

UCSB Department of Art + Department of Black Studies

Fall 2019 Arts Colloquium Series:

The Black Aesthetic in the Visual Arts

ART 1C, ART 261

@Embarcadero Hall

935 Embarcadero del Norte,

Isla Vista, CA 93117

Thursdays: from 5-7 PM

Department of Black Studies UCSB Professor **Jeffrey Stewart** author of [The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke](#) (Oxford University Press) Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, the 2019 Mark Lynton History Prize, the 2019 James A. Rawley Prize, and the 2018 National Book Award in Nonfiction has curated a line up of artists and scholars for this Fall. Please join us Thursdays from October 3rd to December 12th--these talks are free and open to the public.

Week 1. September 26, 2019

Introduction to the course, no guest speaker

Week 2. October 03, 2019

Shelia Pree Bright

#1960Now: Facing America Today



Sheila Pree Bright is an acclaimed fine-art photographer known for her photographic series *Young Americans*, *Plastic Bodies*, and *Suburbia*. She describes herself in the art world as a visual cultural producer portraying large-scale works that combine a wide-range of knowledge with that of contemporary culture. Sheila will discuss her practice as a photographic artist and how she uses her camera to speak upon the human condition in her new book *#1960Now: Photographs of Civil Rights Activists and Black Lives Matter Protests*. *#1960Now* sheds light on the parallels between the 1960s Civil Rights Movement and the Black Lives Matter movement of today.

Week 3. October 10, 2019

Sylvester Okwunodu Ogbechie



Being African, Being Contemporary

Professor of Art History and Visual Culture of Global Africa at the University of California Santa Barbara, Sylvester will review various aspects of contemporary African art practice, while also discussing the reception and representation of contemporary African art within the global context. Bringing up key questions concerning how we might relate the various strands of contemporary art from Africa, the African American, Black artists in Europe and Latin America, and the Caribbean to each other.

He has received prestigious fellowships, grants and awards for his research from the American Academy in Berlin, Getty Research Institute, Rockefeller Foundation, Institute for International Education, Smithsonian Institution and the Ford Foundation. His current research focuses on the role

of cultural informatics and new media in analysis of the art and cultural patrimony of Africa and its Diaspora in the age of globalization.

Week 4. October 17, 2019

Margaret Vendryes



What is it About African Divas...?

Margaret Rose Vendryes is an artist, art historian, and curator with an established record of publications and exhibitions including her book *Barthé, A Life in Sculpture* (2008) and curator of *Beyond the Blues: Reflections on African America from the Amistad Research Center Fine Arts Collection* (New Orleans Museum of Art, 2010). She will speak about her multimedia studio art practice inspired by African aesthetics and its intersection with black music and visual culture. She is currently Professor of Art History and Chair of Performing & Fine Arts and Director of the Fine Arts Gallery at York College, City University of New York.

Week 5. October 24, 2019

Ben Caldwell



*Breaking the Da Vinci Code in Art:
The Aesthetics of Revolt*

Los Angeles-based arts educator, activist and independent filmmaker Ben Caldwell will speak about his lifelong passion for filmmaking, black cinema and community based projects. Ben not only taught film at UCLA, he is also a Guggenheim Fellow for the Creative Arts as well as the founder of KAOS Network, a community arts center dedicated to providing training on digital arts and media arts, at the heart of [Leimert Park](#), a historic center of the Los Angeles jazz culture, now hosting a diverse multi-ethnic multimedia arts center.

Week6. October 31, 2019

Halloween: NO CLASS

Week 7. November 7, 2019

Toni Scott



The Intersection of Art and Bloodlines

Toni Scott is a mixed media visual artist who uses painting, photography, collage, digital ingenuity and sculpture to create exhibitions and installations that weave together narratives around humanity and the enduring spirit of people throughout the world who have suffered, yet persevered. Also an internationally recognized sculptor working in bronze, marble, stone, clay and wood, Scott's work in all mediums seeks to elevate awareness about diverse cultures and experiences across race, class and ethnicity. She will discuss her critically acclaimed series "Bloodlines," a visual exploration of enslaved Africans in the Americas and share her perspective on the sculptures in her exhibition and their relevance given 2019 marking the 400th year benchmark of slavery in the U.S.

Week 8. November 14, 2019

Vincent Johnson



Photography and the Landscape of Memory

Vincent Johnson is a painter, photographer and scholar. Vincent will discuss his new book project that contemplates photographs and memories captured in his writings as well as chronicle his return to painting with his series *The October Paintings*; visceral, visually rich, emotively engaging painted works.

Week 9. November 21, 2019

Issac Julien & Mark Nash



Lessons of The Hour

Internationally renowned artist and filmmaker Isaac Julien will screen excerpts from his most recent films "Lessons of the Hour—Frederick Douglass" and "Lina Bo Bardi—A Marvellous Entanglement" in a presentation that will explore the importance of looking to histories of modernism and biography to articulate contemporary cultural movements. Isaac Julien's moving image practice draws from and comments on a range of artistic disciplines including film, theatre, photography and performance. He was awarded the title Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2017 and was named Royal Academician in 2018. His work is in museums and private collections throughout the world, including Tate, London; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Solomon R. Guggenheim

Museum, New York; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of the Arts at UC Santa Cruz.

Week 10. November 28, 2019

Thanksgiving: NO CLASS

Week 11. December 5, 2019

Christine Y. Kim



Julie Mehretu, from Harlem to LA

Christine Y. Kim will discuss her career path as a curator at the renowned Studio Museum in Harlem to her current position at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. She will discuss her curatorial work with artists of color and culturally-specific initiatives which platform important artists from diverse backgrounds. Her life and work has currently culminated in a survey of Julie Mehretu's artwork which will be on view at LACMA November 2019 - May 2020.