

# 2009-2010 - Dutch Art Institute

## *Affectionately Yours*

**Course tutors:** Hito Steyerl and Phil Collins

**Coordination:** Tanja Baudoin

**Guest tutors:** Kodwo Eshun & Anjalika Sagar (the Otolith Group), Marie-Luise Angerer, and Thomas Elsaesser.

**Students:** Frederik Gruyaert, Taf Hassam, Yunjoo Kwak, Jort van der Laan, Sevgi Ortaç, Eva Schippers, Viki Semou, Vittoria Soddu, Petra Vacková, Barbara Wagner, and Veridiana Zurita.

### **Short description**

Affectionately Yours was a one-year research project that explored the notion of affect. The theme of affect could be read in the light of If I Can't Dance's continuing exploration, since its inception, of certain intellectual paradigms such as feminism and performativity. What interested us in this notion is well articulated by Brian Massumi who says, "By 'affect' I don't mean 'emotion' in the everyday sense. The way I use it comes primarily from Spinoza. He talks of the body in terms of its capacity for affecting or being affected. These are not two different capacities – they always go together. When you affect something, you are at the same time opening yourself up to being affected in turn, and in a slightly different way than you might have been the moment before. You have made a transition, however slight. You have stepped over a threshold. Affect is this passing of a threshold."

The project included group reading sessions, lectures by guest speakers and the development of new works for a final exhibition in Gdansk, Poland, in collaboration with the Wyspa Institute of Art. Founded in 2004 by Aneta Szylak, Wyspa was an innovative artistic organization located on the grounds of Gdansk Shipyard in the building of the former Basic Shipbuilding School. The students' one-night exhibition took place on the Shipyard grounds, at Modelarnia.

The course included:

- Monthly meetings at the Dutch Art Institute in Enschede;
- Visit to If I Can't Dance Tonight with Stefanie Seibold and Teresa Maria Diaz Nerio, 'the jungle is a skyscraper', at Frascati, Amsterdam (22-09-09);
- Ten-day stay in Gdansk, Poland, with a public presentation on 1 May, daily group meetings on 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 May and a one-night exhibition at Modelarnia, on the Gdansk Shipyard.

### **Syllabus**

- Michael Hardt, 'Affective Labor', *boundary 2*, vol. 26, 1999.
- Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*, Picador, 2004.
- Film: 'High Hopes', 1988, by Mike Leigh.
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Touching Feeling - Affect, Pedagogy, Performativity*, Duke University Press, 2003.

- 'Navigating Movements', Mary Zournazi and Brian Massumi, *Hope: New Philosophies for a Change*, 2002.
- Film: 'Vivre Sa Vie', 1962, by Jean Luc Godard.
- Thomas Elsaesser, 'Too late, too soon, too much: From Melodrama to Noir and Neo-Noir to Postmortem and Trauma', 2009.

### **Documentation**

- See [Google Drive folder](#) for pictures.

### **Student materials**

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### **Links to other sites**

- [Course description on the DAI website](#)
- [Final exhibition on DAI website](#)
- [Final exhibition on Wyspa website](#)
- [Blog by student Taf Hassam about his project 'Notes of Protest', developed in the framework of the course](#)