Sculpture & Intercepting the Waste Stream
Three Week Course Syllabus

**Course Description**
Sculpture & Intercepting the Waste Stream is an introductory sculpture course with a primary focus on transforming waste material into 3 dimensional works of art. This course introduces environmentally conscious techniques and processes as well as guidance in terms of professional presentation. Group discussions and critiques, video screenings, and readings complement studio time. The class commences with a river, creek or shore cleanup, conducted in collaboration with a local water cleanup organization. The class culminates with a pop-up exhibit of work created by the students at a public local gallery or cultural space that also functions as a silent auction/fundraiser. Proceeds from the sale of the students' work goes to continue cleaning up local waterways.

**Course Objectives**
- Students will create one sculpture that cannot be confused with garbage. This artwork must include at least one piece of material from the cleanup, and be made out of a minimum 95% debris. Hardware or fasteners may be used, as well as non-toxic adhesives and assembly techniques.
- Investigate and develop sustainable art and design practices
- Explore fundamentals in sculpture, engage in critique and understand safety/etiquette issues for working sustainably in the studio.
- Students develop their own unique visual language in sculptural form.
- Students participate in a public exhibit gaining professional experience presenting their work to the public
- Students develop skills to transform waste into viable works of art
- Participate in restricting the flow of debris to our oceans

Students will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Attend scheduled lectures and classes
- Complete assigned coursework
- Participate in the group river cleanup as well as group discussion and final exhibition of artwork created during the course.
Text & Course Materials

Estimated Course Fee: $50-$150
In addition to using the materials students collect from the “waste stream” other required supplies and tools from manufacturers and suppliers of art materials will be necessary.

Required Reading:
The World Without Us by Alan Weisman
http://projectvortexuniversity.blogspot.com/p/required-reading.html

The Story of Stuff by Annie Leona
http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/rd

The Re-Enchantment of Art by Suzi Gablik Read CHAPTER 11
http://projectvortexuniversity.blogspot.com/p/required-reading.html

Screenings:
Tapped
http://tappedthemovie.com/

Waste Land
http://www.wastelandmovie.com/

Bag It
http://www.bagitmovie.com/
Schedule

**Week 1:** River, creek or shore cleanup/ sorting and cleaning
- Students will participate in a group “waste stream” cleanup where they will be responsible for collecting waste materials to be used in the creation of their artwork throughout the course.
- In class demonstration and discussion on how to clean found materials without harming the environment.
- Discussion on processing and organizing debris for sculpting
- Set up work spaces, safe storage of dirty materials etc…
- Discussion and demonstration of techniques to sculpt and edit debris materials
- Open studio, clean and prep material

**Week 2:** Fastening and assembly
- Discussion and demonstration of techniques to assemble materials without using toxic materials
- Class discussion on student work and progress
- Open studio, clean, prep and start sculpting material

**Week 3:** Airbrushing and/or surface treatment
- Discussion on presentation (wall relief, floor piece, suspended, indoor outdoor etc…)
- Complete pieces for exhibit, title, set reserve price, prepare guest lists
- Photograph work, vote on image for evite
- Install student exhibition
- Reception/Fundraiser
**Evaluation**

Grading will be based primarily upon the student’s effort, which is reflected in the following:
- The overall quality of the work that is produced.
- The level of success in meeting the objectives of given exercises and projects.
- Participation in critiques and class discussions.
- The level of caring and conscientiousness.
- Openness to ideas and constructive criticism.
- Photo-documentation of your work.
- There will be individual reviews and/or a final group critique at the end of the semester.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance Policy**
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be in class in a timely fashion, and to remain for its duration. The students will be responsible for the completion of all assignments, and for all materials covered during their absence. Students are expected to come to class prepared to work on the given problem and to dedicate a number of working hours on their own time.

**Participation**
Students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar.

Students are expected to participate on the class blog by posting their responses to readings and screenings as well as submitting their votes for exhibit titles and final image for evite.

Students are expected to attend the reception/silent auction for their exhibit and invite friends, family and colleagues.

Students can earn extra credit by either volunteering to update and maintain the class blog, design the evite for the class exhibit, photograph the completed pieces of artwork by each student, or by photo documenting classes progress each day and submitting those photographs to the class blogger.

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated.

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus