

SAFETY ISSUES IN THE SCULPTURE STUDIO EVEN IN THE NEW NORMAL

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Abstract

A sculpture Studio is simply a working space for sculpture practices and one has to abide by the rules of engagement within to be safe even as one engages in the different activities within. One may be tempted to ask these hypothetical questions of what safety in the sculpture studio is and what covid-19 compliance in the New Normal is. In an attempt to answer these questions lies the thrust of this study. There are many materials within the sculpture studio that can be hazardous as well as some tools and equipment that can pose serious danger in safety if precautionary measures are not taken. The work space, the tools and in compliance of safety measures as applied to Covid-19 hold the key to safety in the Sculpture studio which is a unique work space for the practices in Sculpture.

Keywords: Safety, Sculpture Studio, Covid-19, New Normal and Apprenticeship.

INTRODUCTION

The Sculptures Studio is a working space that requires all safety precautions in handling most materials and power tools. First aid kit or box is required in the studio. The first precaution is to understand the tools and materials and the working spaces provided. In this sphere, the apprenticeship method of teaching that is enshrined in the sculpture space is paramount. It is actually a working relationship between a studio master and the apprentice. It is not like the regular mode of teaching where a teacher reels out information and the student takes note, it is much more than this type of teaching. In other words, skills in the sculpture studio are passed on from one seasoned studio master to an apprentice without which trials and errors carried out could expose the apprentice to danger. With the entrance of Covid-19 in 2019 from China the Apprenticeship system mode of teaching has changed. The first affected aspect is the number of hours an Apprentice spends in the studio with the studio master. Lesser contact hours in the studio is now what obtains and video clips are now used for demonstrations online. One however envisages a situation where the online approach might experience some hitches

LITERATURE REVIEW

Quite a number of studies have been done on safety issues in the studio from different angles such as the dangers in the usage of some materials in the Sculpture studio and precautionary measures put in place against such hazards. Some are even more prone in the third world or developing countries with scarce resources to put safety measures in place to safe guard the users of the studio. And one of such safety study is the work of Gokay and Shahriari (2015) that examined the studio conditions in Necmettin Erbakan University in Turkey space and ventilation were highlighted as major safety challenge in this University. This might not be far from the Nigerian situation and perhaps other third world countries. Siedlecki (1971) numerated the material used by sculptors.

The risk of silicosis is identified as associated with stone carving that can destroy lung tissue this can be prevented by wearing respiratory mask. Dead fingers can also occur when fingers are held in a certain position for long. (Hart, 1987) Heavy metals silica, asbestos, solvents, cyanide, acids, allergens, noise heat, UV and IR radiation are but few of the chemical and physical stress affecting artists. Biological and ergonomic stressors may also be present. James (1996) investigated a collage level introductory direct metal sculpture studio class as a complex socio-cultural system in which elements such as the environment, personal characteristics, course structure and social interactions provide constraints and opportunities for teaching and learning. While Lippman and Moon. (2004) were concerned with research and development and the safety measures in the laboratory and studios. All these have added to the body of knowledge in this sphere of endeavour to add to the body of knowledge in this area of study from different angles of safety issues in the studio. In this particular study emphasis is laid on space as a safety measure and the safety measures in compliance to Covid-19 which is the new normal and its attendance issues



Figure 195: First Aid Components, Courtesy: healthfacts.ng



Figure 1. First aid components, courtesy: healthyfacts.ng

The various materials have their chemical components that require knowledge before handling. In terms of welding, the proper welding kit must be used especially the goggles, which prevent the sparks from damaging the eyes. After engaging in welding for two hours continuously, one is expected to take a

glass of milk or Trevo to help clear the system. Also the casting of waste plastics is dense with dangerous fumes that are injurious to the human body. This should therefore it be done with caution in safe open space and not in an enclosure.



Figure 2. Trevo immune booster for welders



Figure 3. Title, Injury illustration Courtesy: www.linkedin.com



Figure 4. Hand Injury with angle grinder in University of Port Harcourt



Figure 5. Wrong Wears for the Welding Studio, Photograph: Leonard West

Rusted metal should be handle with gloves to avoid being pierced by it, which can cause tetanus. Spraying of the art works calls for nose mask because of the chemical component of the paint that could affect the lungs. Disinfecting of plastic

wastes especially the plastics slippers is very important owing to the nature of the waste plastic slippers, the places where they are dumped and the former users. The use of tools and equipment in the studio must adhere strictly to the safety procedures that could be found in the manual of such tools or equipment. In the course of time, some electric wires get exposed such that this endangers the sculptor to the possibilities of electrocution. Such wires then should be changed to avoid problems. In the course of this study the dicing and piercing should be handled carefully even with gloves to avoid injury to the body. In summation, the issue of safety in the sculpture studio cannot be over emphasized in respect to spaces, materials, the techniques and the tools.

