

**Prof. Dr. Birte Kleine-Benne**  
Web: <http://bkb.eyes2k.net>  
E-Mail: <mailto:bkb@eyes2k.net>

**Summer 2012**

**LMU Munich**  
**Institute for the History of Art**  
Web: <http://www.kunstgeschichte.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>

**Seminar**  
**Trouble with the subject time and again**

“Je est un autre”, proclaims Rimbaud in 1871 (publ. 1926). Lacan works out a “drama with inner stress” in his “mirror stage” 1936/1949, which draws away from the assumption of egocentricity. Horkheimer/Adorno establish in 1947 that the individual shrinks to a “junction of conventional reactions and functionality, which is factually expected of him”. In the 70s, in his studies on body, power and knowledge, Foucault then diagnoses – before he would later have new perspectives on subjectivity – the disappearance of the subject created through disciplinary apparatuses and internalisation of this observation, whereby Butler conceives subjectification as a process of submission, that is, an involuntary, compulsively performative effect of a regulating practice (1990, 2002), however not to be offered without the capacities to act...

Over the last 110 years, diverse artistic self-exploratory, self-staging, self-performing strategies have allowed us to observe various forms of consulting processes and self-conceptions – recent accompanied by gene stem cell and neuroscience research, which focus on paradigmatic revaluations of identity. Based on concrete examples in the art from Duchamp to Anonymous as well as on significant texts from the areas of philosophy, psychoanalysis and sociology, we will approach an identity and subject blueprint – systematically researched since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and subjected to a comprehensive examination.

**Further Information:**  
<http://bkb.eyes2k.net/S1LMU2012.html>