### ARTH/CHTE 345 | History of Contemporary Art in Greece FALL 2024

#### INSTRUCTOR: DR. ATHENA HADJI EMAIL: ATHENA.HADJI@CYATHENS.ORG

#### **Course Description**

"Art is art-as-art and everything else is everything else" Ad Reinhardt

Contemporary art is defined as the art movements that emerged in the post-WWII era, c. post-1945. From expressionism to performance art, installations and video art, to NFTs; from the Venice Biennale of 1895 to a plethora of offshoots around the globe in the 2020s; from the legitimation of street art as a gallery-worthy form of art to popup and guerilla shows; from national collections to art fairs and an omnipotent market for contemporary art around the globe.

At first, contemporary art in Greece was foremost produced by Greek ex-pats who came into contact with the international avantgarde of their time, especially in France, Italy and the USA. The picture changed radically in the 1980s, when the domestic contemporary art production caught up, an audience was established and galleries started emerging, which culminated institutionally in the 1990s with the establishment of the *Syndemos Aithouson*—an art gallery association and the subsequent launch of the first commercial art fair in Greece, ART ATHINA, still hosted to this day by the same initiative. While focus is specifically on Greece, contemporary art and its material manifestations did not emerge or develop in Greece; thus, parallel to the Greek stage, we will study global or regional (i.e. France; USA) developments, depending on the era, and form thus a solid idea about the overall history of contemporary art.

Students acquire a first-hand knowledge of the contemporary art scene in Greece, in a course combining class lectures that explore the history and theory of contemporary art, with scheduled site visits of a diverse nature. The latter range from the iconic EMST (National Museum of Contemporary Art) and the National Gallery, to Foundations, such as the Takis Foundation, DESTE and NEON, and Onassis Foundations, private commercial galleries, including but not limited to legends, such as Citronne and The Breeder, temporary exhibitions, in expected, but also in surprising unconventional venues; field walks to discuss the public presence of contemporary art (mostly sculpture) in Athens, including a unique example of landscape sculpture of the grand scale and street art; and contemporary art archives. In addition, visits to artists' studios and the art 'laboratory' that is the Athens School of Fine Arts (the annual graduates show) facilitate an interaction with the producers of contemporary art today, and help the students familiarize themselves with the artistic process, contextualizing the artistic production spatially and culturally. Last but not least, the work of the professor as an independent contemporary art curator is discussed critically and students have the opportunity to watch a show coming to life, depending on the professor's curating commitments each semester.

In lieu of a conclusion, contemporary art is in a state of flow: this is its basic tenet and the key to understanding and interpreting its many faces. The emerging Greek artists of today will be the established stars in the histories of contemporary art of tomorrow and names of significant market value today will be forgotten by the history of the longue durée.

#### Learning Goals

The course is designed ideally for students of art history, fine arts, architecture, anthropology, curatorial studies, but also classical studies, classics and archaeology, heritage studies, economics, law, environmental studies, as well as any discipline with interest in the arts and art institutions. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1) distinguish between styles, works, periods, geographies and artists of the contemporary art scene in Greece and internationally; 2) critically inquire about the aims of contemporary artists working in different periods and localities, inferred both through the formal aspects of the studied artworks, and the reception of these works by the public;

3) combine a visual analysis of contemporary art with the available (on occasion conflicting or incomplete) archive evidence and place artworks in their historical and cultural circumstances;

4) describe a work of art with the terms and methods of art history;

5) appreciate the aesthetic aspect of contemporary art, while acknowledging their political, sometimes overt, other times subtler, content;

7) recognize echoes and interpretations of ancient Greek art in contemporary Greek art (from museum pieces and public sculpture to street art);

8) position themselves on the debate about art and society in the world of today.

#### **Course Requirements and Assessment**

#### **CYA Attendance Policy**

CYA regards attendance in class and on-site (in Athens or during field study trips) as essential, so attendance at all scheduled meetings is required. All absences are recorded and have consequences that may affect your grade.

Participation with active contribution to each lecture's topic: 11%. This involves critically processing assigned readings and presenting/commenting on their content during class and/ or short reports.

Three oral presentations of art (two museum/ gallery/ art venue presentations and one presentation of Athens public sculpture or street art): 24% (8%X3)

In-class midterm exam: 20%

In-class final exam: 25%

Each exam comprises image identifications, descriptions and comparisons; short identification of terms, artists' names, art movements, and concepts; critical response essay-type questions and commenting on quotes from texts studied for and discussed in class; and a short answers section, such as "fill in the blanks", "true/ false", multiple choice. There will be a choice for every part of each exam. We will discuss the format further before the exams, in the respective review sessions.

