

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Syllabus

The Art of Blasphemy - 5811

Last update 23-03-2015

HU Credits: 4

<u>Degree/Cycle:</u> 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: The History of Art Department

Academic year: 3

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Gal ventura

<u>Coordinator Email: gal.ventura@mail.huji.ac.il</u>

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 14:30-15:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Gal Ventura

Course/Module description:

In 1989, as a reaction to the exhibition of Andres Serano's photography Piss Christ, the American Family Association initiated a press conference, demanding its immediate removal from the exhibition. The photograph, that depicted a small plastic crucifix submerged in a glass of the artist's urine, was regarded blasphemous and offensive towards the public's feelings. Similar claims for censorship against artistic freedom of expression have occurred against other artists who depicted Christian, Muslim or Jewish religious imagery that were regarded as offensive. This course will be devoted to the tension between artistic sovereignty and blasphemy; freedom of expression and incitement, as it is manifested in modern and contemporary art. While examining artists such as Gustave Courbet, Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, Chris Offili or Maurizio Cattelan, we will discuss ideas of holiness versus profanity, blasphemy versus secularity, and heresy versus faith.

Course/Module aims:

The course is designed to provide stimulating discussions regarding secularization, profanity, holiness, sanctity and blasphemy in contemporary art, while developing skills of critical observation of images and texts. A central aim is to stimulate small-group learning, exchange of ideas, and testing of interdisciplinary methods of work. It is also designated to impart skills and qualities of mind relevant to the discipline of art history; Reflect on the theoretical underpinnings of the art history discipline (Iconography and Iconoligy; Marxist and neo-Marxist Theories, Freudian Theories and Foucauldian critical theories).

<u>Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</u>

Course learning outcomes:

- Have gained an understanding of the cultural, social and historical context of blasphemy in contemporary art.
- Have demonstrated awareness and understanding of relevant methodologies and theories in Art History and Visual Studies
- Reflect critically on the nature of the discipline, its social rationale, its theoretical underpinnings and its intellectual standing
- Formulate, execute, and complete an extended piece of writing under appropriate supervision.

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal teaching and active student participation

Course/Module Content:

- Concepts: faith , secularism, secularization, disbelief , heresy, profanation, sacred
- Types of blasphemy in visual arts
- Quote, gesture, imitation, copying, appropriation, homage, parody and satire in art
- Ekphrasis: word and image
- Religious and secular: mutual influences and relationship
- Between the sanctity of God and the holiness of art
- · Methodologies in visual culture
- Blasphemy and Jewish iconography in contemporary art
- · Blasphemy and Christian iconography in contemporary art

Required Reading:

באמנות", "השד הנשי כמקור לחסד: תיאורים של 'החסד הרומי' (Romana Caritas) באמנות", מתוך: נילי גורן (אוצרת), בועז טל: אלגוריה/אלגרו נון טרופו, עבודות 2001-1978 (קטלוג תערוכה), תל אביב: מוזיאון תל אביב לאמנות, 2001, 24-21.

כץ -פרימן, תמי, "סכריניות מתקתקה וצל מוות", מוזה 4, אפריל 2001, 21-14.

מאירי-דן, נעמי, "בין חילול לחילון ומן האינדיווידואלי אל האוניברסלי: צלובים, צליבות ופייטות באמנות , השראלית העכשווית", הפרוטוקולים: היסטוריה ותיאוריה 18, בצלאל, המחלקה להיסטוריה ותיאוריה 2010, בצלאל אוקטובר 2010.

https://zzzen.secured.co.il/sites/bezalel/home/he/1286358025/1286963228 ,6 מותר קן", מותר ברומא מהוותיקן", מותר 1998. 86-77.

עפרת, גדעון, אל מיתוס ללא אל: השיבה אל התוכן המיתולוגי האמנות הישראלית העכשווית (קטלוג תערוכה), ירושלים: בית האמנים, ;985, פרק ד: "מנוס ממיתוס ואליו"; "משפטו ומותו של ישו הנוצרי .72-67, 57-55, 57-67

צ'בלאו, סוזן, "סיפורי התנ"ך של עדי נס", מתוך: מרדכי עומר (אוצר), עדי נס: סיפורי התנ"ך (קטלוג תערוכה), תל אביב: מוזיאון תל אביב לאמנות, 2007, 35-27.

שנהב, יהודה, "מעולם לא היתה הלאומיות מודרנית (וחילונית): על הכלאה וטיהור אצל ברונו לאטור", תיאוריה וביקורת 26, אביב 2005, 81-78.

שאפירו, מאייר, "מילים ותמונות: על המילולי והסמלי באיור של טקסט," מתוך: מאייר שאפירו, מבחר מאמרים בתולדות האמנות, תל רביב 2003, 89-23.

Dillenberger, Jane Daggett. The Religious Art of Andy Warhol. New York: Continuum Publishing. 1998.

Elkins, James and David Morgan (eds.). Re-Enchantment (The Art Seminar). New York: Routledge, 2009.

Heartney, Eleanor. Postmodern Heretics: The Catholic Imagination in Contemporary Art, New York: Midmarch Arts Press, 2004

Hervieu-Léger, Danièle. Religion as a Chain of Memory. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2000.

