

GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY - DISCIPLINE

CONTEMPORARY ART LECTURE SERIES

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015, 6PM FOR 6:30PM

ADRIAN MARTIN, 'DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT IN WORDS?: ON WRITING WITH IMAGES (AND SOUNDS)'

The first Gertrude Contemporary–Discipline lecture for 2015 will be given by Adrian Martin on Monday the 23rd of February, at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Martin's paper is titled 'Do I Have to Spell It Out in Words?: On Writing with Images (and Sounds)' and it examines contemporary art criticism in the age of the Internet, focussing specifically on the art historian and critic James Elkins's new project 'Writing with Images'.

ABSTRACT

Currently online, the critic James Elkins — on his way out of art history and preparing to write a novel — is developing a fascinating website project titled 'Writing with Images'. He means this in two senses: how does writing conventionally 'go with' images in art criticism, how are the two media arranged in relation to each other? His critique of this traditional art/text relation in the worlds of publishing, criticism and academia is often rightly withering. So then he intends the phrase radically: is it possible to write with images themselves, and to bring the two 'writings' — text and image — into a more dynamic, fertile combination? Such arguments about 'text and art' have gone on, at various, levels for at least forty or fifty years, and not least in Australia. They have also happened in other areas with which Elkins seems unaware, such as film criticism — where the recent trend of the 'audiovisual essay' endeavours to write with text, image and sound simultaneously, instead of only published words. This lecture will outline some of the key issues Elkins raises and embed them in diverse practices of contemporary arts criticism and hybrid 'creative commentary' experiments.

RESPONDENT
Ted Colless

BIOGRAPHY

Adrian Martin has just finished a two-year stint as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Film Studies at Goethe University, Frankfurt. He is about to relocate to Spain to be a full-time writer and audiovisual essayist, but remains Adjunct Associate Professor of Film at Monash University.

The Gertrude Contemporary–Discipline Contemporary Art Lecture Series is a collaboration between Melbourne-based contemporary art journal *Discipline* and Gertrude Contemporary. Established in April 2013, the series presents lectures on key concerns, artists and theories of contemporary art. Invited lecturers speak from the perspective of a variety of different disciplines — including philosophy, cultural studies, art history and literary studies — as well as from academic and non-academic backgrounds.

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