Group term project presented at the end of the semester (for dates see below class schedule): 25%. Instructions are provided on a separate document on moodle.

#### Policy on Assignments and Make-up Work

Details about assignments and exams will be given in advance. I will accept no late assignments or make-up exams unless discussed with me in advance. If you are unable to come to class, please let me know beforehand.

#### **CYA Policies and Regulations**

#### **Academic Accommodations**

Students are required to submit an official letter from the office at their school that handles academic accommodations (generally the Office of Disability Services), or to have that office send a letter. Students who have submitted such a letter to CYA should also talk to their professors individually to discuss how these accommodations will work in each specific course.

#### Site Visits and Accessibility

This course contains specific physical and spatial elements that are crucial to student learning and which cannot be modified. Students should be aware of these before enrolling in the course.

-This course requires the following physical activities: walking and standing. Prospective students should contact the professor before enrolling in the course if they foresee difficulties in participating in these activities.

-This course regularly meets in popular museums and art galleries in a very popular city where there can be significant background noise while the professor speaks. Field walks also entail walking and working in a busy, noisy environment.

-This course requires students to give verbal individual and group presentations in front of the class as part of their assessment.

#### ePolicy on Original Work

Plagiarism is literary theft. As such, it is a serious offense which will not be tolerated either at your home institution or at CYA. Plagiarism on an examination or in a paper will result in an F for the course. You must cite the author of any and all ideas that you use that is neither common knowledge nor your own idea. If you are in doubt, it is safest to cite the source. Your work should be original and reflect your own ideas and thoughts. If you are unsure about what counts as original work, please consult your professor and check the Student Handbook.

#### **Use of Laptops**

In-class or onsite use of laptops and other devices is permitted if this facilitates course-related activities such as note-taking, looking up references, etc. Laptop or other device privileges will be suspended if devices are not used for class-related work.

#### Upgrade to 400-level course

Courses can be upgraded to a 400-level. This constitutes usually 25% additional work on the part of the student. The option to upgrade opens the second week of classes. If you are interested in this option, please let us discuss!

