



USC
Roski School of Fine Arts
Masters of Public Art Studies Program

FORUM: The Next Public Sphere

PAS 581

Spring 2008

Mondays 6-8:50pm

Instructors:

Joshua Decter

Director, MPAS Program

Lauri Firstenberg, MPAS Program Faculty

Director/Curator LA><ART

The Forum class is comprised of a series of guest lecturers/presenters (artists, curators, theorists, etc.) addressing issues specific to art and cultural practices in the public sphere. The Forum class will explore notions of *The Next Public Sphere*, so that we can more clearly understand current modes of cultural intervention within the public sphere. How can we imagine the future of public realms, theoretically and pragmatically, in terms of how artists and other cultural producers will seek to reactivate public domain experiences?

Speakers for this term include Sam Durant, Allan McCollum, Rochelle Steiner, Rick Lowe, Miwon Kwon, Nato Thompson, Teddy Cruz, Hou Hanru, Daniel Martinez, and Grant Kester.

Students will work collaboratively in three distinct groups to produce curatorial proposals (in the form of written proposals) that will involve interventions in the public domain of Los Angeles. Sites throughout the city's environs will be researched and selected by the student groups. Each proposal should be no longer than 10 pages in length, and will be due on May 5, 2008.

Class Schedule:

Monday, January 14:

Class #1

Introduction to Forum

Monday, January 21:

Martin Luther King's B-Day- holiday

NO CLASS

Monday, January 28:

Class #2

Decter & Firstenberg presentations
(Readings to be announced)

Monday, February 4:

Class #3

PRESENTATION BY **DANIEL JOSEPH MARTINEZ**, Artist

Reading: Gilbert Vicario, *The Fully Enlightened Earth*,
Cairo Biennial exhibition catalogue, 2007.

Monday, February 11:

Class #4

PRESENTATION BY **ROCHELLE STEINER**

Director, Public Art Fund, New York
(Readings to be announced)

Monday, February 18:

President's Day- holiday

NO CLASS

Monday, February 25:

Class #5

PRESENTATION BY **ALLAN MCCOLLUM**, Artist

Readings:

Andrea Fraser, "Investigations 1986: Allan McCollum," Institute of Contemporary Art,
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, exhibition brochure, 1986

Ken Johnson, "In Review, Allan McCollum," *New York Times*, November 10, 2000

Allan McCollum and Harrell Fletcher, *Bomb*, Issue 95, Spring 2006

Monday, March 3:

Class #6

PRESENTATION BY **SAM DURANT**, Artist

AND **RICK LOWE**, DIRECTOR, PROJECT ROW HOUSES

Readings:

Malik Gaines, "Sam Durant: Shaping History." ARTREVIEW, February 2007, p. 50-57.

Jan Tumlir, "Sam Durant." ARTFORUM, December 2004, pg. 202. Jonathan Flatley and

Mary Leclere, "The Agency of Letters" and "Speaking of Others." AFTERALL, Issue 10,
pgs. 82-98.

Christopher Knight, "In a distinctly American grove." LOS ANGELES TIMES, November
2, 2002, pgs. E1, E10-E11.

James Meyer, "Impure Thoughts: The Art of Sam Durant." ARTFORUM, April 2000,
pgs. 112-117.

Selected press on Project Row Houses to come.

Monday, March 10:

Class #7

PRESENTATION BY **TEDDY CRUZ**, Architect, Urbanist

Readings:

Teddy Cruz, "Border Postcards: Chronicles from the Edge," James Stirling Memorial Lectures on the City, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal and the London School of Economics Cities Program, 2004-2005.

Nicolai Ourousof, "Shantytowns as the new Suburban Ideal," *New York Times*, March 21, 2006.

Jennie Klein, *Performance, Post-Border Art, and Urban Geography*, *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* - PAJ 86 (Volume 29, Number 2), May 2007, pp. 31-39

Monday, March 17:

SPRING RECESS- HOLIDAY

NO CLASS

Monday, March 24:

Class #8

PRESENTATION BY **GRANT KESTER**, Art Historian, UCSD

Readings:

Selected reading from Grant Kester, *Conversation Pieces: Community and Communication in Modern Art*,

Grant Kester, "Rhetorical Questions: The Alternative Arts Sector and the Imaginary Public," *Ongoing Negotiations: Afterimage and the Analysis of Activist Art*," pp. 103-135.

Monday, March 31:

Class #9

DETAILS TO COME

Thursday, April 3:

Class #10

PRESENTATION BY **HOU HANRU**, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the San Francisco Art Institute, and Independent Curator.

Readings to be announced.

Monday, April 14:

Class #11

PRESENTATION BY **MIWON KWON**, ART HISTORIAN, UCLA

Readings:

Miwon Kwon, "Geneology of Site Specificity," *One Place After Another: Site Specific Art and Locational Identity*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2002, pp.11-32.

Miwon Kwon, "Itinerant Artists," excerpts from *One Place After Another: Site Specific Art and Locational Identity*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2002 in *The Uncertain States of American Reader*, Sternberg Press, 2006, pp. 45-51.

Miwon Kwon. "Public Art as Publicity" in Simon Sheikh, ed. *In the Place of the Public Sphere? On the establishment of publics and counter-publics*, Berlin: b_books, 2005.

Monday, April 21:

Class #12

GROUP CURATORIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Monday, April 28: Class #13

FINAL MEETING

PRESENTATION BY **NATO THOMPSON**, Curator, CREATIVE TIME, NEW YORK

Readings:

Nato Thompson, "Strategic Visuality: a project by four artist/researchers Trevor Paglen, The Speculative Archive, J. Morgan Puett with Jorge Columbo, and the Center for Tactical Magic, *Art Journal*, Spring 2004.

Nato Thompson, *The Interventionsists: User's Manual for the Creative Disruption of Everyday Life*, Mass MoCA, 2004.

Monday, May 5:

**GROUP CURATORIAL PROPOSALS DUE VIA EMAILS TO BOTH DECTER AND
FIRSTENBERG**