

Social

Are there any particular social issues relevant to the production or interpretation of the work? For Documentary Film and Photography this is one of the most important contexts, and is often the work's starting point.



Cultural

Are there any particular cultural contexts or concerns relevant to the production or interpretation of the work? When engaging with other cultures, ethical considerations are important. When dealing with ones own, a more critical view is common. Here Grayson Perry 'warmly' pokes fun at his own culture.



Grayson Perry - Comfort Blanket (2014)

Social

Cultural

Historical

Historical

Does the work relate strongly to a historical context other than the one in which it is made?
For example Costumes made for contemporary productions of Shakespeare always exist in the context of the authors "time" and earlier production designs.

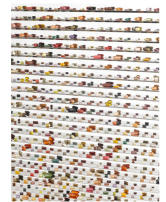


Types of Contexts

Scientific

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Most creative practices engage with "discourses" outside of their own. It is common for that engagement to be with more scientific areas such as physics, chemistry, biology or the so called "human" or "social" sciences.



Damien Hirst - Lullaby, The Seasons (2002)

Theoretical

Theoretical

All disciplines have attached to them a theoretical discourse. This could be from establishing writing around the discipline or from new theorists exploring the nature of a particular medium. A major historical example would be Freud's theories relating to the unconscious, which have heavily influenced Fine Art practice from the Surrealists onwards.



David Lynch - Blue Velvet (1986)

Economic

Economic



Following on from this, in times of economic recession, the focus of such areas as advertising and architectural design changes to reflect the more financially austere situation.

Political

Political

Are there any historical or current political issues that are influencing the production?

When looking at extreme political situations, such as Apartheid South Africa, or Nazi Germany it is clear that creative output was profoundly influenced by the dominant political climate.



Adolf the Superman Swallows Gold and Spouts Junk - John Heartfield (1932)