Taught primarily at the Block Museum, this course is based on close engagement with artworks as ever-changing material objects and the methods and issues that they raise. From raw materials in an artist’s studio to fragile objects that require or resist conservation, we will trace the life history of things and consider the ethical and interpretive questions that arise from their changing states. Students will be introduced to the material histories of objects and global media practices, basics of technical and scientific analysis and related theoretical debates that resituate art history as a study of physical things as well as their disembodied images.

Required Textbooks

Sylvan Barnet, A Short Guide to Writing About Art. 978-0205886999