

# KUNO MEETINGS 2010, 22 – 24 OCTOBER, FINNISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, HELSINKI

## TEACHERS SEMINAR:

### TEACHING MEDIA IN THE AGE OF POST-MEDIALITY

Only few art academies in the western world persist in the conviction that the medium – painting, sculpture, printmaking etc. – and a related set of medium-specific techniques are at the base of advanced teaching in higher education. Today teaching methods and academic curricula in art schools more often than not revolve around conceptual, thematic, content related issues rather than focus on the handling of well-defined media with each their own history, each their own tradition and implied criteria of quality. The whole idea of an art medium bearing its own internal logic, its specific laws inherent in the possibilities of the material, its potential for development towards a purer state of being and not least the assumption that at the core of each medium lies an ontological essence to be realized in due time, is to most artists and critics so obsolete that even the critique of such modernist notions is no longer worthwhile.

The fact that some art schools and academies still hold programmes and even have departments with names and titles implying that something like painterly or photographic concerns exist should, consequently, be seen as either a charming remnant of the 'old school' or as symptoms of conservative attitudes vis-à-vis 'the Age of the Post-Medium Condition' (R. Krauss). However, art academies do have departments concerned with media and even take them seriously, artists do use media and still take advantage of the materialities, the histories and the technological and conceptual perspectives opened up by each medium. Maybe the post-medium condition doesn't imply that the medium is dead, that it has lost any specificity. Maybe it rather implies that "medium" has become a complex notion, referring to something like a dynamic zone, an area in constant movement and with fluid borders, in a constant process of redefining itself, however without ever really losing its own contour and its ability to insist as an area of research and interrogation.

This teachers seminar aims at raising questions related to teaching media in a condition where media have become such complex, historicized, conceptual, post-technical zones of interrogation, signifying practises that in their 'inert' materiality and with each their own modes of expression and articulation can be highly relevant even to post-conceptual ways of thinking and making art. Three workshops, each headed by professors responsible for teaching and developing media in KUNO art academies, will serve as arenas of discussion and debate on the challenges, the potentials, the pitfalls and methodologies involved in teaching media in the age of post-mediality.

*Mikkel Bogh, KUNO steering group member*

# TEACHING MEDIA IN THE AGE OF POST-MEDIALITY

## Programme

### Friday 22 October

- 17.15 – 17.30: Welcome and introduction to the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts (KUVA), by Rector Markus Konttinen
- 17.30 – 18.00: Welcome and introduction to the teachers seminar by KUNO Chair Gertrud Sandqvist
- 18.00 – 19.00: Guided KUVA tour
- 19.30: Sparkling wine and exhibition opening
- 20.00: Dinner buffet

### Saturday 23 October

- 10.00 - 12.00: **Media specific workshops – Session I**
- a) Printmaking**  
- workshop headed by Professor Thomas Locher, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts
- b) Painting**  
- workshop headed by Programme Director Aðalheiður L. Guðmundsdóttir, Iceland Academy of the Arts
- c) Time Based Art**  
- workshop headed by Professor Heli Rekula, Bergen National Academy of the Arts (KHiB)
- 12.00 – 13.00: Lunch at Restaurant Siltanen
- 13.00 – 14.00: **Media specific workshops – Session II**  
- the three workshops continue
- 14.00 – 15.00: **Panel discussion**
- 15.00 – 15.15: Short coffee break
- 15.15 – 16.15: **Panoramic Interchange**  
Presentation by Professor Karen Kipphoff, KHiB, student Emma Houliahn, Royal Institute of Art and student Mathijs van Geest, KHiB  
(About the project: <http://panoramicinterchange.blogspot.com/>)
- 19.30: Dinner at Ravintola Kitchen

### Sunday 25 October

- 11.00: Visit to Kiasma, including exhibition of Ars Fennica candidates

#### Venue:

The seminar will take place at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts  
Address: Kaikukatu 4

