Making Work: Pacific Standard Time & Artistic Practice

Offered by Steven Nelson, Associate Professor, Art History, University of California, Los Angeles

The Getty Research Institute
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Orientation: Friday, December 9, 2011
Seminars: January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, March 3, 10, 2012

Los Angeles has been home to a vast array of artistic movements since the end of the Second World War, movements that are stunning in their experimentation, range, and implications for the formation of a global art scene during the past half-century. Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945–1980—an initiative undertaken by the Getty Foundation, the Getty Research Institute, and over sixty arts institutions in Southern California—will highlight the dynamic and diverse influences that fueled artistic innovation and invention in the region. Through exhibitions, oral histories, newly discovered archival materials, and related programming, Pacific Standard Time reveals the complex history of postwar art in Los Angeles and provides an extraordinary opportunity to investigate local artistic practices.

In addition to examining local practices, this seminar analyzes how media can help us understand the artistic process. What might an interview, sketchbook, or recording of a performance tell us about creative processes? How does understanding process help us comprehend more deeply a work of art in its cultural and social milieu? What is the relationship between institutions—broadly conceived—and the making of art? What roles do community and collaboration play? The seminar will survey Pacific Standard Time exhibitions and Getty Research Institute archives, review relevant critical literature, and feature guest speakers.

To apply to participate in this seminar, please submit the following:

1) Personal information
   Name, home address and phone number, campus address and phone number, e-mail address

2) Graduate transcript
   (not required for students in their first term)

3) Statement of interest
   No longer than one page (double-spaced) about your reasons for wanting to participate in this seminar

4) Reference
   A brief recommendation (a paragraph is sufficient) from a faculty member who is familiar with your work sent by mail to the address below

All application materials should be received by the Getty Research Institute by November 1, 2011.

Mail materials to: The Getty Research Institute
c/o Sabine Schlosser
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688

Questions about course content may be directed to Professor Steven Nelson at nelsons@humnet.ucla.edu. Please do not e-mail application materials.

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