Fromm Institute: Race and European Art
Dr. Letha Ch’ien
Sep. 14 – Nov. 9
Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:40

"Race transforms the act of the perpetrator into a characteristic of the target. Race transforms one person’s action into another person’s being." - Barbara J. Fields

Course Description
This course recognizes traditional art history curricula grew out of nineteenth-century nationalist movements steeped in racial ideologies. Discussions of style and competing analytical categories dropped explicit discussion of race without abandoning racial ideological structures. We will consider the categories of 'race' and 'European art' together both historically in their periods of creation and subsequently in our own time by examining the art historical canon critically by analyzing artwork traditionally included and artwork traditionally excluded from the canon.

Like a survey course, this class proceeds roughly chronologically following the pattern of a traditional art history survey course. In addition to studying often neglected works of art and neglected aspects of them, we will foreground the ongoing effect of the inherited legacies of art and history of art throughout.

This class deals with sensitive subject matter. We may experience discomfort as we progress through the course. Please consider others when asking questions and making comments.

Class Schedule
Subject to Change.

Sep. 14 Racecraft and History

Sep. 21: Classical Antiquity

Sep. 28: Medieval Europe

Oct. 05: Renaissance Representations of Jews

Oct. 12: Representations of Muslims & Turks / European Imaginations of the Americas

Oct. 19: Early Modern Representations of Blackness

Oct. 26: Asians to Orientalism / 19th c. Figurations of Blackness

Nov. 02: Contemporary Responses