

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: SEEING ART HISTORY FROM THE CARIBBEAN

A CLARK CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 20–21, 2022

We are facing urgent calls to rethink art history and its practices. Monuments are falling amidst calls to decolonize, as the legacies of slavery and colonialism are materialized in our public and institutional spheres. As we think about our futures, what yield might there be for art history to engage rigorously, with a region—the Caribbean—that has remained peripheral to the field, yet has always existed beyond its disciplinary boundaries? It is the polyvalent and polyphonic nature of the Caribbean that sustains its long history of intellectual production, and its challenge to Western conceptions of modernity, from the nation state to political economy and artistic production itself. The development of Caribbean intellectual thought takes us from the plantation to anti-slavery discourse and decolonization, from transculturation to creolization to the very concept of what constitutes the human. Why has art history—a discipline often defined by its relationship with shifting terrains of theoretical critique and analysis—been slow to engage with Caribbean writers and thinkers, to take seriously their multidisciplinary, multi-theoretical and multi-lingual voices? This conference asks what such an engagement could look like, and offer, the field of art history at this critical juncture.

Pre-recorded Artist Conversations

“Transformative Justice”

patricia kaersenhout, artist, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

“Dreaming in the Face of the Impossible”

Andrea Chung, artist, San Diego, California

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

MANTON AUDITORIUM

MANTON RESEARCH CENTER

CLARK ART INSTITUTE

9:00 AM

WELCOME

Caroline Fowler, Research and Academic Program, Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts

9:10 AM

INTRODUCTION

Conference co-conveners Anna Arabindan-Kesson, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, and Wayne Modest, National Museum of World Cultures, Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

9:45 AM

ON SEEING WITH AND THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN SESSION 1

Artists Tessa Mars, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Marcel Pinas, Paramaribo, Suriname, in conversation

10:45 AM

DISCUSSION

Moderated by Anna Arabindan-Kesson and Wayne Modest

11:15 AM

COFFEE BREAK

MANTON READING ROOM

11:30 AM

(ART) HISTORIES

SESSION 2

“Of Art and Spirit: Sacred Practice in Caribbean Contemporary Art”
Yanique Hume, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

“Beyond Vodou Iconography: Luce Turnier, a Feminist Modernist in Haiti”

Jerry Philogene, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Watch interview with patricia kaersenhout in preparation for this panel.

12:30 PM

DISCUSSION

Moderated by Faith Smith, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

- 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK
CAFÉ 7 ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE CLARK CENTER IS OPEN
10:00 AM–3:00 PM.
- 2:30 PM (ART) HISTORIES
SESSION 3
“A Caribbean Cannibalist under the Floridian Sun”
María Elena Ortiz, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
“Heroic Sculpture in Contemporary Caribbean Practice”
Petrina Dacres, Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts,
Kingston, Jamaica
“Criticism as Creation: The Political Aesthetics of Black Ecstasy in
Multimodal Caribbean Art”
Erica Moiah James, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida
- 4:00 PM DISCUSSION
Moderated by Anna Arabindan-Kesson and Wayne Modest
- 5:00 PM PUBLIC RECEPTION
MANTON READING ROOM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

MANTON AUDITORIUM
MANTON RESEARCH CENTER
CLARK ART INSTITUTE

- 9:00 AM WELCOME
Caroline Fowler, Research and Academic Program, Clark Art
Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts
- CARIBBEAN AS CRITIQUE
- 9:05 AM SESSION 4
“Artist Talk”
Charl Landvreugd, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

“Queer-ing Art Methods and Practices: Caribbean Potentialities”
Andil Gosine, University of York, Toronto, Canada

10:05 AM

DISCUSSION

Moderated by Anna Arabindan-Kesson, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, and Wayne Modest, National Museum of World Cultures, Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, co-conveners

10:30 AM

COFFEE BREAK
MANTON READING ROOM

11:00 AM

CARIBBEAN AS CRITIQUE
SESSION 5

“What loveliness escapes the schools’: Carifesta’s Epistemological Critique”

Adrienne Rooney, Rice University, Houston, Texas

“Some Strategies for Rethinking Caribbean Art Histories”

Veerle Poupeye, Kingston, Jamaica

12:00 PM

DISCUSSION

Moderated by Faith Smith, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

12:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

CAFÉ 7 ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE CLARK CENTER IS OPEN
10:00 AM–3:00 PM.

1:30 PM

CARIBBEAN AS CRITIQUE
SESSION 6

“John Dunkley’s Photographic Eye: A Close Look at *Banana Plantation*”

Nicole Smythe-Johnson, University of Texas at Austin

“The Archipelagic Method: A Model for Complexifying Latinx & Photography Art History”

Aldeide Delgado, Women Photographers International Archive, Miami, Florida

- 2:30 PM DISCUSSION
Moderated by Shawn Michelle Smith, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 3:00 PM COFFEE BREAK
MANTON READING ROOM
- 3:30 PM CARIBBEAN AS CRITIQUE
SESSION 7
“Intertidal Imaginaries: The Resistant Geographies of the Shore(coast) in the Aftermath of Saltwater(storm) Surges”
Deborah Jack, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, New Jersey
“From the Forest to the Concrete to the Ocean: Mapping a Poetics of Eco-Criticism in Caribbean and Diasporic Visual Art Practices”
Daniella Rose King, Hyundai Tate Research Center: Transnational, London, UK
View interview with Andrea Chung in preparation for this panel.
- 4:30 PM CLOSING DISCUSSION
Moderated by Anna Arabindan-Kesson and Wayne Modest
- 5:30 PM PUBLIC RECEPTION
MANTON READING ROOM