



ARTH 311

**TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY
NEW ZEALAND ART**



**School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON**

**Trimester 2 2010
12 July to 13 November 2010**

Cover image: Kate Newby, *Far fetched and creatively exciting*, 2006
Paper, pen
Courtesy of Sue Crockford Gallery, Auckland

ARTH 311

TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY NEW ZEALAND ART

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course co-ordinator:

Tina Barton OK 315, ph: 04 463 5254
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Art History administrator:

Pippa Wisheart OK 306, ph: 463 5800
pippa.wisheart@vuw.ac.nz

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lecture: Tuesday 9-10.50 Murphy LT101
Tutorial: Thursday 11-12.50 New Kirk 202

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>
Art History office: OK306, 3rd (ground) floor, Old Kirk.
Notices regarding the course will be posted on the Art
History noticeboard in Old Kirk outside the office.
Art History online: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/art-history/>
Adam Art Gallery: <http://www.adamartgallery.org.nz>

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 12 July 2010 to 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break: 23 August to 5 September 2010
Study week: 18 October to 22 October 2010
Exam/Assessment period: 22 October to 13 November 2010

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

A class representative will be elected in the first class. This person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

COURSE OUTLINE

ARTH 311 is a critical and selective investigation of contemporary art in New Zealand. The course offers a map of contemporary art practice, examining this in terms of its sites of production, presentation, dissemination and reception. The course provides historical and discursive frameworks within which to think about current practice and links this to wider social, political and cultural contexts. The course is interrogative rather than definitive, and features engagement with the art world in its various guises. Students will meet artists and curators, visit exhibitions, galleries and museums and have the opportunity to undertake original research. Students are expected to play an active role in discussions in lectures, tutorials and on class trips.

In line with Art History's learning objectives, this course will:

- **introduce you to the specialised study of contemporary New Zealand art;**
- **refine your skills of analysis and interpretation in relation to specific areas of New Zealand art and the theories and debates that shape it;**
- **develop your awareness of a range of different approaches to art historical material and different modes of critical writing;**
- **encourage you to produce substantial pieces of written work which demonstrate your ability to think and write critically;**
- **ensure your consistent application of the conventions of academic art historical writing;**
- **ensure that you are able to use the full range of reference systems in the University Library, including periodicals and on-line databases;**
- **extend your research skills by using resources specific to the study of contemporary New Zealand art beyond the University Library, including primary resources;**
- **develop your abilities to think critically in oral and written discussions in lectures, on class visits and online;**
- **encourage you to view artworks in relation to various historical, institutional and discursive frameworks.**

COURSE DELIVERY

ARTH 311 consists of 11 two-hour lectures and 10 two-hour tutorials. Please note that from time to time the class will be divided in half so that smaller group discussions can take place in tutorials. In this case the tutorial will only be of one-hour duration. Tutorials and lectures are discussion-based. To prepare for these you should do the reading and come prepared to participate. The lecture and tutorial programme follows.

OPTIONAL CLASS TRIP

In addition to the lectures and tutorials an optional class trip to the Sydney Biennale has been organised for 22-25 July. If you have not already signed up for this trip it may still be possible to join the group. For more information please contact me as soon as possible.

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

ARTH 311 is taught in one two-hour lecture and one two-hour tutorial each week. The tutorial will be used for various purposes, including class trips, full-class and small group discussions. The lecture and tutorial programme are envisaged as complementary and attendance at both is strongly recommended. As a key aspect of this course is the opportunity to contribute to class discussions, students should prepare for both lectures and tutorials by undertaking the readings listed below (readings are arranged chronologically by their date of publication, those marked with an asterisk are essential for tutorial discussions and can be found in the ARTH 311 Handbook. Copies of the rest will be available on Blackboard and/or hard copy in the ARTH Library). Further reading is listed later in this course outline. From time to time extra resources will be included on your lecture handouts.

