Art's Global Stage: 
Art & Internationalism on Display

Offered by Saloni Mathur, Associate Professor, Art History, University of California, Los Angeles

The Getty Research Institute
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Orientation: Friday, December 10, 2010
Seminars: January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 2011

New economic and political realities have had a profound impact on the practices of art and the institutions of cultural display. Disciplinary narratives, in turn, have shifted in the wake of globalization toward both a more complex perspective on cultural difference in the aesthetic realm and a more intricate and multifaceted picture of the intertwined nature of modernism's discrepant historical trajectories. How have these processes of global transformation and the responses to them within history, theory, and criticism influenced the organization and display of the visual arts? What kind of emergent understandings of self and society are being articulated and mitigated through practices of display? And what is the interplay between museums, exhibitions, art, and identity in an increasingly transnational and interconnected world?

This seminar will investigate these difficult questions and others by focusing on the relationship between internationalism and the culture of exhibiting within a historical frame. By examining both the history of modern exhibiting practices and new global circuits for the display of contemporary art, we will explore a number of themes, theories, case studies, and controversies, while sustaining a healthy skepticism toward current art-world trends. Topics for consideration include the following: theories of modern spectatorship and display; museology in relation to the colony and postcolony; the persistence of the nation in the culture of display; the spectacles of architecture and the megamuseum form; the phenomena of blockbuster exhibitions and international biennales; the changing roles of artists, curators, and criticism in the twenty-first century; and the challenges of cross-cultural translation within any critical display-based practice. The seminar will engage theoretical and critical writings, films and videos, exhibition catalogs, and specific works of art; it will also draw upon guest speakers and the vast resources of the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Getty Research Institute.

To apply to participate in this seminar, please submit the following:

1) Personal information
   Name, home address and phone number, campus address and phone number, e-mail address

2) Graduate transcript (not required for students in their first term)

3) Statement of interest
   No longer than one page (double-spaced) about your reasons for wanting to participate in this seminar

4) Reference
   A brief recommendation (a paragraph is sufficient) from a faculty member who is familiar with your work sent by mail to the address below

All application materials should be received by the Getty Research Institute by November 1, 2010.

Mail materials to:
The Getty Research Institute
c/o Sabine Schlosser
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688

Questions about the course may be directed to mathur@ucla.edu. Please do not e-mail application materials.