



DART1340 Contexts for Art

Term T1, 2020

Course Information

Units of Credit: 6

Course Overview

Course Description

The course exposes you to the different types of contemporary art exhibited locally - in public galleries, dealer galleries, contemporary art spaces, artist run initiatives, community centres and non-art spaces such as shopping malls. Designed to reflect the diversity both of art and the institutions through which it is viewed, this course is structured around an examination of works in situ. You are encouraged to engage with work in relation to specific contexts, to consider issues of taste and value and how these are mediated by place and modes of display.

The course introduces you to the importance of context in art, firstly through site visits to different physical contexts. Once on site, exhibitions or spaces are examined for the ways that art is contextualised there. Contexts may include the physical space itself, the socioeconomic structure of the space, accompanying publications, curatorial concerns, references made within the artwork, art history, framing and installation. As the course progresses, appropriate texts are actively engaged with to give you insight into how context plays a major role in scholarly enquiry. You will be provided with practical opportunities to develop your skills in preparation for making your own contributions towards this field.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify and describe a range of contexts and frameworks that shape audiences' reception of contemporary art and culture
2. Interpret and discuss art and culture in relation to institutional histories, practices and frameworks
3. Propose and present a creative intervention for the display of contemporary art

Teaching and Learning in this Course

This course uses a variety of teaching approaches:

Blended/online

- Review - assessment tool
- Turnitin - originality checking
- Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessment

	TITLE	WEIGHTING	ASSESSMENT TYPE
Assessment Task 1	Exhibition Critique - Short Paper	25%	Extended Writing Task
Assessment Task 2	Group Presentation: Changing Contexts	30%	Formal Presentation
Assessment Task 3	Exhibition Proposal / Brief	45%	Project

Resources

Please see Moodle for weekly readings, additional resources and suggested readings!

Moodle

Moodle is our Learning Management System for this course. This is the online location where you will find course resources, research tools and other useful information. Links to your readings will be found here. In week 1 we will be discussing how Moodle will be used in this course. Moodle is also where you will be uploading written assessments. Please do not email them to your lecturer.

Readings

Students are expected to read texts every week before the class as homework. These texts can be found within Moodle (in Weekly Resources) in full-text format or via web links. It is crucial that the texts are read before your class as they form an integral part of the learning experience and we will be discussing them in detail.

Site Visits

When making site visits please ensure you:

- Wear appropriate footwear for walking and check the weather forecast to ensure you have relevant gear such as a hat, sunscreen or umbrella.
- Consult transport options 24 hrs in advance.
- Have a couple of your classmates' phone numbers in case you become stranded from the group or are late.
- Do not touch any artwork, when in doubt, please check with gallery staff.
- Do not consume food or drink inside galleries.
- Please be polite to gallery staff.
- Check your email the night before in case there are any last minute changes to venue or times.

Referencing

You are expected to learn and practice the conventions for citing texts. 'Texts' is a broad term that includes books, journal articles, literary works, visual artworks, sound recordings, performances, productions, and films. The aim of the reference (usually given in footnotes or endnotes) is to enable the reader to locate the reference. For this, specific information is required, and must be provided in full in the reference.