

SYLLABUS - Scenography and Scale

Workshop: Scenography and Scale

December 9-12, 2019

La Manufacture

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“Fractals are everywhere. Look at a tree: from trunk to branch to branchlet to twig, you see about the same shape, same proportions. Consider a cloud or an island: impossible to say if you’re seeing something small or enormous, because the proportions of puff or curve stay the same. The mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot made up the word fractal in 1975 for irregular patterns like these all over nature, patterns that roughly replicate themselves at different scales and could go on forever. Geometry made no sense of these shapes, yet they seemed to follow a mathematical system that involved splitting and splitting again. Mandelbrot’s word comes from frangere: break in pieces, shatter. Lightning, coastlines, rivers splitting into ever smaller streams, cauliflower, capillaries, lungs. A core shape forms a blueprint for possibly endless growth. Spirals are actually fractal, too; they don’t branch, but do self-replicate at different scales, winding inward or outward.”

From Meander, Spiral, Explode: Design and Pattern in Narrative by Jane Alison

SYLLABUS - Scenography and Scale

MONDAY

09:30 Welcome and Intro

11:00 Break (15 min)

11:15
Mini Lecture:
Scenography / Scale /
Mediation

12:30 Warm-Up Exercise

01:00 LUNCH

02:00 Exercise I: Expand

02:30 Work Time

04:30 Check-In

06:00 End of Day

Exercise I: Expand

Based on your selected stage direction, please sketch six ideas: 3 “large scale” and 3 “small scale” for group discussion. Work quickly.

For tomorrow morning:

Be prepared to present your six sketches to the class

TUESDAY

09:30 Group Crit

11:00 Break (15 min)

11:15
Mini Lecture: Framing,
Immersion, Example work

01:00 LUNCH

02:00 Exercise I: Refine

02:30 Work Time

04:30 Check-In

06:00 End of Day

Exercise I: Refine

Based on the feedback from this morning, select a single idea and refine it - try and figure out exactly how it will be accomplished, if you're not sure about something, write down those questions and bring them for discussion.

For tomorrow morning:

Be prepared to present your single refined idea to the class.

WEDNESDAY

09:30 Group Crit

11:00 Break (15 min)

11:15
Lesson: Informational
Light / Projection / Show
Control Software

01:00 LUNCH

02:00 Exercise II: Expand

02:30 Work Time

04:30 Check-In

06:00 End of Day

Exercise II: Expand

New text! Now working together as a group - select a scene, then develop two ideas (one large and one small). Recommendation: divide the ideas up into roles and figure out who will handle what part of the Workshop on your team.

For tomorrow morning:

Be prepared to discuss the specific challenges you have for accomplishing each of your two ideas.

THURSDAY

09:30 Group Discussion

11:00 Break (15 min)

11:15
Hands-On with Millumin,
build a prototype

01:00 LUNCH

02:00 Exercise II: Refine

02:30 Work Time

04:30 Final Check-In

05:30 Wrap Up

06:00 End of Day

Exercise II: Refine:

After the group discussion, Select a single idea and refine it as a group: imagine you are actually going to stage this, what do you need? How will you accomplish it? How does it relate the text? Take it as far as you possibly can - if possible actually build out all or part of it.