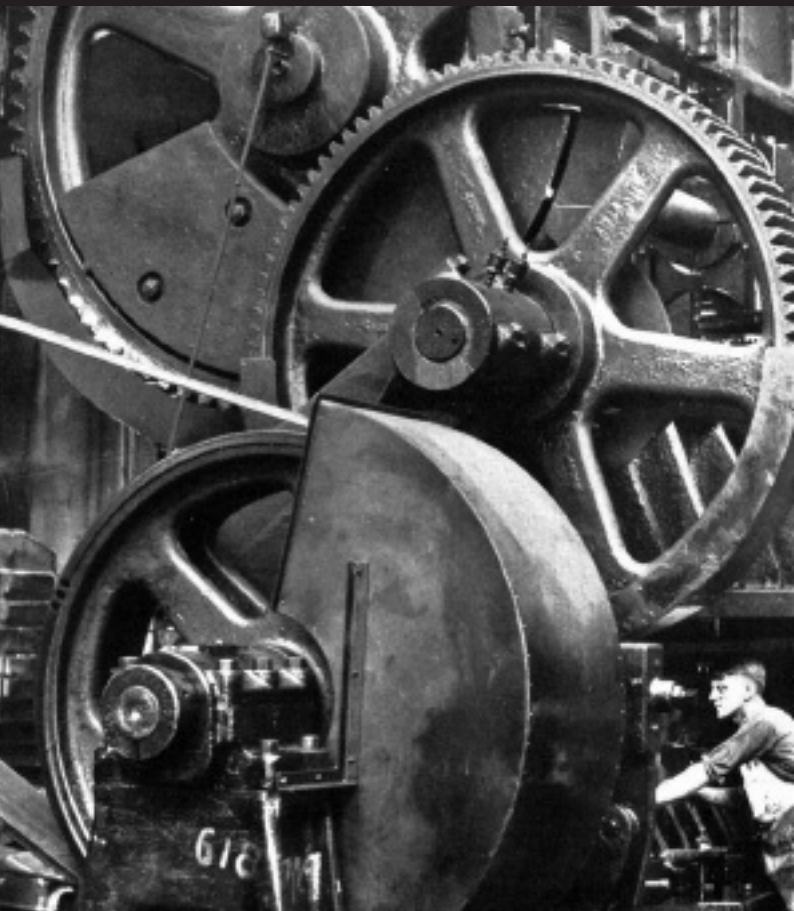


Seminar

3

Sydney Seminar for the **Arts and Philosophy**

Can Art Teach? Should Art Preach?



When we look at the paintings of Gordon Bennett, read the novels of J. M. Coetzee, or watch the films of Spike Lee, our sense of the work's context is ever-present, influencing our responses in a way that is enriching, yet also potentially limiting.

If we acknowledge that ideology and politics plays a vital role in both creating and consuming art, does this bring us any closer to understanding what creative expression is – what makes it different from other forms of cultural and personal expression? What, for instance, differentiates David Williamson's *Dead White Males* from a university lecture in English Studies? How can an approach that sees artworks as a political or ideological vehicles remain sufficiently attentive to the ways that they explore these concerns through

creative means? This is especially pertinent in the case of those 'uncomfortable' works, like, say, the photographs of Tracey Moffatt, that offer complex explorations and thus defy easy ideological categorisation. And how central is ideological engagement to individual artists' conceptions of what they do? Does taking an overt ideological stance limit or compromise an artwork's integrity and force, or, is it indispensable to producing important art?



These considerations affect the way we understand the place and value of art as a cultural and aesthetic phenomenon. And together they lead us to the final – and central – question: does art have a function that ‘escapes’ ideology?

The panel will speak for 40-50 minutes. After this, for an additional 40-50 minutes, the audience will be encouraged to engage with the panellists.

(Coordinator), Anthony Uhlmann (UWS); (Assistant coordinator), Gabrielle Carey (UWS); (co-convenor) Louise D’Arcens (University of Wollongong); (co-convenor) Robert Sinnerbrink (Macquarie University)

Patrons/Advisors: Stephen Barker, Herbert Blau, Bruno Clément, J.M. Coetzee, Paula Latos-Valier, Terence Maloon, Wayne McKenna, Robyn Nevin, Paul Patton, Peggy Phelan, Andrew Riemer, Kathy Woodward

Seminar 3:

Saturday, November 6, 2004, 2.00-4.00pm

Centenary Auditorium, Art Gallery of NSW, Level 1

Admission Free

The University of Western Sydney and the University of Wollongong
in association with the Art Gallery of NSW present:

Can Art Teach? Should Art Preach?

Convenor: Louise D'Arcens (English, University of Wollongong)

Panel: Sharon Connolly (Film producer, former CEO Film Australia)
Ivor Indyk (Publisher, editor of the journal Heat, English, University
of Sydney)

Michael Goldberg (Artist, Sub-Dean, Sydney College of the Arts)

Michiel Dolk (Artist, art historian and writer)

For further information on this please see our website:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/sydneyseminar>

If you would like to receive information about future events, please
email us at sydneyseminar@bigpond.com and provide email or
mailing details