Objective:
This course investigates the use of digital tools and processes within creative practices. Participants will explore the act of making as a method of spilling critical thought — *thinking by doing*. This methodology positions “the hand” as a fulcrum for inventing, developing and interpreting theoretical constructs. The various roles of fabrication will be investigated through its modes of *conceptualization, representation, simulation, and actualization*. Both traditional and digital processes will be deployed to awaken innovations in *materiality* and guide their transformative powers.

Format:
Sessions will offer a combination of short lectures, group discussions, technical demonstrations and work sessions. Participants will be expected to complete (8) one-week fabrication assignments. The course work will also provide an overview of the common protocol for operating automated fabrication equipment.

Content:
This course is highly recommended for all incoming students that are new to the Portland Program. Participants will complete both the basic safety orientation and CAD/CAM orientation required to use all of the equipment supported within the woodshop and fabrication lab at the White Stag Block in Portland. Participants will also improve their proficiency with digital modeling while using Rhino3D software.

Evaluation:
20% attendance/participation
80% (8) fabrication assignments

---

Joseph Cornell, Untitled, c.1931