

NEW MEDIA & BIENNIAL CULTURE

Lecture 21: Biennial Culture and the Aesthetics of Experience

- I. From World's Fairs to Biennials: Modernity's Mass Culture
 - A. Courbet and Manet negotiate the "Exposition Universelle" – 1855, 1863
 - B. Henry Adams and the "Virgin and the Dynamo" – 1900
 - C. New York Dada remix: the *Blind Man* and spectacle – 1917
 - D. An attempt to turn against spectacle becomes spectacular (but immersive):
Installation Art

- II. Present-day strategies: Emergence of an aesthetics of experience and relational art forms:
 - A. *Sensorium* exhibition: can returning to specific body experiences invigorate critique on a more intimate level?
 - B. Seductive Science:
 - 1) Olafur Eliasson, putting the postmodern "You" in systems theory
 - 2) Carsten Höller: why science is seductive
 - C. "Relational aesthetics" (coined as *Esthétique relationnelle* by French sociologist Nicolas Bourriaud, French 1998, English 2002)
 - 1) Rirkrit Tiravanija and the social
 - 2) Tino Sehgal and social media

- III. Africa as case study of world pictures, post-coloniality, and biennial culture
 - A. The Nigerian postcolonial elite:
 - 1) Okwui Enwezor, curator of Johannesburg Biennial (1997) and *Documenta 11*
 - 2) Chris Ofili, representing Britain at the 2003 Venice Biennale
 - 3) (Sir) Yinka Shonibare, M.B.E.
 - B. South African sensation: William Kentridge, the function of nostalgia in post-Apartheid era South Africa

Selected images on verso

Images (selected) for **Lecture 21**

World Pictures

Joseph Paxton, the "Crystal Palace," 1851 exhibition structure of glass and wood for the "Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations"

Ferdinand Dutert, architect and Victor Contamin, engineer, Galerie des Machines, 1889, steel and glass structure for Exposition Universelle, Paris,

Marcel Duchamp, Beatrice Wood, et al., The Blind Man journal, 1917

Aesthetics of Experience

Sissel Tolaas, Smell of Fear/Fear of Smell, 2006, photograph of interactive installation, versions in NY and Cambridge

Matthieu Brand, Sys7, 2005-06, photograph of interactive installation, versions in Lyon, FR and Cambridge USA

Olafur Eliasson, The Weather Project, Tate London installation, 2003; Monofrequency lights, projection foil, haze machines, mirror foil, aluminum, and scaffolding

Eliasson, Your mobile expectations, (ice car), 2007; support, frozen water, light, refrigeration

Carsten Höller, Test Site, 2006 (slides installed in Tate Turbine Hall and other locations)

Rirkrit Tiravanija, Untitled (Free), 1992 and 2007 re-performance, photographic documentation of food offering

Tino Sehgal, Kiss, 2006 Berlin "constructed situation"

Sehgal, This Progress, 2010 Guggenheim "constructed situation"

Africa: Case Study

Yinka Shonibare, How to Demolish Two Heads at Once, 2006 (mannikins and textiles)

Chris Ofili, Afro Sunrise, 2002-03 (acrylic on canvas, elephant dung)

William Kentridge, Felix in Exile, film stills, 1994

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