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Integrative Seminar 2: Visual Culture

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Week 6 Reading Response

In this reading the author, Tom Finkelpearl speaks extensively about various factors that we come into contact with when creating contemporary art forms of expression. This extract contains suggestions where the author shows us, his readers, about how social cooperation gives rise to a framework that we need to have in order to understand its emergence and acceptance.

The first artist I was interested by was Joseph Beuys. Beuys’s was a performance artist as well as a painter, sculptor and installation artist. His work was extensively based around concepts of humanism, social philosophy and anthroposophy.[[1]](#footnote-1) Finkelpearl took interest in Beuys’s work, specifically on social sculpture which was where he strongly believed that everything that we touch, feel and interact with is a form or expression of art. His career was characterized by open public debates on a very wide range of subjects including political, environmental, social and long-term cultural trends.

The second artist that I was interested in was in fact the first artist that the author introduces to us in this extract, Bolek Greczynski who is a Polish actor and also is a creator of conceptual art. I was really intrigued at the way Finkelpearl spoke about the way Greczynski would create his visions- it all just seems very vivid and very beautiful. I inferred this from, “You walk into the building, through a lush garden of natural and artificial plants, through the workroom where refreshments are being served, and into the “museum” proper”.[[2]](#footnote-2) He goes on to introduce how the space can be interpreted and about how it covers almost every aspect that one would connect with an ideal setting of comfort.

1. “The Art of Social Cooperation: An American Framework,” Introduction to *What We Made: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation.*1-50. Durham, N.C. and London: Duke University Press, 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “The Art of Social Cooperation: An American Framework,” Introduction to *What We Made: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation.*1-50. Durham, N.C. and London: Duke University Press, 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)