

Topics List

I. Man and Machine after 1945

Primary

"The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," Henry L. Stimson (1947)
Map of 1964-5 World's Fair, Robert Moses, et al. (c. 1962)
The Rocket Thrower, Donald De Lue (1963)
Rocky IV, dir. Sylvester Stallone (1985)
Her, dir. Spike Jonze (2014)

Secondary

"The Challenge of War Management" from *Railroads in the Civil War*. John E. Clark, Jr. (2001)
"The White Man's Muscles" from *White*. Richard Dyer (1997)
Homeward Bound. Elaine Tyler May (1988)

II. The Public and Private in American Identity

Primary

Behind the Scenes, Elizabeth Keckley (1868)
The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane (1895)
"A Plea for Straight Photography," Sadakichi Hartmann (1904)
American Psycho, dir. Mary Harron (2000)

Secondary

"Looking at One's Self Through the Eyes of Others': W.E.B. Du Bois's Photographs for the 1900 Paris Exposition," Shawn Michelle Smith (2000)
"Michael Jordan's Family Values" from *From Jack Johnson to LeBron James: Sports, Media, and the Color Line*, Mary G. McDonald (2016)

III. Deification and Commodification of the Black Female Body, 1885-2016

Primary

Stanza 7 from "I Sing the Body Electric" from *Leaves of Grass*, Walt Whitman (1885)
Cotton Pickers, John Biggers (1947)
Voyage of the Sable Venus, Robin Coste Lewis (2015)
"YEEZY Season 3 Performance Rules," Kanye West (2016)

Secondary


"An Object in the Midst of Other Objects" from *Things of Darkness*, Kim Hall (1995)
"Shafted Victory," Tyrone Simpson (1999)

IV. Houses: The Domestic & Political

Primary


First Constitution of Kentucky (1792)

North Carolina Constitution of 1776, Amendment of 1856, Art. 1, Sec. 3 (1856)
“A House Divided,” Abraham Lincoln (1858)
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Harriet Jacobs (1861)


Secondary 

“The House. From Cellar to Garret. The Significance of the Hut” from *The Poetics of Space*.
Gaston Bachelard (1958)
“The Case for Reparations,” Ta-Nehisi Coates (2014)

V. American Water 

Primary 

The Slave Ship, J.M.W. Turner (1840)
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain (1885)
“Columbia’s Easter Bonnet,” Louis Dalrymple (1901)
“Gerontion,” “Marina” from *Collected Poems, 1909-1962*, T.S. Eliot (1920, 1927)
A Contract with God, Will Eisner (1978)

Secondary 

“Mud, Blood, and the Blues: Hurricane Katrina and the Floodwaters of the African Diaspora”
from *Water and African American Memory*, Anissa Janine Wardi (2011)
On Elizabeth Bishop, Colm Toibin (2015)

"Cotton Pickers." John Biggers. (1947)



The Slave Ship. J.M.W. Turner. (1840)



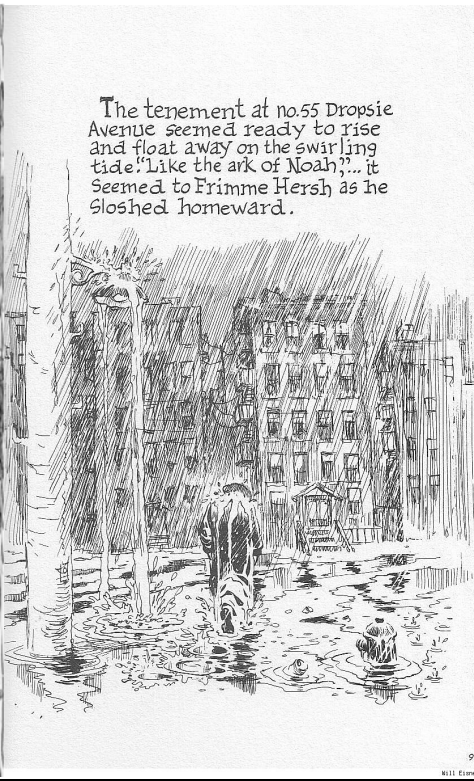
Columbia's Easter Bonnet. Louis Dalrymple. (1901)



A Contract With God. Will Eisner. (1978)



The tenement at no.55 Dropsie Avenue seemed ready to rise and float away on the swirling tide. Like the ark of Noah, it seemed to Frimme Hersh as he sloshed homeward.



At the exact moment of Hersh's last earthly breath... a mighty bolt of lightning struck the city... Not a drop of rain fell... Only an angry wind swirled about the tenements.

