

## COURSE DETAIL

### ART, EROS, AND THE 60S

**Country**

Germany

**Host Institution**

Humboldt University Berlin

**Program(s)**

Humboldt University Berlin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Philosophy Art History

**UCEAP Course Number**

131

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

ART, EROS, AND THE 60S

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

ART EROS & THE 60S

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

## Course Description

At the zenith of the civil rights movement in the USA and de-colonizing movements in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia, just prior to the advent of second wave feminism, gay and lesbian liberation, and other social movements linking political liberation to embodied physical differences, something new was born. There arose a new vision of the body as precisely the obverse of how we now consider it—a single, universal human body shared by all, ungendered, unraced, unsexed. This new body-in-common, unmarked even by such core physical differences as biological sex, became legible as radically dissident under a new political ideology that has thus far largely escaped historical attention: Eros. As a potent challenge to a number of repressive orthodoxies, not least capitalism, Eros was also, perhaps not surprisingly, a central theme in a number of art works of the period, from Carolee Schneemann's nude performances to Claes Oldenburg's erotic public sculpture, Yayoi Kusama's immersive environments, Helio Oiticica's *Tropicales* and Kenneth Anger's films. This course examines the relationship among art, sex, gender and revolution from the vantage point of Eros' brief historical moment, a vista now largely obscured by our contemporary fixation on a politics of social distinction and bodily difference. Reading the work of Herbert Marcuse, Susan Sontag, Norman O Brown and others, we will also study the art, film and performance of such key figures as Yoko Ono, Jack Smith, Franz Erhard Walters and Rebecca Horn. As such, this period constitutes both the theoretical prehistory of the sexual revolution, as well as perhaps the defining episode in our ongoing transubstantiation of flesh into politics.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

533640

### Host Institution Course Title

ART, EROS, AND THE 60S

### Host Institution Campus

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

Institut für Kunst- und Bildgeschichte

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