Welcome Week 2018
Micro-Seminars

Materials & Making: How Ideas become Matter
and Matter becomes Ideas in Art

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Session One: Lecture/Discussion—Materials and Mind in Art
How do ideas and material come together to make art? Contemporary art since the 1960s has been dominated by the kind of art that is driven by concepts or ideas ("idea art" or "conceptual art"), and concerns about materials and materiality have often taken a back seat. Starting with a lecture giving a brief impressionistic history of art and sculpture as material (focussing on modern art before the rise of idea art), students will then discuss and debate what it means for an artist to start not with a concept but with what various materials can do. Attention to their particular interests and favored materials will provide grounds for a deep discussion about how these materials enable and constrain their practice.

Session Two: Art Workshop—Working Materials into Art (studio based)
In the workshop we will begin with a particular material with specific qualities and propensities—probably paper and unusual drawing materials. Students will be given two exercises designed to engage their relationship with themselves (both their thought processes and their bodily tendencies and constraints) and with the materials. Throughout the making process, the discussion will continue and students will present their two projects at the end of the seminar for brief critiques. The critiques will allow for a final discussion in which each student will articulate her/his particular ways of relating to the materials at hand and will explore the relationship between these strategies and their thought processes.