

Shift: Graduate Journal of Visual and Material Culture (Issue 9: Networks)

Deadline: Apr 1, 2016

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SHIFT ISSUE 9: NETWORKS

Corr: NEW DEADLINE: April 1 2016

This special issue of Shift: Graduate Journal of Visual and Material Culture is dedicated to exploring how the ascendant imagery and language of networks have manifested in the arts and visual culture.

Today, the network takes many forms. While online social networks facilitate ever-accelerating patterns of image dissemination and reformatting, artworks and visual culture objects themselves have recently been conceptualized as interacting in ways akin to the “network.”^[1] In response to the “linguistic turn” in the humanities, frameworks such as new materialism, actor-network theory and ecological criticism have allowed theorists to probe questions about the agency and affective power of objects, materials and images, and to consider how such “actants” might influence one another or their environments.^[2] Such methodologies can add nuance to our discussions of the ways in which artistic practices and material cultures function within such multivalent contexts as globalization, biopolitics, climate change and the rise of global terrorism.^[3]

The “social network” has also emerged as a methodological framework for art historians and curators, who have recently adopted it as a conceptual tool to trace artistic interactions, milieus and influences outside of apparently outdated frameworks like nation-state and style.^[4] Likewise some critics have abandoned the discourse of art’s institutionality to describe the art world instead as a vast network organized around peripatetic routes and temporary projects, in which value is measured by quantity of social and professional connections.^[5]

Finally, the ways in which digital networks and social media have radically transformed the terrain of activism and social movements cannot be overlooked. Platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have been integral in catalyzing the Arab Spring, the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and viral expressions of solidarity in the wake of political violence. Social media not only accelerate the pace of communication and global awareness, but also facilitate the emergence of iconic visual tropes and new choreographies of protest. Amateur photographs and cellphone videos have become crucial witnesses to global injustice; in what Peter Lunenfeld has termed “the war between downloading and uploading,” such images are thus able to challenge hegemonic narratives.^[6]

This issue takes stock of these recent developments by exploring the place of networks in the pro-

duction and study of visual and material culture. We accept papers, as well as exhibition and book reviews from a range of visually-oriented disciplines that take up such topics as:

- Art institutions versus art networks
- Social network mapping and art history
- Contemporary art and social media
- Activist networks and visual culture
- Curatorial networks, biennales and art fairs
- Art and material culture in the digital age
- Visual economies
- Ecological approaches to visual and material history
- Transhistorical "networks" of art and visual culture
- Globalization in/of art and material culture
- Art and the environment; climate change

The committee welcomes submissions by graduate students working in any discipline. See submission and style guidelines below.

Digital Supplement

In consideration of the issue's theme of "networks," we also welcome submissions outside of the traditional article format that incorporate digital research tools or digitally-based means of presentation. Projects should be independently funded, but we are very interested in using the Shift website as a hosting platform.

Submission Deadline

All submissions should be sent by email to editors@shiftjournal.org by March 15 2016. The journal launch will take place 01 October 2016.

Submission and Style Guidelines

1. Please read the following points carefully before submitting to Shift. Submissions that do not follow these regulations will not be considered for publication.
2. Authors must be registered as graduate students at the time they submit their work.
3. All reviews must conform to the style guidelines as outlined in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th or newer edition.
4. Images should be placed in-text throughout the document, not located together at the end. All images and figures should be properly captioned according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th or newer edition. Authors are responsible for securing rights to all images and figures used within their paper. Authors must produce evidence that these rights have been obtained before an image or figure will be published.
5. In order to ensure blind readings from the Editorial Committee, authors must remove any identifying information from the content of the submission.
6. Please submit a separate document with the author's name, title of paper/review, institutional affiliation and email address.

Shift is currently hosted by the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU and The Graduate Center, CUNY.

[1] See David Joselit, *After Art* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012) and "On Aggregators" October 146 (Fall 2013): 3-18.

[2] See Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007); W.J.T. Mitchell, *What Do Pictures Want?* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005); Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2009) and Sarah Nuttall, *Entanglement* (Wits University Press, 2009)

[3] Timothy Morton, *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology after the End of the World* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013) and *Ecology without Nature* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009); "Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology," Special online supplement of *Third Text* ed. T.J. Demos.

[4] Recent historical exhibitions exemplifying this trend: *Dada*: Zurich, Berlin, Hannover, Cologne, New York, Paris (National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2006); *Inventing Abstraction* (Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2012-2013); and *Transmissions: Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2015).

[5] Lane Relyea, *Your Everyday Art World* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2013).

[6] Peter Lunenfeld, *The Secret War Between Downloading and Uploading: Tales of the Computer as Culture Machine* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2011). For further information on the use of new media in activism, see Leah Lievrouw, *Alternative and Activist New Media* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011) and Wael Gonim, *Revolution 2.0* (New York: Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt, 2012).

Reference:

CFP: *Shift: Graduate Journal of Visual and Material Culture* (Issue 9: Networks). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 1, 2016 (accessed May 23, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/12135>>.