A4871 Curatorial Practices and Place Making

Spring 2017

W 11:00 am-1:00 pm, 200 Buell Hall

Instructor: Ou Ning (no2223@columbia.edu)

Course Description:

In his book *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity* (1995), Marc Augé coined the term “non-place” to refer to anthropological spaces of transience that do not hold enough significance to be regarded as "places". "non-places" are symbols of “supermodernity” but lacking in social relationship, historical contexts or community identities. In an era of globalization driven by neoliberalism after the end of Cold War, “non-places” grow increasingly similar worldwide, while unique “places” maintain their differences.

The biennales or maga-exhibitions that became popular from the late 1990’, helped to shape the global spectacle of cultural production, created a great deal of opportunities for transnational travel, and brought “curator” as an important role to a central stage at the same time. But today, with hundreds of biennales around the world, it has become a game of power within certain professional circles and a repetitive machine of production and marketing. Faces you see in one biennale are likely to be found in another one. Exhibitions in different countries become similar. Curators are only “Ausstellungsmacher”, they ‘re making the exhibitions more likely into “non-places”.

This course will pay attention to the practices of artivism, social engagement, community art, site-specific art, public architecture and landscape projects and those anti-globalization curatorial projects that trying to transform “non-places” into “places”, or made new “places” in different countries and regions, to see and understand how artists, architects, designers and curators work together, to connect people, activate the social life, shape the identity, and create the new locality.

Readings:
Required and suggested readings can be accessed through the course website as well as through library reserves. Please finish the reading assignments before coming to class.

**Course Requirement and Grading:**

- Attendance and class participation (10%)
- 4 weekly assignment and 1 case-study presentations (20%)
- Midterm paper (20%): 1500-2000 words, due February 28(Tuesday), topics must be discussed with the instructor by February 21 (Tuesday).
- Term paper (35%): 3000-4000 words, due April 27 (Thursday), topics must be discussed with the instructor by April 17 (Monday).

**Online Platforms:**

All assignments are submitted online through Canvas.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

January 18 (Wed)

**Introduction: Place and Non-Place**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Further Readings:**

* Yi-Fu Tuan, *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*, University of Minnesota Press, 2001


**Recommended Film:**

* *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (William H. Whyte, 1980, documentary, 58 mins)

https://vimeo.com/111488563 (Links to an external site.)

**Week 2:**

January 25 (Wed)

The Curatorial Power

- Required Readings:


Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/6073845


**Suggested Further Readings:**


Week 3:

February 1 (Wed)

Case Study 1: City on the Move, 1997-2000, various cities
Presenter: Gabriela Etchegaray

Case Study 2: Serpentine Pavilion Projects, 2000-2016, London, UK
Presenters: Hannah Han, Nicholas Mingrone

Case Study 3: The Burning Man, 1986 – Now, Black Rock City, Black Rock Desert, Nevada, USA
Presenters: Shuo Zhang, Marina Povedano

Required Readings:

Suggested Further Readings:
* Hou Hanru, On The Mid-Ground, Timezone 8, 2003
Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4168074
* Hans Ulrich Obrist, A Brief History of Curating, JRP|Ringier, 2008
Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/6997206
Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10885212
* Official archives of Serpentine Pavilion, 2000-2016
Recommended Video:
A Talk on “City on the Move” by Hou Hanru at Whitechapel Gallery, London on 21 May 2015
https://www.afterall.org/online/exhibition-histories-talks_hou-hanru-video-online#.WI9jjiMrLxh

Week 4
February 8 (Wed)
Not Only Museum, But Also Street

Case Study 4: Dismaland, 2015, Weston-super-Mare, UK
Presenters: Pei Zhou, Rui Guan

Required Readings:


Suggested Further Readings:


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**Week 5**

**February 15 (Wed)**

**Social Engagement and Community Arts**

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**Required Readings:**


Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9490317](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9490317)

* Ou Ning, “The Experience of Family and Social Change: Song Dong's Home and Art”, *Song Dong: Dad and Mom, Don't Worry About Us, We Are All Well*, edited by Betti-Sue Hertz, published by Yerba Buena Center for Arts, San Francisco, 2011.

Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9025444](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9025444)


**Suggested Further Readings:**


Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4274956](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4274956)


Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9637672](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9637672)

**Recommended Videos:**

* The Roof is on Fire (Suzanne Lacy, color documentary, 52 minutes, 1994)
* Cornerstone Theater Company-Day Laborers Theater Without Borders-2007
  Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otObSuenSjg
* Lima (Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla, 1998-2006)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5HE5uA_BGk
* The Blackmarket for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge (The Mobile Academy, 2005)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDehsa20Emo
* Complaints Choir (Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen, 27 color videos in different cities in the world, 2005-2010)
  http://www.complaintschoir.org/choirs.html
* Battle of Orgeave (Jeremy Deller, color documentary, 63 minutes, 2001)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ncrWxnxLjg
* Tatlin’s Whispers #5 (Tania Bruguera, 2008, Tate Modern, London)
* Los Penetrados (Santiago Sierra, 2008)

Video Link: https://vimeo.com/51130719

* The Storming of Winter Palace (Nikolai Evreinov, 1920)

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLihunxEzwE

* Symphony of Factory Sirens (Arseny Avraamov, 1922)

Sound Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq_7w9RHvpQ

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**Week 6**

February 22 (Wed)

**Case Study 5: Get It Louder, 2005-2014, Various Cities, China**

Presenters: Chuhan Zhou, Zhenwei Zhong

**Case Study 6: Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism Architecture, 2005-2015, China**

Presenters: Taylor Zanke, Chi Keung Ip, Jiangjing Chen

*Required Readings:*


* Ou Ning, “A City Called Shenzhen”, *South of Southern: Space, Geography, History and the Biennale*, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, edited by Ou Ning, published by China Youth Press, Beijing, 2013.


Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10306864](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10306864)


Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9243356](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9243356)

**Suggested Further Readings:**


* Ou Ning (ed.), *Odyssey: Architecture and Literature*, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, China Youth Press, Beijing, 2009.

* Ou Ning (ed.), *South of Southern: Space, Geography, History and the Biennale*, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, edited by Ou Ning, published by China Youth Press, Beijing, 2013.

**Week 7**

**March 1 (Wed)**

**Site-specific Projects and Festivals**

**Required Readings:**

* Miwon Kwon, *One Place after Another: Site-Specific Art and Locational Identity*, The MIT Press, 2004
  
  Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/3307398](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/3307398)

  
  Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/641548](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/641548)

  
  Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4086229](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4086229)

* Charlotte Mullins, *RW: Rachel Whiteread*, Tate, 2004
  
  Library reserve: [https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4775903](https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4775903)

**Recommended Videos:**

* Food (Gordon Matta-Clark, documentary, black and white, 43 mins, 1972)
  
  Video Link:[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhB8riHoueA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhB8riHoueA)

* Splitting (Gordon Matta-Clark, documentary, black and white, 7 mins, 1974)
  
  Links to an external site.
Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt9FZvk4zU (Links to an external site.)

* Day’s End (Gordon Matta-Clark, documentary, black and white, 23 mins, 1975)

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N91f03XDOJw (Links to an external site.)

* Conical Intersect (Gordon Matta-Clark, documentary, colors, 9 mins, 1975)

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6p916ufF84 (Links to an external site.)

* House (Rachel Whiteread, documentary, colors, 26 mins, 1993-1994)

Video Link: https://vimeo.com/133643698 (Links to an external site.)

Film Screening:

* The Machine of the Isle: A Urban Project (Dominique Deluze, documentary, colors, 52 mins, 2013)

**Week 8**

**March 8 (Wed)**

Artivism

* Required Readings:
Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/12062694

Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/6289229

**Suggested Further Readings:**

Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/471095

* Naomi Klein, *No Logo*, Flamingo, 2000
Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4526511

Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10619411

Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/7215906


**Recommended Videos:**

* Dick Captured by KGB (Voina, 2010)
  https://vimeo.com/13694493 (Links to an external site.)

* Angry Sandwich People or in Praise of Dialectics(Chto delat? -What is to be Done?, 2006)
  https://vimeo.com/6879250 (Links to an external site.)

**Spring Break**
March 13-17

**Week 9**
March 22 (Wed)
**Museum Visiting: The Jewish Museum, New York**
The Arcades: Contemporary Art and Walter Benjamin
Curated by Jens Hoffmann, Director of Special Exhibitions and Public Programs, The Jewish Museum, assisted by Shira Backer, Leon Levy Curatorial Associate, The Jewish Museum. The exhibition and its accompanying publication have been designed by Project Projects.

http://thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/the-arcades-contemporary-art-and-walter-benjamin

Pierre Chareau: Modern Architecture and Design
Organized by the Jewish Museum and Esther da Costa Meyer, Professor, History of Modern Architecture, Princeton University, in collaboration with The Centre Pompidou. The special exhibition design is by Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

http://thejewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/pierre-chareau-modern-architecture-and-design

- Suggested Further Readings:

- Week 10
March 29 (Wed)
Case Study 7: The Land Project, 1998-2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Presenter: Julie Xu

Case Study 8: Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, 2000-2015, Niigata, Japan
Presenters: Qi Zhang, Yundi Gu, Mao Gai

Case Study 9: The Bishan Project, 2010-2016, Huangshan, China
Presenters: Zhe Cao, Jin Qiu

- Required Readings:


* Kamin Lertchaiprasert and Rirkrit Tiravanija, Nothing: A Retrospective, Chiang Mai University Arts Museum, 2004

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**Week 11**

**April 5 (Wed)**

**Toward a New Common: Public Architecture and Landscape**

**Case Study 10: The High Line Project, 2006 – Now, New York, USA**

Presenters: Xiaoyu Huang, Wantong Xu, Nila Liem

**Case Study 11: 9/11 Memorial** (Self-suggested topic)

Presenter: Brandon Robinson

**Case Study 12: OMA/AMO, Content, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, 2003-2004** (Self-suggested topic)

Presenter: Mathew Davis

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**Required Readings:**


* Elinor Ostrom, Governing the Commons, Cambridge University Press, 2015


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**Suggested Further Readings:**


Week 12
April 12 (Wed)

Criticism on the Biennales

Case Study13: Chicago Architecture Biennale, 2015-2017
Presenter: Gabriela Etchegaray

Case Study14: Gwangju Biennale, 1995-2016, South Korea
Presenter: Sulim Kim

Case Study15: Wen Pulin Archive of Chinese Avant-garde Art
Presenter: Kun Qian (auditor)

Required Readings:
* Pauline J. Yao, “Towards a Structural Critique of the Biennial System or, What Comes Next for Biennials?” South of Southern: Space, Geography, History and the Biennale, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, edited by Ou Ning, published by China Youth Press, Beijing, 2013.


Library reserve: https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10306864


Week 13
April 19 (Wed)

Conclusion: Curating a Place

Discussion on Topics of Final Papers