

Course Description Form

Course number and section: ARTH 380 001

Course Topic: African Art and Visual Culture

Credits: 3-0-0

Term: Term 1

Instructor: Suzanne Gott

Course Description:

This course introduces you to the arts and visual cultures of sub-Saharan Africa—a rich, diverse, and dynamic area of art historical study and research. The course is organized according to selected case studies representing major themes, conceptual frameworks, and modes of historic and contemporary artistic practice in sub-Saharan Africa. The academic study of African art and visual culture is strongly interdisciplinary, combining approaches developed in the fields of art history, anthropology, and popular culture studies. Course reading assignments are designed to increase critical skills in reading and analyzing selected case studies from this multidisciplinary perspective.

Tentative Reading List:

Bigham, Elizabeth. 1999. "Issues of Authorship in the Portrait Photographs of Seydou Keita." *African Arts* 32 (1): 56-67, 94-96.

Binder, Lisa. 2008. "El Anatsui: Transformations." *African Arts* 41 (2): 24-37.

Curnow, Kathy. 1990. "Alien or Accepted: African Perspectives on the Western 'Other' in the 15th and 16th Century Art." *Society for Visual Anthropology Review* 6 (1): 38-44.

Eicher, Joanne, and Tonye Erekosima. 1987. "Kalabari Funerals: Celebration and Display." *African Arts* 21 (1): 38-45, 87-88.

Gott, Suzanne. 2017. "'Life' Dressing in Kumasi: African-Print Style in 'Popular' Fashion." In *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style*, Suzanne Gott, Kristyne Loughran, Betsy Quick, and Leslie Rabine, eds., pp. 138-155. Fowler Museum Textile Series 14. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Hüncke, Anna, and Stasja Koot. 2012. "The Presentation of Bushmen in Cultural Tourism: Tourists' Images of Bushmen and the Tourism Provider's Presentation of (Hai//om) Bushmen at Treesleeper Camp, Namibia." *Critical Arts: South-North Cultural and Media Studies* 26 (5): 671-689.

Kwami, Atta. 2019. "Black Stars—Contextualizing the Rise of blaxTARLINES: Contemporary Art of the Late 20th to the early 21st Centuries in Ghana." *Critical Interventions* 13 (1): 51-74.

Marchand, Trevor. 2015. "The Djenné Mosque: World Heritage and Social Renewal in a West African Town." *APT Bulletin* 46 (2/3): 4-15.

Nevadomsky, Joseph. 2005. "Casting in Contemporary Benin Art." *African Arts* 38 (2): 66-77, 95-96.

Nwafor, Okechukwu. 2012. "Of Mutuality and Copying: Fashioning *Aso Ebi* through Fashion Magazines in Lagos." *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body, and Culture* 16 (4): 493-520.

Okeke-Agulu, Chika. 2006. "Nationalism and the Rhetoric of Modernism in Nigeria: The Art of Uche Okeke and Demas Nwoko, 1960-1968 [with Commentary by John Picton]." *African Arts* 39 (2006) 1: 26-37, 92-93

Ong'oa-Morara, Rose. 2014. "One Size Fits All: The Fashionable Kanga of Zanzibari Women." *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body, and Culture* 18 (1): 73-95.

Probst, Peter. 2009. "Yoruba Heritage as Project: Reauthenticating the Osun Grove in Osogbo, Nigeria," *African Arts* 24-37.

Rabine, Leslie. 2014. "'These Walls Belong to Everybody': The Graffiti Art Movement in Dakar." *African Studies Quarterly* 14 (3): 89-112.

Roberts, Allen. 2001 "'Break the Silence': Art and HIV/AIDS in KwaZulu-Natal." *African Arts* 34 (1): 37-49, 93-95.

Richards, Polly. 2005. "Masques Dogons in a Changing World." *African Arts* 38 (4): 46-53, 93.

Ross, Doran. 2014. "The Art of Almighty God in his Own Words." *African Arts* 47 (2): 8-27.

Schmahmann, Brenda. 2005. "Stitches as Sutures: Trauma and Recovery in Works by Women in the Mapula Embroidery Project." *African Arts* 38 (3): 52-65, 94-96.

Woets, Rhoda. 2014. "'This is What Makes Sirigu Unique': Authenticating Canvas and Wall Paintings in (Inter)national Circuits of Value and Meaning." *African Arts* 47 (4): 10-25.