



The European Graduate School
EST. 1994

Seminar with Professor Terry Smith (4.5 ECTS credits)
Division of Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought
August Session/August 16–18 2019

EXHIBITIONARY TIME: CURATING WORLD HISTORIES

Disciplinary regimes, the exhibitionary complex, spectacle society, iconomy, visual arts exhibitionary complexes, the curatorial, and art to come. These concepts are proving usefully contentious in a current project devoted to infrastructural activism within and against the exhibitionary iconomy. In the seminar, they will be explored with an eye to their value for critical theory, art and curatorial practice, cultural activism, and other politics of world-making today.

Core texts are indicated to focus the discussion. Background reading is also provided for those wishing to delve deeper or go further later. The final session will be devoted to shared ideas about critical practice in these contexts.

1. Disciplinary regimes and the exhibitionary complex

1a. Michel Foucault, "The Eye of Power," in Colin Gordon ed., *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings by Michel Foucault 1972-1977* (New York: Pantheon, 1980).

1b. Tony Bennett, "The Exhibitionary Complex," [1988] in Reesa Greenberg, Bruce W. Ferguson, and Sandy Nairne, eds., *Thinking About Exhibitions* (London: Routledge, 1996).

2. Spectacle society, the iconomy

2a. Guy Debord, *The Society of the Spectacle* [1967] (New York: Zone Books, 1995), parts I "Separation Perfected, VI "Spectacular Time," and "Negation and Consumption in the Cultural Sphere."

2b. Terry Smith, "The Visual Art Exhibitionary Complex within the Image Economy," introduction to a project in progress. (Focus on the exhibitionary complex and the iconomy.)

3. The visual arts exhibitionary complex

2b. Terry Smith, "The Visual Art Exhibitionary Complex within the Image Economy," introduction to a project in progress. (Focus on the contemporary global VAEC vis-à-vis local VAECs.)

3a. Terry Smith, "Modern and Contemporary Art Museums, Problems of Over and Under-Development," chapter in book in progress.

4. Curatorial Practice with and against this grain

4a. Maria Lind, "The Curatorial," [2009] in Maria Lind, in Brian Kuan Wood ed., *Maria Lind Writing* (Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2011).

4b. Okwui Enwezor, "World Platforms, Exhibiting Agency, and The Surplus Value of Art," in Terry Smith, *Talking Contemporary Curating* (New York: Independent Curators International, 2015), 85-113

4c. Terry Smith, "Biennials within the Contemporary Composition," chapter in book in progress

5. Art and curatorial activism

5a. Mayo Thompson, *Image as Form: Socially Engaged Art from 1991-2011* (New York: Creative Time Books, 2012), at <http://cp.art.cmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/living-as-form.pdf>.

5b. Terry Smith, "Art Spaces in Asia: A New Paradigm?" chapter in book in progress

6. What is to be done?

6. Terry Smith, "Against Rogues: Curating in States of Crisis," in Steven Henry Madoff ed., (Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2020).

BACKGROUND READING FOR EACH SESSION

1. Disciplinary regimes and the exhibitionary complex

Tony Bennett, "Exhibition, truth, power: reconsidering 'The Exhibitionary Complex,'" in Quinn Latimer & Adam Szymczyk eds., *The Documenta 14 Reader* (Kassel: Documenta, and Ostfildern: Hatje Kantz, 2017), 339-352.

2. Spectacle society, the iconomy

3. The visual arts exhibitionary complex

Michel Foucault, "Of Other Spaces (1967), Heterotopias," *Architecture/Mouvement/Continuité* (October, 1984), at <https://foucault.info/documents/heterotopia/foucault.hetero-Topia.en/>.

Terry Smith, *Thinking Contemporary Curating* (New York: Independent Curators International, 2012), ch. 2 "Shifting the Exhibitionary Complex."

John Zarobell, *Art and the Global Economy* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2017), Introduction.

Simon Knell, "Introduction: The museum in the global contemporary" and ch. 1 "Modernisms" in Simon Knell ed., *The Contemporary Museum: Shaping Museums for the Global Now* (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2019).

Adrian Franklin. "Where 'Art Meets Life': Assessing the Impact of Dark Mofo, a New Midwinter Festival in Australia," *Journal of Festive Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 2019, 106-127. <https://doi.org/10.33823/jfs.2019.1.1.27>

4. Curatorial Practice with and against this grain

Okwui Enwezor, "The Postcolonial Constellation," in Terry Smith, Okwui Enwezor and Nancy Condee eds., *Antinomies of Art and Cultures: Modernity, Postmodernity, Contemporaneity* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2008). Ch. 11.

Boris Groys, "On the Curatorship," in his *Art and Power* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008), ch. 3.

Harald Szeemann interview in Hans Ulrich Obrist ed., *A Brief History of Curating* (Vienna: JRP/Ringier & Les Presses du reel, 2008).

grupa o.k. (j. Myers and J. Szupinska), "Goodbye, Auteur," *Art Journal*, vol. 78, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 107-113.

Massimiliano Gioni, "In Defense of Biennials," in Alexander Dumbadze and Suzanne Hudson eds., *Contemporary Art: 1989 to the Present* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).

David Balzer, *Curationism: How Curating Took Over the Artworld and Everything Else* (London: Pluto Press, 2015).

Panos Kompatsiaris, *The Politics of Contemporary Art Biennials: Spectacle of Critique, Theory and Art* (London: Routledge, 2017)

5. Art and curatorial activism

Terry Smith, *Thinking Contemporary Curating* (New York: Independent Curators International, 2012), ch. 5 "Curatorial Practice Now."

Maura Reilly, *Curatorial Activism: Towards an Ethics of Curating* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2017).

Yates McKee, *Strike Art: Contemporary art and the Post-Occupy Condition* (London: Verso, 2016).

Hu Hanru, "Initiatives, Alternatives: Notes in a Temporary and Raw State," in *How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in a Global Age*, edited by Philippe Vergne (Minneapolis, MN: Walker Art Center, 2003), 38, available at http://latitudes.walkerart.org/images/text/hanru_latitudes.pdf.

Hakim Bey, *T.A.Z: The Temporary Autonomous Zone, Ontological Anarchy and Poetic Terrorism* (Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia, 1991).

On ruangrupa, see <http://ruangrupa.org/15/about-ruru/>; Thomas J. Berghuis, "ruangrupa: What Could be 'Art to Come,'" *Third Text*, vol. 25, no. 4 (2011): 395-407; David Teh, "Who Cares A Lot? Ruangrupa as Curatorship," *Afterall*, vol. 30, no. 1 (Summer 2012): 108-117; ruangrupa's *Buklet ruangrupa 2000-2015*, published by the group in Jakarta in 2015, online at the above site; and Reinaart Vanhoe, *Also-Space, From Hot to Something Else: How Indonesian Art Initiatives Have Reinvented Networking* (Eindhoven: Onomataptee, 2016).

6. What is to be done?

Terry Smith, "Is De-Institutionalization Renewable?" in Defne Ayes and Bik van der Pol, eds., *Were It As If; Beyond An Institution That Is* (Rotterdam: Witte de With Center for contemporary Art, 2017).