



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF
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FAU Americas Initiative Programs Analyze the Role of Art in Redressing the Legacies of Oppression

BOCA RATON, Fla. (December 14, 2018) – Florida Atlantic University’s Americas Initiative will present a series of programs in January 2019 that address the role of art in redressing the legacies of oppression. The programs are presented in association with “Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié,” an exhibition currently on view in the University Galleries’ Schmidt Center Gallery. The phrase “decolonize” in this context means to return to what has been taken to redress legacies of oppression. The term has been applied to all kinds of situations from gentrification, to education, to liberation movements, and in various locations and institutions. The exhibition will be open for viewing before, after and during all three public programs, and the public programs and exhibition are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

The first event, “Women’s Writings, The Economy, and Social Justice in the Caribbean,” will take place on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Building (Building #51), room 101, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. This panel discussion will present how Caribbean literature and art reflect pressing gender, economic and social issues of the region, as well as how they have an immediate impact on South Florida communities. The panelists will focus on aspects related to women, social justice, music and visual arts. Participating FAU faculty include Patricia Fleitas, DMA, professor of music and director of choral and vocal studies; Mary Ann Gosser Esquilin, Ph.D., professor of Spanish and comparative literature; Stacy J. Lettman, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; and Sheryl Gifford, senior instructor of English. Tickets for this panel are \$25 and can be purchased at www.fauevents.com or by calling 561-297-6124.

The second event, “Visualizing Decolonization,” will take place on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019 from

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10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The all-day program begins with a breakfast reception at 10 a.m. at the Boca Museum of Art, where the exhibition “Imagining Florida: History and Myth in the Sunshine State,” is on display. Then at 1 p.m. there will be a lecture with Bree Newsome, an activist from Charlotte, North Carolina, best known for her act of civil disobedience on June 27, 2015, when she was arrested for removing the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state house grounds. The resulting publicity put pressure on state officials to remove the flag, and it was taken down permanently on July 10, 2015. Newsome’s lecture is titled “Tearing Hatred from the Sky” and will take place in the University Theatre on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

After the lecture, there will be short presentations and then a panel discussion organized by Karen Leader, Ph.D., associate professor of art history at FAU. Participants include LaTanya Autry, Ph.D. candidate, University of Delaware and Co-Founder, #MuseumsAreNotNeutral; Erica Moiah James, Ph.D., assistant professor of art history, University of Miami; and Dylan Miner, Ph.D., associate professor and director of American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Michigan State University.

The final program in the series is “Decolonizing across Disciplines in the Americas Symposium,” which takes place on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Performing Arts Building, room 101. This one-day symposium brings together scholars from FAU and other Florida institutions to examine and discuss decolonization within historical, literary, political, cultural, racial, gendered and other contexts of the Americas conceived broadly, with awareness of the ways Florida, and South Florida especially, is a nexus of hemispherical interconnections. The symposium builds on the scholarly work on decolonization in the context of cultural intersections between Haiti and Florida related to the “Decolonizing Refinement” exhibition and catalogue that was organized and originally presented at Florida State University in the spring 2018. This symposium expands the discussion begun at FSU by considering decolonization in a larger hemispherical context. The symposium is organized by Taylor Hagood, Ph.D., professor of American literature and director of the Study of the Americas Initiative at FAU.

Others panelists will include “Decolonizing Refinement” organizers, curators and catalogue authors: Paul B. Niell, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Art History, Florida State University; Michael D. Carrasco, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Art History, Florida State University; and Lesley A. Wolff, graduate fellow in American Art, Norton Museum of Art.

“Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié” remains

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on view at the University Galleries, FAU Schmidt Center Gallery until Saturday, Feb. 2. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Group and class tours are encouraged to visit during public and alternative times by appointment.

This exhibition and these public programs, along with a recent lecture by Edouard Duval-Carrié at the “Decolonizing Refinement” opening, launch FAU’s Study of the America’s Initiative, which is intended to support interdisciplinary research, engaging in the comparative analysis of culture, history, society, politics, music, art, media, language and literature of the Americas.

The University Galleries, FAU have an active Museum Education Program and welcome partnering with middle and high school teachers to provide exhibition-related outreach programs to the schools and field experiences at University Galleries. For more information, contact Khaulah Nuruddin, museum education coordinator, at knuruddin2013@fau.edu.

University Galleries, FAU 2018-19 exhibitions and programs are supported by the Isadore and Kelly Friedman University Galleries Fund; the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County; Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs; Florida Council on the Arts; and the R.A. Ritter Foundation. Museum Education Programs are made possible by the Kaye Arts Integration Endowment and Community Foundation of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. For more information about FAU University Galleries, visit www.fau.edu/galleries.

