ARHS 5359: Seminar on Contemporary Art

Theory into Practice

Prof. Anna Lovatt, Fall 2018
Wednesdays 2pm-4.50pm, Owen Arts Center 1635

The exhibition “Topologies,” at The Warehouse, Dallas, 2018

This graduate seminar will introduce students to a range of theoretical models currently being used by artists, curators, art critics, and historians of contemporary art. We will cover the period from the late 1960s to the present day, focusing on a different concept each week. Topics will include: “systems,” “subjects,” “performativity,” “color,” “topology,” “globalization,” “democracy,” and “ecology.” We will study the development of these concepts other disciplines before considering their application within the field of contemporary art. The seminar will equip students with methodological tools that can be used in their own work—whether it be art practice, art criticism, modern and contemporary art history, or earlier periods in art history. Students will be encouraged to think critically about the methodologies they encounter on the course, to test their usefulness and to acknowledge their limitations. The class will include visits to the exhibition “Salvador Dalí: Poetics of the Small” at the Meadows Museum, The Warehouse, and the collection of Marguerite Hoffman.