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| The Black Arts Movement |
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| The Black Arts movement spanned the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s and is considered an artistic extension of the Black Power movement. Black Arts movement writers aimed to produce explicitly political art and saw the artist as a political activist. Though it began in New York, the Black Arts movement was a national movement. The Black Arts movement was also an intellectual and academic movement that changed how African American literature was valued and studied. Black Arts movement writers were focused on telling the stories of the past and recovering the work of formerly unknown artists as well as exploring the diversity of contemporary Black experience. Black Arts movement artists also frequently used African American Vernacular English. The Black Arts movement included drama, poetry, and prose. Key figures of the Black Arts movement include Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Larry Neal. The Black Arts movement is unique among modernist artistic movements because of its political and social engagement. The Black Arts movement influenced writers like Toni Morrison and Alice Walker. The Black Arts movement inspired minority writers from other historically oppressed groups. |
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| Further reading:  (Baraka and Neal)  (Collins and Crawford)  (Gayle)  (Ongiri)  (Smethhurst) |