INTRODUCTION

The RMIT School of Art MFA Advanced Seminar Program takes place in Melbourne from Monday June 25 – Friday July 6.

The Program involves approximately 50 students from campuses in Melbourne, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Interaction between individuals and between individuals and communities is mediated by agents of increasing complexity, including issues of rights and morality, political and religious agendas, economic demographics and even communications technologies. In this context artists, designers, theorists and activists search for meaning and relevance.

How is knowledge created by artists? How do we ascribe value in complex environments? How do we seek to act in meaningful ways? How do we navigate conflict, fear and responsibility? Rosalind Krauss in ‘A Voyage on the North Sea: Art in the Age of the Post-Medium Condition’ suggests a transformation has taken place within the nature of art, from making objects to articulating vectors that connect objects to subjects. Implied here is a view that knowledge and culture, poetics and sustainability, cities and media are realms of interaction that are researched by artists to challenge and renew communities.

The MFA Seminar program aims to reflect upon the question, ‘how do we enquire, ascribe value and understand complexity in practice?’ It will present a diversity of responses by practitioners, theorists and students themselves through discussion around three linking themes:

1. Collaborations, or exploration of art practice beyond the confines of the individual creator.
2. Contention, or art as critique and social dialogue.
3. Globalism, or the emergence of cultural practices linking communities.

Speakers will discuss their investigations into painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and new media, installation, curatorial projects and mass media work, theoretical research and cross-cultural collaborative projects. The 2007 Seminar program includes invited speakers alongside moderated panel discussions comprising students drawn from the RMIT MFA program and staff, student workshops and discussion forums, ACCA artist’s forums, social events and exhibition openings.

Speakers invited to participate include David Cross, Greg Missingham, Juliana Engberg, Chris McAuliffe, Victoria Lynn, Tom Nicholson, Simone Slee, Cameron Robbins, Geoff Lowe & Jacqui Riva, Mary-Lou Pavlovic as well as a number of RMIT staff and artists-in-residence.

Please contact Greg Creek at greg.creek@rmit.edu.au for further information.
Participants should meet in the RMIT Gossard Building 49, Franklin Street, Melbourne at 9.30 each morning to receive any alterations to the timetable. All lectures will be in the large auditorium, lower ground floor, RMIT building 94, 23-27 Cardigan St., Carlton (unless otherwise communicated).

PROGRAM

WEEK 1

**MONDAY  25 June**

9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
Dr. David Thomas & Greg Creek
Introduction to seminar program Week 1

10.30-11.30  **GREG MISSINGHAM ‘Yu Yuan Gardens’**

12.30-1.30  **LINDA WILLIAMS ‘Navigating the North-West Passage’**

12.30pm - 1.30  Lunch

1.30 – 2.00  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C

2.00 – 3.00  **Introduction to the Library**

**TUESDAY 26 June**

9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C

10.00 – 11.00  **CAMERON ROBBINS ‘Sustainable public art’**

11.30 – 12.30  **KEELY MACAROW**

12.30pm - 1.30  Lunch

1.30 – 3.30  MFA Student slide presentations
Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
WEDNESDAY 27 June
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
11.00 – 12.00  A CONSTRUCTED WORLD: Increase your Uncertainty
Exhibition visit
ACCA, Sturt Street, Melbourne
12.30pm - 1.30  A CONSTRUCTED WORLD CHANGE FORUM
‘Politics and Art in Australia’
Geoff Lowe and Jacqui Riva
ACCA, Sturt Street, Melbourne
2.30 – 4.00  MFA Student slide presentations
Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
5.00 – 7.00  EXHIBITION OPENING ‘SATELLITES’
NZ MFA Exhibition, RMIT School of Art Gallery

THURSDAY 28 June
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
10.00 – 11.00  JON CAMPBELL ‘Art and Rock’n’Roll’
11.30 – 12.30  MARY-LOU PAVLOVIC ‘Public Gesture’
12.30pm - 1.30  Lunch
1.30 – 2.30  CLAUDIA DEL FIERRO (Chile)
RMIT Artist-in-residence
3.00 – 4.00
7.00 – 10.00  Student Dinner
Curry Café, 73 High Street, Westgarth

FRIDAY 29 June
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
10.00 – 11.00  JULIANA ENGBERG ‘Relational values’
11.30 – 12.30  DAVID CROSS ‘Unease’
12.30pm - 1.30  Lunch
1.30 – 4.00  Artist-run Spaces in Melbourne
WEEK 2
MONDAY 2 July

ART IN THE AGE OF TERROR & GLOBAL WARMING: 1 DAY SYMPOSIUM
Convener: Geoff Hogg

10.00 – 11.00
11.30 – 12.30

12.30pm - 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 2.30
3.00 – 4.00

TUESDAY 3 July
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C

11.30 – 12.30  SIMONE SLEE  ‘The body, the Community’

12.30pm - 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 2.30  IAN HAIG

3.00 – 4.00

WEDNESDAY 4 July
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C

10.00 – 11.00  TOM NICHOLSON  ‘Public Action’

11.30 – 1.00  SALLY MANNALL  ‘AIR urban projects’

1.00pm - 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.30  MODERATED STAFF PANEL. ‘Communities of Practice’
THURSDAY 5 July
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
10.00 – 11.00  CHRIS McAULIFFE. 'Art, The Museum & TV' (16)
11.30 – 12.30  VICTORIA LYNN. ‘Regarding Fear and Hope’ (17)
12.30pm - 1.30  Lunch
1.30 –2.30

FRIDAY 6 July
9.30 am  Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
10.00- 11.00  MODERATED STUDENT PANEL ‘Enquiry and Value’
11.00  RMIT Student surveys
12.00pm onwards  Drinks Farewell. Gossard Project Space, RMIT Building 49, level C
OTHER ACTIVITIES

For formal participants, the 2007 program includes a number of activities supplementing the Seminar presentations:

SLIDE PRESENTATIONS
Candidates are asked to bring along approx. 5 slides or digital files of their practice (preferably PowerPoint on CD or USB Drive for data projection) to show other students as a casual 5 minute introduction during the first few days of the seminar program.

MODERATED STUDENT PANEL
Candidates are invited to join a moderated panel of four students at the end of Week 2 of the seminar. Each panelist will present a brief 5-10 introduction on a topic related to the seminar and participate in discussions with the audience.

WRITTEN PAPER
Candidates are required to write a paper of 1500-2000 words addressing their practice and issues raised during the seminar program, to be submitted 4 weeks after the seminar.