



SYLLABUS

ARH 399 ART EXHIBITIONS IN LONDON

Instructor Name: Simone Ciglia

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Contact Hours: 20

UO Quarter Credits: 2

Language of instruction: English

LONDON, UK

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the exhibition as the primary conduit “through which most art is known” and explores its role in the emerging field of exhibition studies. Focusing on contemporary exhibition practices in London, a global cultural center, the course delves into both the theoretical issues and practical concerns of art curation.

Students will analyze a curated selection of groundbreaking art shows from the 1910s to the present, including iconic exhibitions such as “Manet and the Post-Impressionists” (Grafton Galleries, London, 1910), “This is Tomorrow” (Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, 1956), “Live in Your Head. When Attitudes Become Form. Works-concepts-processes-situations-information” (ICA, London, 1969), and “Freeze” (London Port Authority, 1988), among others.

The course connects this historical background with current art and design exhibitions in London. Throughout the term, students will examine multiple exhibitions, focusing on how they articulate the complex relationship between art and the public. This exploration will consider the institutional framework and its sociopolitical and economic contexts, as well as contemporary cultural debates and ideas. Special emphasis will be placed on critical issues such as diversity, inclusion, identity, decoloniality, and gender.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify themes, forms and structures of exhibition history, using appropriate terms.
- Connect features of contemporary art exhibitions to their appropriate historical and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate scholarly interpretations of contemporary art exhibitions.
- Present arguments related to exhibition history in scholarly writing.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This course consists of a three-week on-site component in London combined with preparatory work before the trip and a reflection after. Class time in London is divided between daily site-visits to museums, galleries, and public art/design exhibitions/events and classroom discussions. Our site visits, tours, and guest lectures will give you access to major art and design venues and art professionals and practitioners. You will also explore London-based exhibitions independently,

and do a writing assignment connecting their themes with those of contemporary art from our texts.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Students will be required to complete:

1 x midterm reflection paper	25%
1 x group presentation	25%
1 x final assignment (once back from London)	25%
Attendance and participation	25%

COURSE OUTLINE AND COURSE READINGS

See attached timetable from GEO London for times and locations of specific events each day. Please note that syllabus is subject to change.

Class content/events	Readings and Assignments
<i>Week 1</i>	Bring a journal/notebook to class and to all events
<u>Mon. July 29</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation 	
<u>Tue. July 30</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intercultural awareness • Classes at GEO (Basement) • Visit: British Museum, including curator talk in the Americas Galleries 	See https://www.britishmuseum.org/
<u>Wed. July 31</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes at GEO (Basement) • “How to read a painting” with Christopher Cook (Basement) • Visit: Royal Academy, including talk with artist Bob and Roberta Smith 	See https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/
<u>Thu. Aug 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes at GEO (Basement) • Visit: National Gallery, including guided Highlights tour 	See https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/
<u>Fri. Aug. 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit: John Soane Museum, including intro talk 	
<i>Week 2</i>	

<u>Mon. Aug. 5</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes at GEO (Second floor) • Visit: Tate Britain 	Read
<u>Tue. Aug. 6</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit: Rochester Square with artist Salvatore Arancio • Visit: Tate Modern, including Yoko Ono exhibition • Concert: Pat Thomas plays Duke Ellington, Café Oto 	See https://www.rochestersquare.co.uk/ Read Tate Modern Yoko Ono exhibition guide https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/yoko-ono/exhibition-guide
<u>Wed. Aug. 7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brick Lane walking tour with Amanda Milburn • Visit: Whitechapel Gallery - Peter Kennard: Archive of Dissent • Guided tour of the Gilbert and George Centre 	Read Peter Kennard Exhibition Notes: https://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/peter-kennard-archive-of-dissent/ See https://gilbertandgeorgecentre.org/ Submit <u>Reflection Paper Due on Canvas Wed. Aug. 7</u>
<u>Thurs. Aug. 8</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to Brick Lane – Urban dérive • Classes at GEO (First floor) • Visit: Courtauld Gallery • Theater: Mnemonic, National Theatre 	
<u>Fri. Aug. 9</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day trip: Liverpool 	
<u>Week 3</u>	
<u>Mon. Aug. 12</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes at GEO (Second floor) • Visit: Victoria & Albert Museum 	See https://www.vam.ac.uk/
<u>Tue. Aug. 13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit: Photographer's gallery • Visit: Design Museum, including guided tour of the exhibition "Enzo Mari" 	See https://designmuseum.org/ https://designmuseum.org/exhibitions/enzo-mari
<u>Wed. Aug. 14</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyde Park public art • Visit: Serpentine Galleries 	See https://www.serpentinegalleries.org/

<u>Thu. Aug. 15</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes at GEO (First floor) • Evening boat trip 	Present Response presentations in class
<u>Fri. Aug. 16</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free day 	

Every class (whether on- or off-site) must be attended. Please refer to the GEO attendance policy for more details.

COURSE READINGS

All texts are available on Canvas, so there is no need to purchase any materials. Please complete all readings before departing for London to minimize on-site reading and maximize our time for visits. Ensure you have access to the texts while in London, as we will need to reference them frequently.