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OUTDOOR STUDIO CLASS: UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

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Outdoor Studio Class Reception in the Berol Lodge

CLASS OVERVIEW

Art 4620: Outdoor Studio is an upper division course in the Department of Visual Arts. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore a wide range of media and approaches to art making in the field. Most of the course takes place in Albany County with the final week being a trip to the AMK Ranch in Grand Teton National Park. The AMK Ranch is critical to this course as it provides students with access to the incredible variety of land formations, animals and plants in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Also, the AMK allows for art students to work and live along with scientists that are conducting research projects. Ideally this interaction between science and art allows art students the opportunity to tie their work to a backbone of scientific content.
This time at the AMK is like a residency. It allows for students to have a fair amount of uninterrupted time to research their subjects and delve deeply into their work. It is critical to take full advantage of this time as well as the overwhelming landscape.

Along with the landscape, the Outdoor Studio course takes advantage of the many programs offered by the National Park. In particular, programs that address the native art collection has been of interest. Also, we benefited greatly from a docent tour of the National Wildlife Museum of Art in Jackson. The access to both of these collections of art is a great complement to all of the information available regarding the geology and biology of the Parks.

Students spend much of their time producing work in the field, the boathouse and the screened in porch of the Johnson Lodge. On the last night of the AMK stay, students display their work and participate in an open reception. This event is always fun and useful for both the art and science students as it provides an informal way to discuss their research and results.