



The Painter of Altermodern Life

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The altermodern, as articulated by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, (*Commonwealth*, 2009) and by Nicolas Bourriaud (*Altermodern*, 2009), is characterised by the extension of the personal authenticity of modernism, and by the development of the hybridisation of postmodernism. It can be explored with reference to the range of networks which exist within, and impact on, contemporary everyday experiences.

Recent doctoral work at the Glasgow School of Art entitled 'Altermodern Painting: Toward a New Method of Representational Painting in the Space of Flows' (2015) explores the ways in which the painter, seeking to represent engagement with online, interconnected materials and linked communications, must work in such a way as to blend physical and virtual materials. The painter of altermodern life exists at a liminal position; not in terms of being at the periphery of the information they encounter, but rather at a threshold from which dynamic contemporary ground level experiences can be investigated.

To represent experience of informational and communication networks through paint is to explore routes through materials that can be traced physically and virtually. By studying the form of the networks which are most readily encountered, a genuine sense of an altermodern individual existing at a user-centric position within a continually moving and fragmented flow of materials and possibilities is generated.

To paint altermodern life is to reflect on materials derived from virtual networks at the same time as representing how these mesh with experiences at a concrete 'ground level' as described by Michel de Certeau (*The Practice of Everyday Life*, 1988). To represent the altermodern space of flows is to engage with the ways in which digital imagery intertwines with physical actions. Painted outcomes, developed whilst physically and virtually in-situ, exist on equal footing with works-in-progress and records of painting processes, as the painter of altermodern life weaves a path through contemporary ground level (im)material culture.

Material Culture in Action: Immaterial Cultures

The Painter of Altermodern Life is a presentation derived from 'Altermodern Painting: Toward a New Method of Representational Painting in the Space of Flows', Graham Lister, unpublished doctoral thesis, (2015, pending corrections)

Key Readings:

- Augé, Marc, *Non-places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*, trans. by John Howe, (London: Verso, 1992)
- Bourriaud, Nicolas, *Altermodern*, (London: Tate Publishing, 2009)
- Bourriaud, Nicolas, *How Altermodern Are You?*, ed. by C. Lewisohn, (London: Tate, 2009)
- Castells, Manuel, *The Rise of the Network Society: The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture Vol 1*, (London: Blackwell, 1996)
- Certeau, Michel de, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. by S. Rendall, (California: University of California Press, 1988)
- Hardt, Michael and Negri, Antonio, *Commonwealth*, (Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2009)
- Macleod, Katy and Holdridge, Lin, eds., *Thinking Through Art: Reflections on Art as Research*, (London: Routledge, 2005)