

Contemporary Black Artists: The Post-Black Generation

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In 2001, curator Thelma Golden launched Freestyle at the Studio Museum in Harlem, introducing a new generation of artists and the provocative term “post-black.” The label sparked debate: was it a break from earlier artists who used “Black” as a form of political resistance, or something more complex?

This seminar uses “post-black” as a jumping-off point to explore how Black artists have defined themselves across time through their work, writing, and politics. We’ll track shifts in style and identity from the early 20th century to today, and dive into ongoing debates around Black aesthetics, exhibitions, and art history in the African diaspora.

Topics

Include a.o. Representation, Exhibition Histories, Black Aesthetics, Afrotropes, Afro-politanism, Abstraction vs. Figuration, Curation as Art-Historical tool, Black Radical Tradition and Racial Uplift, post-race vs. post-black, historical consistencies, and Black Exhibition Histories.

