

## **CAS AH 356 French Art (Four credits)**

Modern and Contemporary Art in Paris

**Instructors: Cécile GODEFROY – Daniel LESBACHES**

### **Books and materials:**

Serge Lemoine dir., *L'Art Moderne et Contemporain*, Paris, Larousse, 2006;

A selection of texts.

This class is an occasion to better understand contemporary French society through a study of various cultural manifestations that have marked the Parisian art scene since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It allows visiting students to understand that Paris is not only a city with a brilliant and prolific artistic past, but is still today an important cultural place. The seminar offers the opportunity to experience contemporary visual art under its various expressions (painting, sculpture, photography, installation art, video art). It gives students the tools for investigating the various meanings of a work of art and ultimately prepares them to argue and defend their own perspective on the most recent cultural productions.

What is contemporary art? What does it reveal about French society?

Recurrent themes and issues in contemporary art such as:

- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Realism
- Impressionism and Post-impressionism
- Fauvism
- Cubism
- Abstraction
- Dada and Surrealism
- New Realism
- Post-War Abstraction ; BMPT and Supports/Surfaces
- Conceptual Art
- Body Art
- Post-Modernism and Contemporary Art

Works studied in class by artists such as:

Courbet, Manet, Cézanne, Matisse, Picasso, Kandinsky, Mondrian, Léger, Delaunay, Duchamp, Soulages, Hantaï, Klein, Hains, Buren, Boltanski, Messager, Calle...

The details below reflect a typical semester's cultural calendar of contemporary art as featured on the Paris art scene:

- Visit : Musée d'Orsay
- Visit : Musée National d'Art Moderne, Pompidou Center
- Visit : Palais de Tokyo and its exhibitions
- Visit : Galleries specialized in contemporary art

### **Grading:**

Participation in discussions & debates	10%
Oral Presentation	20%
Essay	20%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%