Course Concept:
*Material translations* is concerned with sculptural processes of modelling, mould making and casting. Concepts of the original and the copy will be explored through the course, as will processes of recording surface and form.

The context for the courses activities will be structured around current art practice and how moulding and casting are used to generate meaning, association or form. Relevant contemporary artists who use processes of mould making and casting will be discussed, for example artists such as Rachel Whiteread, Ron Mueck and Patricia Piccinini.

Participants will have the opportunity to create a mould of both a found object and also a sculpted clay form. The course will introduce students to different materials and processes through a range of mould making and casting techniques, for example creating a two-piece plaster mould. Participants will experience what happens in the translation of objects from one material to another and the effect the process has in the finished piece.

Course Outline:
Through this course participants will have the opportunity to produce two different moulds: a two-piece silicone block mould and a two-piece plaster mould.

Now days there is an extensive range of mould making rubbers available and this course will provide an introduction to making a two piece silicone block mould and the steps involved; from the preparation of an object for moulding - to mixing the silicone rubber. Participants will be asked to bring along a found object (no bigger than 10cm square with no holes or cavities and nothing overly fragile) that they will then make a silicone rubber mould from. This will allow participants to experience the qualities of silicone and the detail it can capture.

In contrast to making a mould of a found object, participants will also have the opportunity to model a clay object to then make a two-piece plaster mould from. Using hand-modelling techniques this activity will emphasis the trace of the hand and how it can be captured in the clay and then the plaster mould.

On the last day of the course participants will have the opportunity to use the moulds to produce a cast object in either plaster or wax.

Summary:
Through this course participants will be introduced to a range of sculptural techniques such as: clay modelling, silicone rubber and plaster moulds and casting techniques.
Course Details

Day One:

Morning:
- Slide presentation
  - Presentation of various styles of moulds.
- Discussion of OHS and introduction to the VCA campus.

Afternoon:
- Participants will prepare their found object for the mould making process.

Day Two:

Morning:
- Participants will be guided through creating the first piece of the silicone rubber mould.

Afternoon:
- Creating a clay model that a two-piece plaster mould

Day Three:

Morning:
- Prepare the model for the first piece of plaster mould.

Afternoon:
- Second piece of plaster mould.
- Second piece of silicone rubber mould.

Day Four:

Morning and afternoon:
- Use the plaster and silicone mould to produce a cast object in plaster or wax.
- Time will be given to discuss options for future casting materials etc.