#### Fall 2024 Tentative Schedule

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)
	Sep 5-7	Field Study   Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Sep 10	Introduction: course specifics, course process and requirements.
		Short library tour and discussion of reserve shelf material.
		Recommended reading
		HD, Marcel Duchamp
		Foster and al. 2016, Contents
2 Sep 12		CLASSROOM
		History of contemporary art: multivocality and conflict
		Required readings
		Fineberg 2022, Introduction
		Lee Morgan 2016, Introduction
		Stallabrass 2006, Ch. 1
		Required viewings
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5Ett_UsxZo
		Griselda Pollock and Angela Dimitrakaki on feminism and art theory
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxaSillA1uE
		Umberto Eco on art
		Recommended readings
		Benjamin 1969
		Sturken Cartwright Ch. 2, 3, 8
3	Sep 17	No class, instead ART ATHINA, SEP. 23
5	Seh 11	ART ATHINA contemporary art fair, Zappeion Megaron (next to National Garden, a 5
		min. walk from CYA), time TBA
		MEETING POINT: Zappeion monumental staircase
		Recommended reading
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	C	CI catalogs on moodle
	Sep 18-21	CI catalogs on moodle Field Study   Crete
4	Sep 18-21           Sep 24	CI catalogs on moodle Field Study   Crete CLASSROOM
4	-	CI catalogs on moodle Field Study   Crete CLASSROOM A (MOSTLY) LINEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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		1960s-1970s
		Required reading
		Fineberg 2022, 178-179 (assemblage art); 182-184 (Happenings); 225-227 (Yoko Ono);
		Ch. 9: 229-230; 240-248 (pop art: Andy Warhol)
		HD, Arte Povera
		HD, Stephen Antonakos
		HD, Body Art
		HD, Louise Bourgeois
		HD, Judy Chicago
		HD, Christo
		HD, Chryssa
		HD, Conceptual Art
		HD, Feminist Art
		Recommended reading
		HD, Fluxus
		HD, Lucio Fontana
		https://www.snfcc.org/en/snfcc/architecture
		SNFCC and Renzo Piano's work (referenced in the discussion of Louise Bourgeois and
		Maman)
7	Oct 3	CLASSROOM
		The 1980s: graffiti; consumer art; Alexandros Iolas and contemporary art as
		(prestigious) commodity; Greek artists in Greece
		Required reading
		Sturken and Cartwright Ch. 7
		Fineberg 2022, Ch. 14
		https://www.onassis.org/people/rena-papaspyrou
		HD, Jeff Koons
		Nella Golanda readings:
		https://rm.coe.int/168048d933
		Nella Golanda, Thematic Intervention, the case of Larissa
		French and Mitsoula 2021
		https://www.archisearch.gr/landscape/land-shapers-3-interview-nella-golanda/
		Nella Golanda interview (in Greek, please use google translate to form an idea of
		content)
		https://ecc-italy.eu/files/TSE%202016.pdf
		Nella Golanda, Biennale di Venezia 2016 (find the Golanda entry in the catalogue, you
		can also browse through to see what the 2016 edition of the B. entailed!)
		Lisa Sotilis
		Sotilis 2001
		Lydia Dambassina
		https://www.lydiadambassina.com/
		Niki Kanagini (NOTE auhlisetiana in Eaclish aleant hath artista and artista and international international statistics)
		(NOTE: publications in English about both artists are out-of-print, our library is looking
		into obtaining them)
		Recommended reading
		https://issuu.com/sculptedarchitecturalandscapes/docs/olkos 1982
		Nella Golanda's work (in Greek, browse through please, it is only 37 pages with a
		minimal amount of text, to see beautiful images, drawings and photographs that
		indicate the range of Golanda's work)
		http://www.sculpted-architectural-landscapes.gr/project.php?id=26
		Nella Golanda's official website
		Recommended viewing
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n3rGdVS7_g
		Nella Golanda, Aixoni theater acoustics (in Greek, but observe the acoustics!)
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t83QMkE6peo
		Nella Golanda, The Water of the River Animus
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		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zyxd_Y9x1E
		Lisa Sotilis, interview (in Greek, but use google translate to get a mis-translated, but
		solid idea of how fabulous the person and her art are!)
		Recommended browsing
		http://renapapaspyrou.gr/
8	Oct 8	CLASSROOM
		From THIS IS TOMORROW to The glorious 1990s: British Young Artists, enfants
		terribles and illustrious careers; the British post-war scene
		Art Athina and the commodification of contemporary art in Greece
		Required Reading
		Dumbadze and Hudson Ch. 2
		Fineberg 2022, Ch. 12: Everyday Places, Appropriation
		HD, Young British Artists
		HD, Turner Prize
		Required browsing
		Art Athina's official website: https://aavirtual.gr/en/home-en/
		Recommended reading
		Iliopoulou 2009
		https://www.festivalmiden.gr/en/texts/
		Recommended browsing
		Damien Hirst, Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable, Palazzo Grassi, Venice,
		2017
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13ShK2UAeP0
9	Oct 10	Museum of Cycladic Art
		Cindy Sherman temporary exhibition
		Required reading
		HD, Cindy Sherman
		Recommended reading
		https://www.moma.org/artists/5392
10	Oct 15	NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (EMST)
		Required reading
		Belting 2012, <u>https://zkm.de/de/hans-belting-contemporary-art-and-the-museum-in-</u>
		<u>the-global-age</u>
		EMST catalogue (RESERVE SHELF)
		Required viewing
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGQ5J- 9r6c
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5Y-UXHaRVo
		Collection exhibition, 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> floors:
		https://www.emst.gr/en/home-en/collection-exhibition
		Recommended reading
		Press material for older temporary exhibitions, including images of exhibited works,
		available on the museum site
11	Oct 17	National Gallery
		Required reading
		https://www.nationalgallery.gr/en/artworks/?language=en&artwork_name=&artwor
		k type=68&permanent exhibition=&location=&extra filters=false
		A selection of the National Gallery's contemporary art collection, focusing on
		installation art
		Recommended reading
		https://www.nationalgallery.gr/wp-
40		content/uploads/2023/07/Leaflet FINAL GR digital.pdf
12	Oct 22	Midterm Exam review
13	Oct 24	Midterm exam 1:45-2:45 PM
	Oct 25-Nov 3	Fall Break
14	Nov 5	CLASSROOM
		The 2000s: rise and shine!

