

FALL SEMESTER 2008

■ ARHS 520: Mythic Narrative and Quiet Spaces: Topics in Modern Nordic Art, Architecture and Design

Claire Selkurt

Wednesdays, 5:30-8:30 pm

Beyond Scandinavia's contributions to modern design and the legacy of stellar figures such as Edvard Munch and Alvar Aalto, connoisseurship of modern Nordic art remains limited. Yet it is a rich tradition rooted in nature, folk culture and the mythic Viking past. Beginning in the 18th century, this indigenous heritage was balanced by the clarifying influence of academic Classicism. This course will examine how the modern art, architecture and design of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway reflect both the continuation and fusion of these two powerful currents. Each session will focus on a specific topic featuring lecture and discussion components. Class discussion will be based on readings from a range of journals, monographs and exhibition catalogs and research sharing. There will be one major research project and two smaller projects: one first person interview with an artist and one web-based investigation of some aspect of the art scene in Scandinavia today.

This course fulfills the Modern/American/Architecture core requirement