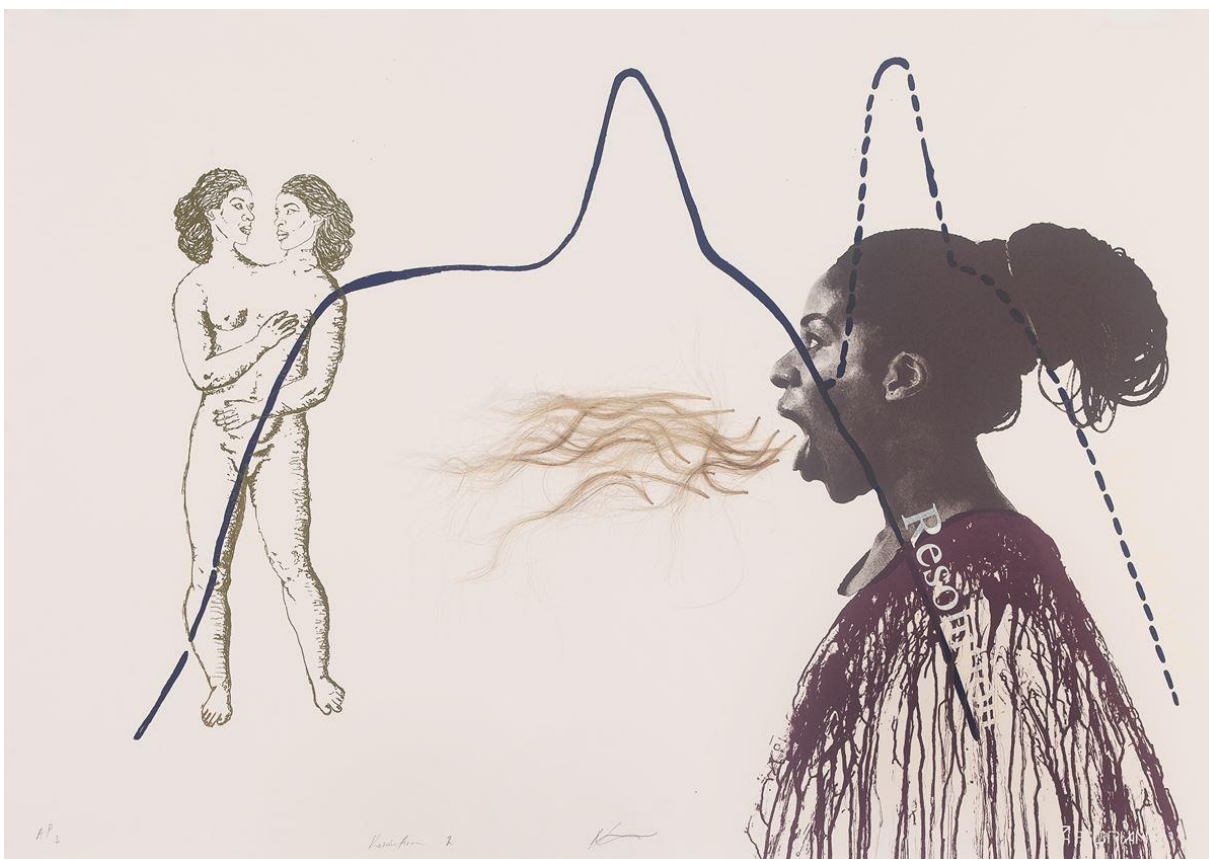
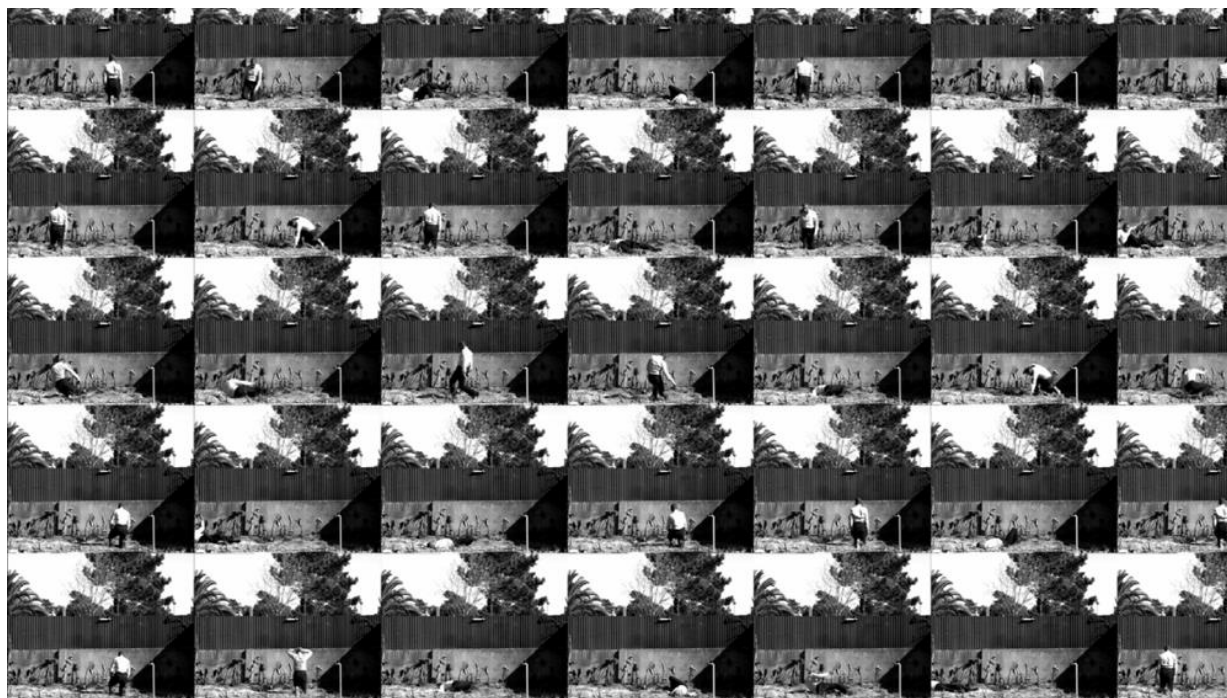


