

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

HARTFORD ART SCHOOL

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Hello all,

We cordially invite you to **READING ROOM: Urgent Pedagogies**, an experimental exhibition as learning space in the Silpe Gallery at the Hartford Art School from March 4-17, 2019.

Reading Room engages our Hartford campus community around issues of equity and social justice through art, design, and pedagogy. This immersive and participatory exhibition collaborates with students and faculty across the campus to set forth a space of teaching and learning through tools, games, conversations, and experiences. *Reading Room* both activates and expands possibilities for learning and teaching in the university context--and around what we might deem "urgent" in our current moment--to stimulate new and informal ways of thinking about the classroom.

We invite classes across campus to "hold class" or participate in the gallery during the exhibition and to join/contribute in ways that align with course learning objectives.

The exhibit will evolve with involvement from the community and will include:

- Reading spaces made by art & design students with books and materials on themes such as art and social change, whiteness, critical race theory, intersectional feminism, media and surveillance, ecology, etc.
- Large-scale wall collages of key quotes and excerpts from texts we want to amplify to stimulate thinking, questioning, and conversation.
- Theme-based workshops, talks, read-ins, and activities posted on our social media
- Media space with artist/student works
- Materials and objects for drawing & writing & listening

Some ways that your class can participate:

1. Visit the gallery during your designated class time and engage in discussion, writing, drawing, reading, and reflection. I.e., conduct a "read-in" (read a text out loud) or "draw-in" followed by discussions in the space.
2. Use the exhibit as a prompt for a class assignment and make something for the exhibit. (Examples of confirmed projects: A sculpture class will make temporary furniture, Architecture students will make props/shelves, a 4D class will make a media space, an art history class will make a wall collage, a math class will create a game, Visual Communication Design students are branding and designing the exhibit.)
3. We're very open to whatever seems aligned with the theme, and happy to help ideate.

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The experience of the exhibit can be contemplative and quiet much like a bookstore/reading room. Or it can feel action-oriented via group activities, games, workshop, or performance. Because the gallery consists of 2 rooms side-by-side, we can hold multiple engagements simultaneously.

We are hoping for a dynamic, fun, and thought-provoking 2 weeks of programming and to create a platform of dynamic engaged learning. We hope to see you in the space!

How to Get Involved:

Contact Billie Lee at blee@hartford.edu to bring your class or to learn more about how to get involved. Deadline to propose class project ideas to be included in the exhibit by Feb 1st.

Follow us on Instagram [@readingroom_space](https://www.instagram.com/readingroom_space).

Help spread the word to anyone you think would be interested!

This exhibit is organized by Billie Lee, Carol Padberg, Rico Reyes, Marisa Williamson, and Caroline Woolard and supported by the Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation and HAS Faculty Development Grant.

Warmly,
Reading Room Team