

## ART ON THE TOWN

### **SYLLABUS: ART 6/603, 3 UNITS**

BRIAN MOSS, Lecturer  
Long Beach City College, Spring 2004  
Friday 12 noon - 4:00 pm

### **Classroom: K 102**

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Office hours: by appointment only

*"Pure aesthetic experience [rasa] is theirs in whom the knowledge of ideal beauty is innate; it is known intuitively, in intellectual ecstasy without accompaniment of ideation, at the highest level of conscious being; born of one mother with the vision of God, its life is as it were a flash of blinding light of transmundane origin, impossible to analyze, and yet in the image of our very being."*

**Viswanatha Kaviraja**

*"The bus passed over the first monument. I pulled the buzzer cord and got off at the corner of Union Avenue and River Drive. The monument was a bridge over the Passaic River that connected Bergen County with Passaic County. "*

**from 'A Tour of the Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey' by Robert Smithson**

### Course Objectives / Student Outcomes

1. Students will study art by the following methods:
  - A. Look at actual works of art
  - B. View reproductions of artworks, listen to lectures and participate in discussions
  - C. Read about artists and their art in books, periodicals and on the internet
  - D. Write about art and make presentations based on your studies
2. Students will gain an understanding of the basic aspects of art:
  - A. Aesthetics
  - B. Content
  - C. Display/context
  - D. Technical/medium
3. Students will learn to recognize, identify and differentiate between major western art-historical periods and between the different types and uses of art.
  - A. Understand and use ways of analyzing art
  - B. Learn and use the vocabulary of art in writing and in discussions
  - C. Describe individual works of art in formal, conceptual and technical terms
  - D. Recognize and use the great variety of art venues in the Southern California area
4. Employ critical thinking where art is concerned
  - A. Demonstrate critical thinking about art and its role in culture
  - B. Demonstrate an ability to discuss and write critically about all technical and aesthetic aspects of art
  - C. Examine patronage, collecting and display
5. Behave professionally at all times
  - A. Attend all classes and field trips on time and prepared to work
  - B. Contribute intelligently to class discussions, ask questions
  - C. Present well finished work and be prepared to explain it

### Course Description

This is a 17 week class in contemporary art and art history for art majors and non-majors. Art on the Town is a guided study of exhibitions at museums and galleries in the Southern California region. The purposes of this class are to understand art as a visual language capable of communicating ideas and to learn to critique art on this basis. It is your effort that will be judged most, so you must impress upon me the extent of your efforts by any means necessary. This means communication - coincidentally the purpose of art!

**LBCC Spring '04, ART 6/603 BRIAN MOSS, Lecturer**

Methods of Instruction

Field trip visits to see art, lectures, presentations of art reproductions and videos, assigned reading and independent research, discussion and collaborative learning will all be used. After the first two weeks, our class will take on a certain form on the weeks in between field trips: we will discuss the previous weeks field trip and any questions or observations you may have. We will then go over new material related to next weeks field trip. Lectures and readings will be followed by visits to exhibitions.

Assignments and Expectations

I want to help you do the very best you can in this class, and come away with better understanding of the complexities in art. In order to this, you must participate by speaking up in class when appropriate, keeping good notes including drawing images to help you remember them and attending all classes and field trips. You will be asked to produce writings, and a final project consisting of either an individual or group presentation or creative project. This must demonstrate your understanding of the art and concepts covered in class and on field trips. Students are also expected to contribute thoughts, observations and questions to group discussions and during lectures. From all of our field trips, you must choose four to write about. Each paper should be three double-spaced pages of 12 point type and must consist of sound sentences using the descriptive vocabulary I demonstrate in class, proper grammar and spelling and should display your skills of critical thinking.

**Public speaking is an important skill in many careers, and everyone will speak publicly here!**

Grading

Each writing assignment will be graded A thru F. Percentages of different criteria will be used to determine your grade. These criteria and my expectations for each assignment will be specifically explained at the time of the assignment.

**Late Final Projects will not be accepted!**

**Final grades will be computed as follows:** 60 % writing assignments  
20 % final project  
20 % attendance and participation

Attendance & Participation

Participation in class discussions is a must and makes up a significant part of your grade. **More than three unexcused absences from class will lower your grade by one letter, and so on for more absences.** Excused absences are only for documented illness or family emergency. Four tardies (more than 5 minutes late for class or from break, leaving early unexcused or coming to class unprepared to work) equal one un-excused absence. Any late or incomplete assignments or writings and excessive absence or tardiness will result in a decreased final grade. Attendance on field trips is mandatory. Writings and discussions will derive from our field trips. If you miss class, call someone and e-mail me to find out what you missed! Always refer to the schedule if you are confused.

Suggested Texts

*Looking at Art* Terry Barrett, McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; (November 27, 2002) ISBN# 0767416481. This text will assist you in understanding how to look at art and basic art criticism. All other readings will be available in the library on reserve.