

## **Title: On Anthropology and Art**

Summer Term 2018, Seminar: Tuesdays 11:00 – 13:00

Dr. Philipp Schorch,

Email: philipp.schorch@skd.museum

### **Objectives and content of the course**

The two main intellectual domains through which material and visual cultures have been studied and exhibited are anthropology and art. Both fields exist separately within the academic and museum worlds, but interactions and overlaps have begun to emerge. What happens, then, when both disciplinary and curatorial mechanism are blended, or when anthropological investigations are artistically performed and art is seen, not as a purely aesthetic exercise, but as a complex human expression exposed to, and constitutive of, history with political efficacy? Moreover, what happens when such an expression exceeds the explanatory frameworks of anthropology and art altogether? This course addresses these questions through case studies and methodological interventions. The course will be taught in English, and will offer different formats of participation. Students are encouraged to use the seminars to advance experimental thinking and doing deriving from past, and serving future field research.

### **Format**

In the second session, students will pick one of the themes listed below. On a weekly basis, the format of the next session as well as the required preparation – e.g. through readings or methodological experimentation – and student involvement – e.g. as discussion chair – will be mapped out. Some of the sessions will be held by external lecturers, as listed below.

Attached is a preliminary reading list to be used for preparing the final essays.

### **Assessment**

The term paper (5000- 6000 words for BA, 7000 words for MA) is due on 30.09. and should be based on a topic from the lecture schedule. If a different topic is to be chosen, then this should be first discussed with me.

## Schedule

<b>Lecture Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Seminar</b>	<b>External lecturer/ designated student</b>
1	10.04.	Introduction I: The course	
2	17.04.	Introduction II – Students on anthropology and art	
3	26.04.		Prof. Nicholas Thomas
4	08.05.	On anthropology and art	
5	15.05.	Colonial history, anthropology and contemporary art in the Pacific	
6	22.05.	Socialist arts	Silke Wagler
7	29.05.	Aboriginal painting	Dr. Birgit Scheps-Bretschneider
8	05.06.	Artistic performance as a vehicle for anthropological research	Dr. Bernard Müller
9	12.06.	Artistic-academic interventions as method and argument	
10	19.06.	Undisciplining material knowledge practices I	with Prof. Bruno Haas (in Leipzig)
11	26.06.	Undisciplining material knowledge practices II	with Prof. Bruno Haas (in Dresden)
12	03.07.	Material entities in the Pacific	
13	10.07.	Feedback session	