CONCEPTS & DEBATES IN CONTEMPORARY ART

Course Instructor: Lanfranco Aceti  
FASS 2082  
phone: 9292  
e-mail: aceti@sabanciuniv.edu  
Office Hours: 1 to 2pm T, by appointment  
Class times and location: Tuesday, 14.40-17.30 ; Wednesday, 14.40-17.30

Course Description and Objectives

There is perhaps nothing else that characterizes contemporary art as the debates and controversies that surround its practice and theory. The value of art, its meaning, purpose or even its very existence are hotly debated. This course will review thematically these debates, from the XXth century to the XXIst century. It will explore issues related to Art and Violence, Art and Politics, Art and Ecology, Art and Money, Art and Gender, Art and Public Space, etc.

The course will also review and compare the definitions of modern art and contemporary art. The classes are characterized by screenings, debates and formal lectures to create a critical environment conducive to students’ engagement and active participation. Some trips in the city may be required in order to visit contemporary exhibitions in local museums and galleries.

Learning Outcomes

The students will:  
- Describe the key concepts of contemporary art  
- Define the styles and themes of contemporary art  
- Recognize the significant works and artist of contemporary art  
- Develop a critical perspective to today's art world  
- Discuss the relevance of contemporary art to their specific discipline

Lecture 1: Introduction to Contemporary Art


Segments "Place" and "Identity."
Lecture 2: Violence and Art

Readings:  

Screenings:  
Körper, dir. Sasha Waltz, 2011.  

Lecture 3 & Lecture 4: Politics and Art

Readings:  

Screening:  

Lecture 5 & Lecture 6: Money and Art

Readings:  

Screening:  
Lecture 7: Protest and Art

Readings: Irit Rogoff, "We - Collectivities, Mutualities, Participations."
Lieven De Cauter, Ruben De Roo, Karel Vanhaesebrouck, eds., Art and Activism in the Age of Globalization (Rotterdam: NAi, 2011).


Lecture 8: Ecology and Art


[Week 5: NO CLASS]

Lecture 9 & Lecture 10: Gender and Art

Tavia Nyong’o, “Lady Gaga’s Lesbian Phallus” (from bullybloggers).

*La piel que habito*, dir. Pedro Almodóvar, 2011.

**Lecture 11: Public Space and Art**

Readings:  Henri Lefebvre, *Right to the City*.


**Lecture 12: Street and Art**


**Lecture 13: Color and Art**


Lecture 14: Race and Art

Edward Lucie-Smith, Race, Sex, and Gender in Contemporary Art (New York: H.N. Abrams, 1994).
Jennifer A. González, Subject to Display: Reframing Race in Contemporary Installation Art (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008).

Left of Black, episode 21, featuring Carrie Mae Weems and Thabiti Lewis.