

Quarter/Year

Fall 2019

Course Number

ART-HIST 460

Day/Time

T 2:00-5:00

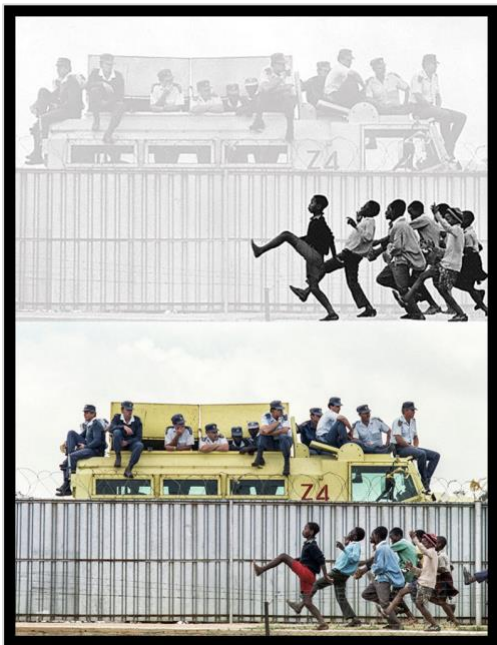
Instructor

Copeland

Course Title

Studies in 20th & 21 Century Art: Appropriation ('North' and 'South')

Degree/Distro Fulfillment



“Appropriation” is a capacious term equally indexical of cultural, power, and proprietary relations. In the South African art-historical context, appropriation can refer to the ongoing forms of displacement, marginalization, and primitivization of the continent’s artistic production. Within North American art-historical discourse, appropriation often refers to a brand of photo- based practice associated with the work of white women artists such as Cindy Sherman who emerged in the New York art world of the late 1970s. In this exploratory graduate research seminar, we will aim to historicize, contest, and crosswire these mobilizations of the term by considering how various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences have differentially conceived of appropriation as well as how forms of “borrowing” and theft—whether of images, artifacts, bodies, or lands—continue to shape the politics of cross-cultural encounter in the Americas and beyond, whether “North” or “South.” For the first day of seminar, all interested students should read Athi

Mongezeleli Joja’s “Challenging Appropriation vs. Scapegoating” and review the Fall 2019 version of the course syllabus, both of which can be accessed here:

https://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/mellon-project/critical-theory-in-the-global-south/sub_projects/appropriation-and-its-discontents.html

Required Textbooks

All readings will be available via Canvas.

Assessments

Weekly response papers; 2 brief in-class presentations; final seminar paper.