ARTH 787: Seminar in Contemporary Art
Feminist and Queer Art History, 1971-present
Spring 2007

Professor Richard Meyer (richae@sas.upenn.edu) Mondays, 2-4:50 p.m.
Dept. of Art History, University of Pennsylvania Jaffe 201

Course Description and Requirements
This seminar traces the development of a critical literature in feminist and gay/lesbian art history. Beginning with some foundational texts of the 1970s (Linda Nochlin’s "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?,” James Saslow’s "Closets in the Museum: Homophobia and Art History"), we will examine how art historians, artists, critics, and curators have addressed issues of gender and sexuality over the course of the last three decades. The seminar approaches feminist and queer art history as distinct, if sometimes allied, fields of inquiry. Students will be asked to attend closely to the historical specificity of the texts and critical debates at issue in each case.

Students are expected to complete all required reading prior to seminar meetings and to discuss the texts and critical issues at hand during each session. On a rotating basis, each student will prepare a 2-page response to an assigned text which will then be used to initiate discussion in seminar. Toward the end of the semester, students will deliver a 15-minute presentation on their seminar research to date. In consultation with both the professor and the other seminar members, each student will develop his or her oral presentation into a final paper of approximately 20 - 25 pages.

Required Texts:

For purchase at Penn Book Center:


All other required texts will be posted on our course blackboard site or otherwise circulated to seminar participants.

Weekly Schedule

Monday, January 8 : Introduction
Readings:

Thursday, January 11, 2007:
Sachs Forum in Contemporary Art:
Roger M. Buergel, Artistic Director, Documenta 12
“Migration of Form,” 5:30 p.m, Logan Hall 402
January 15: Martin Luther King Day (No class meeting)

Readings:
• Linda Nochlin, "Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?" (1971)

Looking back on 1971-4:

January 29: 1975-1978
Readings:
• Ann Sutherland Harris and Linda Nochlin, preface to Women Artists, 1550-1950, exhibition catalogue, Los Angeles County Museum of Art/Alfred Knopf, 1976. [please read text of exhibition pamphlet as well].
• “Lesbian Art and Artists,” Heresies 3 (Fall 1977)
• Harmony Hammond, “A Lesbian Show” (January 21-February 11, 1978) in In a Different Light: 45-49.

Looking back on 1975-8:

Thursday, February 1:
Sachs Forum in Contemporary Art:
Douglas Crimp “Way Out on a Nut,” 5:30 p.m. ICA Auditorium

February 5: 1979-1980
Readings:
• James M. Saslow, “Closets in the Museum: Homophobia and Art History,” in Karla Jay and Allen Young, eds., Lavender Culture: 215-227 [please read as well the forward and two introductions to the 1994 reprint as well as the two companion introductions to the original edition: ix-65].
February 5: 1979-1980 (cont.)


Looking Back at 1979-80:


February 12: Guest Visit by Catherine Lord

“Notes on Beatification”
Readings: Valerie Solanas, “SCUM Manifesto” (1968)

February 19: 1981-1984

Readings:


March 5: Spring Break
March 12: 1985-1988
Readings:

Readings:

Thursday, March 22, Sachs Forum in Contemporary Art
Kaja Silverman, “Photography by Other Means,” 5:30 p.m. ICA Auditorium

March 26: 1993-1995
Readings:

Student Presentations
**April 2: 1996-2001**

Readings:

**Student Presentations**

**April 9: Guest Visit by Johanna Burton**

Reading:

**Student Presentations**

**April 16: 2002 – present**

Readings:
- “LTTR” selections from issues 3 and 5.
- Selections from *Wack! Art and the Feminist Revolution* and *Global Feminisms*. 