

*Equal treatment of all genders is inherent to the selection process.

The jury includes: Monika Richter (Managing Director of Filmuni Summer School), Dr. Juliane Schiffrers (Managing Director of IKF), Guest professor Lucy Beech + the Masterclass artist mentors.

Accepted applicants will receive written confirmation and further information on the summer school programme.

Submissions

Download the application form [HERE](#)

Applicants are asked to submit the following materials in English language:

- **Artist statement** (1000 characters without spaces). Using your past or ongoing projects as examples please tell us about your interests and how they relate to your artistic practice.
- **Portfolio** containing images of recent projects
- **CV**
- **Research proposal** (1500 characters without spaces) detailing the research theme you wish to develop into an artistic/audiovisual project or screenplay.

Please send the following attachments in a single email to: ikf@filmuniversitaet.de

Attachment 1: Portfolio (pdf format, max. 10MB) •

Attachment 2: CV

Attachment 3: Completed Application Form (incl. Artist Statement and Research Proposal)