WEEK 1

13 July	Lecture 1 Introduction
15 July	Tutorial 1 What is contemporary art?

WEEK 2

20 July	Lecture 2 Contemporary art and its scenes
22 July	No tutorial Optional class trip to Sydney Biennale (leaving 22 July, returning 25 July)

WEEK 3

27 July	Lecture 3 Contemporary art and history
29 July	Tutorial 2 Key terms for contemporary art

WEEK 4

3 August	Lecture 4 Partial recall—contemporary art and photography
5 August	Tutorial 3

WEEK 5

10 August **Lecture 5**
Painting after the end of modernism

12 August **Tutorial 4**
Post-formalist painting

Exhibition review due 13 August

WEEK 6

17 August **Lecture 6**
Contemporary art in/and consumer culture

19 August **Tutorial 5**
Visit to City Gallery Wellington to see *Ready to Roll*, an exhibition of 8 contemporary artists

Mid trimester break

WEEK 7

7 September **Lecture 7**
After expression: models of artistic practice now

9 September **Tutorial 6**
The intriguing case of Giovanni Intra

WEEK 8

14 September **Lecture 8**
Contemporary art and cultural identity

16 September **Tutorial 7**
Politics of identity in Aotearoa New Zealand

Research project due 17 September

WEEK 9

21 September **Lecture 9**
Almost home: envisaging place

23 September **Tutorial 8**
The practice and politics of installation

WEEK 10

28 September **Lecture 10**
New Zealand on a world stage

30 September **Tutorial 9**
Negotiating the politics of space

WEEK 11

5 October **Lecture 11**
Writing in and on contemporary art

7 October **Tutorial 10**
The future of the contemporary—a panel discussion

WEEK 12

12 October **No lecture**

14 October **No tutorial**

Essay due 15 October

End of course

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

ARTH 311 is assessed by means of an exhibition review, a research project, an essay, and a two-hour final examination. The relative weight of the course assessment is 70% in term and 30% final exam. The deadlines, word lengths and percentage weightings of the different assignments are as follows:

1	Exhibition review (800 words)	10%	13 August
2	Research project (1500 words)	20%	17 September
3	Essay (2500 words)	40%	15 October
4	Final exam (2 hours)	30%	22 Oct-13 Nov (Exam period)

The exhibition review, research project, essay and exam are designed to fulfil the learning objectives outlined on page 4. In particular:

1. **The exhibition review** requires you to study a contemporary art exhibition first-hand and write a short critical review that demonstrates a considered response to the work. This will enable you to learn the conventions of critical writing, to develop your observational and analytical skills, and to think independently.
2. **The research project** requires you to research available resources on an individual artist and to compile a dossier of information that appropriately documents their work. This exercise is designed to develop your knowledge of the resources on New Zealand art; to enhance your research techniques in relation to a particular artist; to develop your abilities to assess, select, and sort relevant information, and to present your research according to the conventions of art historical and curatorial work.
3. **The essay** is an opportunity for sustained critical analysis of a particular aspect of contemporary art practice. This will require you to read contemporary commentary and theory as well as closely examine the work of specific artists and critical writers. You will be assessed on your ability to research your topic, formulate an argument and structure your essay so that your points are clearly made and your essay conforms to the conventions of art historical writing.
4. **The exam** will enable you to apply knowledge gained through the course to critically analyse the topics covered. You will be expected to bring specific knowledge of individual artists, works and arguments to bear on your understanding of larger themes and issues.

All assignments are designed to develop your observational and analytical skills, as well as your abilities to research and write as well as gain confidence in presenting material in a variety of formats and situations. The assessment will also ensure your progress can be evaluated and, in particular, develop competencies so you can proceed to Honours-level study in art history.

PENALTIES

Art History has a policy that no extensions will be granted. If you have medical or other problems preventing you from meeting a deadline, you must contact your course coordinator at the earliest opportunity. Without arrangements having been agreed to, late essays will be penalised by the deduction of two percentage points for each day beyond the

due date. The reasons exceptions are not made are that we cannot privilege some students over others; we must adhere to a defined programme of marking; and results must be furnished to Student Records on time. It is also important that we ensure students keep up with the course.

You must pay attention to setting out, correct spelling and grammar. You should type your essay, presenting it double-spaced, on one side of the page, with a generous left-hand margin. Always proof-read your essay carefully, or get a friend to do so, as poorly presented material can be very distracting for a marker. You are advised to read *Researching and Writing Art History Essays*, Art History's handbook which sets out standard practice, which is available on Blackboard (under 'Assignments'). You should always make a copy of your essay before placing it in the Art History assignment box in the foyer of Old Kirk, Level 3 (ground floor).

Assessment criteria for the exhibition review, research project and the essay are listed after the instructions for each (pages 14, 16 and 18 respectively).

Assignments, essays and tests are marked by your course co-ordinator. A **second opinion** may be requested in the final assessment of any piece of written work.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- complete and submit the exhibition review, research project and the essay specified for the course, on or by the due date,
- attend 9 out of 11 lectures and 8 out of 10 tutorials (A good contribution to tutorial discussions will make a difference to your grade if you are borderline),
- sit the final exam.

