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 Carribean 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 Oticica'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 Erhardt 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

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Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Institut für Kunst- und Bildgeschichte

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