4660F
Seminar in Film and the Moving Image:
Paracinema
2019

Room VAC247
Wednesdays 2:30am – 5:30pm

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Course Description

“Paracinema” refers to works that attempt to generate the effects of cinema without using the
traditional materials or physical support of film. Art historically, the term has been used to describe
sculpture, installation, and video works from the 1960s and 1970s (including, for example, Anthony
McCall’s “Line Describing A Cone” [1973]) that encourage analysis of “cinema” as an idea or concept
by recreating its aesthetic, spectatorial and technological dimensions through a variety of creative
strategies. This course will begin with a brief survey of paracinema’s early twentieth-century
precedents, followed by a more in-depth exploration of its post-1960s manifestations. It will also
consider the extent to which the term facilitates productive engagements with a variety of practices
since the “cinematic turn” in contemporary art.

Learning Objectives

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

   Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks
   that pertain to the practices being studied and will be able to engage with works of art
   and film according to those frameworks. Specifically, this course will familiarize
   students with the works and debates central to investigations into the relationship
   between art and the cinema

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

   Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates
   within the disciplines of art and film, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field
   through the deployment of these vocabularies in writing.

3. Application of Knowledge
Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular practice or historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works. Moreover, students will learn to evaluate written texts, analyze a diverse array of visual imagery, and think critically about the relationship between art objects, films, and their contexts.