

PHIL 109-6-20

Art, Identity, and Politics

José Medina

T/Th
2:00-3:20

Course Description:

In this seminar, we will study philosophical discussions of the role of art in the expression and constitution of identity. Philosophers have claimed that art plays a key role not only in expressing who we are, but in articulating and constituting subjectives and communities. Through philosophical texts and examples from visual culture—especially photography and film—we will explore the role that art can play in constructing one's distinctiveness or individuality and in forming community bonds. We will also investigate the role that art can play in politics and in resisting oppression, looking especially at critical engagements with film and photography and discussing the critical work of visual artists and photo activists. Students will learn philosophical theories of art in relation to personal and collective identity and in relation to issues of oppression and resistance against oppression.