Creative Engagement in the OCAD University Library’s Learning Zone

Marta Chudolinska, Learning Zone Librarian
Hi, I’m an artist!

Images: Marta Chudolinska
Losing my Grandmother so early means my life is full of hanging questions only she could have answered.

I wonder, when did she stop feeling like a child?

Was she aware of the moment or did it happen gradually?

When did she meet her husband? Did she love him? Were there others before him who held her heart?

What dreams did she have for her life? How many of them came true?
OCAD University Library

VISION
OCAD U Library empowers the imagination and leads the university community in the creation, discovery and sharing of knowledge.

MISSION
OCAD U Library nurtures a learning ecology extending beyond the classroom and studio, where everyone can engage in historical, critical and scientific inquiry, research, lifelong learning and the celebration of creativity, experimentation and innovation.
The Learning Zone is a studio-based library space. It's an alternative work area where students can collaborate with other students and faculty, or seek advice from library staff.
Features of the LZ

- Desktop and laptop computer work spaces
- Printers and scanners
- High-tech and low-tech equipment available for loan
- Table space for non-toxic studio work
- Flexible furniture
- Built in projector and speakers
- LCD screens

Image: Heather Evelyn
Collections and Projects

★ Collections:
  ○ OCAD U Zine Library
  ○ Design Annuals
  ○ OCAD U Seed Library
  ○ Visionaire magazine collection

★ Projects:
  ○ ReUse Depot - art supply swap space
  ○ grOCAD Windowfarm & Aquafarm

★ Exhibitions, Events & Workshops

Image: Marta Chudolinska
Learning Zone Founding Concepts

VISION
To create a place where students feel welcome and comfortable and where everyone can learn from each other, organically and holistically

MISSION
★ Enrich the student learning experience
★ Provide meaningful extra-curricular programming
★ Facilitate access to new forms of information
★ Realize practical training opportunities for professional practice
New Ecology of Learning

Sustainability
Diversity
Wellness
Interdisciplinarity
Technological innovation
Contemporary ethics

Image: Marta Chudolinska
National Survey of Student Engagement results (2013/14) identified need for:
- Socializing
- Community building
- Stress relief
- Supportive environments

National Collegiate Health Assessment survey (2013) found that OCAD students had the highest rates of stress, depression and suicide in our province.

Challenges to community building:
- City campus
- No campus residence
- Large commuter population
The Impact of Libraries as Creative Spaces Report

Creative Spaces Impact Framework criteria:

Accessing Resources          Cultural Participation
Idea Building                 Health and Wellbeing
Civic Engagement              Educational Attainment
Community Development         Economic Productivity
OCAD U Zine Library

Image: Marta Chudolinska

Image: Heather Evelyn
OCAD ZINE LIBRARY WORKSHOP SERIES

PUBLISH IT YOURSELF

INTRO TO SELF PUBLISHING
MARCH 19 - 3-5PM

SOFT-COVER BOOKBINDING
MARCH 20 - 3-5PM

HARD-COVER BOOKBINDING
MARCH 21 - 3-5PM

2 COLOUR LINOCUT PRINTING
MARCH 22 - 3-5PM

All workshops will be held in the OCAD U Library’s Learning Zone
113 McCaul St. level 1

Workshops are for current students only, include all materials and are totally free!
This series is possible thanks to funding from the First Generation Program, administered by
the OCAD U Writing & Learning Centre

Poster design: Eli Howey

Poster design: Marta Chudolinska
Zine Workshops

Image: Heather Evelyn

Image: Marta Chudolinska
Zine Collective

Artwork: Kai Lumbang. Image: Lindsay Gibb

Image: Heather Evelyn
Self Care Zine

We are producing a collaborative zine this term about:

SELF CARE FOR ARTISTS + DESIGNERS

We’ll be printing it on the Risograph thanks to a grant from the Student Union!

Is self-care a priority for you? Why/not?

You can:
- contribute a page or more of art/design/writing/comics/etc.
- help produce the zine
- answer some questions above to quickly contribute.

What’s the most valuable/important thing you do for yourself?

We’re ready.

Images: Lindsay Gibb

Image: Marta Chudolinska
SUGGESTED SELF-CARE B.S. ACCORDING TO YOUR SIGN BY A NON-ASTROLOGIST*

*OLIVIA KIM

WATER SIGNS:
WASH THE SIN WASH

EARTH SIGNS:
JUST GET THE DAMN CAT GAME.

AIR SIGNS:
INVEST IN A HUMIDIFIER

FIRE SIGNS:
masturbate more

Artwork: Olivia Kim

Artwork: Clover Akuoko-Debankah
cool things to do when yr feelin' down

- RIDE A BIKE
- PET A DOG
- CALL YR MOM
- I LOVE YA!!

do whatever ya want tho, i'm not a cop

- TAKE A WALK
- LISTEN TO MUSIC
- EAT A FUGGIN' CINNABON
- HELLA
I LIKE THIS!
FANDOM FUNZINE

Artwork: Marta Chudolinska

Artwork: Wil Brask
Zine Fair

Image: Marta Chudolinska

Poster design: Marta Ryczko
Student Led Creative Workshops

IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING... ...TEACH SOMETHING!

Promotional image: Marta Chudolinska
Exhibitions

Curated by me, students, faculty, student groups & other departments

Notes from the Wind Exhibition
Curated by DRPT students Kenny Tran and Emily Zou
January 30 -February 26, 2018

Image: Woman in Chrysanthemum Forest Under Full Moon: Part 1 by Sohae Jeong
Texthibit

A visual display of creative writing by students at OCAD U

Poster design: Marta Chudolinska
Images: Heather Evelyn
How Are You, OCAD U?

A creative research project about our community’s experiences of OCAD U as a learning environment.

Based on results, students created 6 idealistic manifestos, one permanently installed in the space.

Image: Marta Chudolinska
The environment will consume you. The environment will reward you. The environment will bestow you with gifts. Politics will inspire you, rather than distract you. You will be able to access all demonstrations, images, conversations, and budgets online. Critique will be what you make of it. It will be what it will be. There will always be someone to help you prepare. You will always receive positive feedback. You will get a job in spite of your studio education. You will be an artist if you want to be. The studio spaces will be places of positive social interactions. There will be too much studio space. All students will have access to all studios. All work may be left in-process in the studios. We will waste less. The school will be open 24 hours a day. The buildings will be totally accessible for all students. All doors will be open, all stairs nonexistent and all elevators voice-activated. Everyone will have a canine companion – if they want one - especially at exam time. The school environment will be inviting. Classes will teach technique, skills and content. There will be moments of quiet. There will be moments of chaos. Classes will be designed for and by students. There will be a place to rest for every student and faculty member and staff. There will be a mandatory rest period in the middle of the day. All may rest whenever they wish. Abundant storage will be available for everyone. There will be free coffee and tea. There will be free cookies. There will be free art supplies and food. We wish all will be happy most of the time. There will be angst but who will really be worried about it. It will be real.
Artists Teaching Exhibit

2013 - Organized with Prof. Pam Patterson & students from Art Education Experience Lab course

Images: Marta Chudolinska
Recommendations

★ Respond to and support needs as they are voiced by the community
★ Say yes (within limits)
★ Learn the value of relationship building
★ Collaborate, not duplicate
  ○ Respond to what is already happening within the community
  ○ Tap into new wells of resources - human and financial
★ Incorporate your talents and passions into your work
Special thanks to my colleague Heather Evelyn for all the amazing photo documentation over the years! Thanks also to the ARLIS Ontario Chapter for their support in the form of a Travel Award.

Sources


Thank you!

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