

What is BLOCK?

- BLOCK is a one-year program (fall and spring semester) at the Glassell Studio School. Class meets all day Friday and is comprised of Seminar in the morning (10 a.m.–12 p.m.) and Critique in the afternoon (1 p.m.–5 p.m.). The program is for advanced students who have a studio practice. We aim to build a strong peer community and work toward significant development in your work.

What is the time frame for BLOCK?

- BLOCK runs on the academic calendar, fall semester (beginning early August) through spring semester (ending early May).

Who teaches BLOCK?

- Francesca Fuchs, artist and long-time instructor at Glassell, is the program leader and organizes and teaches the critique component. Laura August, PhD, writer, curator, and art historian leads the seminar component. Francesca and Laura coordinate the program to make it work as a seamless unit.

How does the BLOCK seminar work?

- The seminar is comprised of readings, discussions, and professionalization practices. It requires advance preparation with some assigned written responses. The program is focused on building a peer community. Laura selects readings that widen your understanding of critical thinking around art and community. She will also build in some field trips to demonstrate how exhibitions work in museum and gallery spaces.

How does the BLOCK critique work?

- Francesca will visit with you three times, which includes one longer, in-depth visit. We invite Houston–area artists, curators, and critics for all other critiques. Critiques begin with a 25-minute group discussion/roundtable with the visitor and then break into individual one-on-one meetings. You will write up a response after each visit to keep track of your thoughts. We want BLOCK students to stay at Glassell the entire afternoon of class to facilitate peer critiques and discussions.

I hear the BLOCK seminar may stay remote. Is that true?

- The seminar class will be structured substantially around remote learning on Zoom for BLOCK 2021/22, although there will also be a number of in-person class meetings, field trips, and excursions. We will use Google Classroom to collect all our class work. We may ask you to reserve some time outside of our long Fridays for certain field trips. The field trip schedule will be distributed at the start of the semester.

Is the critique section mostly in person?

- Yes. The plan for BLOCK 2021/22 critique is for sessions to be held in-person over studios 10, 13 and 14, on the second floor of the Glassell Studio School. We may invite one or two visitors that are not based in Houston, in which case those visits will be on Zoom. But mostly you will be coming in with your work and/or images if your work is too large. We will use Google Classroom for our Visitor Log and image folders.

How many students are in BLOCK?

- There are 12 students in the BLOCK program. The percentage of first to second years varies from year to year.

I hear you can do the program for a second year? How does that work?

- You are welcome to re-apply to BLOCK for a second year. Re-entry is not guaranteed, but is a general preference. We want to see your commitment to a second year and a drive toward further developing your work through seminar and critique.

Do I get a dedicated studio?

- No. But as part of the program you may use any of Glassell's studios in any areas you have demonstrated proficiency through prior classes. You may use classrooms outside of posted class times and within regular Glassell Studio School building hours. BLOCK is predicated on you having a studio practice and making work throughout the semester.

What about parking?

- You will get a parking pass that gives you unlimited access to the parking garage for the full academic school year.

Is there a BLOCK exhibition?

- Yes. There is an exhibition in September/October each year following the end of the full BLOCK year in the first floor Levant gallery. Last year due to Covid the *BLOCK XX* exhibition was online. Please check it out at mfah.org/block.

What happens after BLOCK?

- Former BLOCK participants have pursued gallery representation, opened arts nonprofits, made public installation art, and have won major grants. They generally stay in close touch with their peer community. At times they also continue their journey at Glassell.

Can I reapply if I don't get in?

- Each year there are far more applications and great submissions than spots available. Please don't take a rejection personally. We would love to continue to work with you in other Glassell classes. We definitely encourage you to apply again.

Who are typical visitors?

- BLOCK visitors in the fall 2020 semester included: David McGee, Patricia Restrepo, Hellen Ascoli, Kara Springer, Lovie Olivia, JD Pluecker, Qais Assali, Ashley DeHoyos, Robert Hodge, Joe Havel, and Francesca Fuchs.

How do I contact you if I have more questions?

- The BLOCK program information page is: www.mfah/block
- You can also contact Francesca Fuchs at ffuchs@mfah.org and Laura August at laugust@mfah.org.

The 10 Images; Video or Audio:

- You can upload 10 pieces of visual information: make sure the image quality is good and that an outsider can understand what they are looking at. Our best suggestion would be to submit three groups of three from different bodies of work rather than having everything be the same or taking a scattershot approach. We do not need to see how good you were in beginning drawing; we want to see your vision. We encourage applications from all areas.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL TEXT DOCUMENTS IN PDF with YOUR NAME and CONTACT INFORMATION, INCLUDING:

- **The one-page statement of intent:**
 - We suggest a three-paragraph response answering these questions: (1) What is your work about? (2) What point are you at in your work, and where do you want to get to? What are your big questions, and how will BLOCK help you with them? (3) Anything else you want to share? What is influencing you in your work? What are you reading, looking at, etc.?
- **The one-page resume/CV (list):**
 - Please list all your education in art and beyond, at Glassell and elsewhere. If you have been in shows please list them newest to oldest under solo or group exhibition.
 - Example listing:
2021 *Light*, Glassell Kinder Morgan Exhibition, Kinder Morgan Building, Houston, TX
- **The one paragraph brief biography:**
 - Our suggestion: think of this as eight sentences. Tell us about yourself and about all the different lives you have lived.
- **The image list:**
 - Image dimensions are listed as height x width x depth in inches or feet depending on scale. Please do not put “mixed media,” but list out the materials you are using (unless it is 50 items long, then maybe focus on the top 10!).
- **When is the deadline?**
 - On SlideRoom on Monday, April 12, at 11:59 p.m.
- **Where is the SlideRoom application?**
 - The SlideRoom link is available at mfah.org/block.
- **Who are the jurors?**
 - The jury is comprised of Laura August, Francesca Fuchs, and Glassell School director, Joseph Havel.
- **When do I hear if I got in?**
 - Applicants will be notified before the end of our spring semester on May 7, 2021.
- **Why does the application cost \$12?**
 - This is the administrative fee that covers the SlideRoom cost.
- **What does the BLOCK program cost?**
 - \$1800 per semester; \$3600 for the year. You are charged at the beginning of each semester.

Thank you for understanding that staff cannot respond to email or telephone inquiries regarding the status of individual applications.