Art Since 1945
HSAR S223

2021 Yale Summer Session B (online course)
July 12–August 13
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1–4:15 PM EST

Instructor: Andrew Vielkind
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Office Hours: By appointment over Zoom

Course Description
How did conventional definitions of art change in the wake of the Second World War? How have artists responded to the social upheaval of their time? In what ways has art moved beyond the walls of galleries and museums? This course surveys the major global modern art movements from 1945 to the present. Sessions will explore a wide range of topics, such as abstraction, pop art, minimalism, video installations, performance, conceptualism, land art, appropriation, and institutional critique. The works of prominent artists will be examined within their broader historical, political, and cultural contexts. The readings elucidate the intersections between artistic practice and issues of race, gender, class, and sexuality. Students will be introduced to various methodologies employed by art historians and curators, particularly the close visual analysis of objects. Our discussions will make extensive use of the collections digitized by the Yale University Art Gallery and Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

This course is entirely online/remote, but students are encouraged to visit their local museums and galleries to examine relevant works of modern and contemporary art in person, if possible.

Attendance
This is an accelerated course in a seminar setting, so attendance is mandatory. Any absences will need to be approved by me in advance. Lateness and unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade. The Zoom classroom will be conducive to open discussion of the artworks and texts that we are analyzing, so you are expected to actively participate. Your camera should be turned on for the entire duration of each class.

Grading
Participation and Attendance: 20%
Reading Responses: 10%
Short Analysis Paper: 20%
Group Project and Presentation: 20%
Final Paper: 30%
Papers will be graded according to a letter system (A, A-, B+, etc.). It is important that you submit all of your work on time. Late assignments will be deducted one portion of a letter grade (A to A-, etc.) for each day they are past due.

Assignments

Reading Responses: After you finish the assigned readings for each session, you are required to write a brief, 3-5 sentence paragraph and post it to the Canvas discussion forum. You should address particular aspects of the texts that you found intriguing, confusing, or worth broaching in class. You are also encouraged to pose any questions that you would like us to consider as a group. Your response should be posted to Canvas before the beginning of class.

Short Analysis Paper (3-4 pages): You will closely analyze an artwork that pertains to the material covered during the first two weeks. You should communicate your observations and explain how the work relates to some of the topics we have discussed in class. Due July 29th.

Group Exhibition Project: The class will collaborate on curating a virtual art exhibition that focuses upon a specific theme. You will select a work of art to include in the show, write short catalogue entry (2-3 pages), and give a brief presentation (5 minutes). Due August 5th.

Final Paper (7-8 pages): You will write a thesis-driven essay that demonstrates your ability to closely analyze a work and conduct art historical research. You are expected to develop your argument in consultation with me. Due August 13th.

Academic Integrity
Yale stresses the importance of academic integrity and strictly penalizes those students who cheat or plagiarize. If you are unsure of how to properly credit another scholar, do not hesitate to approach me with any questions. More information on Yale’s academic policies and proper means of citing sources can be found at:

<https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism>

Students Requiring Accommodations
If you have any specific needs that will require accommodations, please reach out to me in advance so that I can make adjustments in a timely fashion.

Readings
All of the course readings will be uploaded to Canvas as PDF documents. You are not required to purchase any textbooks, but additional materials will be placed on reserve through the Yale Library. The assigned readings for each session vary in length and have been selected to give you historical context and insight into the minds of artists.
Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Tu 7/13  Introduction: A Transforming Art World

Th 7/15  Action Painting and Fields of Color


Week 2

Tu 7/20  Beyond the Surface of the Canvas: Happenings and Assemblages


Th 7/22  Pop


**Week 3**

**Tu 7/27**  
**Minimal and “Eccentric” Objects**  


**Th 7/29**  
**Concepts, Ideas, and Processes**


**Week 4**

**Tu 8/3**  
**Performance, Body, and Video Art**


**Th 8/5**

**Site Specificity and Institutional Critique**


**Week 5**

**Tu 8/10**

**Identity, Activism, and Appropriation**


**Th 8/12**

**The Global Contemporary**

