

# Steinhardt Intensive Study Abroad

NYU in London

January 3–16, 2010

## E90.2027 **Exhibition & Display of Art and Material Culture** (3 pts.)

Prof. Carlo Lamagna

carlo.lamagna@nyu.edu / cell in London: 917-991-0263

### **Intensive Course Format:**

This intensive course format enables students to complete a 3-point graduate course within a span of ten teaching days. Course topics are arranged to accommodate this format, and in order to take advantage of the London location, there are many site visits that are required class sessions, in addition to lecture/discussions at Birkbeck College.

### **Course Information:**

The course is a survey that examines contemporary issues in the exhibition and display of art and material culture. The theory that underpins practice is considered within thematic groups: art world ecosystems; typologies and frameworks for exhibition making; curatorial roles; interpretation; authenticity, and identity; establishing value; and spectacle. Examples are drawn from an international selection of museums, galleries, periodic exhibitions, and heritage sites. The discussion framework includes the physical and conceptual contexts, motivations, and educational goals that shape interpretation and presentation. There are lecture / discussions, site visits and guest speakers.

Students develop an interdisciplinary approach to connecting historical precedents with current examples of mainstream and alternative strategies of display. Analysis and critique of exhibitions and how they relate to the issues is the main methodology for course discussions and assignments. Students become familiar with advanced theories and approaches to formulate valid, broad-based critique and evaluation.

### **Assignments:**

The required texts for the course are *Contemporary Cultures of Display*, edited by Emma Barker, Yale University Press in association with The Open University, 1999; *What Makes a Great Exhibition*, edited by Paula Marincola, Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, 2006, and *Thinking About Exhibitions*, edited by Reesa Greenberg, Bruce W. Ferguson, and Sandy Nairne, Routledge, 1996. Selections from these texts and others will be supplemented by essays, articles, and reviews dealing with concepts and issues generally, and specifically referenced to the site visits.

Grading will be determined by a pre-London exhibition site visit report and class participation (25%), a group presentation in London (25%), and a 15 page, written paper (50%), focusing on an issue or issues of your choice, based on the classroom sessions and site visits in London, supported by additional research, completed by February 15. Topic focus must be cleared with instructor prior to U.S. return.