

B+C | A

Barnard and Columbia Architecture

Summer A 2021: ARCH 1020UN: Special Topics in Architecture

FUGITIVE MEDIUMS



Gee's Bend quilters, photograph (www.soulsgrowndeep.org)

This seminar will introduce and investigate historically marginalized modes of cultural production, including Black, Indigenous, and traditionally female-driven practices as a means of rethinking the epistemic values of architecture and related mediums of communication and language, and rhetoric. Students will engage these aesthetic modes and templates - “fugitive mediums” - such as textiles and weaving, regional forms of hip hop and social dance, storytelling, and archival practice through a series of protagonists both historical and present-day as a means of activating and incorporating them into their projective design toolset.

Employing a pedagogy of discursive seminar and making exercises, students will conduct their own critical exploration of these practices while developing their own method of generative commentary through the curation and design of an “**unruly**” zine or viral pamphlet. Using the vehicle of the zine as a “site” of exploration, students will re-center these fugitive mediums while combining scholarly reflection, rhetorical polemic, and experimental design strategies both physical and digital, verbal and non-verbal. This seminar is conceived in dialogue with the Spring 2020 *Fugitive Practice* course conducted between Howard University and Yale University. The class will draw upon resources at Barnard, including the Design Center and the Barnard Zine Library, as well as experts and guests within and beyond the school.

Three modules, one cumulative project :

Module 1 (2wks) : Layering and Weaving

Module 2 (2wks) : Language, Identity, and Embodiment

Module 3 (3wks) : Informality and Co-production

Cumulative project : Unruly Zine