

Course Number

ART_HIST 395-0

Course Title

Museums: Critical Reflections on Racial Violence in American Art

Quarter/Year

Spring 2022

Day/Time

R 2p-4:50p

Instructor

Janet Dees

Distro Fulfillment

Post-1800 CE

Course Description

Critical Reflections on Racial Violence in American Art surveys racial violence as a subject within 20th and early 21st century American art, foregrounding African Americans as active shapers of visual discourse, and emphasizing how art has been used to protest, process, mourn, and memorialize this violence. It will critically consider the challenges and opportunities posed by teaching and exhibiting this material and develop a historical context for current debates about the production and circulation of art that engages with incidents of historical and contemporary racial violence. The Block Museum of Art's presentation of the exhibition *A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence* will serve as a case study and source of primary materials for this course. *A Site of Struggle* explores how artists have engaged with the reality of anti-Black violence and its accompanying challenges of representation in ways that run from the explicit to the resolutely abstract.

Melvin Edwards, Ida W.B., from Lynch Fragments, 1990, welded steel, 14 x 14 x 10 inches. ©2021 Melvin Edwards/Artists Rights Society(ARS), New York, Courtesy of the artist and Alexander Gray Gallery.



Required Textbooks

No required textbooks, readings will be drawn from articles, and book excerpts.

Assessments

Attendance, Class Participation, Paper, Final Readings, Writing Assignments