ArtWorks is Public Culture's new section for brief reports (up to 500 words) on innovative critical cultural work within and outside of established institutions.

Reports on past cultural work = the modernist, socialist and avant-garde counter-institutions of the early twentieth century = or more recent projects are also welcomed.

ArtWorks

New kinds of museums
≈ the Foucaultian Museum of Public Assistance in Paris, and the controversial ecumenical St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art in Glasgow

Alternative or oral history projects
≈ the Holocaust Video Project housed at Yale; festivals of life-writing in Italy; mass diary projects in South Africa and Scandinavia; the local history work of the History Workshops in Germany and elsewhere; Mass Observation in Britain; parades and pageants

The expansion of musical performance and recording repertoires, as individual musical ensembles and recording labels explore forgotten musical histories or record and disseminate a broader range of musics
≈ the interest of many early music and world music groups in exploring regional musical traditions, and the new musics generated by conquests, colonizations, displacements, diasporas

Alternative publishing ventures new and old
≈ New Press, Virago, Sun and Moon Press

Alternative exhibition practices, spaces for film, theater, dance

Innovative cultural work with and for children

Workers' education

Public art and art in public = murals, graffiti

Innovative uses of television, radio or other mass media

ArtWorks is edited by
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PRACTICES OF THE IMAGINATION

Carol A. Breckenridge, Chair

Arjun Appadurai
The Asia Nation-City: Violence and the Remaking of Urban Space

Wu Hung
Counting Down: The End of Imagining Hong Kong

Marilyn J. Ivy
Overcoming the Modern in the City of Darkness: The Photographic Images of Naito Masatoshi

Homi Bhabha
Vernacular Cosmopolitanism

Dipesh Chakrabarty
Practices of Seeing: The Training of the Senses in Bengali Modernity

John Pemberton
Consuming Time: Narrative, Exorcism, Java

RECEPTION

Friday evening, March 14

Check conference program for details
In Chicago at the Sheraton Hotel
Coming Attractions

Hong Kong 1997: The Place and the Formula

Ackbar Abbas and Wu Hung, guest editors

Public Culture's Spring 1997 special issue addresses the upcoming return of Hong Kong to Mainland China in 1997. This return is not simply a question of goodwill. The real and very complex issue that has to be addressed is the strange mutations that have taken place in capitalism and colonialism as they adapt themselves to globalism. These mutations give rise to anomalous and unfamiliar political and social forms, like the proposed “one country, two systems,” that demand new modes of analysis.

Hong Kong after 1997 concerns not just the fate of one city. It also directs us to recognize the problems thrown up by global economies and global politics. Taken together, the essays in this special issue will offer a critique of what it means to ask whether and in what way Hong Kong will “work” after 1997.
Controversies