



# A Break from Nation Time: Anarchist Utopias in the Black Arts Movement

Sean Lovitt (University of Delaware)

May 11, 2018  
10-12 a.m., P 103



The Black Arts Movement is normally associated with Black Nationalism, which, although a crucial influence, cannot account for the heterogeneity of the social movements that animated Black Arts in 1960s America. An unexpected anarchist influence persists in the nation-building fantasies of the Black Arts Movement, which upholds an anti-authoritarian and transnational utopian vision within their art and literature. Through archival research, I trace the connections between anarchism and Black Arts Movement works like Amiri Baraka's *Slave Ship*.

Sean Lovitt is a PhD candidate in English Literature at the University of Delaware and the Graduate International Exchange Fellow at the University of Graz with research interests in the print culture of the Underground Press of the 1960s. His dissertation "Mimeo Insurrection" brings together the writings of an array of publications from the period, including *Umbra*, *Black Panther Newspaper*, *Floating Bear*, and *Black Mask*. More broadly, his interest in dissident writing extends across the long history of the book and printed ephemera from zines to avant-garde little magazines to black magic manuals.