



Play It By Trust, 1966. Yoko Ono

APPROACHING SYSTEMS

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ART 7108
Grad Seminar | Spring 2014
Wednesdays 6:55pm — 9:40pm

We are now in transition from an object-oriented to a systems-oriented culture. Here change emanates, not from things, but from the way things are done.
— Jack Burnham, *Systems Esthetics* 1968

Course Description

Systems approach artists in unique ways, eliciting increasingly supple creative responses. This seminar will examine dynamic creative responses by artists to the approach of systems as well as systems-oriented approaches to art making.

Histories, theories, practices & literatures from a variety of disciplines will be analyzed in discussions, screenings, close readings, visiting practitioner talks, art production and critiques. Special attention will be paid to: Jack Burnham's text *Systems Esthetics*; the limits & usefulness of interdisciplinarity; the limits & usefulness of art theory and certain art histories; the limits & usefulness of traditional forms of collaboration.

Socio-cultural, natural & technological systems approach artists in a variety of ways and the approach of various human & non-human systems is also rapidly shifting & accelerating. Such systems are often outside the boundaries or awareness of culture at large— and sometimes beyond the awareness or control of artists themselves.

Participants will use attached PROJECT GENERATOR for one or more projects.

Objectives

- Participants will:
- Complete works in any medium / format / discipline.
 - Develop critical perspectives through discussion & critique.
 - Respond to readings, screenings & visiting practitioners.
 - Conduct and present research on relevant artists, histories, theories & non-art phenomena.

Topics

INTUITION & STRATEGY
CHANCE & ACCIDENT
ETHICS, MORALITY & ART PRACTICES
ESCAPE ARTISTRY
HYBRID & CHIMERIC PRACTICES
THE LIMITS OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY
CONFLICT & COLLABORATION
AESTHETICS OF CONTROL
LIMITS OF INTERVENTION & RESISTANCE
SYSTEMS APPROACHES
ART WORLDS & TRADITIONS
PERCEIVED VALUE, SYSTEMS OF VALUATION & MARKET PRESSURES
INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE & POST-INSTITUTIONAL CRITIQUE
SPACES, ARCHITECTURES & ATMOSPHERES
ANTAGONISM
PROTAGONISM
THRESHOLDS
CODES

Practitioners Surveyed

CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH
KRISTIN LUCAS
TDTV
JULIAN OLIVER
SHERRIE LEVINE
KEITH TYSON
JAKE ELLIOTT
BENJAMIN BELLAS
JON CATES
BRUCE CONNER
CHRIS BURDEN
ETEA
GARY KURTZ
GREGG BORDOWITZ
JENNY VOGEL
GUERRILLA GIRLS
JEREMY BAILEY
JILL MAGID
JOE DAVIS
JUSTIN COOPER
JODI
GRAFFITI RESEARCH LABS
JENNY HOLZER
LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON
JENNY VOGEL
HANS BERNHARD / lizvix / UBERMORGEN
LYNDA BENGLIS
HENNESSY YOUNGMAN
ROSA MENKMAN
CALEB LARSEN
CHRIS REILLY
MICHAEL SNOW
NATALIE BOOKCHIN
HOLLIS FRAMPTON
MAURIZIO CATTELAN
JULIUS VON BISMARCK
NETOCHKA NEZVANOV
NINA KATCHADOURIAN
NOELLE MASON
EDDO STERN
FRANCIS ALYS
MARK TRIBE
SOPHIE CALLE
STEVE LAMBERT
RICHARD SERRA
THE YES MEN
JENNIFER AND KEVIN MCCOY
HANS HAACKE
ALLAN KAPROW
ADAM ZARETSKY
SOL LEWITT

PROJECT GENERATOR

Menu A:	h. Practitioner as Protagonist t. Practitioner as Antagonist
Menu 2:	h. System is aware t. System is unaware h. System is willing collaborator t. System is unwilling collaborator
Menu (d):	1. The approaching city 2. The approaching computer 3. An approaching social system or convention 4. Approaching nature, nonhumans, & weather 5. The approaching suburban / rural system 7. Histories approaching 8. The approaching legal systems 9. The approaching game / sport 10. The approaching art worlds / art theories 11. Academia approaching 12. The approaching faith, religion or belief 13. The approaching family, a family or families 14. The approaching market 15. The approaching politics / government(s) 16. The approaching media 17. The approaching Science / Progress 18. The approaching Nation or Culture 19. The approaching public space 20. The approaching Tradition

Bibliography

JACK BURNHAM
CORNELIA SOLFRANK
GERTRUDE STEIN
JORGE LUIS BORGES
ALDOUS HUXLEY
JOAN ROTHFUSS
MARY-ANNE STANISZEWSKI
LINDA WEINTRAUB
VANNEVAR BUSH
CP SNOW
FLORIAN CRAMER
PAMELA LEE
EDWARD A. SHANKEN
ROBERT ZWIJNENBERG
ROLAND BARTHES
MATTHEW FULLER
LUCY LIPPARD