

Art History Class



bell hooks

04/26/2017

Art on My Mind



- ❖ Photography in Black Life
- ❖ Representation
- ❖ Weems
- ❖ Simpson
- ❖ Gonzalez-Torres

hooks on photography



- ☛ Access
- ☛ Mass appeal
- ☛ Control over representation
- ☛ Display inside homes
- ☛ Documents “reality”
- ☛ Maintains a record of history
- ☛ Constitutes a critical intervention

hooks on black life and photography



- ❖ “The degrading images of blackness that emerged from racist white imagination and that were circulated widely in the dominant culture (on salt shakers, cookie jars, pancake boxes) could be countered by ‘true-to-life’ images.” (hooks, 1995, p. 59)

(Mis)representation of blacks



Mammy & Tom Salt & Pepper Shakers



Advertising and postcards of blacks tasting syrup



Reclaiming representation for self-representation(s)



- ❖ “For black folks constructing our identities within the culture of apartheid, these walls were essential to the process of decolonization. In opposition to colonizing socialization, internalized racism, these walls announced our visual complexity. We saw ourselves represented in these images not as caricatures, cartoon-like figures; we were there in full diversity of body, being, and expression, multidimensional.” (hooks, 1995 p. 61)

Carrie Mae Weems

<http://carriemaeweems.net/>



Lorna Simpson

<http://www.lsimpsonstudio.com/>



SHE SAW HIM DISAPPEAR BY THE RIVER,
THEY ASKED HER TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED,
ONLY TO DISCOUNT HER MEMORY.

Felix Gonzalez-Torres



Portrait of Ross



Untitled



Paper Four: Prompt



- ❧ Choose one artist's work: Gonzalez-Torres, Weems, or Simpson.
- ❧ Provide a formal analysis, a socio-political analysis, and an art historical analysis of the artwork's significance.
- ❧ This should be a three-page paper.
- ❧ This paper is due in two weeks on Monday, May 8.

Next time, conference & submit papers



- ❖ Carrie Mae Weems <http://carriemaeweems.net/>
- ❖ Lorna Simpson <http://www.lsimpsonstudio.com/>
- ❖ Jean-Michel Basquiat <http://basquiat.com/>
- ❖ Alison Saar:
<http://www.artsy.net/artist/alison-saar>
- ❖ Felix Gonzalez-Torres:
<https://www.artsy.net/artist/felix-gonzalez-torres>