

Merve Ertufan

Contemporary Art - Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the origins and the evolution of Contemporary Art. Students will be introduced to predominant trends, concepts and mediums of the 20th and the 21st century through examples and discussions on artworks. We will focus on specific historical, institutional and cultural conditions that make up the backdrop of artistic production, as well as artist's role and agency in this process.

This course aims to equip the students with fundamental knowledge on Contemporary Art, and the necessary intellectual tools for them to be able to critically assess the age that they live in.

Course requirements and Grading:

%30 Regular attendance, class participation

%30 Midterm Exam

%40 Final exam

Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored. You are expected to arrive on time, having read the weekly assigned readings for that class and prepared to participate in class discussions.

Midterm:

Midterm exam will be group or individual presentations. You will be expected to hand in your powerpoint in pdf format.

Final Exam:

For the final exam you will be expected to write a paper on a topic among a set of provided options.

Week	Title
1	Introduction to the Class; An Overview
2	Modern Movements, Pre-1960s - I
3	Modern Movements, Pre-1960s - II
4	Nouveau réalisme, Arte Povera, Pop Art
5	Minimalism, Conceptual Art
6	Fluxus, Performance Art
7	Midterm Presentations
8	Video Art
9	Body Art, Feminist Art
10	Land Art, Neo-Pop, Neo-Conceptual Art
11	Field Trip

12	Post 1990's: Art Institutions
13	Post 1990's: Predominant Topics
14	New Media Art

Week 1: Introduction to the Class, an Overview

Week 2: Modern Movements, Pre-1960s - I

Overview of the Modern Movements; cultural, historical, and technological context for Contemporary Art.

Required Reading: '*The Failure and Success of Cézanne*'; Nineteenth Century Art, A Critical History; Thames & Hudson; pg 397-402

Key Artists: Cézanne, Picasso, Monet, Van Gogh, Manet; Munch, Kandinsky, Malevich, Pollock

Week 3: Modern Movements, Pre-1960s - II

Overview of the Modern Movements; cultural, historical, and technological context for Contemporary Art.

Required Reading: '*The Vision Machine*', pg: 1-3; Paul Virilio; The British Film Institute and Indiana University Press, 1994.

'Apropos of "Readymades"'; Marcel Duchamp; 1961.

Recommended Reading: '*Photography, Modernity, and Art*'; Nineteenth Century Art, A Critical History; Thames & Hudson; pg 241-250

Key Artists: Early Photography (Niépce, Daguerre, Atkins, Bayard, Fox Talbot); Marcel Duchamp

Week 4: Nouveau Réalisme, Arte Povera, Pop Art

Early Contemporary Art, the avant-garde of 1960s.

Required Reading: '1960a: Nouveau Réalisme'; Art Since 1900; pg 434-438

'1960c: American Pop Art'; Art Since 1900; pg 445-449

Key Artists: Nouveau Réalisme (Yves Klein, Arman); Arte Povera (Antoni Tapies, Piero Manzoni, Michelangelo Pistoletto); Pop Art (Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns)

Week 5: Minimalism, Conceptual Art

Required Reading: 'Notes on Sculpture'; Robert Morris; Minimal Art: A Critical Anthology; 1966. "Sentences on Conceptual Art"; Sol LeWitt, 1969.

Key Artists: Minimalism (Primary Structures(exh), Robert Morris, Donald Judd, Carl Andre, Sol LeWitt, Dan Flavin, Eva Hesse); Conceptual Art (Joseph Kosuth, Lawrence Weiner, Marcel Broodthaers)

Week 6: Fluxus, Performance Art

Required Reading: '1962a: Fluxus'; Art Since 1900; pg 456 - 463.

Key Artists: Fluxus (John Cage, Dadaism, Marcel Duchamp, Allan Kaprow, Joseph Beuys, Fluxkits); Performance Art (Yoko Ono, Valie Export, Vito Acconci, Chris Burden, Ulay & Abramovic)

Week 7: Midterm Presentations

Week 8: Video Art

Required Reading: '1973: *Early Video Art*'; Art Since 1900; pg 560 - 564.

Recommended Reading: 'The Aesthetics of Narcissism'; Rosalind Krauss; October Mag; 1976. 'Immaterial Projections Interfering in Darkened Sites and Immersing the Viewer'; Video Art Theory: A Comparative Approach; Helen Westgeest; 2016; pg 133 - 139.

Key Artists: Ubuweb.com; Part - 1 (Wolf Vostell, Nam June Paik, Bruce Nauman); Part - 2 (Vito Acconci, Joan Jonas, Richard Serra, Peter Campus, Lynda Benglis); Part - 3 (Dan Graham, Yoko Ono, John Smith, Christian Marclay, Anri Sala, Fiona Tan, Janet Cardiff)

Week 9: Body Art, Feminist Art, Land Art

Required Reading: '1975: *Feminist Art*'; Art Since 1900; pg 570 - 574.

Key Artists: Body Art (Carolee Schneemann, Dennis Oppenheim, Ketty La Rocca, Marina Abramovic, ORLAN); Feminist Art (Faith Wilding, Judy Chicago, Ana Mendieta, Guerrilla Girls, Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger, Mona Hatoum, Louise Bourgeois)

Week 10: Land Art, Neo-Pop, Neo-Conceptual Art

Key Artists: Land Art (Robert Smithson, Walter De Maria, James Turrell); Neo-Pop (Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami); Neo-Conceptual Art (Sherrie Levine, YBA (Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Martin Creed))

Week 11: Field Trip

We will have a field trip to an artist's studio and an art institution.

Week 12: Post 1990's: Art Institutions

Documenta

Biennials (Venice, Istanbul, Sao Paulo, Taipei, Sharjah)

Museums (MoMa, Guggenheim, Tate Modern, Istanbul Modern)

Exhibition Spaces (Salt, Arter, Tensta Konsthall, Whitechapel Gallery)

Galleries (Nev, Pi Artworks, Mixer, Dirimart, David Zwirner)

Fairs (Frieze, Art Basel, Contemporary Istanbul, Art International)

Auction Houses (Christie's, Saatchi & Saatchi)

Publications (ArtReview, ArtForum, IAN, e-flux, Cabinet)

Week 13: Post 1990s: Predominant Topics

Institutional Critique (Hans Haacke, Hito Steyerl, Andrea Fraser)

Identity Politics (Fred Wilson, Shirin Neshat, Şener Özmen, Adrian Piper)

Experience (James Turrell, Tino Sehgal, Olafur Eliasson, Pipilotti Rist, Anish Kapoor)

Artistic Research (Minerva Cuevas, Otolith Group, Natascha Sadr Haghhighian)

Week 14: New Media Art

Required Reading: '*The Language of New Media*'; Lev Manovich; pg 3 - 8.

'*A Theory of Media*'; Alexander R. Galloway;

<http://cultureandcommunication.org/galloway/a-theory-of-media#more-1369>

Recommended Reading: '*Interactive, Algorithmic, Networked: Aesthetics of New Media Art*', Johanna Drucker, At a distance : precursors to art and activism on the Internet; pg 34 - 60.

Key Artists: Rhizome.org, Medienkunstnetz.de; Burak Arıkan, Ali Taptık, Vuk Cosic, Petra Cortright, Aram Bartholl, Julien Oliver, Amalia Ulman, Stelarc, Ed Atkins