

## ***Art & Belief Systems and the Power of Transformation***

Belief systems shape personal and collective identities, influencing how histories are remembered, cultural heritage is preserved, and societal values are defined. In regions marked by conflict, these systems often reduce complexities into polarized narratives, fostering fear, deepening divisions, and hindering meaningful dialogue.

This seminar invites students to critically engage with belief systems through artistic practice, examining how myths, rituals, symbols, and visual representation construct and sustain these frameworks. By analyzing their roles in shaping identities, ideologies, and cultural memory, participants will uncover the hidden mechanisms that drive these narratives and consider how art can serve as a medium for challenging dominant perspectives while embracing complexity and multiplicity.

Key questions will guide our exploration of belief systems and their influence. We will examine the conditions under which belief systems emerge and the forces that sustain them, as well as how they can obscure or silence alternative narratives. We will explore how cultural practitioners can uncover the hidden forces behind these systems and whether a story can exist without committing to a single perspective. Additionally, we will consider what it takes to listen actively, hold contradictions, and nurture dialogue that goes beyond polarization. These inquiries will shape our understanding of belief systems and their impact on identity and society.

The seminar will prioritize active listening and the coexistence of differing viewpoints, fostering a framework where diverse perspectives are embraced without being overshadowed or silenced. Through collaborative exploration and creative thinking, students will deconstruct limiting narratives and reimagine belief systems as tools for connection and understanding.

The first year will focus on creating an archive that will provide the foundation for producing an exhibition in the second year based on the knowledge and data gathered.

Our ultimate aim is to transform belief systems into interconnected networks of perspectives, encouraging dialogue, creativity, and empathy to bridge divides and inspire new ways of thinking through art.

### **First Year**

The first year is designed for students interested in exploring innovative methods of data collection and research. Rather than traditional academic approaches, the focus will be on creative and boundary-expanding research techniques. The group will consist of students from diverse backgrounds, all eager to step outside their comfort zones and collaborate across disciplines. This dynamic environment will help students develop interdisciplinary skills, broaden their perspectives, and engage in creative, experimental research. We welcome students from a wide range of fields, including literature, archaeology, politics, and the arts.

The seminar will center around the theme of art and belief systems, structured into two chapters over the first and second years. The first year will focus on collaborative artistic research, laying the groundwork for the artistic manifestation in the second year. The research

topic will be co-developed with the students, exploring the intersection of art and belief systems.

Throughout the year, students will be introduced to a variety of research methodologies, allowing them to explore, analyze, and refine their ideas with greater depth and precision. We will engage with libraries, archives, digital databases, interviews, and contemporary research platforms, accessing a wealth of historical, cultural, and artistic knowledge. In addition to these methods, students will integrate oral history and recognize spiritual knowledge in its many forms.

The textual, audible, and visual research materials collected throughout the first year will provide the foundation for the second year, where a more focused and artistic exploration will unfold.

## **Second Year**

The second part of the seminar will be designed for 10 dedicated art students.

Building on the research and experience collected in the first year, students will develop a body of work, both individually and collaboratively, to be showcased in a prominent exhibition at the end of the year.

This phase of the seminar will focus on the artistic process, emphasizing observation and listening techniques while prioritizing the mapping of the art-making process over critique.

In addition to both collective and individual guidance, I will share my own artistic practice with the students by inviting them to my studio for a hands-on experience, offering them a deeper understanding of my creative process.

Throughout the year, students will be encouraged to explore diverse mediums and support each other in producing more profound, contextually informed works, all while staying true to their unique artistic identities. For the preparation of their final exhibition, I will provide each student with close support and supervision, both from me and their fellow students. This collaborative approach will ensure that they are able to share their insights and experiences with one another. Throughout the year, we will also explore the works of artists whose creative processes are research-based and collaborative, drawing inspiration from interdisciplinary practices.

## **Ethics of Teaching**

I aim to create an atmosphere of collaboration where students feel comfortable sharing their ideas, experimenting with different techniques, and embracing a diversity of viewpoints. It's essential for me to nurture their individual artistic voices while encouraging them to push boundaries and question conventions. I believe that good teaching is about cultivating a space where students feel empowered to explore their creative potential while engaging in meaningful dialogues about art, culture, and society.

### First Year Schedule May 16 - November 7 2025

The seminar will consist of 13 lessons, divided into seven in-person meeting days and five lessons conducted via Zoom. The in-person meetings will occur at two locations: most sessions will be held in the classrooms at the organization's site in Kreuzberg and part at my studio in Lichtenberg.

Session Type	Dates	Time	Total Hours	Notes
<b>In-Person Weekend Meetings</b>				
Weekend 1	Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11, 2025	10:30 - 16:30	12 hours	
Weekend 2	Saturday-Sunday, July 19-20, 2025	10:30 - 16:30	12 hours	
Weekend 3	Friday-Saturday, September 19-20, 2025	10:30 - 16:30	12 hours	Dr. Yulia Goland, Brain Sciences expert, will join on <b>September 20th</b> together with Nir Evron's class for a journey into belief systems.
Special Session	Sunday, November 30, 2025	10:30 - 16:30	6 hours	Final presentation day with Nir Evron as a guest teacher.
<b>Zoom Meetings</b>				
Session 1	Friday, June 20, 2025	14:00 - 16:30	2.5 hours	
Session 2	Friday, July 11, 2025	14:00 - 16:30	2.5 hours	
Session 3	Friday, September 12, 2025	14:00 - 16:30	2.5 hours	
Session 4	Friday, October 17, 2025	14:00 - 16:30	2.5 hours	
Session 5	Friday, November 7, 2025	14:00 - 16:30	2.5 hours	
<b>Seminar Preparation</b>	Ongoing before and during the year	-	20 hours	

### Second Year Schedule Jan 2026 - November 7, 2026

Dates and hours will provided later this year.