



Arcadia Center for Hellenic, Mediterranean and Balkan Studies

Arcadia University

GREC ARMA 332 Greek Art: The Present

Credits: 3

Course description

This course offers a conceptually driven introduction to the field of contemporary art practice, as well as its critical themes and theories, viewed through the lens of contemporary Greek art. It examines art practice in Greece from the 1970's to the present as a set of diverse techniques, styles, materials, subjects, forms, purposes, and aesthetic traditions, and explores the way in which these varied practices both reflect as well as challenge the social, political and economic culture of Greece.

Though structured as an art history course, students in the course will undertake an 'archaeology of the present'. Through slide lectures, museum and gallery visits, guest lecturers and studio visits, students will have the opportunity to acquire both an in-depth as well as hands-on familiarity, both with issues of the global contemporary art world (i.e. the effects and aesthetic of postmodernism, globalization, and mass-media) as well as specific concerns, local to Greece, such as issues of center/periphery, post-colonialism, formalism vs. DIY and so on.

Rather than an exhaustive survey, the course will follow prevalent trends in contemporary Greek art with an emphasis on the intersection between conceptual and formal concerns, as well as praxis and politics utilizing all available sources to better understand the historical and social context of the works. Particular emphasis will be placed on the role of public and private institutions, in the development of the Greek contemporary art scene. The course will give students a better understanding of how contemporary artists have revised key concepts and categories to produce an art of the final third of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century.