

SPRING 2020

ARH 547: Topics in Global, Colonial and Diasporic Art:
Photography and Modernity in Africa

Barbara Frank

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Tuesdays

1:00-3:50pm

Staller 2205



Zanele Muholi at the Venice Biennale 2019

This course begins with an historical lens on photography in Africa, from its introduction in the 19th century, through the complicated terrain of colonial uses and abuses, to the photograph as marker of modernity in the early-mid 20th century. This historical material will ground our discussions of modern and contemporary photography across the continent. Topics include the powerful and problematic relationship of documentary photography especially in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, including the aestheticization of violence; the performance of gender, sexual identity, and agency in contemporary photographic portraiture; and the blurred edges between contemporary documentary, fashion, and fine art photography. Final projects will focus on recent exhibitions and contemporary African photographers.