

Dr. Birte Kleine-Benne

Web: <http://bkb.eyes2k.net>

E-Mail: <mailto:bkb@eyes2k.net>

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University of Hamburg

Faculty of Humanities

Department Cultural History and Cultural Studies

Institute for History of Art

Web: <http://www.uni-hamburg.de/Kunstgeschichte/index.html>

Seminar

Environmental Art

The term Environmental Art is used in two ways: It describes artistic practices such as bio, eco or green art, which focus on so-called ecological or environmental topics and are thus linked to current debates on climate change, sustainability and renewable energies. At the same time, the term also encompasses the artistic dialogue with so-called political, economical, historical or social contexts how they practise site-specific art or context art. (Both perspectives deal with one and the same conception, according to the system theory, through the “discovery” of the system environment and its establishment as a system environment theory or context theory.)

Beginning in the late 60s and early 70s, Environmental Art emerged as one art-historical version in the form of Land Art, Earth Art or Arte Povera – critical voices in Greenberg’s tradition rejected this historical reference since the artistic intention of these art movements differ fundamentally: „It’s about art, not landscape“ (Michael Heizer). The term Sustainable Art, which has also recently found its application, is linked more with Conceptual Art on an art theory or art historical level, as well as to associated dematerialisations and proceduralisations, art-systematic analyses and social-political commitment, now in the form of the so-called Ecovention.

Artistic concepts, models and strategies such as of Ant Farm, Critical Art Ensemble, Tue Greenfort, Tea Mäkipää, Gustav Metzger, N55, Andrea Polli, Robert Smithson oder Simon Starling should enable us to sharpen art-historical references, to entitle formal characteristics of Environmental Art and to comprehend the rigid division between so-called autonomous and so-called instrumental art as a modernist burden. For this purpose, a closer glance at experiments in design, architecture and urban planning in the tradition of Richard Buckminster Fuller is meaningful, e.g. at the French architect’s office R&Sie(n), the duo Heather and Ivan Morison, the Belgian architect Vincent Callebaut, the Spanish Ecosistema Urbano or the JDS Architects.

We will prepare this topic with an excursion to the exhibition Emscherkunst.2010 in the first week of September 2010 (further information: <http://bkb.eyes2k.net/uniHH10-11/exkursion.html>) Furthermore common reconnaissances of the IBA_Hamburg-intermediate results are planned.

Further Information:

<http://www.bkb.eyes2k.net/uniHH10-11.html>