

Course Number

ART_HIST 386-0

Course Title

Art of Africa: Contemporary South African Art and the Transition to Democracy

Quarter/Year

Spring 2022

Day/Time

MW 9:30a-10:50a

Instructor

Athi Joja

Distro Fulfillment

Non-Euro-American Art

Course Description

During the early 1990s political transition from apartheid to democracy, the concept of a “South African cultural expression” was one of the oft mentioned phrases indexical of a prospective Post-apartheid cultural imaginary. However, twenty six years later, not only has the promissory view of democratic possibility lost its transformative charm, the phrase itself that once encapsulated our cultural futurity has also lost its discursive sway. But in what ways could the envisioned new artistic sensibility captured by phrase, South African cultural expression,

help address and practicalise the liberatory as well as conciliatory promises attributed to democracy? What is South Africa? Who are South Africans? This course retrospectively explores the complexities and debates that surround the early 1990s cultural discourses in the unfoldment of democratic dispensation.

Required Textbooks

None required.

Assessments

Class Participation, Discussion Section, Group Project, Writing Assignments