

Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar I

Contemporary Arts 811

Section: d100

Term: 2000 Fall

Instructor: Allyson Clay

Office & Phone at HC: TBA

Discussion Topics: This course is a combined first and second year seminar required of all students taking the MFA Program. In this course we will be reading selected philosophical texts and telecommunication theories in an attempt to come to terms with what it means to make art after modernism.

Since the early 20th century art practices have been concerned with the necessity to be innovative. Innovation in art is now an institutionalized expectation. If an artist were to step away from expectations, but still be intent on some notion of innovation, what kinds of possibilities would there be for a truly new practice of the new? One way to think about this would be to look at the contexts that might support such explorations. These might include new ways of understanding the \204time\211 and the \204place\211 of artistic practice.

Thus art practice could be understood from a different point of view. If we can imagine a new conception of time, as open-ended, random and transformative, we could see art production as the activity of bringing the future into being. In this new conceptualization of time, and in tandem with new spatial theories, particularly vis a vis the expanding possibilities of tele-spatiality, traditional expectations for meaning are unsettled. The relationship between content and context is no longer static and predictable.

The first part of this course will be discussion and development of the reading material. The second part of this course will be student presentations of papers on the topic of their own studio production set in relation to pertinent critical theory.

Grading: 35% class preparedness and participation

35% paper

30% presentation

Required Texts: *Becomings: Explorations in Time, Memory, and Futures*. Edited by Elizabeth Grosz. Cornell University Press, 1999, USA.

e-topia: \204Urban life, Jim - but not as we know it\211. William J. Mitchell. 1999, MIT Press, USA

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

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