

**Week 13/Lecture 22: Identity Politics and Political Art**

decades discussed: *1970s-1990s*

terms: Identity politics

I. Radical '70s politics: Black Panthers, Grey Panthers, "women's lib," Weathermen, "Symbionese Liberation Army," Art Worker's Coalition (1960s-70s), Indian Activism (1960s-70s) – all forecasting identity politics of 1980s and '90s, which segues into institutional critique (Guerrilla Girls, Act Up, **Silence=Death** etc.)

II. Political Interventions in and out of the museum

- A) Museum as fortress or bunker; permissible performers
- B) Hans Haacke and "systems" art (compare Beuys's "social sculpture")
  - 1. out of process, earthworks
  - 2. still *requires* the museum or gallery (compare w/ later postmodernism)

III. African American identities: complicating modernism

- A) out of conceptualism: Adrian Piper (philosopher, performance artist, from 1970s)
- B) working with the legacy: painting/ quilts/ fetish shrines/ documentary
  - 1) May Stevens (political pop)
  - 2) Faith Ringgold (subversive assemblage)
  - 3) Bettye Saar (the power of the fetish)
  - 4) Carrie Mae Weems (a searing documentary gaze)
- C) resisting the Man: David Hammons (installations and performances, from 1970s)
- D) conceptualism redux: 1990s stars
  - 1) Fred Wilson (museum critique)
  - 2) Glenn Ligon (black "Jasper Johns," black as metaphor and lived reality)
  - 3) Lorna Simpson (the "Cindy Sherman" archivist of black female identity)
- E) a place for formalism? Martin Puryear

IV. "Speaking Truth to Power"

- A) First peoples/ Native Americans
  - 1) inhabiting the ethnographic present: early Jimmie Durham
  - 2) deconstructing the categories: later Durham
  - 3) James Luna (institutional critique)
- B) AIDS Demo-graphics Collectives: Act Up, Gran Fury, **Silence=Death**
- C) Krzysztof Wodiczko, "projecting" the urban subconscious
- D) Guerrilla Girls, from protest to art to politics

selected images on verso

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## LECTURE NOTES

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### SELECTED IMAGES

Gordon Bunshaft + SOM, Hirschhorn Museum, 1974  
Gilbert & George, Singing Sculpture, 1970  
Haacke, Condensation Cube 1963  
Haacke, Shapolsky et al.: Manhattan Real Estate Holdings, 1971  
Haacke, Oil Painting/ Oelgemalde..., 1982 (ongoing)  
Piper, Catalysis (performance, NYC transit system) 1970  
Piper, Vanilla Nightmare, 1986  
Piper, Out of the Corner, 1990  
Stevens, Big Daddy Paper Doll, 1970  
Ringgold, Flag for the Moon: Die Nigger 1969  
Saar, Liberation of Aunt Jemima, 1972  
Weems, Kitchen Table series, 1990  
Weems, In These Islands (appropriated 19<sup>th</sup> c. photo) 1994-5  
Hammons, Injustice Case 1973 (body print)  
Hammons, Nap Tapestry, 1978  
Hammons, Higher Goals 1986  
Hammons, Bliz-aard Ball Sale, 1983  
Wilson, Guarded View, 1991  
Wilson, Metalwork, 1992 from “Mining the Museum”  
Ligon, Untitled 1990  
Ligon, Notes on the Margins of the Black Book, 1991-93  
Simpson, Guarded Conditions 1989  
Simpson, She 1992  
Puryear, Self 1978  
Durham, Bedia's Stirring Wheel, 1984  
Durham, Self-Portrait, 1986  
Durham, Catskill Giveaway, 1990  
Luna, The Artifact Piece, San Diego Museum of Man, 1986, also 1990  
Wodiczko, Projections: The Border on San Diego Museum of Man, 1988  
Silence=Death Project poster, 1986  
“Gran Fury” collective, He Kills Me poster, 1987  
Guerrilla Girls, Do Women have to be Naked to get into the Met Museum? 1989

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4.651 Art Since 1940  
Fall 2010

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