By the late 1960s, the United States was in pitched conflict both in Vietnam, against a foreign power, and at home—between Americans for and against the war, for and against the status quo. *Artists Respond: American Art and the Vietnam War, 1965–1975* presents art created amid this turmoil, spanning the period from President Lyndon B. Johnson's fateful
decision to deploy U.S. ground troops to South Vietnam in 1965 to the fall of Saigon ten years later.

The first national museum exhibition to examine the contemporary impact of the Vietnam War on American art, *Artists Respond* brings together nearly 100 works by 58 of the most visionary and provocative artists of the period. Galvanized by the moral urgency of the Vietnam War, these artists reimagined the goals and uses of art, affecting developments in multiple movements and media: painting, sculpture, printmaking, performance, installation, documentary art, and conceptualism. Iconic pieces are seen alongside works by artists of color and women, who have been historically excluded from surveys of the period. The exhibition makes vivid an era in which artists endeavored to respond to the turbulent times and openly questioned issues central to American civic life.


The exhibition is presented in conjunction with an installation by internationally acclaimed artist Tiffany Chung. *Tiffany Chung: Vietnam, Past Is Prologue*, probes the legacies of the Vietnam War and its aftermath through maps, paintings, and videos that share the stories of former Vietnamese refugees.

**Symposium**

On March 15, SAAM is presenting a day of discussions and lectures on topics related to the exhibition. A group of distinguished scholars will provide insights into how artists of the Vietnam War era sought to engage, and six artists whose work is in the exhibition will address their varied experiences of the war period. The program is free and open to the public.

Participants include:
Judith Bernstein, artist

Julia Bryan-Wilson, professor of modern and contemporary art, University of California, Berkeley

Thomas Crow, Rosalie Solow Professor of Modern Art, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

Harry Gamboa, Jr., artist

Rupert García, artist

Hans Haacke, artist

Melissa Ho, curator of 20th-century art, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Katherine Markoski, independent scholar

Mignon Nixon, professor of modern and contemporary art, University College London

Chon Noriega, professor, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and director, UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

Fred Ritchin, dean emeritus, International Center of Photography

Martha Rosler, artist

Carolee Schneemann, artist

Book

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