No assignments will be accepted after **15 October 2010**. No extensions (for any reason) can be granted beyond this date. If you are in any doubt about your ability to meet this deadline you must see your course co-ordinator immediately. All requirements are strictly enforced.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The University recommends that **13 hours** per week, inclusive of lectures and tutorials, be given to a 300-level course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Please make sure you can set aside at least this amount of time throughout the course—it is not worth taking on a greater workload than you can manage.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately.

This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

RESEARCH RESOURCES

There are no set texts for ARTH 311 however a **handbook** of readings has been prepared. This is an essential resource for the course and contains all the tutorial readings. Readings not included in the handbook will be available on Blackboard or can be downloaded online. From time to time, new and additional material will be drawn to your attention in lectures and tutorials.

Useful material can also be found in the **ARTH 213 Handbook**, which you may already have.

The reading list that follows is by no means complete. In particular, resources on individual artists are NOT included in this list. Lecture handouts will frequently list key artists and selected resources on them but you will be expected to supplement these lists by undertaking your own research (some advice about how to do this follows).

Material marked in **bold** is all on three-day loan in the main VUW Library. If demand is heavy, please let me know and I can have items placed on closed reserve.

The VUW Library is an important repository for material on New Zealand art (you will find books, catalogues and periodicals on Level 6, there may also be material in the Architecture and Design Library at Vivian Street, so always check the catalogue). In addition to this, you should also make use of the following repositories:

- **Te Aka Matua Research Library**, Level 4, Te Papa, Cable Street
Open Monday-Friday 10.00am-5.00pm by appointment only. For more information see: <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/ResearchAtTePapa/LibraryAndInfoCentre/Pages/overview.aspx>
- **Wellington Central Library**, Civic Square
The central library has a reference only New Zealand section on Level 2. For more information see: <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/about/branches/central/>
- **Art History Library and NZ Art Archive**, OK308
Open 9.00-3.00pm (if the ARTH Administrator is in her office)
The Art History programme has a small library of New Zealand related material. There are also artist, institutional, gallery and subject files relating to New Zealand art that are jointly administered by the Art History programme and the Adam Art Gallery. You must check with the Programme Administrator (or your course coordinator) before using this. No material can be removed, though arrangements can be made for photocopying. For more information see: <http://www.adamartgallery.org.nz/research/archive/>
- **National Library of New Zealand**, 77 Thorndon Quay
While the National Library is undergoing major refurbishment access to its collections is limited, however a reading room is temporarily available at 77 Thorndon Quay. For more information see: <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/about-us/visiting-us>

In addition to the above, I have material you may find helpful so don't hesitate to ask.

BUYING BOOKS AT VUW

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of Vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After Week Two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from Vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Students can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Students will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00am-6.00pm, Monday-Friday during term time (closing at 5.00pm in the holidays). Phone: 04 463 5515.

GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx

TAPING OF LECTURES

All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use their own audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form, which advises of copyright and other relevant issues.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

If you are interested in furthering your studies or finding out where an Art History degree might lead, don't hesitate to come and discuss this with me. There will be a meeting for prospective postgraduate students towards the end of the second trimester when you can find out about our Honours' programme and meet those involved in teaching at postgraduate level.

Enjoy the course!

THE CHARTWELL TRUST STUDENT ART WRITING PRIZE

The Adam Art Gallery invites students to participate in the Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize, an annual writing initiative focusing on visual art and culture.

ELIGIBILITY

The prize is open to **all** VUW students studying Art History, Classics, Religious Studies, Museum and Heritage Studies, English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies.

PRIZE

The winning entry will receive the cash prize of **\$500** and have their essay published on the Adam Art Gallery website www.adamartgallery.org.nz.

The 2010 winner will be announced at the Adam Art Gallery exhibition opening on **22 October 2010**.

GUIDELINES/CRITERIA

Entries should be in the form of a review or essay addressing an exhibition at the Adam Art Gallery or a work from the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection
Check www.adamartgallery.org.nz/learning-opportunities/chartwell-trust-student-writing-prize for previous winning entries

Submissions should be no more than 1,500 words

Texts should be clearly labelled with author's name, contact details, course of study and student ID

Texts must be submitted in both hard copy form and in Microsoft Word format (A4, single sided and 1.5 spaced).

DEADLINE

Entries are **now open** and will be accepted up until the closing date.

The closing date for submissions is **1 October 2010**.

Entries should be sent to:

The Chartwell Trust Student Art Writing Prize
c/- Adam Art Gallery
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington 6140
or via email adamartgallery@vuw.ac.nz