The seminar focuses on the issue of interaction between two opposing tendencies in the avant-garde art after the First World War in Europe and the United States. One tendency is reflected in the conception of "pure art" that marks the avant-garde artists' aspiration for absolute independence from social and political reality, while the other orientation realizes the concept of "actual art" indicating the intervention of the artistic avant-garde into social and political life, that is "politicization" of art.

We will discuss the causes, implications and consequences of this dichotomy in the context of sociological analysis of the different artistic currents, such as Futurist Aeropainting and Novecento Italiano in Italy, Dada and The New Objectivity in Germany, Constructivism and Suprematism in Russia, as well as Precisionism and Social Realism in America.


Corwin, Sharon. "Picturing Efficiency: Precisionism, Scientific Management, and the Effacement of Labor", Representations, Vol. 84, No. 1 (November 2003), pp. 139-


