

Art History 540A Studies in 20th Century Art
Winter 2010/11

Short Description

Foucault and the Visual Arts

This seminar examines French philosopher Michel Foucault's (1926-84) writing on the visual arts in order to understand its significance in Foucault's time and in ours, particularly the question of how visual language means. Art history will be placed in the context of Foucault's better known philosophical and political projects. Foucault's theoretical thinking on painting and its intervention in the historical and aesthetic discourse on the history of the medium from the Early Modern period to the third quarter of the twentieth century will provide the foundation for the exploration of his approach to other visual media.