



Understanding Contemporary Art: From Pop to Pluralism and Beyond

Dr. Nancy G. Heller

Tuesdays, February 11 to March 11, 2025 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

RELEVANT SURVEYS

David Hopkins, *After Modern Art: 1945-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2002)

David Joselit, *American Art Since 1945* (Thames & Hudson, 2003)

Edward Lucie-Smith, *Movements in Art Since 1945: Issues and Concepts* (3rd ed.) (Thames & Hudson, 1995)

USEFUL, BUT DIFFICULT TO CHARACTERIZE:

Robert Atkins, *Artspeak: A Guide to Contemporary Ideas, Movements, and Buzzwords, 1945 to the Present* (Abbeville Press, 1997)

Nancy G. Heller, *Why a Painting is Like a Pizza: A Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Modern Art* (Princeton University Press, 2002)

PARTICULAR MOVEMENTS/ARTISTS:

POP ART

David McCarthy, *Pop Art* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)

Jessica Morgan and Flavia Frigeri, *The World Goes Pop* (Tate Modern, 2015)

Robert Rosenblum, et al, *Andy Warhol: A Retrospective* (Museum of Modern Art, 1989)

Sid Sachs and Kalliopi Minioudakis, *Seductive Subversion: Women Pop Artists, 1958-1968* (Abbeville Press, 2010) + documentary film of the same name/year by Glenn Holsten

MINIMALISM

Edgar Howard (director), *Ellsworth Kelly: Fragments*, documentary (Checkerboard Films, 2007)

James Meyer, *Minimalism* (Phaidon, 2000)

PHOTO-REALISM

Christopher Finch, *Chuck Close: Life* (Prestel, 2010)

Audrey Flack, *Audrey Flack on Painting* (Abrams, 1981)

Marco Livingstone, *Duane Hanson* (Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, 1994)

CONCEPTUAL ART

Meg Cranston (ed.), *More Than You Wanted to Know About John Baldessari* (2 vols. of his writings) (JRP/Ringier, 2011 and 2013)

Peter Osborne, *Conceptual Art* (Phaidon, 2002)

Jessica Morgan, et al, *John Baldessari: Pure Beauty* (Tate Modern, 2009)

PERFORMANCE ART

RoseLee Goldberg, *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present Day* (rev. ed.) (Thames & Hudson, 2015)

LAND ART

Jacob Baal-Teshuva, *Christo and Jeanne-Claude* (Taschen, 2001)

James Crump (director), *Troublemakers: The Story of Land Art*, documentary film, 2015

Jack Flam (ed.), *Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings* (University of California Press, 1996)

Jeffrey Kastner (ed.), *Land and Environmental Art* (Phaidon, 1998)

Michael Kimmelman, "It Was a Mystery in the Desert for 50 Years" (*New York Times Magazine* article about Michael Heizer's "City," published August 19, 2022; read online at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/08/19/arts/design/michael-heizer-city.html>)

Albert and David Maysles, 5 documentary films about Christo and Jeanne-Claude's projects

FEMINIST ART

Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard, *The Power of Feminist Art: The American Movement of the 1970s, History and Impact* (Abrams, 1966)

Nancy G. Heller, *Women Artists: An Illustrated History* (4th ed.) (Abbeville Press, 2003)

Gail Levin, *Becoming Judy Chicago: A Biography of the Artist* (NYL Harmony Books, 2007)

GRAFFITI ART

Elizabeth Aubert (director), *Drawing the Line—a Portrait of Keith Haring*, documentary film, 1990

Marc Mayer (ed.), *Basquiat* (Brooklyn Museum, 2005)

BOOK ARTS

Nancy G. Heller, et al, *Women Artists: Works From the National Museum of Women in the Arts* (Rizzoli, 2000), pp. 208-223.

