

## Utopian Aspirations in Contemporary Art & Architecture (SECAC, 20-23 Oct 10)

Meredith Malone

### UTOPIAN ASPIRATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Panel at the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC 2010)

<http://www.secollegeart.org/>

2010 October 20-23, Virginia Commonwealth University  
(Richmond, VA)

The desire to radically transform the physical and social experience of one's surroundings through the convergence of visual art, architecture, and technological innovation is a defining avant-garde trope. Visionary modernist movements, ranging from Italian Futurism and Russian Constructivism to the Bauhaus, were followed in the post-World War II period by a proliferation of techno-inflected futures proposed by such pioneering figures as Buckminster Fuller, Constant, and Archigram. These groups shared an enthusiastic engagement with complex questions concerning the juncture between scientific inquiry and utopian ambitions.

Recognizing that each image of utopia conforms to its own time, this panel examines how the utopian impulse has been redeployed and tempered within contemporary artistic practice. Focus is placed on projects that set out to re-imagine society in response to today's global situation, characterized by rapid technological advancement, military incursions, economic crisis, and ecological disasters. How are these social and political issues reflected or subverted in the works produced? What are the aims and potential pitfalls of such socially engaged undertakings today? Papers that advance understanding of the relationship between utopian ideologies central to modernism and the critical negotiation of that legacy by contemporary practitioners from across the globe are also invited.

Send proposals by April 20, 2010 to:

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<http://www.secollegeart.org/annual-conference.html>

Reference:

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