This seminar will consider the various ways in which manifold artists from Marcel Duchamp through Joseph Cornell, Claes Oldenburg, Andy Warhol, Louise Lawler, Fred Wilson, Mark Dion and the Atlas Group have made aspects of the museum a subject matter of their work. Alternatively engaged in a critique of museum practice or romantic evocations of the past, for the past seventy years many artists have addressed the staging devices that museums utilize to confer aura on the work of art or natural history specimen, as well as the makeup of their collections, categorization and behind the scenes storerooms and archives. This history will be linked to an expanding body of writing that has emerged in the past three decades given to the differing discursive narratives that museums and their archives employ. Writers such as Sigmund Freud, Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Rosalind Krauss, Douglas Crimp, Donna Haraway, Ralph Rugoff, and Susan Stewart. will be considered.

The seminar will be limited to twelve students. Each student will be responsible for a forty minute in-class presentation, a follow up twelve page paper due the end of the term, and an exhibition review of five hundred words.

September 11: discussion of seminar content and requirements. Assignment of class presentations.

September 18: The Conceptual and the Surreal: Marcel Duchamp and Joseph Cornell.

Readings:
Ecke Bonk, “Marcel Duchamp,” in, The Museum As Muse 50 - 55
Idem., The Box in a Valise: De ou par Marcel Duchamp ou Rose Sélavy: Inventory of an Edition. (New York: Rizzoli, 1989.)


Charles Simic, “We Comprehend by Awe,” “Chessboard of the Soul,” “What Mozart Saw on

**Screening:**
A Conversation with Marcel Duchamp

**September 25:** The Cabinets of Curiosities, Charles Wilson Peale and the Museum of Jurassic Technology

**Readings:**

**Exhibition Review due**
**Visit to the Nature Lab**

**October 2:** The Order of Things

**Readings:**
Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archeology of Human Sciences* (New York: Pantheon, 1990), 126 - 191

**Screening:**
*Mark Dion*, Art 21

**October 9:** Later Conceptual Strategies

**Readings:**

**October 16**: The Mouse Museum and The Museum of the Void
Coosje van Bruggen, Claes Oldenburg Mouse Museum/Ray Gun Wing,” in *Museums By Artists*, 259 -270.
**Screening:**
Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*

**October 23**: Contestations and Interventions, Part 1
**Readings:**
Brian Wallis, “Hans Haacke,” in *The Museum as Muse*,
Andrea Fraser, “Statement,” in *The Museum as Muse*, 162 - 165
**Screening:**
Andrea Fraser

**October 30**: Contestations and Interventions, Part 2
Readings:
David Bourdon, Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin 1971 - 95. (Cologne: Taschen Verlag, 1996.)
Wilson, Fred and Ivan Karp, “Constructing the Spectacle of Culture in Museums,” in Institutional Critique, 330 - 334.

Screening:
Fred Wilson, Art 21

November 6: Surrogates
Readings:

Screening:
Allan McCollum, Art 21

November 13: Archive Fever
Readings:
Sigmund Freud, “Chapter Six,” Civilization and Its Discontents
James Trainor, “Fluxus,” in *The Museum as Muse*, 82 - 83.

**November 20 4:** Further Interventions, Idealizations and Fictions

**Readings:**
Walter Benjamin, “A Short History of Photography,” in *Artforum*, vol. 15, no. 6 (February 1977).
Idem., *Appointment with Sigmund Freud* (London: Thames and Hudson, 2005)

**November 27** no class; Thanksgiving break

**December 4:** Last Class; wrap-up, final papers due.