This team-taught, interdisciplinary honors seminar invites students from any discipline to reflect critically on themselves as makers, focusing on how things produced in their scholarly endeavors effect change, and are changed by, contact with others in zones of encounter. Critical analysis skills will be honed by close readings of selected monuments (Roman columns, totem poles), built spaces (Russian *dachas*, art installations), and works of ‘art’ (Greek orations, street graffiti) that arise from ‘contact zones’ where people occupying different ‘worlds’ meet. Students will learn how humans establish (and efface) community boundaries through artistic expression, as well as ways that people traditionally perceived to reside at the periphery create spaces, fashion material objects, or perform rhetorical eloquence to subvert existing power structures and formulate identity. Assignments include a series of short papers, student presentations, and a capstone group digital design project to be undertaken in Pitt’s Visual Media Workshop. The design work provides an opportunity for students to hone a powerful skill — creative communication of scholarly work to broad publics in an online platform — that is increasingly important for those within the humanities and beyond to achieve impact in a digital age. The seminar’s critical edge will sharpen this skill by inviting students to reflect about the intellectual, theoretical and ethical questions raised by their efforts as curators of knowledge. What ideas do they privilege? Which presentational frames do they employ and why are they selected? On such questions, the seminar’s interdisciplinary format is designed to generate novel perspectives that may be difficult to see from the vantage point of a single academic tradition. Students wishing to enroll should contact either Gretchen Bender (ghbl@pitt.edu) or Gordon Mitchell (gordonm@pitt.edu) for permission.