

GCIN2009

Art Worlds: Aesthetics, Money, and Markets

6 credits - total learning hours: 150

Session B: July 17 – August 4, 2017

14:00 to 17:00, Mon-Fri

Course Description

The overall aim of the course is to analyse and understand the functioning of art worlds in a global context. It focuses on the different attitudes and values brought to bear on art works by different people in an art world. Because such works are not just appreciated in aesthetic and historical terms, but are also traded as part of an art market, the course seeks to tease apart the strictly cultural and aesthetic from other, social and economic, aspects that affect the production, distribution and consumption of art works.

Aims and Objectives

- 1) To enable students to familiarize themselves with the structure of the art world.
- 2) To enable students to understand major approaches to the study of art.
- 3) To enable students to analyze the processes of production, circulation, consumption and evaluation of works of art.
- 4) To enable students to discern the key actors in the art world.

List of Topics to be covered in meetings

- 1) The Study of Art
- 2) The System of the Art World
- 3) Art as a Social Process
- 4) Artists
- 5) Art Dealers
- 6) Art Critics
- 7) Art Collectors
- 8) Pricing and the Art Market
- 9) Galleries and Museums
- 10) The Politics of Art

Teaching resources

Becker, Howard Saul. 1982. *Art worlds*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Plattner, Stuart. 1996. *High art down home: an economic ethnography of a local art market*.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

(Please note the topics and teaching resources may vary and are provided here as a guide.)

Assessment

100% coursework

Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the composition and structure of the art world.
2. Understand how an artwork is produced, circulated, evaluated, exhibited, priced and consumed.
3. Compare different approaches to the study of art.
4. Discern the social, cultural, political as well as the economic dimensions of the art world.