Safety Apparels



Figure 6. Safety Wears in Sculpture Studio, Courtesy: www.directsigns.uk



Figure 7. Fire Extinguishers, Courtesy: www.directsigns.uk

KNOW YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS LABEL COLOUR CODES

WATER	DRY POWDER	CO ² CARBON DIOXIDE	AFFF FOAM	VAPOURISING LIQUIDS BCF/HALON
✓ Suitable for Class A fires	✓ Suitable for Class A and B fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class A, B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires
✓ Suitable for Class A fires	✓ Suitable for Class A and B fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class A, B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires
✓ Suitable for Class A fires	✓ Suitable for Class A and B fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class A, B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires
✓ Suitable for Class A fires	✓ Suitable for Class A and B fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class A, B and C fires	✓ Suitable for Class B and C fires
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Figure 8. Graphic Representation of different contents of fire extinguishers, courtesy: www.directsigns.uk



Figure 9. Fire Blanket, Courtesy: www.ic-international.com

Fire blanket is a textile materials that is chemically treated to resist fire and can only be effective in small fires that are less than 1000 degrees centigrade used to snuff off oxygen from small fire especially on persons that have already caught fire.



Figure 10. A Bucket of sand Courtesy: www.directsigns.uk

Architectural space Design and safety in the sculptural studio



Figure 11. Hot shop Courtesy: academic.hamilton.edu/art/list-art-studio



Figure 12. A mixed media 3D studio: Courtesy: academics.hamilton.edu/art/list-art-studio



Figure 13. Wood shop, Courtesy: academics.hamilton.edu/art/list-art-studio



Figure 14. Space and Ventilation, clay mixing studio, Courtesy: academics.hamilton.edu/art/list-art-studio

Work Space and furniture in the Sculpture Studio in respect of the New Normal

Safety in compliance with Covid-19

The present dispensation of Covid-19 pandemic a sculptor has to be on guard to make sure that he does not contact or spread the deadly disease in the studio through strict observation of wearing of face masks, maintaining safe social distance and always washing of hands with soap and water. In this regard safety measures of washing Hand basins should be installed and also done to avoid negation of social distancing in other words the Basins must be properly spaced out. Already the face mask is used in the Sculpture Studio as protective gear. It just has been reinforced in classes to avoid spreading the Covid-19. The sitting arrangement has to change and the demonstrations of the skills by the teachers also have to be covid-19 safety compliance. As a matter of fact teachers of skills should rely on video clips to demonstrate to the students and they can ask questions and limit the contact hours of physical presence in the

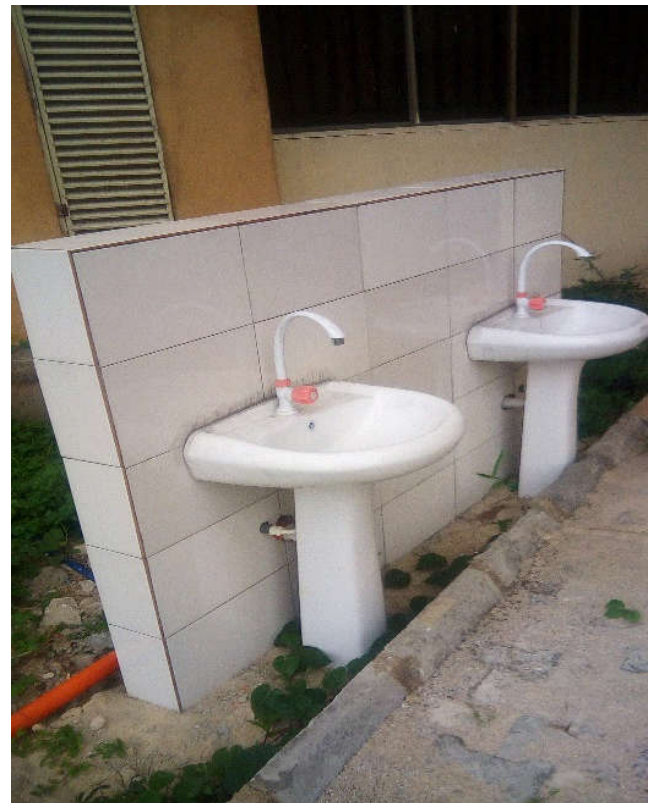


Figure 15 Newly Installed Wash Hand Ceramic basins in University of Port Harcourt in compliance of Covid-19



Figure 16. A Netizen with Face Mask, a Covid-19 New mode of Dressing in Compliance to New Normal

Conclusion

Certainly the Space in a working environment plays a major role in safety before and now in the New Normal that insists on Covid-19 compliance of social distancing, nose mask wearing, washing of hands and the use of Sanitizers.

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