NEVER MIND THE POLLOCKS

A LINGUISTIC JOURNEY through ART and DESIGN

STARTS 03.10.2022 FOR 10 WEEKS

Who is this course for?

This evening course is aimed at B2+ level and for people curious about discussing, debating and giving creative opinions, creative professionals, tour guides, just anybody interested in contemporary art and design! This is NOT an art history class, however we will focus on the 20th and 21st century, from modernism to post-modernism.

What kind of language will we use?

Language for debating, discussion points, interrupt, agreeing / disagreeing, giving opinions, and explaining abstract ideas.

What methods are we going to employ in the class?

Plenty of discussions, debates and speaking skills will be encouraged! By the end of the course, participants should be able to express abstract concepts, give an analysis and opinions about different aspects of contemporary art and design.

How long is the course going to last?

This is a 10-week evening course starting on Monday 3rd October, and will be divided into 5 themes. Patrick Loan will focus on fine art, painting, video art, and performance art and Nick Wilkinson will focus on the graphic arts, applied design and architecture. They will teach on alternate weeks, Patrick will teach one week and Nick the next week.
Part 1: Vienna

Week 1: Monday 3rd October
In the first lesson, Patrick and Nick will welcome you to the course! We will discuss the development of contemporary art in Vienna, Austrian sculptor Erwin Wurm, performance and feminist artist Value Export and 1960s group the Viennese Actionists, including Hermann Nitsch.

Week 2: Monday 10th October
In this lesson, we will examine the legacy and continuing influence of some of Vienna’s most famous “sons and daughters” of design and architecture, including Otto Wagner, Otto Neurath, Harry Glück and Stefan Sagmeister.

Part 2: Metropolis

Week 3: Monday 17th October
In this lesson we will explore artists who have looked at the urban environment, street art and, of course, Banksy.

Week 4: Monday 24th October
We will look at the different roles played by inner cities in various countries, focusing on the motorization of the 20th century and those inspired to win back the city for humans, looking for example at Harley Sherlock’s classic book “Cities are Good for Us”.

Part 3: Legacies of the Bauhaus

Week 5: Monday 7th November
In this lesson, the influence of the ground-breaking design school started in Germany in the 1920s will be discussed and the legacy and influence of the artists and professors within the context of contemporary art today.

Week 6: Monday 14th November
This week, Nick will examine the controversial argument that the influence of the Bauhaus on the rest of the 20th century was often negative, with its popularity actually severely limiting the creativity of designers and architects from the 1940s until the 1980s.

Part 4: Environment

Week 7: Monday 21st November
This week, we will deal with environmental and land art artists like Robert Smithson, James Turrell, Olafur Eliasson, Christo and Walter De Maria, as artists have tried to harness and make work about nature and the earth.

Week 8: Monday 28th November
We will discuss the practice of “greenwashing” in marketing and sales, and whether it will ever be possible to create a truly sustainable product marketplace when built-in obsolescence is the norm and consumers are prevented from repairing products themselves.

Part 5: Death and life

Week 9: Monday 5th December
How have artists dealt with death and mortality? Damian Hirst, Tracey Emin, the Chapman Brothers and the YBAs (Young British Artists) based in London in the 1990s.

Week 10: Monday 12th December
In the final session, Patrick and Nick will be together again to round up the course, review the areas of study and to look at and review the final work produced by the participants.