

Research Question

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Research Question:

How is the relationship between the image of Attica State Penitentiary and the voice of the incarcerated discoursed in contemporary (and specifically post-riot Music, letters, and essays?

Justification

This question analyses the musical discourse of Attica and the inmate. The inclusion of letters and essays may be controversial, but music is not exclusively that which produces sound. By including letters, we also bring into conversation the discourse of music as art outside of performance (are LaMonte Young's graphic scores music?) and redefine what can be analysed in a musical sense. This is important because Attica is the most important and resonant recent American prison riot, and the following prison abolition movements were taken extremely seriously at the time: though Attica has faded into history, we can listen to its echoes.