

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 mega-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 activism, 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:

Marc Augé, *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*, Verso, 1995; Editions du Seuil,1992

Suggested Further Readings:

* Walter Benjamin, *Charles Baudelaire: A Lyric Poet in the Era of High Capitalism*, The New Left Press, 1973

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

* Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage, 1992

* Kevin Kelly, *The Inevitable*, Viking, 2016

* Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*, Vintage, 2016.

* Yuval Noah Harari, "Does Trump's Rise Mean Liberalism End?", *The New Yorker*, October 7, 2016. <http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/does-trumps-rise-mean-liberalisms-end> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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.)Links to an external site.

Week 2:

January 25 (Wed)

The Curatorial Power

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Required Readings:

Hans-Joachim Müller, *Harald Szeemann: The Exhibition Maker*, Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2006

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

Emily Stokesdec, "A Powerful Curator's Idiosyncratic Genius", *The New York Times*, December 1, 2015. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/02/t-magazine/istanbul-biennial-director-profile.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Suggested Further Readings:

* Pierre Bourdieu, *Homo Academicus*, Stanford University Press, 1988

* Carolee Thea, *Foci: Interviews with 10 International Curators*, ApexArt Curatorial Program, 2001

- * Carolee Thea, *On Curating: Interviews with Ten International Curators*, D.A.P., 2010
- * Carolee Thea, *On Curating 2: Paradigm Shifts*, D.A.P., 2016
- * Paul O'Neill, *The Culture of Curating and the Curating of Culture(s)*, The MIT Press, 2012
- * David Balzer, *Curationism: How Curating Took Over the Art World and Everything Else*, Coach House Books, 2014
- * Terry Smith, *Talking Contemporary Curating*, Independent Curators International, 2015

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:

- * Hou Hanru and Hans Ulrich Obrist, *City On the Move*, Hatje Cantz Publishers, 1998

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>

- * Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Ways of Curating*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/10885212>

- * Official archives of Serpentine Pavilion, 2000-2016

<http://www.serpentinegalleries.org/explore/pavilion> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

* Jennifer Raiser, *Burning Man: Art on Fire*, Race Point Publishing, 2016

* Brian Doherty, *This Is Burning Man: The Rise of a New American Underground*, BenBella Books, 2006

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 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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:

* Ou Ning, “An Arrow”, *3 Years: Arrow Factory 2008-2011*, edited by Rania Ho, Wang Wei and Pauline J. Yao, published by Arrow Factory, Beijing and Sternberg Press, Berlin, 2011.

* Ou Ning, “A Hong Kong History of Madness”, *King of Kowloon: The Art of Tsang Tsou-choi*, edited by David Spalding, published by Damiani, Bologna, 2013

* Ou Ning, “Shrine of Knowledge, Palace of Aesthetics, or Theater of History: Museum Design in China”, *Making a Museum in the 21st Century*, edited by Melissa Chiu, published by Asia Society, New York, 2014.

* Steven Henry Madoff, April, “At Berlin Biennial, Art Fits Anywhere”, *The New York Times*, April 11, 2006. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/11/arts/design/at-berlin-biennial-art-fits-anywhere.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Suggested Further Readings:

* Maurizio Cattelan, Massimiliano Gioni and Ali Subotnickand, *Of Mice and Men*(English and German Edition), Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2006

* Maurizio Cattelan, Massimiliano Gioni and Ali Subotnickand, *Checkpoint Charley*, Bb4/KW, 2006

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Week 5

February 15 (Wed)

Social Engagement and Community Arts

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Required Readings:

* Nato Thompson, *Living as Form: Socially Engaged Art from 1991-2011*, The MIT Press, 2012

Library reserve: <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>

* Ou Ning, “Design and Social Engineering”, *The Solutions*, publication of the International Design Exhibition, 2011 Chengdu Biennale, edited by Peng Yanhan, published by Sichuan Fine Arts Press, Chengdu, 2011.

See it on M+ Matters: http://www.mplusmatters.hk/asiandesign/paper_topic7.php ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

Suggested Further Readings:

* Nicolas Bourriaud, *Relational Aesthetics*, Les Presse Du Reel, 1998

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4274956>

* Claire Bishop, *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship*, Verso, 2012

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9637672>

Recommended Videos:

* The Roof is on Fire (Suzanne Lacy, color documentary, 52 minutes, 1994)

<https://vimeo.com/39865636> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

* Cornerstone Theater Company-Day Laborers Theater Without Borders-2007

Video Link:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otObSuenSjg> (Links to an external



site.)Links to an external site.

* Lima (Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla,1998-2006)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5HE5uA_BGk (Links to an external site.)Links to



an external site.

* The Blackmarket for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge(The Mobile Academy, 2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDehsa20Emo> (Links to an external site.)Links to an



external site.

More info: <http://www.mobileacademy-berlin.com/index.html> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

* 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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

* Battle of Orgeave (Jeremy Deller, color documentary, 63 minutes, 2001)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ncrWxnxLjg> (Links to an external site.)Links to an



external site.

* Tatlin's Whispers #5(Tania Bruguera , 2008, Tate Modern, London)

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7L1s_GWn3o (Links to an external



[site.\)\(Links to an external site.](#)

* Los Penetrados(Santiago Sierra, 2008)

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/51130719> (Links to an external site.)(Links to an external site.)

