

course beginning: spring spring

subject catalogue S23 K24

course code ÜAX900

name of course

Issues in the Contemporary Visual Arts

specification

for AV specialty BA level, elective for others at BA or MA level

academic instructor

R.Kelomees

prerequisite course

no of terms

1

contact hr/total

30.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

3.00

Lect

30.0

Grp

0.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

term

1

ECTS

3.00

aim of the subject

The course surveys a selection of key problems of contemporary art. Among them is a survey of exhibit space—the history of the white cube, the role of the curator in the 20th century, the history of art installations and the 1990s trend of major thematic exhibitions and biennials.

Half of the coursework consists of an introduction to internationally renowned artists and their works (screenings). The artwork in question dates from the last decade of the 20th century. (Tracy Emin et al.)

content

1. Media archeology and predecessors of new media. Technological innovations, discoveries in XIX century (photography, stereophotography, world fairs). Technological determinism. Blending of „technological” and „artistic” in arts.

2. Synesthetical developments in arts: color organs and other audiovisual musical instruments.
3. Avant Garde art in the beginning of XX Century. „New” in typography, film, photography, architecture. Artists of avant garde and experimental film: Fernand Leger, Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Louis Buñuel, Salvador Dali. Ready-made, collage and art of industrially made objects as introduction to hybrid art.
4. Art after World War II. Experience of body in art of abstract expressionism: Pollock, Mathieu, Klein. Yves Klein’s exhibition „The Void”. Arman’s assemblages. Kinetic art of Jean Tinguely. Niki de Saint Phalle’s „shooting painting”.
5. Critical discourse in art. Social interaction in art: interventionist art. Example of Cinéma Vérité and its possible influences to early documentary video. Fluxus in the 1960’s and its relation to action and video art. First exhibitions of electronic and video art in late 1960’s and beginning of 1970’s. Establishment of video art as an international art phenomenon. Cultural jamming, hacktivism, political and activist software, anti-corporate activism: The Yes Men, Rtmak, Adbusters a. O.
6. Multi-screen environments. Participatory film. Beginning of interactive film in 1960’s. Contemporary situation in interactive cinema. Corporeal cinematic environments. Reactive environments and closed-circuit installations. Participation in visual arts.
7. Interactive and virtual art. Myron Kryger, Jeffrey Shaw, Lynn Hershmann, Perry Hoberman a. O.
8. Bio art and transgenic art. Hybrid art and art science. Artistic research.
9. Non-material and technological in the Estonian art of the 1990s. “Postmateriality in Art. Indeterministic Art Practices and Non-Material Art”. Digital and interactive art in Estonia.

learning outcomes

The student must be able to orient himself in the history of contemporary art, know the basic concepts and be aware of the latest trends in both contemporary art and its special branches, e.g. digital art.

assessment

Written essay with the length of 6000 characters. Verbal presentation during the last meeting.

assessment criteria

Quality of written material, understanding of the topic, quality of verbal presentation.

course reading material

Manovich, Lev 2001. Language of New Media. MIT Press.

Kelomees, R. From Net Art to Post-Internet Art, Estonian Art, 2017,

<http://www.estonianart.ee/art/from-net-art-to-post-internet-art/>

Kelomees, R. Fitting Digitality into a Museum's Human Dimensions. Kunst.ee, 2/2017,

<http://ajakirikunst.ee/?c=magazine&l=en&t=fitting-digitality-into-a-museums-humandimensions&>

id=1784

Kelomees, R. Bridges and Conflicts on the Eastern-Western Art Axis: The Domestication of Eastern Europe as 'Close Other'

in the 1990s, 2021, Philologia Estonica Tallinnensis,

https://www.academia.edu/90439855/Bridges_and_Conflicts_on_the_Eastern_Western_Art_Axis_The_Domestication_of_Eastern_E

Kelomees, R. Discussing five issues of post-material art, 2016, Technoetic Arts,

https://www.academia.edu/61096554/Discussing_five_issues_of_post_material_art

Kelomees, R. Reversing the Spectator Paradigm: Symbiotic Interaction and the 'Gaze' of the Artwork, 2019, Digital

Creativity,

https://www.academia.edu/40686092/Reversing_the_Spectator_Paradigm_Symbiotic_Interaction_and_the_Gaze_of_the_Artwork

Valk, Veronika; Piibe Piirma, Piibe (toim.) 2014. Art & Science – Hybrid Art and Interdisciplinary Research. Tallinn:

EKA kirjastus (R. Kelomees' chapter).

Paul, Christiane. 2023. Digital Art. Thames and Hudson.

author of course description

R.Kelomees