

HR 3005: Fantasy and the Fantastic in the Arts

This is a course about the role of the imagination, the fanciful, the remote, the utopian and the manipulative. Each lecture will tackle a theme: for example we ask 'Art for Whose Sake?' and 'Is Less Really More?', then we go on to discuss 'belief', 'prescience', 'propaganda', 'memory', 'abstraction', 'protest', 'outsiders', and '*rapprochement*'. We will use a variety of media to investigate these issues, including: ballet, sculpture, painting, animation, textiles, architecture, cemetery design, graffiti, poetry, musical composition and installation. In addition to the notion of the 'unreal' and the 'imaginative' we also explore the other meaning of 'fantastic' – ie extraordinary. The emphasis will fall on the 20th and 21st centuries, but will, when necessary, draw on examples from Medieval and Renaissance Europe and art histories globally.