

northwestern university  
DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY

Quarter/Year

Course Number

Day/Time

Instructor

Spring 2017

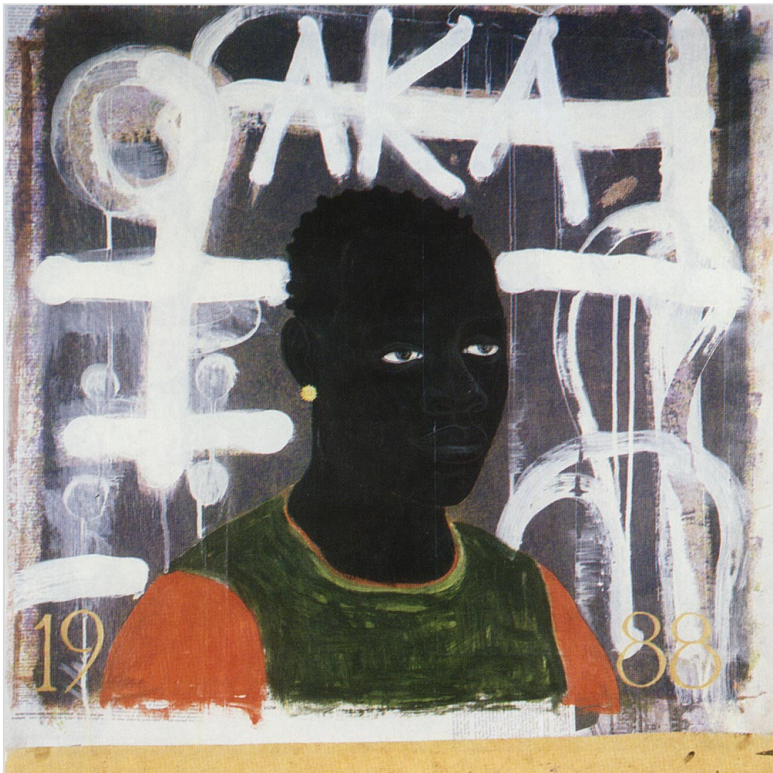
ART-HIST 460

M 2:00-5:00 PM

Copeland

Course Title

Studies in Contemporary Art: Black Ontologies



In this graduate seminar, we will explore how black masculinities have been framed, visualized, and constrained in American art from the 1950s to the present. To do so, we will first aim to understand and theorize the historical, social, and cultural conditions that have produced black male bodies as charged sites of violence and visualization in the U.S. public sphere. With this framework in place, we will proceed to home in on particular exhibitions, objects, and practices that help illuminate the ongoing logics that structure the appearance of black masculinity as well as the ways cultural practitioners have variously contested them. Artists considered will include David Hammons, Titus Kaphar, Kerry James Marshall, Jacolby Satterwhite, and Sun Ra.

Required Textbooks

All readings provided on Canvas

Assessments

Course requirements are active participation, short weekly response papers, and a final 10-12-page research paper