Title: Distance and desire: encounters with the African archive

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Abstract: This exhibition catalogue is the culmination of research in South Africa, Europe and the United States, a three-part exhibition series at the Walther Collection Project Space in New York, and the international symposium 'Encounters with the African Archive'. With the exhibition and catalogue, a major archive of rarely seen photographs taken in Africa from the 1870s to the 1940s is presented alongside photo essays, video works, and archival appropriations by African and African-American artists. The contributors examine a number of diverse topics, including a series of cartes de visite from the Diamond Fields in Kimberley, the figure of the Zulu, Duggan-Cronin's ethnography, and the history of South Africa's prominent studio photographers. The authors describe the transformation of photography from its emergent use as a portrait medium to widely circulated travel and tourism postcards, and the varied trajectories of pictures found in family albums and anthropology books. Contributions by: Awam Amkpa, Jennifer Bajorek, Elizabeth Edwards, Cheryl Finley, Tamar Garb, Christraud Geary, Michael Godby, Erin Haney, Hlonipha Mokoena, Gabi Ngcobo, Chika Okeke-Agulu, Carla Williams, and Deborah Willis. [ASC Leiden abstract]