

Toward New Histories of the Visual Arts 1960 to the Present

AH 511 | Spring 2013 | Prof. Blake Stimson | Mondays 6-9 | 303 Henry Hall

COATLICUE VS. **SURVIVABALL**

Wednesday
SEPT 14
2011 | **6 P.M.** DOORS OPEN

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Required

Overview

This seminar will take up the challenge posed by the first and last words of its demanding title and reach toward an art history for the present. As such, we will be concerned less with surveying past approaches and more with assessing what is most needed from the discipline now. To that end, we will take up three complementary topics: first, the present as a historical and historiographical category; second, one account of the place of negation in recent art-historical methodology; and, third, a series of case studies to test our working hypotheses about art history's place in the world we find ourselves in today. To keep us focused on art history's present rather than its past we will also pay special heed to Roland Barthes' rule of thumb: there is no "surer way to kill a piece of research and send it to join the great waste of abandoned projects," he insisted, "than Method."