

Fall 2007
Thesis group Art 739a
Dan Michaelson

Initial assignments

Assignment 1. Explain your thesis to others and to yourself, through an evolving collection of images.

Build a collection of 50 images more. This collection should evolve over the next several weeks, and throughout the year.

The images should come from diverse sources. Your sources can also be any medium including sound etc. (you don't have to limit yourself to images).

- For every image, be prepared to explain not only what it is and why it explicates your thesis, but how it does. There are many possible ways for an image to be explanatory, and you should distinguish between them. Is one image an example of your thesis; or does it show an area you want to explore in an unrelated way; does it have qualities you want your thesis to have, although it was made for different reasons; is it an influence or made by a kindred spirit; is it a metaphor for your thesis idea; etc.

- At least 15 of the images should explain aspects of your thesis through negation: they should show or explain what you won't be doing or what you aren't interested in, or should dispel possible misunderstandings. What is your territory?

- Be ready to select several of your images as important to you and your upcoming work.

- Do the images illustrate different aspects of your thesis? What are those aspects?

Initial collection due next time we meet.

Assignment 2. Create a plan of independent projects.

The core of your thesis work this year is not the thesis book, and may or may not be projects you do within classes. In many cases it is projects you initiate yourself. Make a plan for at least six projects you will complete this year. What aspects of your thesis and what media are you covering? What work do you want to make? What makes a good project? This list will evolve over the course of the year.

Initial list due next time we meet.