

The Work of Art
in The Age of Global Culture :
Theory And Practice

Doctoral Thesis

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2005

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Humanities and Social Sciences
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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP/ORIGINALITY

I certify that the work in this Thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the Thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the Thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the Thesis.

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The Work of Art in the Age of Global Culture

Abstract

Thesis Statement :

This Thesis looks at two films by Wim Wenders with a view of examining how they represent the 'global city.' This thesis is not an examination of the films representation of 'the city' per se, but a consideration of the process of engagement between the films and the individual. The objective is to examine how viewers of the films engage with the cinematic process so as to enhance their awareness of and participation in the formation of the global city. By considering the role the films play in this process, I speculate on the continuing role of the work of art in the age of global culture.

Scope :

The scope of this Thesis is provided by two films about Berlin by Wenders. The Thesis explicates how these films aid their viewer to participate in the global city. The Thesis extrapolates three different levels of abstraction in its analysis:

- 1) at an empirical level by analysing the films;
- 2) at an historical and social level by analysing the city and citizenship; and
- 3) at a cultural level by analysing the role art can play in society today.

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