

Internet as Public Art : Spring 08
Tues. 2:30pm - 6:10 pm
Room NS #3001
newmedia.purchase.edu/~Brooke/iapa08

Prof. Brooke Singer
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Office Hours: Tues. 12-2/By Appt.

Course Description: A growing dialogue surrounding Internet art echoes the spirit of past public and community-oriented art practices. This dialogue covers, but is not limited to, the following issues: making accessible the means of production, opening new channels for distribution, and challenging “official” venues (museums, galleries and commercial broadcasters) as the privileged sites for viewing. Net art revives political ideals of early video art, and comparisons can be made between it and a longer history of art in the public sphere.

This class reviews net art and theory in light of these histories. We will discuss how networks can serve physical situations or communities rather than being a purely screen-based phenomenon, the policies that are shaping the functionality of the Internet and new possibilities that arise as ubiquitous computing integrates with public space. We will see how net art is no longer synonymous with browser art and may not be such a useful term anymore as the possibilities of networked computing expand and hardware miniaturizes. As mobile and social networks become increasingly a part of everyday life and the net itself blends into the background, we may find other terms more useful perhaps such as “post desktop” art.

Assignments: This is a general description of the work that is expected of you this semester. More details will be given in class closer to the time the work is due.

Presentation: You will be responsible for presenting one reading to the class. We will decide on the first day which reading each of you will be responsible for. You should prepare an outline for the class of the main points of your reading, which will be due on the day of your presentation (bring 20 copies to class). Presentations should distill and clarify the reading material as well as offer points for discussion. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes.

Reading Responses (weekly)

Mid-term:

Social Experiment: You will devise a social experiment and carry it out in a public space. Your aim is to “de-design” a space and investigate how it functions through an intervention or action (see Acconci reading). Document your experiment and the public response with photographs, video, audio or a written description, but *do not* let on that this is a class project. You will share the results of the experiments in class.

OR

Mid-term paper: This will be a 5 page research paper focusing on one artist or artist group related to a topic or topics covered in class by March 4. Since this is a research paper, you must include footnote/endnotes and a list of works cited (refer to the MLA handbook for format). This paper must be researched using the library books and electronic journals as well as use of online materials.

Final Project or Paper: For the final you will be expected to complete one project or a 10-page research paper that addresses one of the issues raised in this course (I will provide you with a list of topics). You may work in teams on the projects but the papers are to be done individually.

You will write a proposal for your project or paper and get Brooke's approval before beginning the work. Students will share their final projects by doing presentations on the last day of class.

Texts: There is one required text for this class available at the Purchase Bookstore. It is The Future of Ideas by Lawrence Lessig. All other readings will be available on Eres (<https://www.purchase.edu/Departments/Library/eres.aspx>) as pdf files. You must print the texts and bring to class for discussions along with your weekly reading response. If you miss class you are still responsible for the week's readings.

Grading:

20% Attendance and Participation

30% Class Assignments (Weekly Reading Responses and Presentation on Reading)

20% Mid-term

30% Final Project or Paper

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and participation are very important in this class. This is a seminar and you are expected to read materials closely and come to class prepared to discuss them. You are allowed two excused absences but three absences will result in automatic failure.

Weekly Syllabus:

This syllabus is subject to change. Always refer to the class blog at

<http://newmedia.purchase.edu/~Brooke/iapa08> for the current syllabus and class announcements.

Week One: January 29

Introduction to Course Topics, Review Syllabus

Assign Presentation Subjects

Homework:

Read: "Debated Territory," Suzanne Lacy; "Public Space in a Private Time," Vito Acconci

Supplemental Read (optional): "Uneven Development: Public Art in New York City," Rosalyn Deutsche; "One Place After Another," Miwon Kwon

Week Two: February 5

Public Art: Origins and Trends in the US

Homework:

Read: "The Monument," Malcolm Miles; "Whose Monument Where?," Judith Baca

Week Three: February 12

Monumentality

Homework:

Read: Read: "Attention! Production! Audience! Performing Video in its First Decade," Chris Hill; "Video: Shedding the Utopian Moment," Martha Rosler

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SPECIAL EVENT:

**New Media Lecture: February 13, 6:30pm at the Neuberger Museum
Amy Franceschini of the Futurefarmers**

URL: <http://www.futurefarmers.com/>

Two others TBA

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Week Four: February 19

Video Art: Origins and Trends in the US

Homework:

Read: "Net.art: Shedding the Utopian Moment?" Rachel Schreiber; "David Ross Lecture on Net.Art," David Ross

Week Five: February 26

Art on the Web or the Net.Art Movement

Homework:

Read: "ABCs of Tactical Media," Garcia and Lovink; "Resisting the Bunker," Critical Art Ensemble

Supplemental Read (optional): "Interventionist Catalogue Introduction," Nato Thompson; "Practice of Everyday Life", Michele de Certeau; "Guy Debord and the Situationists," Tom McDonough

Week Five: March 4

Tactical Media

Homework:

Mid-term

Week Six: March 11

Mid-term Presentations

Homework:

"The Future of Ideas," Lawrence Lessig (NOT ON ERES – buy book in bookstore)

SPRING BREAK!!!

Week Seven: March 25

The Digital Commons

Homework:

Read: "Urban Computing and its Discontents," Greenfield and Shepard; "Vectorial Elevation," Rafael Lozano Hemmer

Week Eight: April 1**Post-Desktop Computing: Locative Media and Situated Technologies**

Homework:

Read: "Communication, Power and Counter-power in the Network Society," Manuel Castells;
"What is Web 2.0?," Tim O'Reilly

Supplemental Read (Optional): "TxtMob: Text Messaging For Protest Swarms" Tad Hirsch;
Danah Boyd (<http://www.danah.org/papers/>); "From Art on Networks to Art on Platforms,"
Goriunova and Shulgin

Week Nine: April 8**Social Networks and the So-Called Web2.0**

Homework:

Read: "Surveillance Society," David Lyon; "CyberDemocracy: "Internet and the Public
Sphere," Mark Poster

Supplemental Read (Optional): "Extreme Democracy," Danah Boyd; "On the Internet," Hubert
Dreyfus

Week Ten: April 15**E-Democracy and Data Surveillance**

Homework:

Read: "Tipping Point," Malcolm Gladwell; "Emergence," Steven Jonson

Week Eleven: April 22**Distribution and Viral Marketing**

Homework:

Read: "Google's China Problem (and China's Google Problem)," Clive Thompson; "Technology
and Social Inclusion: Rethinking the Digital Divide," Mark Warschauer

Week Twelve: April 29**Accessibility and Issues of Digital Divide**

Homework:

Research and prepare Final Project proposal

Week Thirteen: May 6**Individual Meetings with Brooke about Final Project proposal**

Homework:

Finish Final Project or Paper

Week Fourteen: May 9

Final Presentations of Projects or Papers