History of Art 398
Senior Conference I
Assignment 1

Brainstorm: Three Thesis Topic Ideas

Write short descriptions of three hypothetical thesis topics that you might be interested in pursuing. Each of the three topic write-ups should include the following:

1) A working title for the thesis

2) Identifying information about the works you would write about, including (as relevant): the artist, title, country of origin, date, dimensions, and medium/a. At this stage, please include no more than three total works for each of your proposed topics (one or two is also fine).

3) Bullet points answering the following questions:

    - What initially drew you to this object or objects; how did you initially discover it/them?

    - What do you find interesting about this topic? What questions does it raise for you? What more would you like to know? To what broader issues does it connect?

    - Is there a particular focus, lens, angle, or method from which you can imagine interpreting this topic and object/s? If not, that is fine at this stage.

    - Have you undertaken courses or independent study that spurred your interest in this topic or that you might mobilize in approaching interpretation of it? If not, that is fine, but please be sure that at least one of your three topics does relate to your previous work.

    - Have you done any reading or research about this object? If so, please describe in brief. You need not provide a bibliography at this stage.

At least one of your hypothetical thesis topics should be derived from work you have completed in a prior course (e.g., a seminar paper or similar). Many of the most successful senior theses have built from coursework or projects that students have undertaken during their undergraduate studies. Please do not perform any new research for this assignment: the goal at this stage is simply for you to brainstorm possible topics, to consider possible approaches to interpretation, and to assess the viability of various topics, prior to making a final choice.

The assignment is due to Moodle by **midnight, Monday, September 15**