

CHS 494/THP 494/598

Social Art Tactics

Spring 2005

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### **Course Description**

Social Art Tactics is a hybrid art course co-taught by Ramon Rivera-Severa of the Department of Theater and John Jota Leños of Chicana/o Studies. In this course, students will engage in the praxis, theory, and historical foundations of social art practice with special emphasis on Latin@ and Border art. Students will be exposed to artwork that strives for and stimulates social change and transformation in the fields of performance, theater, digital media, interventionist art, muralism and photography. The goal of the course is to develop a series of student-driven socially pertinent artworks that will be performed, displayed and installed in unexpected places.

### **Required Texts**

Jan Cohen-Cruz Radical Street Performance: An International Anthology (Routledge, 1998)

Coco Fusco Corpus Delecti: Performance Art of the Americas (Routledge, 2000)

Suzanne Lacy Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art (Bay Press, 1995)

Nato Thompson and Gregory Sholette, eds. The Interventionists: Users' Manual for the Creative Disruption of Everyday Life (MIT Press, 2004)

### **Grading**

Class Participation/Presentation	25%
Written Critiques	15%
Mid-term	25%
Final	35%

ASU is now using a +/- grading system. Students will be graded according to this system.

### **Participation**

Students are responsible for preparation prior to each class. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings from complex and multi-dimensional perspectives.

### **Attendance Policy**

Because this is a collaborative practice-based, you are only allowed one unexcused absence throughout the semester. If you are absent from class you are responsible for obtaining all missed materials and making up all of the assigned work. If you know in advance that you are going to be absent, you are required to submit in advance any work which is due during your absence. It is YOUR responsibility to learn what you have missed; you must arrange a meeting with us to make any special arrangements if necessary.

### **Late Policy**

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day scheduled in the course outline. Assignments submitted late will be downgraded a full letter grade per day during the first two days after which it will no longer be accepted. Once your presentation has been scheduled, you may not change it without prior approval.

### **Outline of Course Assignments/Projects**

Students will be completing four projects during the semester. You will receive specific instruction for each project. Students will work in groups and/or individually on the following projects:

Invisible Theater—Students will work in groups to develop an “invisible theater” performance event in public space. Students will work collaboratively to study the designated site (including assessments of the architecture, human flow, surveillance, its political and ideological function, etc.) and develop an interventionist art piece that engages critically with the site.

Midterm Teach-in—This project will be developed with the annual “teach-in” held at ASU on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will research the event and perform an individual and/or group intervention at the teach-in on Saturday, March 5.

Object-based Intervention—Students will develop individual art projects situated throughout the ASU main campus. This assignment focuses on the strategic design and placement of interventionist art objects. Live performance by the artists is prohibited. The projects may consist of single-object installation, two-dimensional media, sculpture, found-objects, etc. Students will be responsible for researching and securing access to their sites of choice.

Final Projects—Students will develop an individual or group project based on the ideas of social art practice discussed throughout the semester. The final project must take place during the week of April 18. Students must document the work (e.g. photographs, video, journals, etc.), submit an artist statement, and a two-page reflection. These materials will be components of the final 10-minute presentations on April 27.

### **Course Schedule (Subject to change)**

1/19/05	<b>Introduction and Syllabus: What is Interventionist Art?</b> Introduction to concepts; Tillman; exercise
1/26/05	Julián Vargas – Teatro Yuyachkani (Workshop) Thompson, 10-60
2/2/05	<b>New Genre Public Art</b> Lacy, 11-47; 60-71; 88-93 Thompson, 63-130

- 2/9/05                    **Interventionist Art: A Critical Sampler**  
Lacy, 193-284 (research assignment)  
Thompson, 130-154  
Luis Fernández/ artist – guest lecturer  
**Guidelines for Invisible Theater Project and Site Evaluation**  
**Guidelines for Midterm Project**
- 2/16/05                    **Street Theatre/Performance**  
Fusco, 242-266  
Cruz, 1-10; 42-52; 74-103; 119-124; 133-143  
Invisible Theatre Workshop
- 2/23/05                    **Invisible Theater Projects**
- 3/2/05                     **Mid-term—Workshop on Teach-in**  
**Fast Action Intervention!**  
Teach-in 3/4-3/5
- 3/9/05                     **Reflection/Critique for Teach-in and Invisible Theater**
- 3/16/05                    **Spring Break**
- 3/23/05                    **Chicano Public Art**  
Cruz, 245-255  
Fusco, 97-114  
Objects/Installation/Intervention Workshop
- 3/30/05                    **Objects/Installation/Intervention**
- 4/6/05                     **Digital Art Intervention**  
Fusco, 284-286  
Handouts (Critical Cultural Studies Reader; Digital Art)
- 4/13/05                    **Final Art Project—Group Critique/Individual Meetings**
- 4/20/05                    **Perform Final Art Projects**
- 4/27/05                    **Presentations**

### **Out of Class Requirements**

Students will be required to attend at least two public events throughout the Valley as supplementary experience to the course. In addition to the events listed below, we will notify you of additional options as information becomes available.

#### January 27

Intertribal Theatre Project: A New Model for Native American Theatre and Performance  
Mohave Room – Memorial Union – ASU, Tempe

2-4pm

A public lecture by Paul Rathbun (Lakota), director of the Intertribal Theatre Company in Northern, AZ

#### February 25

Guerrilla Girls Symposium

4:30pm Panel Discussion

6:30pm Performance

#### February 25-27

International Playback Theatre Symposium at ASU

<http://hdshc.asu.edu/symposiums/intlplayback2005/about.html>

Friday February 25 10am Tuscon Playback Theatre

Saturday, Feb 27 7pm Esesential Theatre Group

#### March 24

Border Encounters: Decolonial Interventions in Native Women's Performance

Coconino Room – Memorial Union – ASU, Tempe

2-4pm

A public lecture by Ann Haugo, Assistant Professor, Illinois State University

#### Video

Coco Fusco, *People in the Cage*

Michael Moore, *TV Nation*

Tactical Media

Walking Mural

Naomi Klein, *No Logo*