



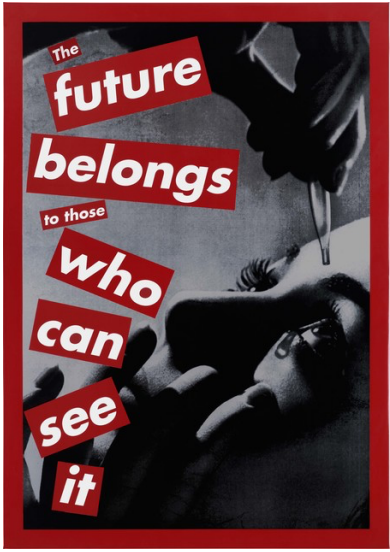
Judith Leyster, Self-Portrait, 1633

AHST 2331-001 (21655)  
Understanding Art  
Dr. Charissa N. Terranova  
Spring 2024  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:45 pm  
GR 2.530

Office Hours: By appointment  
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Barbara Kruger, Untitled, 1997

**Description**

This course offers an introduction to the history of art told from the perspective of women. It focuses on goddesses, matriarchy, women artists, women patrons, or matronage, and women collectors from antiquity to the present.

**Organization**

The class is organized around a close reading of the textbook *Women Artists in History: from Antiquity to the Present* (Fifth Edition) by Wendy Slatkin. It is divided into lectures given by the professor and guest speakers and teachback from the students. Artist and engineer Gordon Pask coined the word “teachback” fifty years ago to identify the generative circular feedback between teachers and students that constitutes learning on both sides. Pask argued that teaching must have a component of learning and, likewise, learning of teaching.

**Teachback: I teach! You teach! We all teach! (25% x 2 = 50%)**

Class begins each week with teachback, five-minute presentations made by 10-12 students every Tuesday. During the semester, students make two of these presentations. Each is based on the assigned reading and a work of art, artefact, or technology related to the reading in some way, which the student chooses. The work or technology can come **from inside or outside** the reading. The teachback presentation schedule is posted at elearning. For further details, see handout on teachback at elearning.

**Mid-term and Final Exams (25% x 2 = 50%)**

There are two exams in the class, a mid-term exam on March 7 and a final exam the date of which is TBA. Each has two components: slide identification and short essay. In the first portion, students identify 10 works of art from memory, naming each by the artist’s name (where known), title of work, and date. The artworks come from a list of 25 located in a review sheet distributed two weeks prior to the exam. In the second portion, students write short essays about two favorite works of art they have learned about in class up to that point. The final exam is not cumulative.

**Reading Assignments**

Course textbook: Wendy Slatkin, *Women Artists in History: from Antiquity to the Present* (Fifth Edition). San Diego, CA: Cognella, 2020.

**Watching Assignment**

Students are required to watch the documentary *Women Art Revolution* (2010) directed by Lynn Hershman Leeson, which is screened in class April 29.

**General Requirements**

Students are required to attend every class, complete all assignments (reading, watching, writing, and exams), and participate with candor, verve, and commitment in class. Students are allowed one unexcused absence after which each absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by one-third letter (scale: A+, A, A-; B+, B, B-, etc...). Students with illnesses that require extended periods of absence are encouraged to officially withdraw from the class.

**Grades:**

Teachback #1	25%
Teachback #2	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
TOTAL	100%

## Schedule

### Tuesday January 16

Course Introduction

### Thursday January 18

Discussion/Lecture Topic: Women in Prehistoric Art and Art of First Civilizations

Reading: Chapter 1, "Prehistory and the First Civilizations," 1-18.

### Tuesday January 23

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Classical World

Reading: Chapter 2, "The Classical World," 19-38.

### Thursday January 25

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Classical World (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Karlyn Lienhard

### Tuesday January 30

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Medieval World

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3, "The Medieval World, 39-62.

### Thursday February 1

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Medieval World (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Dr. Alibhai

### Tuesday February 6

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of Italy 1400-1600

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4, "Italy 1400-1600," 63-84

### Thursday February 8 (cont'd)

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of Italy 1400-1600 (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Jacklyn Haefner

### Tuesday February 13

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of Italy and Northern Europe during the Seventeenth Century

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5, "Italy and Northern Europe: The Seventeenth Century," 85-102

### Thursday February 15

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of Italy and Northern Europe during the Seventeenth Century (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Sofia Penny

### Tuesday February 20

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Eighteenth Century

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6, "The Eighteenth Century," 103-116.

Midterm Exam Review Sheet Distributed

### Thursday February 22

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Eighteenth Century (cont'd) Guest Speakers: Nida Jaffer and Golsa Eghbali

### Tuesday February 27

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Nineteenth Century

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7, "The Nineteenth Century: 1800-1870," 117-140.

### Thursday February 29

Guest Speakers: Aisen Caro Chacin and Adam Zaretsky, contemporary bioartists

### Tuesday March 5

Midterm Exam Review

Thursday March 7

Midterm Exam

Tuesday March 12-Thursday March 14

Spring Break No Class

Tuesday March 19

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Late Nineteenth Century: 1870-1900

Reading Assignment: Chapter 8, "The Late Nineteenth Century: 1870-1900," 141-160.

Thursday March 21

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the Late Nineteenth Century: 1870-1900 (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Damian Enyaosah

Tuesday March 26

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the Early Twentieth Century: 1900-1920

Reading Assignment: Chapter 9, "The Early Twentieth Century: 1900-1920," 161-182.

Thursday March 28

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of Europe and America: 1900-1920 (cont'd)

Tuesday April 2

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of Europe and America: 1920-1945

Reading Assignment: Chapter 10, "Europe and America

Thursday April 4

Lecture Topic: Women in the Art of the United States: 1920-1945 (cont'd)

Tuesday April 9

Teachback!

Topic: Women in the Art of the United States: 1945-1970

Reading Assignment: Chapter 11, "The United States: 1945-1970," 213-232.

Thursday April 11

Topic: Women in the Art of the United States: 1945-1970 (cont'd)

Tuesday April 16

Teachback!

Topic: Contemporary Feminisms

Reading Assignment: Chapter 12, "Contemporary Feminisms," 233-258

Thursday April 18

Lecture Topic: Contemporary Feminisms (cont'd) Guest Speaker: Merve Sahin

Tuesday April 23

Teachback!

Topic: Contemporary Global Feminisms

Reading Assignment: Chapter 13, "Contemporary Global Feminisms," 259-278.

Final Exam Review Sheet Distributed

Thursday April 25

Lecture Topic: Contemporary Global Feminisms (cont'd)

Tuesday April 30

Topic: Women Art Revolution

In-Class Film Screening: *Women Art Revolution* (2010) directed by Lynn Hershman Leeson

Thursday May 2

Teachback!

Topic: *Women Art Revolution* (2010) directed by Lynn Hershman Leeson

Date TBA  
Final Exam