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)		
		Required reading		
		Stallabrass 2006, Ch. 2 (The Biennale as an institution)		
		Recommended browsing		
		Athens Biennale official website: https://athensbiennale.org/en/		
		Athens Biennale Catalogue, ON MY RESERVE SHELF		
15	Nov 7	CLASSROOM		
10		Back to the future: contemporary art in the Anthropocene		
		Required reading		
		Dumbadze and Hudson, Ch. 1		
		Robertson and McDaniel Ch. 2		
		Hadji and Souvatzi 2014 (space and time theory)		
		Enwezor and Okeke-Agulu Ch. 1 (contemporary art in Africa)		
		Recommended viewing		
		My Private Flanerie, 2017. Artist: Gjergj Bodari. Curator: Dr. Athena Hadji. An		
		Instagram-exclusive exhibition:		
		https://www.google.com/search?q=k+gold+instagram&oq=k+gold+instagram+&gs_lc rp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQABgWGB4yBggCEEUYQNIBCDQ1MzJqMGo0qAI		
		AsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8		
		Third Text, http://thirdtext.org/		
	Nov 12-15	Field Study   Peloponnese		
16	Nov 19	CLASSROOM		
10		Performance art in Greece: history and status quo		
		Required reading		
		Fineberg 2022, Ch. 10, Ch. 11		
		Ward 2012, Introduction		
		HD, Christian Boltanski		
		Antoniadou 2017, Chs. 2, 3		
		Required viewing		
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEpa-8I8UrE		
		Georgia Sagri, Breathing		
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoHtaPRFoPo		
		Alexandra Pirici and Manuel Plemus, <i>Public Collection</i>		
		TRIGGER WARNING!		
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-H6J56e-QE		
		Marina Abramovic, Rhythm 0		
		Recommended viewing		
		Abramovic 2012, CYA library		
17	Nov 21	Student presentations of NG pieces		
18	Nov 22	CLASSROOM		
		DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AND THE ARCHIVE:		
		Required reading		
		Blocker 2015, Introduction		
		Recommended reading		
		Blocker 2015, Ch. 2		
19	Nov 26	CLASSROOM		
		Art Residencies (and hotels): how to build an art collection for cheap		
		Required reading (and viewing)		
		https://www.doma.archi/en/index/projects/3enodoxeio-hilton		
		the original photographs, architectural drawings and illustrations of the 1953 Athens		
		Hilton		
		https://www.costanavarino.com/stories/art-collection-w-costa-navarino/		
		https://gnamamidakisfoundation.org/en/sculpture-garden-en/		
		https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/01/travel/an-art-museum-in-your-hotel-		
		lobby.html		
		https://hospitalityinsights.ehl.edu/works-art-impact-hospitality-spaces		
		Recommended reading		

Day #	Date/Day	Topic / Readings / Assignments Due / Place (if applicable)	
		https://www.hospitalitynet.org/opinion/4110272.html	
	Nov 28-Dec 1	Thanksgiving Break	
20	Dec 3	PUBLIC ART PROJECT STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	
21	Dec 5	Exhibition TBD	
22	Dec 6	Term project presentation, class discussion and evaluation	
		Assignment for non-presenting groups	
		Take notes as presentations unfold, make comments, evaluate and give a mock grade	
		with substantiation. To be handed to the Professor at the end of class	
23	Dec 10	Term project presentation, class discussion and evaluation	
		Assignment for non-presenting groups	
		Take notes as presentations unfold, make comments, evaluate and give a mock	
		with substantiation. To be handed to the Professor at the end of class	
24	Dec 12	Final Exam Review: format and content	
	Dec 17	Final Exam Week	
	Dec 19	Final Exam Week	

#### Schedule at a glance

Day #	Date	Session	Venue
	Sep 5-7	Field Study	Delphi and Ancient Olympia
1	Sep 10	Introduction	Classroom
2	Sep 12	Contemporary art	Classroom
3	Sep 17 [Sep. 23]	Art Athina	Zappeion
	Sep 18-21	Field Study	Crete
4	Sep 24	The pioneers	Classroom
5	Sep 26	SNFCC visit	SNFCC
6	Oct 1	The 1960s-1970s	Classroom
7	Oct 3	The 1980s	Classroom
8	Oct 8	London calling: the 1990s	Classroom
9	Oct 10	Cindy Sherman	Museum of Cycladic Art
10	Oct 15	EMST	EMST
11	Oct 17	National Gallery	NG
12	Oct 22	Midterm Exam review	Classroom
13	Oct 24	Midterm Exam	Classroom
	Oct 25-Nov 3	Fall Break	
14	Nov 5	The aughties	Classroom
15	Nov 7	The future	Classroom
	Nov 12-15	Field Study	Peloponnese
16	Nov 19	Performance art	Classroom
17	Nov 21	Student presentations NG pieces	Classroom
18	Nov 22	B&E Goulandris Museum	B&E Goulandris Museum
19	Nov 26	Art residencies/ art hotels	Classroom
	Nov 28-Dec1	Thanksgiving Break	
20	Dec 3	Public art student presentations	Classroom
21	Dec 5	Exhibition TBD	Art gallery TBD
22	Dec 6	Term project presentations I	Classroom
23	Dec 10	Term project presentations II	Classroom
24	Dec 12	Final exam review	Classroom
	Dec 17	Final Exam Week	
	Dec 19	Final Exam Week	

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#### **Course videos**

William Kentridge. 2010. *Anything Is Possible*. Marina Abramovic. 2012. *The Artist Is Present*. Banksy. 2010. *Exit Through the Gift Shop*.