



New Art History Seminar Spring 2023!



ARHS 6812 Reading the Field: Trends and Methods in Art History

Dr. Stephanie Porras
Mondays 9:00-11:25am
209 Woldenberg Art Center

Aesthetics & Creative Arts, optional
Writing Intensive SLA Tier-2
Art History Major: Area 2

This seminar is a blurry snapshot of a field (art history) in 2023. Together we will examine the methods and critical strategies of art history, visual and material culture studies as practiced today. We will work to identify and examine current trends in research, the methodological tools used by art historians, exhibition curators and critics working on different periods and places to examine questions like: What is representation? How do artworks model ways of thinking, seeing or being? How do artworks constitute different subjectivities? How do art objects reflect upon their own material or geographic origin? How does aesthetic experience affect individual and collective viewers? What is the relationship between the visual arts and other forms of artistic or scientific engagement, with politics or labor; the intersections of gender, race or class identities? Students will read a range of scholars and critics, who employ different styles of writing, cite different intellectual concerns, invoke diverse political and ethical stakes. This is not a survey of all methods of art historical analysis, but an attempt to map the contested territories of the discipline at the current moment.