Contemporary African Art



Nandipha Mntambo, *Resolution II*, 2016.



Irineu Destourelles, *Several Ways of Falling Ordered Differently*, 2019.

**ARH 3522: Contemporary African Art**  
**ARH 6918: Graduate Cognate: Individual Study – Non-Western Art**

**Tuesday | Period 5: 11:45 AM – 12:35 AM**  
**Thursday | Period 5 & 6: 11:45 AM – 1:40 PM**

**Location:** FAC 201

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** School of Art + Art History major or minor or instructor's permission.

**Instructor:** Álvaro Luís Lima

**Contact:** [lima@ufl.edu](mailto:lima@ufl.edu) or (352)294-0556 (e-mail preferred)

**Office Hours:** FAC 121 Thursday | Period 7: 1:55 PM – 2:45 PM and by appointment

**Course Canvas Website:** <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/553334>

**Course Description:** This course provides an overview of the major themes shaping contemporary art from Africa, paying special attention to the role of media, politics, and history. It begins by looking at the end of the Cold War as a defining turn into contemporaneity, followed by the discussion of key topics including cross-cultural exchange, immigration, time, body politics, and sexual difference. The role of patronage, curation, and exhibiting cultures will also be discussed. By analyzing diverse artistic practices from across the continent, the course will consider the aesthetic and political constitution of a visual discourse that can be identified as “contemporary African art.”

