ἀρχή (archive)

A 15-Week Experiential & Archival Inquiry

Prohibition & Confidentiality:

Strict confidentiality applies. No public broadcasting, publication, or external circulation of archive work or generated artifacts without prior consultation.

COURSE OVERVIEW & CURATORIAL LOGIC

This 15-week trajectory functions as an investigation into personal historiography, material practice, and somatic attunement. By treating past creative outputs (text, audio, visual, physical, and sensory) as historical materialities, we engage in an ongoing dialectic between memory, archive, and lived experience.

- **Weeks 1–5:** Interrogating material traces and historical creative outputs.
- **Weeks 6–9:** Performing Therapeutic Event Scores that bridge 1960s/70s Fluxus performance practices with clinical attunement.
- **Weeks 10–12:** Examining relational, object-oriented, and spatial anchorings.
- **Weeks 13–15:** Synthesizing the archive into a curated, closed-loop private dossier.

PART I: EXCAVATING THE TEXTUAL & AUDITORY ARCHIVE

Week 1: Unintended Consciousness (Textual Excavation)

- **Selected Corpus:** From your cumulative writing archive (>500,000 words), select exactly 9 paragraphs at random.
- **Intuitive Assembly:** Assemble the 9 selected fragments into a single document based on intuitive sequence rather than narrative logic.
- **Transcription & Overwriting:** Type these handwritten/archival pages into a digital document. Insert contemporary thoughts as commentary directly into the text, using a distinct font color to distinguish current thoughts from original text.
- **Submission:** Send a copy of the finished product prior to Week 2.

Week 2: Auditory Constellations & Sonic Genealogy

- **Album Selection:** Select 1 album you created and 1 album by another artist that functioned as an aesthetic or thematic catalyst.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Write a reflection exploring the connection between the two albums.
- **Close Lyrical Reading:** Draw specific attention to the relationship and lyrics of 1 song from your album and 1 song from the catalyst album.

Week 3: Visual Phenomenology & The Barthesian Gaze

- **Reading:** Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida*, pp. 25–49. Access **here**.
- **Photographic Selection:** Choose 1 photograph from your personal archive (>100,000 images) that speaks directly to you.
- **Structural Analysis:** Apply Barthes' understanding of *Studium* (cultural/political context) and *Punctum* (the accidental, piercing detail) to your photo.
- **Audio Commentary:** Create a voice recording that talks through your "Barthesian" analysis of your photograph.

Week 4: Material Entombment & Ritual Clearance

- **Physical Selection:** Select 1 of your paintings to bury near a tree of your choosing.
- **Symbolic Object:** Along with the painting, bury another object that stands for some worry of which you would like to rid yourself.
- **Deposition:** Transport both artifacts to the site and attend closely to the somatic experience of burial.

Week 5: Somatic Dislocation & Non-Dominant Script

- **Selection:** Choose 3 existing journal entries at random.
- **Motor Repatterning:** Copy each entry onto a new piece of paper using your off-hand (e.g., left hand if right-handed).
- **Somatic Observation:** Attend to the experience of re-writing your own words in this altered physical manner.

PART II: THERAPEUTIC EVENT SCORES

For Weeks 6–9, you will perform four Therapeutic Event Scores uniting 1960s/70s Fluxus event practices with clinical attunement. Follow each score in whatever way you understand it, maintaining a log of your experience to share.

Week 6: EVENT SCORE 06 – Fluxkit #4: Spatial Poem

- **Contents:** 1 Blindfold.
- **Instructions:**

  A. Place over eyes in a familiar room.

  B. Move for 300 seconds.

  C. Listen to the floorboards as an orchestra.
- **WARNING:** Do not attempt to master the space.

Week 7: EVENT SCORE 07 – Dissolution & Decoupling

1. Write a letter of grievance or desire.
2. Submerge the page in water for 24 hours.
3. Watch the ink decouple from the paper.
4. Dispose of the unreadable pulp unread.

Week 8: EVENT SCORE 10 – External Centering

1. Sit near a continuous ambient hum.
2. Reframe all internal thoughts as noise.
3. Center the external hum as primary thought.
4. Maintain for 600 seconds.

Week 9: EVENT SCORE 11 – Haptic Withdrawal

1. Cover every mirror in your living space.
2. Rely strictly on tactile sensation for 48h.
3. Note when the urge to inspect arises.

PART III: ECOLOGICAL, RELATIONAL, & OBJECT CONSTELLATIONS

Week 10: Inventory of Uncanny & Absent Objects

- **Object Mapping:** Construct an index of 5 objects that are no longer in your physical possession but retain heavy emotional or cognitive resonance.
- **Descriptive Catalog:** Document each missing object's weight, origin, texture, and the specific void left by its absence.

Week 11: Cartography of Everyday Micro-Practices

- **Spatial Tracing:** Track your daily movement across your domestic or urban environment for 3 consecutive days.
- **Psychogeographic Mapping:** Create a visual or textual map identifying points of high friction, somatic grounding, and environmental noise.

Week 12: Interpersonal Resonance & Relational Event

- **Relational Score:** Design a private 5-minute unscripted performance or micro-interaction involving a consenting peer or partner.
- **Reflection:** Analyze the interpersonal dynamics, boundary negotiation, and mutual attunement produced during the interaction.

PART IV: SYNTHESIS & ARCHIVAL CLOSURE

Week 13: Curation of the Closed Corpus

- **Review:** Gather all artifacts, audio recordings, transcribed texts, and score logs produced across Weeks 1–12.
- **Structural Categorization:** Group materials into thematic series (e.g., Erasure, Echo, Friction, Absence).

Week 14: Draft Archival Statement & Portfolio Assembly

- **Synthesis Writing:** Compose a 1,000-word critical introduction to your synthesized archive, evaluating how your relationship to your past work has shifted.
- **Layout:** Format the collected texts, logs, and visual documentation into a unified private dossier.

Week 15: Final Archival Review & Closure Session

- **Evaluation:** Present the complete 15-week private dossier in our final session.
- **Strategic Closure:** Review the overall trajectory, evaluate therapeutic and creative shifts, and establish formal protocols for sealing or maintaining the personal archive moving forward.