

## THEORIZING ART : FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

Programme : Curating Art - International Master Programme in Art, including Management and Law

Credits : 7,5

First semester (Autumn 2012)

Faculty: PhD candidate Mikael Pettersson

### Course description

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The course module aims at providing insight into a number of issues fundamental for the theory and philosophy of art. It will discuss how influential theorists and philosophers have dealt with questions such as: What is art? What is an art work? How does art have meaning? These and similar issues relevant to the philosophy of art are highlighted through close readings of primary sources and discussions in seminars. Attention is furthermore directed to how the art philosophical material relate to the viewer of art and to the art field at large.

### Course objectives

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Having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to

- in an analyzing and reasonable way describe the essential features in some of the central ideas and theories discussed in the course module
- argue in favour of (or against) the reasonableness of these theories
- critically evaluate the accuracy of these theories

### Course outline

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#### **1. The Aesthetic & The Sublime**

Reading: Schopenhauer

Supplementary reading: Julian Young, "Schopenhauer, Heidegger, Art, and the Will," in Dale Jacquette (ed.), *Schopenhauer, Philosophy, and the Arts*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

#### **2. What is (a Work of) Art?**

Readings: Collingwood chap VI & VII

Supplementary reading: Stephen Davies, "Ontology of Art," in OHA; Robert Stecker, "Definitions of Art," in OHA.

#### **3. How Does Art Mean?**

Reading: Carlshamre

Supplementary readings: Greg Currie, "Interpretation in Art," in OHA.

#### **4. Pictures and Photographs**

Readings: Wollheim; Walton

Supplementary readings: Susan Feagin, "Painting," in OHA; Nigel Warburton, "Photography," in OHA

### **5. Art and Knowledge**

Readings: Heidegger; Goodman

Julian Young, "Schopenhauer, Heidegger, Art, and the Will"; Julian Young, "[Artwork and Sportwork: Heideggerian Reflections](#)," *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 57 (1999), pp. 267-277.

### **6. Art and Value (How Bad Can Good Art Be?)**

Reading: Hanson

Supplementary readings: Matthew Kieran, "Art and Morality;" Lydia Goehr, "Art and Politics," in OHA.

### **7. Implementing Art + Summary**

Reading: Groys

Supplementary readings: Currie; Paisley Livingston, "Intention in Art," in OHA.

### **10. Examination**

#### **Education**

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Seminars

#### **Forms of examination**

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Oral individual presentations and take-home exam.

Grades are given according to a criterion referenced seven-point scale, ranging from A (Excellent) to F (Fail).