



Project Consume

AVT 385 | George Mason University
Term: Summer 2020. Session 1
Class Days - MTW, 1:30 - 4:10

Professor: Mark Cooley
Office hours: By online appointment
Contact: mcooley@gmu.edu

Project Consume focuses on the environmental effects of consumerism and the ways that artists have both commented on and intervened in consumer culture.

Assignment | Research: Information & Issues

Review, take notes, and be ready to discuss the following:

- Submit notes to your professor by email

- [The Story of Stuff](#)
- ["The Earth is Telling Us We Must Rethink Our Growth Society,"](#) W. E. Rees

Assignment | Research: Artwork

Review, take notes, and be ready to discuss at least 2 of the following projects*:

- Submit notes to your professor by email

- Ant Farm – [Cadillac Ranch](#) (1974)
- Reverend Billy – [What Would Jesus Buy](#) (feature film, 2007), [Rev Billy short](#)
- [Vik Muniz](#) – film: [Waste Land](#), dir. Lucy Walker (2010)
- [The Beehive Design Collective](#) | [video](#)
- Superflex – [Flooded McDonalds](#) (2009).
- Harriete Estel Berma – [Grass](#), [Pick Up Your Pencils](#), [Begin](#)
- HA Schult – ["Trash" works](#), [Trash People](#)
- Tim Noble & Sue Webster – [Wild Mood Swings](#) (2009-10)
- Dr. Evermor – [Forevertron](#) (1980s)
- Tim Gaudreau – [Self-portrait as Revealed by Trash: 365 days of photographing everything I threw out](#), (2006). [My Carbon Footprint: 365 days of tracking my CO2 emissions aka Self-Portrait: 365 Days of Considered Consumption](#) (2012)
- Chris Jordan – [Portraits of Global Mass Culture](#) (2009-Present)

- [Prix Pictet Photography Awards \(consumption\)](#)
- Bob Johnson – [River Cubes](#), [Television feature](#) (2009)
- Anne-Katrin Spiess – [S. P. I. L. L.](#) (2010), [Fresh Kills](#) (2001), [Chopsticks](#) (2001), [Desert Highway Cleansing](#) (2000)
- Brooke Singer – [Excess](#) (2011 - 13)
- Peter Menzel – [Hungry Planet Family Food Portraits](#) (2013)
- Jeremy Konner – [The Majestic Plastic Bag](#) (2011)
- [Agnès Varda – The Gleaners and I](#) (2000) (available through Kanopy accessed through GMU library)
- [Edward Burtynsky, TED, Manufactured Landscapes](#)
- [Art From Scrap, a materials reuse center in Santa Barbara](#)

* Please keep in mind that links provided here are a starting place for research and that additional sources may be required for a fuller understanding of the works. Additional sources can be found online, library resources, or in the optional textbook *To Life: Eco Art in Pursuit of a Sustainable Planet* by Linda Weintraub. Please report broken links to mcooley@gmu.edu.

Assignment | Design

Create a proposal (including Theme, Issue, Approach, Genre, and Strategy). Include a visual.
- Submit to your professor by email.

Assignment | Make & Present

Complete Artwork Documentation and Project Summary. Submit to your professor by email before class meeting. Please use file sharing service for files over 10 MB. In-class Presentation & Critique.