Course: Infiltrating the Art-world

Through a combination of classroom lecture and discussion as well as extensive field research, students will navigate and become experts on the visible and less visible aspects of the contemporary art scene. London is one of the major contemporary art centers in the world with a huge variety of public and private institutions that collect art, exhibit art, sell art, or educate artists. We will concentrate on looking at actual art objects in many contexts all over London, unpacking the artist’s intent as well as the curatorial vision behind particular display strategies. Through the process of intensively investigating London’s flourishing urban art universe we will ask and attempt to answer some or all of the following questions:

- Can we identify the boundaries of the contemporary art world?
- What happens in the non-public spaces in a major museum, or behind the scenes in a commercial gallery?
- Where do artists have their workspaces and what are they like?
- How and where do artists use alternative strategies to make and present their work and to thrive outside of the expected institutional frameworks?

Students will write one research paper on a particular aspect of the art-world, and also blog daily about what we see and learn. It will also be possible for students that are interested to develop a hands-on art project as part of the course curriculum.