



## MA CRITICAL THEORY AND THE ARTS DEPARTMENT FACT SHEET

The MA in Critical Theory and the Arts is an intensive yearlong program of study for students with an inquiringly edgy involvement in the problems and questions of making art today and with the relation of these questions to contemporary social conflict and reality. The program has been developed in the recognition that: (1) Thinking about art has never before been so protean, so broadly inventive and urgently central to the whole of social, philosophical and political reflection. Every major area of thought now turns considerable attention to art in expectation that art will provide the key to solving its central questions. (2) In art itself, every aspect of its reality presents dynamic conflicts and puzzles that demand theoretical reflection. (3) What the arts once were, they soon enough will no longer be; in large measure, they have already been irreversibly transformed. For artists and graduate students from several fields of inquiry, the need collaboratively to understand what has happened, what is happening and what is at stake is salient. In the course of the year, students gain the broad orientation needed to deeply engage this situation through an integrated program in art theory and aesthetics, social history and the history of art, political philosophy, psychoanalysis and social theory.

The focal points of the program are the two proseminars, **The Situation of the Arts: “The Level of the Problem”** and the **Serious Times Lecture Series**, which poses the question, **“Why doesn’t the United States make social progress?”** Discussions are led by New York-based intellectuals and internationally acclaimed visiting artists. Graduates of Critical Theory and the Arts become members of the Serious Times Lecture Series and part of the program’s intellectual community.

### Department chair

Robert Hullot-Kentor, philosopher

### Core faculty members and area of specialization

Babette Babich, (philosophy), John Clegg (economics/sociology), Jeremy Cohan (sociology), Devi Dumbadze (social philosophy/media studies); Jay Frankel (psychoanalysis); Tom Huhn (philosophy), Robert Hullot-Kentor (philosophy); Jay Sanders, (curator); Antonio Y. Vázquez-Arroyo (political philosophy)

### Lecturers

Paul Chan, artist; Tony Conrad, artist; Jefferson Cowie, historian; Benj DeMott, editor; Mark Dudzic, labor activist; Richard Foreman, playwright/director; Steve Fraser, historian; Doug Henwood, journalist; Martin Jay, historian; Tan Lin, poet; Barry C. Lynn, author; Paul Mattick Jr., scholar; Frances Fox Piven, social critic; Moishe Postone, historian; Michael Smith, artist; Jessica Stockholder, artist; Monica de la Torre, poet.

For further information, please visit our Web site at [cta.sva.edu](http://cta.sva.edu).