

Title of course: **Outsider Art and the Modern Art World**

Lecturer: dr Katarzyna Stamm

Teaching language: English

Course description:

The seminar focuses on the phenomenon of Outsider Art, which includes, among other things, the art of people with mental illness, self-taught artists, so-called naive art, and many borderline phenomena. The starting point for presenting this phenomenon is the discovery by contemporary artists of the art created by mentally ill individuals and outsiders, which they recognized as an inspiration for their own work and as an autonomous artistic phenomenon. Since then, it has gained an increasingly significant and distinct place in museum collections and the art market.

Throughout the course, the connections between outsider art and mainstream art will be consistently emphasized, as well as the long-overlooked place of outsider art in art history.

During the seminar, students will become familiar with several of the most important collections of so-called Outsider Art (including the collection in Heidelberg, Jean Dubuffet's Art Brut collection in Lausanne, and the "Gugging" collection near Vienna). Several classic figures of Outsider Art (such as Arnold Wölfl) will be presented, as well as selected contemporary creators working in various artistic media, including ephemeral architecture, waste material sculpture, kinetic sculpture, textile art, costume, and doll-making.

The seminar is open in nature, and student participation is an integral part of the course. Students contribute topics they have discovered themselves in the form of presentations. These may include specific phenomena or individual artists. A connection between the presented topic and the student's own work, personal experiences of non-normativity or uniqueness, or individual areas of interest is encouraged. Exploring different ways of constructing and delivering presentations is an important objective of the seminar.