

African American Art History: Present Coordinates

Maíra Vieira de Paula

PhD Student, Visual Arts - University of São Paulo

Maíra de Paula is a Visual Arts doctoral student at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Her main research topic is how artists explore photographic appropriation in their creative processes. Currently, she studies how Brazilian artist Rosana Paulino has appropriated and transformed the materiality, meanings, and effects of the photographic archives of Brazilian slavery.



“The Nameless and the Forgotten : Rosana Paulino’s *Assentamento* Installation and the Subversive Appropriation of the Photographic Archive of Brazilian Slavery”

During his Brazilian expedition, Swiss-born U.S. naturalist, geologist, and Harvard professor Louis Agassiz hoarded thousands of specimens of animals, plants, objects, and over two hundred photographs of racial types. Among these pictures, there were three photographs of an anonymous enslaved Black woman that Brazilian artist Rosana Paulino appropriated in her 2013 installation *Settlement*. This panel presents a close-up analysis of how Paulino transformed these appropriated photographs’ materiality, giving them new meanings and effects. Drawing on Saidiya Hartman’s ‘critical fabulation’ concept, this panel deepens the understanding of how Paulino has engaged with the practical limits and ethical risks of representing slavery and its afterlife in the 21st century.

NOV 11

2:00PM Photonics Center, 8 St. Mary’s Street - Room: PHO 211

African American Art History: *Present Coordinates*



A symposium of research conducted by emerging scholars in African American art history

Nov 11

2:00 PM

Photonics Center,
8 St. Mary's St,
Room PHO 211

3:15 PM

See above
location address

5:30 PM

College of Arts
and Sciences, 725
Commonwealth
Ave, Room CAS 522

Nov 12

9:00 AM

College of Arts
and Sciences, 725
Commonwealth
Ave, Room B12

10:00 AM

See above
location address

11:15 AM

See above
location address

Maíra Vieira de Paula,

PhD Student, Visual Arts, University of São Paulo Brazil

"'The Nameless and the Forgotten': Rosana Paulino's *Assentamento* Installation and the Subversive Appropriation of the Photographic Archive of Brazilian Slavery"

Melissa Benbow,

PhD Student, English, University of Delaware

"Creative Collaboration: Edmonia Lewis' Communities in Post-Bellum, Pre-Harlem America"

Melanee C. Harvey, PhD

Associate Professor of Art History, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University

"Call & Response: Contemporary Reflections on James A. Porter's 'Four Problems in the History of Negro Art' (1942)"

Charlette Caldwell,

PhD Candidate, Architecture, Columbia University

"The Crucible of the Freedom Church: Building Culture and the African Methodist Episcopal Church"

Bentley Brown,

PhD Fellow, Institute of Fine Art, New York University

"It was Like Shan-gri-la: Frederick J. Brown, 120 Wooster Street, and Black creatives of New York's 'Downtown Scene,' 1970-1989"

Catherine Rucker,

PhD Candidate, History of Art, Archaeology, and Visual Studies, Cornell University

"Refractive Blackness: Visuality in Black Conceptual Art of the Twentieth Century"

