

**Please Touch, Use and Destroy:  
Transgression, Boundaries and the Public Art Institution**

Art institutions have great power and responsibility in determining not only what constitutes art but also how we produce it and how we respond to it. Although art, institutions and audiences are often referred to as autonomous entities, they are engaged in a dynamic relation that contributes to the constant redefinition of the art institution's physical and symbolic boundaries. From the architectonic structure of the institutions to the implicit and explicit rules and regulations that pervade its gallery space, the boundaries of the institution are what define its aesthetic, social and economic roles. They also contribute to the creation and the education of audiences. Hans Haacke, Andrea Fraser, Maurizio Cattelan, Marina Abramovic, Mad for Real, WochenKlausur, Superflex and many others have made work focusing on the productive tensions between intuitions, audiences and artists.

But what does an artist or a member of the audience gain by challenging these structures of authority? What differs between the position of the critical artists and that of the critical audience? Can works of art that are critical of institutional authority operate a fundamental change in the boundaries of the institution? How directly do critical works of art have to engage with the boundaries of the institution for them to have an impact in and out the institution?

We will explore these questions and many more revolving around institutional authority and the ways in which artists and audiences can challenge this power structure in this seminar. We will examine the ways in which Fluxus, Conceptualism and Institutional Critique have all set precedents in testing the boundaries of the art institution, the strategies that were employed and the consequences of these challenges. We will also reflect upon the ways in which the concept of authority applies to the art institution as outlined by Michel Foucault Pierre Bourdieu, Brian O'Doherty and Tony Benett.

- Week 1 Fencing off Art: The Boundaries of the Institution**
- Week 2 Setting the Scene: From the Private to the Public Space**
- Week 3 Nothing that a little Trip to the Museum Can't Fix:  
- The Museum as Instrument of Reform**
- Week 4 Challenging Taste: Artists and the Change of Paradigm**
- Week 5 Spectacular Shells and Counter-institutions**
- Week 6 The Possibility of Radical Art**
- Week 7 Essay discussion**