- FAU -

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU’s world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU’s existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

Bree Newsome Bio

Bree Newsome is an artist who drew national attention in 2015 when she climbed the flagpole in front of the South Carolina Capitol building and lowered the Confederate battle flag. The flag was originally raised in 1961 as a statement of opposition to the Civil Rights Movement and lunch-counter sit-ins occurring at the time. The massacre of nine black parishioners by a white supremacist at Emanuel AME Zion Church in Charleston reignited controversy over South Carolina's flag. Bree's act of defiance against a symbol of hate has been memorialized in photographs and artwork and has become a symbol of resistance and the empowerment of women.

Activism is one of a trio of pursuits that have driven her since a young age when she showed talent as both a musician and a writer, particularly a writer of plays and films.

Her roots as an artist and activist were planted early. Her father, who has served as the dean of the Howard University School of Divinity and the president of both Shaw University and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, is a nationally-recognized scholar of African American religious history and how it has impacted social justice movements. Her mother spent her career as an educator addressing the achievement gap and disparities of education. Bree's interest in the arts was fostered early in her life, and she showed promise even then. At the age of seven, she learned to play the piano and wrote her first piece of music. Two years later, she wrote her first play. At the age of 18, Bree won a \$40,000 scholarship from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as part of a short film competition.

She studied film at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Her senior year short film, "Wake", won numerous accolades and was a finalist for the prestigious Wasserman Award, whose past recipients include Spike Lee.

In 2011, while an artist in residence at Saatchi and Saatchi in New York, she marched with Occupy Wall Street. Much of her activism has focused upon incidents of young black people being unjustly killed and issues related to structural racism. She travelled with a group of youth activists from North Carolina to Florida during the Dream Defenders' occupation of the statehouse as a protest against the killing of Trayvon Martin. She also participated in an 11-mile march from the Beavercreek, Ohio Wal-Mart where John Crawford was killed by police to the courthouse in Xenia, Ohio, demanding release of the footage showing the killing.

From 2013-2015, she served as the Western Field Organizer for Ignite NC, and she is one of the founders of The Tribe, a grassroots organizing collective. The Tribe was created in the aftermath of the 2014 uprising in Ferguson to address similar issues of structural racism and police violence confronting the community of Charlotte, North Carolina.

During the 2016 Charlotte uprising, Bree helped organize protests and community meetings. She continues to organize at the grassroots level in Charlotte, focusing on developing models for sustainable community organization.

Her dedication to her community work has not lessened her interest in either film or music. She often interweaves the two. In 2016 she wrote, produced, and directed the performance piece “Rise Up and Go” as part of The Monticello Summit, a four-day public summit on the legacy of slavery and freedom in America held at the site of Thomas Jefferson’s former plantation. The celebration was a collaboration among the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the University of Virginia.







Decolonizing Refinement

Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

Americas Initiative Public Program Series

Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

Florida Atlantic University, Schmidt Center Gallery
November 8, 2018 – February 2, 2019

Curator: Khaulah Naima Nuruddin

About the Public Programs

This brochure announces an exhibition and a series of related public programs. These public programs employ the themes found in the exhibition as a point of departure for further inquiry and interrogation related to historical and contemporary aspects of decolonization relevant in our current society.

About the Exhibition

The exhibition resulted from a three-year collaboration between the artist and three scholars at FSU. The collaborators sought to expand the understanding of Caribbean visual culture and the arts of the African Diaspora in conjunction with the colonial heritage of North Florida and the broader U.S. Southeast in circum-Caribbean histories. Decolonization refers to and recognizes that modernity is inextricably linked to the legacy of colonial institutions as they existed historically and as these systemic conventions extend, often unnoticed, into today. To “decolonize refinement,” then, signifies the organizers’ desire to draw attention to the oppressive processes utilized by colonial powers to “purify” products, such as cotton and sugar, in the service of global commerce. Duval-Carrié also re-appropriates history, inscribing photographs, documents, paintings, and ephemera onto his own work and thus problematizes official Francophonic narratives against lived realities. Through this exhibition Duval-Carrié’s artistic statements are built upon to demonstrate how these problematic processes likewise extend to Florida’s visual and material culture.

