

**The UC Davis Art History Program  
cordially invites you to our first lecture of the  
Art History Lectures and Programs Series:**

***Krasiński and Totality*  
Blake Stimson, Professor of Art History**

**Tuesday, October 2, 2007  
4:00-6:00 PM  
Art 210D**



This talk will focus on Polish artist Edward Krasiński whose work is characterized by a continuous taped blue line that extends its reach from one thing to another and another and in so doing takes on an appropriating relationship to those things. The question I will consider is the meaning or purpose or value of that relationship. For example, responding to an interviewer's conjecture that "on the one side the tape is appropriating space and objects, and on the other it makes them unreal," Krasiński insisted, "on the contrary," that the appropriation "only makes them more real." Indeed, he said, the line "unmasks the reality of what it has been stuck onto." This study will take the artist at his word and consider that greater reality that he spoke of through the concept of "totality". This concept, it will be assumed, has a history and the presentation will raise the question of its specific form and specific contradictions peculiar to the larger social, political and artistic culture of the 1960s that gave rise to Krasiński's signature innovation. At issue in Krasiński's greater reality, it will be argued, is a promise at once both artistic and political even as it is so in a manner – a manner fundamentally consistent with its age – that it can only fail to realize.