MIT Bubbles: an intro to designing and building inflatable structures

MIT building N-51 Room 348

January 18 -28: M, T, W, Th, 7pm - 9pm / February 1: Public Exhibition Course Instructors: Mary Hale, M.Arch 2009 and Brandon Roy PhD MAS 2012 http://itineranthome.wordpress.com/mit-bubbles





Taught inside of an inflatable bubble, this class will introduce you to the history, theory, techniques and science behind inflatable structures. Then you will make your own! There will be an opportunity to show off your work at the end of class in a public exhibition.

Materials fee: Roughly \$40 (depends on the scope of your project)

WEEK ONE

M. January 18, 2010. 7-9pm. Introducing...

···the class, the instructors, the students, the History and Theory of Inflatable Structures, useful precedents, *The White Diamond* by Werner Herzog, *The Man in the Flying Arm Chair* by George Plympton, and *Monumental Windbags* by Reyner Banham.

T. January 19, 2010. 7-9pm. Building...

···an arsenal of inflatable-making techniques, materials, principles, and a small prototype, thanks in large part to the *Inflato-cookbook* and to Ant Farm instructional videos, as well as to the knowledge and experience of your wise instructors.

W. January 20, 2010. 7-9pm. Sponging...

···off of the thoughts and experience of guest lecturers: Keith Case and another very exciting surprise guest (TBD)

Th. January 21, 2010. 7-9pm. Presenting...

...your proposal for an installation, and the project you will be working on during week two.

WEEK TWO

M. January 25, 2010. 7-9pm. Building. & Screening...

··· Sleeper or Bananas, Woody Allen (Theme: Inflatables as Props)

T. January 26, 2010. 7-9pm. Building. & Screening...

··· The Bliss of Mrs Blossom, Joseph McGrath (Theme: Inflatables & Breast Enhancement)

W. January 27, 2010. 7-9pm. Building. & Screening...

··· The Man Who Never Was, Ronald Neame (Theme: Inflatables & Military Deception)

Th. January 28, 2010. 7-9pm. Presenting...

· · · your finished project.

WEEK THREE

M. February 1, 2010. 9am-5pm. Exhibiting...

··· on registration day at points yet to be determined around the MIT campus.

F. February 5, 2010. 6-8pm Exhibiting & Socializing... (Optional)

... with the architecture department during their happy hour on the fourth floor of building 7.

MORE USEFUL INFORMATION...

One stop shop.

http://itineranthome.wordpress.org/resources

Books.

The inflatable moment: pneumatics and protest in 68/edited by Marc Dessauce.

Thomas Herzog, *Pneumatic Structures, a Handbook of Inflatable Architecture*. Oxford University Press, 1976.

Thin Skin: The Fickle Nature Of Bubbles, Spheres, And Inflatable Structures / by Barbara Clausen, Carin Kuoni, Lee Boroson, and Ray Eames. 2002.

Ant Farm, 1968-1978/ by Constance M. Lewallen and Steve Seid; with additional essays by Chip Lord, Caroline Maniaque, and Michael Sorkin; and a timeline by Ant Farm.

Otto Piene, Tensile Structures vols. 1&2. MIT press, 1967.

Curtis Schreier, Allen Rucker *Inflatables Illustrated*. 1971 (on Ant Farm DVD)

Sean Topham, Blowup, Inflatable Art Architecture, and Design. Prestel. 2002.