

# The Role of the Artist in Contemporary Society: Truth, Simulation and Visual Resistance

ONLINE EVENT-OPEN INVITATION

DATE: JULY 1ST, 2025

TIME: 5:00 PM (UK TIME)

LOCATION: ONLINE (LINK TO FOLLOW)

This online event is organized by artist Giuseppe Seminara, in collaboration with Professor Tarik Sabry of the University of Westminster (London).

Giuseppe Seminara is a contemporary visual artist who explores, through his work, the discomfort of modern human existence, marked by superficiality and invisible structures that limit individual freedom. His research focuses on themes such as fragmented identity, absence, and simulation, adopting a poetic and conceptual approach that blends image, gesture, and word. Through painting, graphics, and installations, Giuseppe investigates the tension between reality and appearance, inviting the viewer to reflect on the role of art in contemporary society.

Professor Sabry is a scholar in media and cultural theory, co-founder of the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication, and author of several works on cultural encounters, aesthetics and media in the Arab world.

The event will bring together professional artists and academic researchers to explore the role of the artist as a critical agent in contemporary society.

Together, we will reflect on notions of truth, simulation, visual resistance and artistic autonomy in an era of spectacle.

**We warmly invite your participation and contribution to this conversation.**

**Giuseppe Seminara**

**Artist & Curator**

**◆ Official Agenda – Online Meeting**  
**“What is an Artist in a Time of War and Crisis?**  
**Truth, Simulation, and Visual Resistance”**  
**Duration: 40 minutes**

### 1. Welcome & Framing (5 minutes)

Brief personal introduction.

Presentation of the meeting's intent: not a formal conference, but a shared space for critical and poetic reflection.

Reference to the Statement of Intent:

"A space of exchange and investigation — not to assert certainties, but to share doubts."

### 2. Core Statement & Conceptual Framework (10 minutes)

Read or summarize key parts of the Statement of Intent.

Outline the main thematic axes:

What does it mean to be an artist in contemporary society?

The artist as a witness to the unease, fragmentation, and crisis of reality.

The role of the body, instinct, and the artistic gesture as forms of resistance.

Introduce core concepts:

The "cartographer of absence"

The "visual intellectual"

Art as counter-media — a tool of perceptual resistance against the logic of spectacle and hyper-visibility.

### 3. Open Dialogue (20 minutes)

Invite guests to reflect, comment, and respond freely.

Suggest some guiding questions to stimulate the conversation:

What does it mean to be an artist today?

How can art resist the logic of hyper-visibility, commodification, and spectacle?

Is it still possible to think of the image as a fragile yet necessary presence?

What forms of visual resistance are possible today?

Moderate the flow of conversation, creating connections between the participants' contributions and the conceptual framework introduced.

### 4. Concluding Remarks & Next Steps (5 minutes)

Brief synthesis of the main reflections.

Express the intention to continue this dialogue, potentially evolving into:

A more structured seminar

Collaborative research

A future in-person event

Thank all participants.

Conclude with the idea that this is not an ending, but a threshold — an opening.

◆ Guiding Phrase to Open or Close the Meeting:

"This is not intended as a space for conclusions, but as a fragile yet necessary threshold — a moment where artistic thought becomes a shared device to critically inhabit our time."