

Identity, Ritual and the Allure of the Local

Seminar course #908

Wednesday 1:20-3:50 PM 6321 Humanities

Final: Friday, 05/18/2007, at 02:45pm

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Course Description:

How do we create identity and embody the local landscape, geography and culture, and how do we project that identity into the art we produce? This seminar will focus on those questions as well as what part ritual plays in that process and how these issues are situated within the "local" in the context of our art-making life. Through attention to the physical, mining of personal history, exploration of private/public ritual and the architecture of the local, as well as readings and discussion, this seminar will address the construction of your own particular artist/citizen persona. "The Local" refers to both the immediate surroundings, ie geography, architecture, landscape, etc, but also to an embodied sense of self. IE, all identity is local, inscribed in the body, it is the locus of creativity. All artwork is "local" in that it is created somewhere and the space of creation is of great importance to the fabric of the work.

Identity, Ritual and the Allure of the Local is a process-oriented, fluid, creative environment for dialogue, critical thinking and experimentation. In this seminar, students will merge selected readings about related issues with a physical and embodied exploration of techniques including movement, voice, text and other performative practices, toward an understanding of how identity is constructed. Students should be prepared to contribute conceptually and to participate in all phases of the seminar. Content and or subject matter for assignments will be derived from an exploration of the student's life experiences as facilitated by instructor through workshop techniques which will include the articulation of the body, the voice, and the creation of extemporaneous performative text along with discussion of assigned readings.

There will be two projects due during the semester, one at mid-term and one at the final period. Project description TBA.

Grading/evaluation

Unless previously arranged, more than 3 absences will result in a grade of "F".

The student's grade will be based on the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Class participation | 20% |
| 2. Written assignments | 20% |
| 3. Mid-term project | 20% |
| 4. Final project | 40% |

I try to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in this course. Please let me know if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this

course to enable you to participate fully. I will try to maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me.

Reading:

The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-56584-248-9

by [Lucy R. Lippard](#)

Course reader (Please pick up at Bob's copy shop)

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