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Collaboration Matters

In this collaborative studio, we will explore opening to the agency of material matter (and the tools that act as extensions of bodies) as a method of collaboration. Students will develop, construct, and perform intimate design sites for human and non-human (material) encounters. In other words, we collaborate with things, and to collaborate effectively with “things,” we will extend methods related to human-focused collaborations. We will make things to better understand encounters of the material kind.

Consider design constructs as forms that frame and activate experiences. Within these designed forms is an existing collection of animated materialities. This complex collective is an active site designed with reflection on systems and conditions of human behavior often undermined by necessities of standardization, production, and the commitment to traditions of form. In challenging this emphasis on form making, outcomes in this course will engage design as experience-making: active, performative, and meaningful.

“A lot happens to the concept of agency once nonhuman things are figured less as social constructions and more as actors, and once humans themselves are assessed not as autonyms but as vital materialities.”

– Jane Bennett, **Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things**

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