POSTCOLONIAL URBAN ART AND AESTHETIC PRACTICE

KRISTA THOMPSON

This course will use as its primary objects the postcolonial urban cities across Africa and the African diaspora. What types of art emerge in these urban environments and what do they reveal about the possibilities, limits, failures, and futures of urban spaces? What new understandings of subjectivity and of the cultural, political, and social sphere may come from analyzing art and visual culture born in these environments? The course concentrates on specific cities, from Kingston to Johannesburg, and a range of artistic expressions, from social practice art and public performance to graffiti and photography. Artists considered will include Theaster Gates, LaToya Ruby Frazier, El Anatsui, Rick Lowe, and Steve McQueen.

WINTER 2014

TTH 9:30-10:50 AM