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TM12_DIP_STO

Teach Mob – Visiting Professors ***Academic year 2015/2016***

2nd term
COURSE TITLE History of Art Criticism in Spain and Italy in the twentieth century
Scientific area Art History
Department of Historical Studies
Language used to teach Spanish and Italian
Course summary In consideration of the recent growing interest and study, the course intends to show the development of art criticism in Spain from Franco's dictatorship to democracy, outlining its main characters and the changes it underwent. The general lines of post-war Spanish criticism and the relations with contemporary art shall be taken into account; fascist criticism and art theory in the early Francoism; the State's endorsement of informal avant-garde and 1950s criticism; the changes during the years of political protest and the first connections with Italy and Italian art historians (Giulio Carlo Argan, Enrico Crispolti, Lea Vergine etc). We shall then examine the choices of the dictatorship cultural policy, the forms of propaganda adopted and the attendance of Spanish artists to international shows; the case of 1976 Venice Biennale and its ensuing debate; then the turn to democracy when Spanish artists gradually entered Europe's cultural scene.
Learning objectives The course is aimed at introducing students to a little known field and at outlining the relationship between Spain and Italy both in the critical debate and in artists' exchanges who, in spite of a long dictatorship, were able to support each other and share common views. The relationships between artists and art historians, like for instance the exemplary case of Giulio Carlo Argan and Vicente Aguilera Cerni, will allow students to broaden their art historical and historical cultural knowledge.
Tutorship activities The course will include seminar activities to discuss and assess everything learnt, carried out also with practical activities and critical readings, together with the introduction to artworks and artists.
Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences The course will entail conferences and seminars addressed to PhD students. It will also yield publications on an online scholarly journal.

Visiting Professor Profile According to this course requirements, we expect a professor of known experience in the field of 20th-century art criticism in Spain and in Spanish-speaking South American countries, namely with regards to the years before and after World War II. His/her research focus should revolve around problems in contemporary figurative creation and its critical interpretation in relation to the political climate and the use of Francoist regime of art and culture as a means for propaganda. A close attention shall be devoted to the exchanges
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between Spain and Italy between the 1930s and 1980s, in so far as the presence of Iberian artists at Biennale exhibitions and on other institutional occasions, and as the role of art historians in theoretical speculation and militant criticism are concerned

Contact person at the Department

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