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

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLihunxEzwE> (Links to an external



[site.\)\(Links to an external site.](#)

* Symphony of Factory Sirens(Arseny Avraamov, 1922)

Sound Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq_7w9RHvpQ (Links to an external



[site.\)\(Links to an external site.](#)

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, "Everyone is a Curator", *Get It Louder 2017*, edited by Ou Ning, published by Modern Media Group, Beijing, 2007.

* Ou Ning, "Is London Still the Center of the World?" *Everything Material, Something Immaterial*, UK Chapter, publication of Get It Louder 2007, edited by Ou Ning, published by British Council, Beijing, 2007.

* Ou Ning, "City Mobilization: Towards Another Kind of Biennale", *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.

* 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.

* Ou Ning, "Where is China Heading?" *The Chinese Thinking: Rem Koolhaas and Hans Ulrich Obrist Interviewed China's Leading Figures*, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, edited by Ou Ning, published by The Commercial Press, Beijing, 2012.

* Ou Ning, "Case Studies: Architecture-Design-Infrastructure, Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture", *Shifting Gravity*, publication of World Biennial Forum No.1, edited by Ute Meta Bauer and Hou Hanru, published by The Gwangju Biennale Foundation, Gwangju and Hatje Cantz Verlag, Ostfildern, 2013; *Yishu*, Volume 12, Number 3, May/June 2013, edited by Keith Wallace in Vancouver, published by Art & Collection Group Ltd. in Taipei, 2013.

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

* Magnus Ericson, "Where Does It Happen and in What Contexts? An interview with Ou Ning on 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism \ Architecture", *Design Act: Socially and Politically Engaged Design Today - Critical Roles and Emerging Tactics*, edited by Magnus Ericson and Ramia Mazé, published by Iaspis, Stockholm and Sternberg Press, Berlin, 2011.

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/9243356>

Suggested Further Readings:

* Ou Ning (ed.), *Everything Material, Something Immaterial*, UK Chapter, publication of Get It Louder 2007, British Council, Beijing, 2007. (In Chinese and English)

* 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.), *The Chinese Thinking: Rem Koolhaas and Hans Ulrich Obrist Interviewed China's Leading Figures*, publication of 2009 Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale or Urbanism \ Architecture, The Commercial Press, Beijing, 2012. (In Chinese). Unpublished English version will be uploaded through Canvas.

* 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>

* Mary Jane Jacob, *Gordon Matta-Clark: A Retrospective*, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, 1985

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/641548>

* Corinne Diserens, *Gordon Matta-Clark*, Phaidon, 2003

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4086229>

* Charlotte Mullins, *RW: Rachel Whiteread*, Tate, 2004

Library reserve: <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> (Links to an external



[site.](#)Links to an external site.

* Splitting (Gordon Matta-Clark, documentary, black and white, 7 mins, 1974)

Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Bt9FZvk4zU (Links to an external



[site.](#))[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.](#))[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.](#))[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.)[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:

* Hans Werner Holzwarth, *Ai Weiwei*, Taschen 2016

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/12062694>

* Banksy, *Wall and Piece*, Random House, 2007

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

Suggested Further Readings:

* Guy Debord, *The Society of Spectacle*, Black and Red, 2000

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

* Naomi Klein, *No Logo*, Flamingo, 2000

Library reserve: <https://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4526511>

* David Graeber, *The Democracy Project*, Penguin, 2013

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

* The Invisible Committee, *The Coming Insurrection*, The MIT Press, 2009

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

* The Invisible Committee, *To Our Friends*, The MIT Press, 2015

Recommended Videos:

* Dick Captured by KGB (Voina, 2010)

<https://vimeo.com/13694493> (Links to an external site.)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.)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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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Suggested Further Readings:

* Walter Benjamin, *The Arcades Project*, Harvard University Press, 2002

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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

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Required Readings:

* Ou Ning, "Agrarian Utopia: An Artistic Experiment in Chiang Mai", *Chutzpah!*, Agrarian Asia Issue, No.1, 2011, edited by Ou Ning, published by Modern Media Group, Beijing, 2011.

* Ou Ning, "Rewriting Asia: The Global Identity of Contemporary Asian Art", *Art & Entrepreneurship*, edited by Michelle Nicol, published by Credit Suisse, Zurich, 2008.

* Fram Kitagawa, *Art Place Japan: The Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale and the Vision to Reconnect Art and Nature*, Princeton Architectural Press, 2015

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

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

Required Readings:

* Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Commonwealth*, Harvard University Press, 2009

PDF

Link: http://korotonomedya.s3.amazonaws.com/Michael_Hardt_%26_Antonio_Negri_-_Commonwealth.pdf (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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

PDF Link: http://wtf.tw/ref/ostrom_1990.pdf (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Suggested Further Readings:

* James Corner Field Operations, Diller Scofidio & Renfro, *The High Line*, Phaidon Press, 2015

* Harald Szeeman and Kasper König, *Public Art / Kunst im öffentlichen Raum* (English and German Edition), Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2001

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.

* Ute Meta Bauer and Hou Hanru, *Shifting Gravity*, publication of World Biennial Forum No.1, published by The Gwangju Biennale Foundation, Gwangju and Hatje Cantz Verlag, Ostfildern, 2013.

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

* Edi Muka, Joa Ljungberg, Ana Dzokic, Marc Neelen and Corinne Diserens, *The Symbolic Efficiency of the Frame*, T.I.C.A.B., 2009

Week 13

April 19 (Wed)

Conclusion: Curating a Place

Discussion on Topics of Final Papers