

Trouton's Open Course Description: Contemporary Art, Oct – Dec 2011.

The Dilemmas of the Contemporary Artist, with an emphasis on:

Latin America
Northern Ireland
Australia

To understand local, regional, national and international contemporary art-making and artworlds, as these sit alongside current scholarship in visual and material culture and in association with analytical tools drawn from the interdisciplinary environment at FLACSO: visual / historical anthropological, philosophical and social-science paradigms.

This course approaches, presents and analyses various contemporary art practices and contexts, since late modernism: performance art and body adornment, the newly re-invigorated craft theory, interactive installation art practices, land or earth art, new media or digital art, public or community-based art, the relationship of image/text in advertising, the archive / memory/amnesia /monumentation, the colonial and post-colonial 'art of describing,' etcetera.

Analysis includes cross-cultural / intercultural concerns and / or comparisons from Latin America and Trouton's own background and research endeavours: from Northern Ireland and Australia. The aim is to work with contemporary art methodologies that are directly relevant to the student's current needs and concerns: -- a contemporary Quito artist's practice --. Additionally, to develop scholarly concerns and / or a re-activated, intellectually engaged 'practice-led research' within or alongside 'The Academe.'

Lectures and readings will examine case studies of artworks / images, seminal texts and draw from a broad base of scholarship in art criticism so as to better understand local/global contemporary art-making, the oral and written analysis of art in various contexts, and the relationship of art production with art viewing, or consumption, and commodity distribution systems within globalisation. The theoretical information and particular contemporary art case studies presented is expected to be relevant to and/or may be defined by your own / your peers creative and professional practice.

These tools, drawn from visual studies and visual/material culture link your personal art portfolio and public practice(s) to new knowledge from local, Latin American and international contemporary art scenes, thereby encouraging new work, artistic risk-taking and intellectually rigorous inter-disciplinary problem-solving, as well as a new look into critical, socio-political engagement through the arts.