

Doctoral Propositions

Propositions related to thesis

1. Financialization has hastened finance's abstraction, semi-autonomy, and use of aesthetics.
2. Art and finance have begun to mirror one another in the fulfillment of a common speculative role.
3. Finance's aestheticization amounts to more than an instrumental use for economic returns. Aesthetic elements in finance are also valued for their own sake.
4. How goods get valued art and finance is influenced by valuation morals, and this contributes a range of choices being guided by non-instrumental forms of reasoning.
5. Despite the attention given to valorizing art in the market, artists are required to valorize their art in other spheres that are equally able to empower and constrain the artistic process.

Propositions unrelated to thesis

6. More than merely an instrumental connection to finance via money, art has an interest in finance's processes, signs and language and as an aesthetic form.
7. Art and finance are sites of social distinction. Art achieves this via the rejection of use-value, finance achieves this via a disconnect from labor.
8. By gradually emptying itself of content, its value being self-referential, and it serving as liquid store of wealth, higher-end art increasingly functions as money.
9. Western art's long standing resistance to the market is partly driven by a fear of recognizing that many of its own values and processes remain inextricably linked to the market. Art is more comfortable with the more fictionalized version of contemporary capitalism, and so is gradually dropping its resistance.
10. There is some reluctance to enter a discussion about art and finance's contemporary social roles because doing so would undermine the very thing currently asked of both: a vessel into which we can project the belief that anything is possible.

Free proposition

11. Now and again journalists report on a contemporary art exhibition where, in a slightly comical way, they express frustration at their inability to understand the art. It is time we saw a financial journalist report in front of an important bank where he or she throws their arms up and says, "I just don't get it".