

## *Jokes, Wit and Political Agency in West German Art, 1961-1989*



Gregory Williams, Assistant Professor, Boston University

This lecture will serve as an introduction to the key themes of Professor Williams's current book project, which examines the work of three generations of West German artists active from the 1960s through the 1980s. During their country's cultural transition from modernism to postmodernism, younger artists increasingly employed jokes, wit and wordplay in order to challenge typically sober references to German history and the legacies of modern art. The book will focus on the relevance of the term *Witz* (translated as both "wit" and "joke") in understanding artists' changing attitudes toward the relationship between politics and the visual arts.

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

**5:30 pm in CAS ROOM 200**

**Q & A and Reception to follow**

**Questions? [lmugnier@bu.edu](mailto:lmugnier@bu.edu)**