Recent scholarship has broadened the canon of “black art” produced in the long 1960s looking anew at how the politics of the era was manifest in art and art history. This course examines debates that surrounded black art during the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements as well as new efforts to redefine, to relook at, “the political” in art and visual culture of the period, from abstract art to the artistic strategies of the Black Panthers. The class will be attentive to how gender, sexuality, and geography informed formulations of black art and alert to the limits of conventional narratives of art in the 1960s. The course interrogates how the unfinished political and artistic projects of the 1960s continue to shape memory, activism, art, and art history today. Readings will include work by Naomi Beckwith, Susan Cahan, Huey Copeland, Margo Crawford, Darby English, James Meyer, and Michele Wallace.

Required Textbooks

Readings available through Canvas.

Assessments

Students are responsible for weekly response papers, co-presentations of weekly readings, and a final research presentation and project.