



i n t e r s t i c e s

Under Construction Lecture Series 2006

Call for Papers

Submissions due: 10 July 2006

Disagreement: The Aestheticisation of Politics

Where one searches for the hidden beneath the apparent, a position of mastery is established. ...

It is possible, from any given point, to try to reconstruct the conceptual network that causes a painting or a piece of music to make an impression, that causes reality to appear transformable or inalterable.

*(Jacques Rancière, *The Politics of Aesthetics*)*

Government fulfills an ideal of order when it administers, manages, and tries totally to account for a population; but its reality is 'the police'. The police keeps everyone in their place, imposes calculations of value, apportions shares in society. The political is an opposite process, and it is rare. It happens when outcasts stand up to say that the calculations are wrong, when they refuse the names and the places they were given, to claim a share in society and another name. Politics is thus based on 'disagreement', a conflict over what it means to speak and over the distribution of the sensible that delimits what can be said and determines the relationship between seeing, hearing, doing, making and thinking.

For Jacques Rancière, the aesthetic dimension is built into any radical emancipatory politics. He argues that the shift from the political to the aesthetic is inherent in the political itself. The uncertain reality of art, the transport of meaning that defines metaphor, is part of every political dispute. Political argument itself bears primarily on the legitimacy, or even the reality, of the fundamental elements that configure the disagreement (its place, its object, its subjects). The place-changing action of metaphor – one thing or person for another – is what allows the creation or extension of a community of speaking subjects. Here, art can be historically effective, directly political – by means of fictions: arrangements of signs that belong to reality, yet at the same time make it legible to the person moving through it — as though history were an unfinished building, a constructed fiction, of which we are both architects and builders.

In the *Under Construction* lecture series, papers are presented around the theme of the following issue of *Interstices* to open up space for collegial exploration and debate. Some papers may later be included in the refereed publication. In this year's series, we want to explore the interrelation of the aesthetic and the political in theories and practices of architecture and related arts.

The public lectures, followed by a response and discussion, will be held at The University of Auckland on Tuesdays, 5:30-7pm, between 18 July and 10 October 2006.

Please send abstracts of 350 words to Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul (tina.engels@aut.ac.nz) by 7 July. These will be reviewed by 10 July and acceptance communicated within a week. We require evidence of peer review prior to presentation.