

# An Art Theory Urban Dictionary For A Girl About Town.

**object** (adj): See *sent folder*.

**altermodern** (adj): Although for a few months in 2009 the term was used as Nicolas Bourriaud's successor theory to *relational aesthetics*, in modern usage *altermodern* describes any howlingly incorrectly labelled clothes on Ebay, e.g. "genuine vintage 1920s flapper dress gatsby alexa boho" which on closer inspection turn out to be 100% viscose from Primark, as in "*hmm, not sure about that dress, Lucy. Bit altermodern.*"

**drone** (v): Ever been chatted up in Cafe Oto? Then you'll know that when played simultaneously, the phrases "*you know a lot about music for a girl*", "*don't be ridiculous, no one likes Monster Movie best*" and "*how can you not like Tom Waits, you must hear Rain Dogs*" synchronise into the exact same drone frequency ratio as LaMonte Young's Dream House.

**Emoji** (n): The dirtiest *Emoji* sequence is the bikini plus the clasped hands plus one or more of the fingers pointing into the clasped hands. Cystitis is also pretty easy, what with the little flame and all: you can work the finer details of that one out for yourself, a couple of days later.

**evil, banality of** (n): Hannah Arendt's concept finds a contemporary home at Reddit's glitch\_in\_the\_matrix board, a community which helpfully keeps track of "glitches" in the fabric of reality in order to expose the truth: the world as we perceive it is an illusion. One hundred per cent comprised of people saying "*I went back to the kitchen to finish my cup of tea, but there was no tea left! I'd already finished it! Only I hadn't!*"

**hauntology** (n): Now history has ended, the present is increasingly plagued by materialising 'ghosts' from the past, like that steampunk barman you dated in college who, although now doing a law conversion, recently grew his old moustache back for Movember.

**Object-Oriented Nail Art** (n): Wah! Nails' "drippy" design, where it looks like one colour of nail varnish is melting hot fudge sauce poured over another nail varnish, is definitely the novelty mani which best shows how you're "increasingly concerned" with materiality. You would think it would be something 3D like the little stick-on beads, wouldn't you, but you can't hastily skimread that Graham Harman Zero book on the top deck of the 55 if you're wearing those.

**performativity** (n): If you force yourself to do something repeatedly it becomes a part of you. For example, if you go to the "spooky toilet" at the bottom of the stairs in the ICA and say Alan Yentob's name three times while looking in the mirror, you end up on the payroll.

**selfie** (n): For those of us who not only have an external hard drive full of Photo Booth pictures dating back to 2006 (which, if you flick through them quickly enough, become a sort of ultra-banal Švankmajer animation of how long it takes to grow out a fringe or get over a boy), but also a secret private Instagram just for wide eyes/slightly open mouth/good hair, the art world discovering the *selfie* in 2013 was a bit galling but simultaneously kind of un-resentable, like how everyone likes Robyn now.

**Tavi Maths** (n): as in, "*If Tavi was born when I was three years younger than she is now, and when Kathleen Hanna was four years younger than I am now, and they're friends but I'm eating a pack of Rowntrees Randoms on the bus in Finsbury Park, how long have I got before I have a panic attack?*"

**yé-yé** (adj): of a potential haircut, as in "*yeah, yeah, it's not that Anna Karina doesn't look nice, but you don't usually brush your hair, do you?*"