

Spring 2015
Critical Curating: Urban Digital Art
Modern Culture: Theoretical Topic: HMKK03204U
Graduate course

Notes on the curatorial statement

1. Topic/introduction

- Set the topic - what's at stake, overall.
- Specify topic, what are we dealing with (+ maybe broad philosophical grounding).
- Situate topic in big ideas/discourses- reference to some of the main discourses (you may extract "ideas" from our curriculum/discussions -e.g. the emergence of institutional critique, reclaim the screens, expanded cinema...)
- Reference to epoch from which topic is grounded (1960s), the breakthroughs that prerequisites it - (technological/theoretical/other orientations).

2. Phenomena of investigation (define problem)

- Contemporary situation - bridge to how exhibition is situated in this. Relevance of exhibition (your focus area).
- Define "problem/opportunity" - link theoretical perspective, define concepts/theoretical grip.
- What is the opportunity in our exhibition - which you wish to highlight?
- What is "the new" phenomena? How similar to/different from other phenomena or genres?
- What is the "crucial point" or question that you think this project poses and that you want to focus your attention at? (Then, qualify this focus/term and anchor it in theory.)

- What are the main ideas/structures that inform the context of this new phenomena? (post-media, neoliberal urban agendas, digital avant-garde, active audience discourses....)
- Perhaps reference to technological histories/other histories.
- What are some considerations that may nuance these ideas?
- What aesthetic orientations/discussions are these part of?

3. Contextualization

- Reference to other phenomena of arts & culture or urbanity & aesthetics. Situate your observation in examples (can be from class examples) - where do we also see this? How do these support your observation of a problem? - What can we state based on this? (e.g. turn towards active audience participation)
- How is your phenomenon of investigation mirrored/appearing/happening in contexts beyond art (urban condition, commercial application, other).
- Elevate "relevance" of phenomena - explain relevance beyond art exhibition to broader dimensions of our lives and life world.
- How the new phenomena/concept affects our contemporary lives on various levels (local/global real/virtual work/leisure etc.).

Remember:

- The urban perspective
- Pose questions
- Indicate your curatorial position to them (as a curator you are taking a stance), but leave open for discussion.