MONOGRAPHS ON OTHER ARTISTS

Eva Respini, *Cindy Sherman* (Museum of Modern Art, 2012)

Scott Rothkopf (ed.), *Jeff Koons: A Retrospective* (Whitney Museum of American Art, 2014)

Carolyn Kastner, *Jaune Quick-To-See Smith: An American Modernist* (University of New Mexico Press, 2013)

Michelle Wallace, et al, *Faith Ringgold* (D.A.P. Books, 2019)

Judith Schaechter, *Extra Virgin: The Stained Glass of Judith Schaechter* (Smile & Nod, 2006)

Eleanor Heartney, et al, *Liza Lou* (Skira/Rizzoli, 2011)

NAMES, TERMS & CONCEPTS

contemporary art (vs. modern art)

popular culture

silkscreen prints (a.k.a. serigraphy)

soft sculptu

monochrome

white-on-white paintings
Op Art, optical illusions
Dia: Beacon
conceptual art
photo-realism (a.k.a. hyper-realism, super-realism)
airbrush
vanitas paintings
life casting
graffiti art, aerosol art
performance art (vs. the performing arts)
land art (a.k.a. earth art, earthworks, environmental art)
site-specific art
documentation
“wrapped” landscapes, buildings
feminist art
Linda Nochlin, Ann Sutherland Harris
The Guerrilla Girls
“The Pictures Generation”
book arts (a.k.a. artist books)
non-traditional materials and techniques, (e.g., cut-paper silhouettes, quilts, colored glass beads)

PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED (in the order in which they were presented)

Andy Warhol, *100 Cans*, 1962 (Buffalo AKG Museum, formerly Albright-Knox Gallery)
Claes Oldenburg, *Giant Hamburger*, 1962 (Art Gallery of Ontario [Toronto, Canada])
Marisol [Escobar], *Women and Dog*, 1964 (Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC)
Dorothy Grebenak, *Consolidated Edison (Con Ed)*, 1963
Ellsworth Kelly, *Red, Blue, Green*, 1963 (Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA)
Gene Davis, *Black Popcorn*, 1965 (National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC)
Robert Ryman, *Twin*, 1966 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)
Carl André, *Equivalent VIII*, 1966 (Tate Modern, London, England)
Richard Serra, *Mozarabe*, 1971 (Detroit Institute of Arts)
John Baldessari, *I Will Not Make Any More Boring Art*, 1971 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)
Richard Estes, *Diner*, 1971 (Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC)
Chuck Close, *Big Self-Portrait*, 1968 (Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Audrey Flack, *World War II (Vanitas)*, 1977 (Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia)
Duane Hanson, *Woman With Dog*, 1977 (Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC)
Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, 1970 (Rozel Point, Great Salt Lake, Utah)
Michael Heizer, *City*, 2022 (Garden Valley, Nevada)
Christo and Jeanne-Claude, *Valley Curtain*, 1972 (Rifle Valley, CO; removed in 1972)
Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Horn Players*, 1983 (The Broad, Los Angeles, CA)

Keith Haring, *Untitled*, 1982
Judy Chicago, *The Dinner Party*, 1979 (Brooklyn Museum, NYC)
Kara Walker, *Slavery! Slavery!*, 1997
Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, *Tribal Map*, 2000 (Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC)
Luis Jiménez, *Vaquero*, 1990 (Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC)
Maya Lin, *National Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, 1982 (Washington, DC)
Robert Mapplethorpe, *Ken and Tyler*, 1985 (Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC)
Cindy Sherman, *Untitled Film Still #21*, 1978 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)
Jeff Koons, *Puppy*, 1992 (Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain)
Molly Van Nice, *Swiss Army Book*, 1990 (National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC)
Faith Ringgold, *Tar Beach* (story quilt), 1988 (Guggenheim Museum, NYC)
Judith Schaechter, *The Battle of Carnival and Lent*, 2012, originally installed at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia.
Liza Lou, *Backyard*, 1999 (Fondation pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France)