# Modern and Contemporary Visual Arts

## Prof. Kevin McManus

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the tools they need to find their way in the expanded field of visual arts, interpreting the work of art from both a formal and socio-cultural perspective, and through the different categories of Visual Studies, a field now well established in academia. At the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate works of art, particularly contemporary works of art, using skills that will allow them to also tackle visual studies in more specialised and different areas from a methodological standpoint.

***COURSE CONTENTS***

The course will be divided into two units:

1. Fundamentals of Visual Culture

2. *Who’s afraid of images?* Reflections on iconoclasm in the Modern and the Contemporary Age.

***READING LIST***

For part 1:

B. Grespi - L. Malavasi, *Dalla parte delle immagini. Temi di cultura visuale*, McGraw Hill, Milano 2022.

Lecture notes.

A reading list for part 2:

Lecture notes.

D. Freedberg, *Il potere delle immagini. Il mondo delle figure: reazioni e emozioni del pubblico*, Einaudi, Turin 1993, chap. XIV.

B. Latour, *Che cos’è iconoclash?*, in A. Pinotti-A. Somaini (edited by), *Teorie dell’immagine*, Cortina, Milan 2009, p. 287-330.

B. Groys, *ArtPower*, Postmediabooks, Milan 2012, p. 77-93.

Also included among the materials available on the virtual platform will be a list of further readings, particularly dedicated to non-attending students, but also relevant for anyone wishing to reinforce their understanding of several specific topics. Please note that the reading list does not replace class attendance, as the topics explained during the lectures will represent the starting point for the final exam.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and possible guided tours of local exhibitions or events.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by oral exam only, during the official exam sessions. The exam will address the contents of the course and the reading list, and will assess students’ abilities to interpret works of art and place them in the conceptual context presented on the course. It is possible to take the examination in two parts (after the 60 hours of lectures) in a fixed order.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course will be dialogue-oriented and based on examples analysed in the classroom. Therefore, regular attendance is crucial for learning course content which in turn will form the basis of the final examination. Students unable to attend are required to contact the lecturer and organise an alternative syllabus and reading list. There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

*Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.*