

Art & the Body Questions 2014-5

- 1. Present an examination of an artist's (or selection of artists) whose work you feel makes connections with your own work.** Discuss the ways in which an identification and understanding of their work has developed or changed your own approach.
- 2. Select one of the topics from the Art and the Body series of presentations to discuss further.** Using sources from the bibliography of supporting materials well as from your own research (including exhibition visits) discuss the work in your own terms. This is an opportunity for you to expand further on issues that have interested you personally and so you may wish to explore new material (artists, art works etc) relating to the topic that extends these ideas.
- 3. Why do we continue to be fascinated by representations of the body?** Does the contemporary climate alter our response to images of the body? You may use examples from art history and/or theoretical debates as well as images from contemporary art practice to build your discussion.
- 4. Choose one of the seminar presentations that raised particular questions for you and use the essay to explore the issues further. In this instance, you will write your own essay question.**

During the course of the seminars, you will find that particular aspects of the topic continue to intrigue you (and sometimes bother you!).

This is an opportunity for you to expand further on issues that have interested you personally and so you may wish to explore new material (artists, art works etc.) relating to the topic that extends these ideas.

Making a Presentation

The aim of these presentations is to broaden the scope of your studio work by increasing your awareness of a range of art practices and of the contemporary art world itself. The seminar discussions generated by presentations will also encourage you to develop your opinions about art practice and pursue your own insights and arguments.

Your presentation should present a critique using examples in the form of images and texts. Each presentation should be 5 minutes long followed by discussion. You can work individually or in pairs. If you are working in pairs, your presentation can run for 10 minutes.

Researching your presentation

Learn by watching and reflecting on the different kinds of work discussed. Reflect on your response to the ideas discussed and follow this up with further research. Look outwards: there are many art events across the country that will be relevant to your study. What do you think about them? Take notes, build up a collection of cuttings or a digital archive. As well as using the library and the Internet, the art press and journals are a useful source of information. *Art Monthly*, *Frieze*, *Artforum*, *Parkett* and *Cabinet* are particularly valuable and have good web archives to search through by topic. Keep a record of your research in the form of a sketchbook, notebook, CD or combination of all these as you never know when you will want to return to these ideas.

Presenting your research

- The presentation should be a report on the outcomes of your research.
- Learn by watching others.

Reflect on the lectures and presentations that you have seen and think about the characteristics that detract from enjoyment of a talk. What are the aspects of presentations that you have enjoyed?

- Bear in mind that the majority of your audience may not have an intrinsic interest in the subject BUT a well designed and delivered presentation will generate interest and lead to questions and discussion.

Key points

- First, open the discussion with an outline of your study. You may wish to present images or texts to introduce the seminar group to your interests. Decide what information should have priority and concentrate on presenting this clearly. Make sure that each image you show illustrates a point of significance. Don't flood your audience with too much information.
- What questions did researching the information raise? Did you come to any conclusions or are you introducing information to raise discussion with the seminar group?
- Practice your presentation Think about the order of information. Always try equipment out beforehand. It is wise to rehearse your presentation in front of friends to get their feedback.

Finally, bear in mind that your presentation is aimed at presenting ideas and creative thinking. You may be introducing the group to speculations that are incomplete and unresolved in order to generate discussion and test your own theories. You may not have all the answers but try to offer some interesting questions!