Johnstone, Pauline. High Fashion in the Church: The Place of Church Vestments in the History of Art, from the Ninth to the Nineteenth Century, Leeds: Maney Pub., 2002.

Kinnard, Roy and Tim Davis. Divine Images: A History of Jesus on the Scree., Toronto: Citadel Press Book, 1992.

Macklin, J. "Saints and Near- Saints in Transitions: The Sacred, the Secular and the Popular," in James Hopgood (ed.), The Making of Saints: Contesting Sacred Ground, Tuscaloosa: the University of Alabama Press, 2005, 1-22.

Morgan, David. Visual Piety: A History and Theory of Popular Religious Images. London: Routledge, 1999.

Marable, Darwin. "The Crucifixion in Photography," History of Photography, vol. 18, Autumn 1994, 256-263.

Matter, A. E. "Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Late Twentieth Century: Apocalyptic, Representation, politics, Religion," Religion 31, 2001: 125-153.

Morgan, David. The Sacred Gaze: Religious Visual Culture in Theory and Practice. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Perez, Nissan N. Revelation: Representations of Christ in Photography (exhibition catalogue), Jerusalem: The Israel Museum, 2003.

Plate, S. Brent. Blasphemy: Art That Offends. London: Black Dog Publishing, 2006. Rheims, Bettina and Serge Bramly. I.N.R.I.. New York 1999, Introduction.

<u>Additional Reading Material:</u>

אליאדה, מירצ'ה. "המרחב הקדוש וקידוש העולם," בתוך לימור, אורה וא. ריינר (עורכים), עליה

לרגל: יהודים, נוצרים, מוסלמים, תל-אביב: האוניברסיטה הפתוחה ויד בן צבי, 2005.

. גירץ, קליפורד, "הדת כמערכת תרבותית," פרשנות של תרבויות, ירושלים, 1990.

דגלס, מארי. טוהר וסכנה: ניתוח של המושגים זיהום וטאבו. תל-אביב: רסלינג, 2004.

ובר, מקס. האתיקה הפרוטסטנטית ורוח הקפיטליזם (תרגם: ברוך מורן). תל-אביב: עם עובד, תשמ"ד.

טרנר, ויקטור. התהליך הטקסי: מבנה ואנטי-מבנה. תל-אביב: רסלינג, 2009.

מרינברג, אביתר. מבוא להבנת הכנסיה הקתולית בת ימינו: קתוליות עכשיו. תל-אביב: כרמל, 2010.

Apostolos-Cappadona, Diane. Dictionary of Christian Art. Cambridge, 1995. Attwater, Donald and Catherine Rachel. The Penguin Dictionary of Saints. London, 1995.

Bockmuehl, Markus. The Cambridge Companion to Jesus. Cambridge, 2001. Carrol, Michael. The Cult of the Virgin Mary. Prienceton: Preinceton University Press, 1996.

Elkins, James and David Morgan (eds.). Re-Enchantment (The Art Seminar). New

York: Routledge, 2009.

Ferguson, George Wells. Signs and Symbols in Christian Art. New York, 1961.

Heartney, Eleanor. Postmodern Heretics: The Catholic Imagination in Contemporary Art. New York: Midmarch Arts Press, 2004

Hervieu-Léger, Danièle. Religion as a Chain of Memory. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2000.

Hopgood, James (ed.). The Making of Saints: Contesting Sacred Ground. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama, 2005.

Johnstone, Pauline. High Fashion in the Church: The Place of Church Vestments in the History of Art, from the Ninth to the Nineteenth Century, Leeds: Maney Pub., 2002.

Lambek, Michael (ed.). A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

Macklin, J. "Saints and Near- Saints in Transitions: The Sacred, the Secular and the Popular," in: Hopgood, J. (ed.), The Making of Saints: Contesting Sacred Ground, Tuscaloosa: the University of Alabama Press, 2005, pp. 1-22.

Lambek, Michael (ed.). A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

Marable, Darwin, "The Crucifixion in Photography," History of Photography, vol. 18, Autumn 1994, pp. 256-263.

Matter, A. E. "Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Late Twentieth Century: Apocalyptic, Representation, politics, Religion," Religion, vol. 31, 2001, pp. 125-153.

Morgan, David. The Sacred Gaze: Religious Visual Culture in Theory and Practice. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Parshall, Peter, "The Art of Memory and the Passion," The Art Bulletin, vol. 81, no. 3, Sep 1999, pp. 456-472.

Roberts, Helene E. Encyclopedia of Comparative Iconography: Themes Depicted in Works of Art. Chicago, 1998.

Steinberg, Leo. The Sexuality of Christ in Renaissance Art and in Modern Oblivion. Chicago, 1982.

Van Buren, Jane Silverman. The Modernist Madonna: Semiotics of The Maternal Metaphor. London, 1989.

Zimdars-Shwartz, Sandra, L. "Modern Marian Apparitions, Their Background, And Their Religious Milieu," in: Encountering Mary, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Zimdars-Swartz, S.L. "The Virgin Mary: Mother as Intercessor and Savior of Society", in: Brehm, S. S. (ed.), Seeing Female: Social Role and Personal Lives, New York: Greenwood Press, 1988, pp. 69-79.

<u>Course/Module evaluation:</u>
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 80 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: