

Inside the Hidden Third - Art, Politics and the Zone of Non Resistance

“No one level of Reality constitutes a privileged place from which one is able to understand all the other levels of Reality”¹

This visual/video essay will consider the concept of the transdisciplinary space of non resistance (or the hidden third)² and the concept of multiple levels of reality, as one of the few ‘spaces’ which can offer another understanding (among many understandings) of how art can escape itself in order to operate ‘outside of art’.

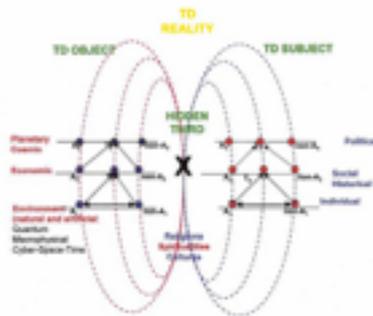
By accepting that contemporary art is “squarely placed in the neoliberal thick of things”³ but has the capabilities to experiment with ‘imaginaries’ and ‘realities’ which might operate on multiple levels, examples of what the space of the hidden third might look like in practice will be explored through images, video (original and appropriated), and narration. Utilising reference material covered throughout the course through the lens of Basarab Nicolescu’s notion of the included middle and hidden third - the space between or interlinking the subject/object, this visual/video essay will briefly look at the history of institutional critique as a form of practice which sought to operate only within one level of reality - a zone of resistance (first second and potentially third phase). This visual/video essay will attempt to position art practice within (a) space of the political that accepts multiple levels of reality as its very premise, proposing that such a lens can negate or bypass the idea that artists are ‘trapped in their field’.

Some references points of essay:

1. Some course material considered:

Paul B. Preciado - Sourced material from his presentation
Mick Wilson - Institutional Critique
Savvy + other spaces of ‘art’ interlinked with institutions
Hito Steyerl
Aesthetics
Foucault

Some initial images:



1

BASARAB NICOLESCU Transdisciplinarity and Complexity :Levels of Reality as Source of Indeterminacy

2

Basarab Nicolescu Transdisciplinarity: the Hidden Third, Between the Subject and the Object

3

Hito Steyerl - Politics of Art: Contemporary Art and the Transition to Post-Democracy <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/21/67696/politics-of-art-contemporary-art-and-the-transition-to-post-democracy/>

