
The Innovative Library Classroom (TILC)
Conference

Jun 1st, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Library as Studio: Fostering Artistic Exploration and Creation in a Library Class

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McMahan, Kaeley and Webb, Meghan, "Library as Studio: Fostering Artistic Exploration and Creation in a Library Class" (2023). *The Innovative Library Classroom (TILC) Conference*. 14.
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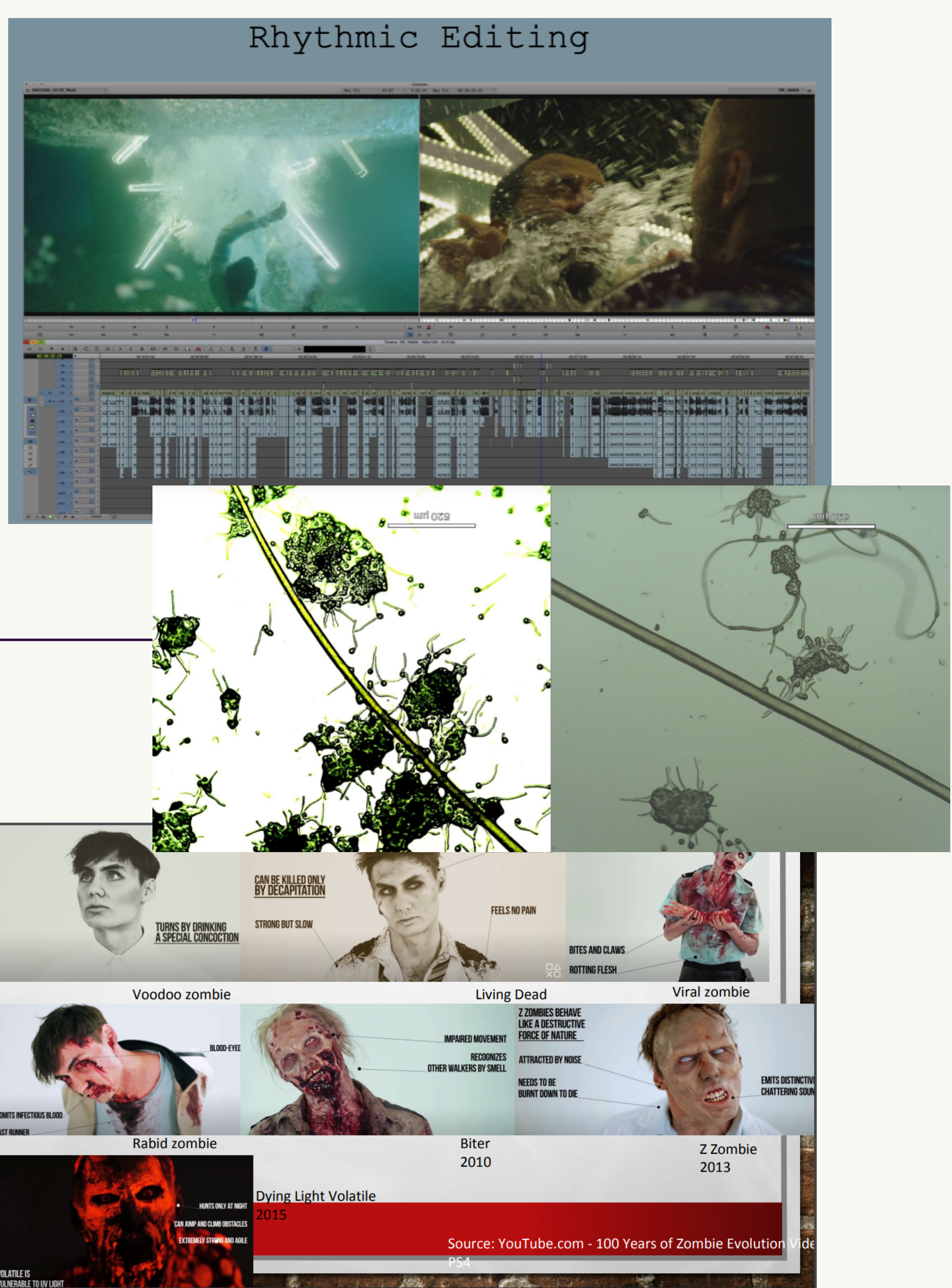
Library as Studio: Fostering Artistic Exploration and Creation in a Library Class

Kaeley McMahan & Meghan Webb,
Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will explore themes, practices and contexts of artistic inquiry within the frame of research and library exploration. Using diverse research practices, and a variety of library sources and online content, students will learn how to use the library to aid in the creative process.

- understand the benefits of research, information seeking, and library collections in creative process and practices.
- recognize the basics of copyright and creative commons licensing as users and creators.
- assess the relevance, authority, and credibility of found documents, and
- articulate a creative practice and/or artistic identity within the broader context of the creative discipline.



CLASSROOM EXERCISES & ASSIGNMENTS

Serendipitous Stack Exploration

Students implement browsing strategies in the library stacks to identify resources related to their chosen topics.

Setting the Scene

Students work in small groups to adapt a scene from a classical dramatic work by selecting a new time period, setting, and context while considering potential changes to costume, set design, and dialogue (dramaturgy exercise).

Artist Mapping

Students trace artistic influences, genres, communities of practice, and artistic canon surrounding one contemporary artist (musician, fashion designer, film director, visual artist, choreographer, etc.).

Artist Portfolio

Scaffolded research project consisting of 3 sequences:

1. Portfolio proposal
2. Annotated Bibliography
3. Pecha Kucha presentation

DISCUSSION OF CONTEMPORARY ART ISSUES:

- **Copyright & Intellectual Property**
 - led by Director of Digital Initiatives & Scholarly Communication
- **Personal & Career Development**
 - led by WFU Career Counselor
- **Technology & Artificial Intelligence**
 - focus on robotic art & AI image generators

ENGAGEMENT WITH ARTIST COMMUNITIES

- WFU Faculty Artist Panel
- Special Collections and Archives, ZSR Library
- Reynolda House Museum of American Art
- WakerSpace



“Seeing the African American art expressing the struggles, love, successes, and elevation of the African American experience in Reynolda House from the early 1900s to post segregation **shows the how art can explain historical contexts** like racism or segregation.”

“I think the concept of the WakerSpace -- **a place where you can come to be authentically yourself through art -- is incredibly valuable** and honestly underrated. . . I have always felt that our truest selves are best represented through the art we make. Regardless if you call yourself an artist or not, one's artistic process is uniquely their own and, therefore, always valid.”

“ . . . (one of the panelists) talked about how she researches information like cultural trends, historical events, and societal movements when designing her costume designs so that they are accurate and reflect the time period that they are situated in. This activity demonstrates **the importance of research when creating art**, as influences from other sources can guide artistic choices and give meaning to what is being made.”

“The opportunity to engage with various artists about their practices and values enabled me to better understand the production of their works, such as the challenges they face, the inspirations they draw upon, and the nuances of their crafts. Being able to learn from such passionate and talented individuals let me further appreciate and know more about the artistic process, which is why **this exercise has deeply resonated with me.**”

ADDITIONAL COURSE MATERIALS:



ZSR LIBRARY
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

