

## **Foundation Design and the Medium of Music: practicum in process.**

Carol Bankerd, School of Art+Design, Purchase College SUNY  
Joseph Ferry, Conservatory of Music, Purchase College SUNY

At the State of New York, Purchase College, Professors Carol Bankerd and Joseph Ferry are team-teaching Foundation Design 1 from the perspective of their respective disciplines: visual art and music.

Interdisciplinary pedagogies are built on strong disciplinary foundations. In this cross-campus studio, visual art and music are investigated as structured entities. The properties and processes of composing elements or materials are investigated through direct experience as students move between studio in The School of Art+Design and The Conservatory of Music.

Foundation Design is one of three foundation level courses required of each matriculated student in the School of Art+Design at Purchase College in tandem with Foundation Sculpture and Foundation Drawing. Taken together in the fall term of the freshman year, these three courses constitute an introduction to two and three-dimensional work in a variety of media and inter-relationships; primary emphasis is placed on analytical thinking partnered with the development of a hands-on working knowledge of the inherent properties of materials and processes as well as their formal meanings in visual and cultural contexts.

Professors Ferry and Bankerd view the primary aspects of structure as related in both the visual and performing arts: rhythm, pattern, juxtaposition. Composition is achieved by means of color, geometry and texture; spatial and temporal effects are met through perspective as well as positive and negative space. A team teaching project which engages professors from both the visual and aural dimensions of the arts in the context of an established foundation course serves to amplify the mission of Purchase College and to bridge the disciplines which are currently isolated from one another.

Carol Bankerd will speak to the pedagogy and performance which this interdisciplinary course is providing in Fall Term 2005. She

anticipates emphasizing the means and methods which provide option and opportunity in the design of interdisciplinary studies.