Course description

This month long course meets twice a week: one day is dedicated to individual studio critiques, on the other day we meet as a group for a reading seminar.

The condensed reading section of our seminar focuses on ghostly presences to question what structural issues haunt the ways we in which we work today.

The question of the “now” has continued to haunt contemporary thinkers. Theodor Adorno warned that “Art wills what has never existed so far, but at the same time all art is one big déjà vu, for the past looms over everything.” And Jorge Luis Borges claimed that “There is no new thing upon the earth, all knowledge is but remembrance. All novelty is but oblivion.” Douglas Huebler’s declared as a working statement, “The world is full of objects, more or less interesting; I do not wish to add any more. I prefer, simply, to state the existence of things in terms of time and place.” And Elaine Sturtevant, “My work is the immediacy of an apparent content being denied.” All these statements allude to different ways of conceptualizing what constitutes the now: How the past enables or frustrates our possibilities? Together we will set out to find contemporary equivalents or reactions to this.

In advance of each reading, each student will prepare a short written proposition or question to pose to the class.

**Week 1**  
Avery Gordon, “her shape and his hand” in *Ghostly Matters*, p. 3-28.

**Week 2**  

**Week 3**  
Louise Lawler in conversation with Douglas Crimp, “Prominence Given,
Ghosts, Haunting, Appropriation, Reenactment w/Alejandro Cesarco

Authority Taken,” in An Arrangement of Pictures, unpaginated. Andrea Fraser and George Baker, "Displacement and Condensation: A Conversation on the work of Louise Lawler", in Louise Lawler and Others, p. 105-143.

Week 4  Sven Lütticken, "An Arena in Which to Reenact“ in Life Once More, p.17-60
Lucrecia Martel, Zama
Peter Watkins, La Commune

Further Reading
Jacques Derrida, Specters of Marx
Cesar Aira, Ghosts
Giorgio Agamben, What is Contemporary?
Peter Osborne, Anywhere or Not at All

Ghosts, Haunting, Appropriation, Reenactment
Participants: