

The PHI BETA KAPPA Society

VISITING



SCHOLAR

PROGRAM

**SHANNON
JACKSON**

UC BERKELEY

Cyrus & Michelle Hadidi Professor of the Arts & Humanities

**PUBLIC LECTURE
OFFERINGS**

ECOLOGY ACROSS THE ARTS

Scientists, politicians, activists, and policymakers struggle to communicate the largescale threats of climate change. Within that nexus, artists and writers work to sensitize citizens to ecological issues, including those that often seem unimaginable. What is the varied role for the arts as an ecological practice? How do different artistic mediums - literature, visual art, film, video, public art, dance, and theater - similarly and differently engage with ecological issues? This lecture explores a range of art, performance, and video experiments to consider to the vital relation between scientists and creatives in the domain of climate change.

DEMOCRACY AND THE ARTS

What is the role of the arts in activating and sustaining democratic life? How have artists sustained the rights of free expression? Why are some forms of artistic expression censored? How have the arts contributed to social movements? Should the arts have a politically useful role? Or stay strategically “un-useful”? In different eras and regions of the world, artists have responded to these questions quite differently. This lecture explores a range of socially engaged art practices, considering how some seek to make community, how some seek to expose inequity, and how some open new ideas of what democracy might mean.

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VIDEO ACROSS THE ARTS

What is video art? How is it similar and different from cinema? How does it interact with other art forms such as painting, sculpture, performance, and installation art? The rise of video tools has changed the nature of the arts in our contemporary moment, even as it has changed how we document ourselves and interact with each other. This lecture explores a range of video artists over the last fifty years, considering how they have adapted to new technologies and how they have addressed urgent issues of their time.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

PERFORMANCE IN ART AND IN LIFE

How does performance animate our world? As artists, what does it mean to work in a medium that combines text, image, sound, space, and embodiment? As public citizens, how does performance

1. shape our world, in rituals, protests, parades, and other forms of assembly? How, furthermore, does performance operate privately, in how we interact with others, present ourselves, and constitute our identities? Through a mix of discussion and workshop, this class explores the dynamics of performance in the making of art and in the making of everyday life.

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