This course examines art created by African American artists from the early twentieth century to the present. It focuses on a range of artists, including Archibald Motley, Tom Lloyd, Lorraine O’Grady, Glenn Ligon, David Hammons, Kara Walker, and Howardena Pindell. We interrogate these artists’ work and the critical perspectives they offer on modern and contemporary art and American society. We also examine the changing art historical discourses surrounding their art and what they reveal about the writing of art history more generally. Readings in the course, which will be posted on canvas, will include work by Huey Copeland, Saidiya Hartman, Kobena Mercer, and Richard Powell. [Art work: Glenn Ligon, Double America 2, 2014.]