

BRIDGE :: a pracademic approach to building robust scaffolding for your art practice

Course synopsis

Bridge is an 18 week course designed by Deborah Crowe to address an area that many artists want help with – how to fully utilise research in a practical way – hence Deborah's invented term 'pracademic'. This course opens up approaches to making things that seem academic, practical, and do so in such a way that extends possibilities for your practical outcomes. This course helps you develop and accelerate your art practice through practical step by step exercises that link using research, generation of ideas, evaluation techniques and peer support to unpack and extend your existing and future work.

The core aim is to build a robust research and contextual base that underpins your work. This exploration may form a pathway towards undertaking academic study or further education. This course is not theoretical. It is designed to provide you with **practical** tools, frameworks and strategies towards developing research skills, self-directed practice, critical and independent thinking skills, advanced practical skills, writing skills, and building knowledge and confidence in the articulation about the ideas you are developing, and how your practice relates to contemporary visual art.

Course content builds incrementally on completion of tasks and self-initiated development of your work between sessions. There will be coursework (practice and research-based in relation to your ideas) throughout the 18 weeks spread over 5 months. The course structure, flexible facilitation style, and being part of a small cohort (maximum 10 participants) will provide one to one and group support for learners trying new things, an engaging environment for discovery learning, fun exercises, alongside fostering useful peer support systems. If this is the kind of stimulus, framework and or extension you want for your practice, enrol now! This course is designed for practitioners who have a portfolio of existing work.



Course outline

BRIDGE :: a pracademic approach to building robust scaffolding for your art practice

- session 1 Intro to **BRIDGE** course and a pracademic approach. Experimentation/expansive thinking workshop. Research + drawing in. Unpacking a text
- session 2 Sharing unpacking a text responses. Options for documentation of idea development. Research repository models. How to record a response to an exhibition. Peer support systems.
- session 3 Sharing exhibition responses. Research: Approaches to information + resource gathering. Knowledge sources. Tailoring your inquiry. Search strategies, keywords, searchstrings. Searching for information. Referencing. Developing own search strategies. Textual analysis task prep – own text/resource.
- session 4 Practical 'show and tell' - with research findings. Analysis tools. Critical thinking exercises.
- session 5 Critical analysis. Developing and setting individualised benchmarks for productive evaluation of current research and practice.
- session 6 Group informal practical work share and discuss. 1 to 1 feedback.
- session 7 Establishing **your** best research model. Arts based action research, design thinking and other approaches. How to build and gain *s t r e t c h*.
- session 8 Evaluating information + articulation of ideas through research and making.
- session 9 Materiality and visual literacy.

- session 1 Group feedback on practical work/work in progress. Crit techniques. Drawing/unpacking work/extension.
- sessions 2 & 3 Critical thinking. Recording your critical thinking/writing about your work to spark development. Development of self-evaluation skills. Briefing on textual/resource analysis presentations.
- session 4 Tools for productive self-directed practice.
- sessions 5 & 6 Individual textual/resource analysis presentations.
- session 7 Weaving research and practice towards generating experimentation and outcomes.
- session 8 *Many heads are better than 1* session – 15min selected activities
- session 9 1 to 1 feedback. Conclusions / springboards

Each week participants will be expected to 'report in' on the progress they have made practically, and in their experimentation and research tasks. It is intended that approx. 20 – 30 minutes of each session will involve a sharing of progress, however this may change according to the group dynamic and/or needs, as may some of the order or level of content.

© Crowe Creative & Deborah Crowe