**Course Objectives:**

- Analyze major themes and figures shaping contemporary African art through class readings, lectures, and discussion.
- Build critical skills in research methodology for contemporary African art through class readings and individual research.
- Enhance awareness about the particularities of exhibiting contemporary African art through a curatorial assignment.
- Engage with contemporary African art as producer of political and cultural praxis through readings and class discussions.
- Expand visual literacy through class activities and discussion centered on formal analysis.
- Polish writing and research skills through a research assignment.

**Required Readings:** Required readings will be posted on the Canvas e-Learning Course Website and/or available at the library. Students may choose to purchase book-length readings for their convenience. Readings should be done in preparation for classes. Please, bring a hard copy of the reading to class to allow optimal participation. Input in class discussion of the readings will be an essential part of the participation grade.

**Requirements and Grading**

**Assessments:**

- 20%: Class participation (not inclusive of attendance)  
To get an A grade for participation, students are not only expected to attend classes, but also to actively engage in discussions. In preparation for every meeting, students should have read all the required material, highlighting relevant portions and taking notes to be brought for discussion.

Students will also be asked to mediate classes as an additional responsibility to ensure flow of discussion.

- 10%: African map quiz (1/27)  
Students will have to fill in the name of all African nations on the map.
- 30%: Oral exams (3/3-3/12 by appointment)  
Students will meet the instructor at a scheduled time during office hours when they will be asked about content of class readings covered throughout the class.
- 40%: Curatorial proposal (4/28)\*  
Based on consultation and approval from instructor, student will select a topic, conduct research, and write an exhibition proposal. More details will be discussed in class.
- \*In lieu of the oral exam and curatorial assignment, graduate students will have a research paper on a topic to be discussed with the instructor. Undergraduate students also have this option upon approval by instructor.

**Submission of Assignments:** All written assignments should be submitted at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Delays may incur in a grade penalty. Written assignments must be in Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins when applicable. Any citations must be done in Chicago-style. Further details on all assignments and exams will be provided during the semester.

- Completion of all assignments and exams is necessary to pass the course.

**Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide for Citations:**

[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

**Policies and Academic Resources:** <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

**Attendance:** Attendance to all classes is expected, including to special events such as guest lectures and masterclasses. Absences will affect the participation grade, unless the instructor is provided with appropriated documentation or doctor's note.

**No Electronic Devices:** The use of electronic devices, including computers, will not be allowed during class, unless required by DRC. Assigned readings should be printed and brought to the class for consultation. Class notes should be taken by hand.

**Electronic Communication:** Announcements about the class may be sent by e-mail, so please check it regularly. All electronic communication should be made through your official UF account. I will answer your e-mails as quickly as I can, but please allow forty-eight hours for responses.

**Schedule:**

**1/13: Introduction**

**1/15: Contemporaneity**

**1/20: Contemporaneity**

**1/22: Hybridity**

**1/27: African map quiz**

**1/29: Immigration**

**2/3: Immigration**

**2/5: No Class – Required HESCAH lecture instead**

**2/10: History**

- **February 12, 6pm, Attendance Required:** HESCAH Lecture by Professor Chika Okeke-Agulu at FAB: “Art, Nationalism and Power: Gazbia Sirry and Egyptian Modernists in Gamal Abdel Nasser's Revolutionary Egypt”

**2/12: Space**

**2/17: Ruins**

**2/19: Curating Contemporary Africa**

**2/24: Media**

**2/26: Media**

**3/3: Patronage**

**3/5: Patronage**

**3/10: Body**

**3/12: Body**

**3/17: No Class – Spring Break**

**3/19: No Class – Spring Break**

**3/24: Biennials**

**3/26: Biennials**

**3/31: Sexual Difference**

**4/2: Animal**

**4/7: No Class – Required HESCAH lecture instead**

**4/9: What is African Art?**

- **April 9, 6pm, Attendance Required:** HESCAH Lecture by Professor Peter Probst at FAB: “Thrust Reversal: Artistic Intervention and Spiritual Repair in a Nigerian Energy Landscape”

**4/14: Back to History**

**4/16: Graduate Presentations**

**4/21: Final Thoughts**