

Interdisciplinary Seminar
Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Fall 20010

Doug Ashford and Colleen Asper
2 credits
Rose Auditorium and other locations
The School of Art at the Cooper Union

This course is intended to provide a rigorous critical forum working between students' artistic concerns and the experiences of visiting speakers. Class content will center on presentations by artists, theorists, activists, designers, poets, writers, curators, gallerists and others involved in visual culture. Students are expected to engage with the weekly presentations through classroom discussion, critical reading and written response.

We have arranged for a series of people to visit us and to present their work and ideas. As these presentations make up the bulk of classroom time, attendance and in-class participation are mandatory, as well as weekly written responses to the discussions with and/or about each speaker. We will have relevant readings made available at least one week in advance to prepare your in-class interaction with topics that presenters prepare. We expect you to have at least three written questions prepared for each visiting lecture based on the prepared readings and any additional research that you pursue independently. The reading that you will be asked to do is crucial and should lead to further inquiry. We will be available for help in finding additional research when desired.

We would like you to submit a weekly one-page paper in response each presentation which is due the week following the presentation. The papers should not be a summary of the lectures. Instead we expect your critical reflections on what you experienced of the presentations, the development of arguments and ideas that the lecture inspires. Concentrate on a concept, a phrase, a situation or condition described, and unpack its meanings. This is not about whether you liked or did not like the speaker or her/his presentation. Find something generative in the presentation and examine it critically. If a presentation inspires more in-depth research on your part, we will accept additional written work as extra credit. Every fifth class or so we will have an open seminar without a lecturer in order to collectively examine the questions brought up in your papers and exchanges with our guests.

We expect 10 speakers to visit us this semester. (see verso) We expect you to hand in 9 one-page response papers written in response to 9 of the presentations that you choose.

The questions in response to readings should be delivered in duplicate to the IDS mailbox in The School of Art office by 10 AM on the morning before the lecture in question. The one page critical responses to the lectures should be turned in, in duplicate, on the Tuesday evening the week after the lecture you are responding to. We prefer that your questions and papers are typed and stapled. Late submissions will be down graded by one half of a grade point every week. Your grade will be determined 20% by in-class participation, 30% by attendance, and 50% by your written responses.

· Sept 7 *class introduction*

- Sep 14 Raqs Media Collective *Notes for a Biology of Numbers: Birds, Beasts and Games with Forms*
- Sep 21 Rochelle Feinstein *The Estate of Rochelle Feinstein*
- Sep 28 Chris Krauss *Where Art Belongs*
- Oct 5 Maud Lavin *Bring It On: New Images of Aggressive Women in Art and Mass Culture*
- Oct 12 Oliver Ressler *Comuna Under Construction*
- Oct 19 *class discussion*
- Oct 26 Winfried Mennighaus *Naked Skin and the Evolution of the Visual Arts*
- Nov 2 Keller Easterling *Disposition*
- Nov 9 Francesca Coppa *An Editing Room of One's Own*
- Nov 16 *class discussion*
- Nov 30 Anna Chave *High Tide: Deploying Fluid in Women's Art Practice*
- Dec 7 Eduardo Cadava *Nadar's Conception of Photography*
- Dec 14 *class discussion*