About the Artist

Born and raised in Haiti, Edouard Duval-Carrié fled the regime of “Papa Doc” Duvalier as a teenager and subsequently resided in locales as diverse as Puerto Rico, Montreal, Paris, and Miami. Parallels thus emerge between the artist’s cosmopolitan lifestyle and his artistic sensitivity toward the multifaceted identities that form his native Haiti. At heart, Duval-Carrié is an educator: he challenges the viewer to make meaning of dense iconography derived from Caribbean history, politics, and religion. Recently, the conceptual layering of Duval-Carrié’s works has been further emphasized in his materials and through consistent attention to translucent and reflective mediums, such as glitter, glass, and resin. The introspective effects of these mediums transform his works into spatial interventions that implicate the viewer in their historicity. At their most fundamental, Duval-Carrié’s works ask the viewer to complicate the Western canon, to consider how Africa has shaped the Americas, and how the Caribbean has shaped the modern world.

Decolonizing Refinement: Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

Organized by Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts
and presented February 16 – April 1, 2018.

An associated 128-page exhibition catalogue includes essays by several scholars and numerous color illustrations.

Collaborative Exhibition:

Decolonizing Refinement: The Kingdom of This World

S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum

November 10, 2018 - April 26, 2019

170 NW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach, FL, 33444

Related Exhibition:

Imagining Florida: History and Myth in the Sunshine State

Boca Raton Museum of Art

501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Cover Image: Edouard Duval-Carrié, *Ti Noel a Sans Souci* (detail), 2018, mixed media on aluminum in artist frame, 58 x 58”, included in the Spady Museum exhibition.



Americas Initiative Series of Public Programs

Women's Writings, The Economy, and Social Justice in the Caribbean

Monday, January 14 • 4 - 5:30pm
Performing Arts Building, PA 101
Lecture Hall next to the Schmidt Center Gallery
Admission • \$25

Caribbean literature and art reflect pressing gender, economic, and social issues of the region as well as how they have an immediate impact on South Florida communities. The panelists will focus on aspects related to women, social justice, music, and visual arts.

FAU Faculty Panel:

Patricia Fleitas, Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Studies

Mary Ann Gosser Esquilin, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature

Stacy J. Lettman, Assistant Professor of English

Sheryl Gifford, Senior Instructor of English

Images: Installation at the Museum of Fine Arts, FSU, featuring Wood Canoe from Manatee Springs, collection Florida State Bureau of Archaeological Resources; and Edouard Duval-Carrié, *Soucoyant #3*, 2017, mixed media, 95 inches diameter; and *Triptych des Mysteres*, 2016, 60" square, 40" diameter, 60" square, courtesy of the artist.

S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum
Decolonizing Refinement: The Kingdom of This World
Opening Reception, Friday, November 16, 6:30 pm
Exhibition Dates: November 10, 2018 - April 26, 2019
Co-Curators: Khaulah Naima Nuruddin & Lesley A. Wolff



Visualizing Decolonization

Saturday, January 19 • 10am - 4pm
Boca Raton Museum of Art and University Theater, FAU

The phrase "decolonize" has been applied to all kinds of situations from gentrification to education to archives to liberation movements, and in various locations and institutions. To decolonize is to return what has been taken, to redress legacies of oppression. A day of events will pose the question "What does decolonization look like?" In conjunction with the Boca Raton Museum of Art, and its exhibition *Imagining Florida: History and Myth in the Sunshine State* and the *Decolonizing Refinement* exhibition the program will confront public spaces, museum practices and art history to explore the ways in which visual culture can reinforce oppressive structures, but also has the power to dismantle them.

After a morning walk-through at the museum, we will reconvene in the University Theater at FAU for an afternoon of talks and a panel discussion.

Project Organizer:

Karen J. Leader, Associate Professor of Art History, Florida Atlantic University

Keynote address:

Bree Newsome, Activist, Musician, Filmmaker

Presentations:

LaTanya Autry, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Delaware; Co-Founder, #MuseumsAreNotNeutral

Erica Moiah James, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Art History, University of Miami

Dylan Miner, Associate Professor and Director of American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Michigan State University

FAU Collaborators: Study of the Americas Initiative; Departments of Anthropology, English, Music, Languages, Linguistics & Comparative Literature, Visual Arts and Art History and University Galleries; Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

The Study of the Americas Initiative:
www.fau.edu/artsandletters/college-initiatives/americas-initiative

Decolonizing Across Disciplines in the Americas Symposium

Saturday, January 26 • 10am - 4pm
Performing Arts Building, PA 101
Lecture Hall next to the Schmidt Center Gallery

This one-day symposium brings together scholars from Florida Atlantic University and other Florida institutions to examine and discuss decolonization within historical, literary, political, cultural, racial, gendered, and other contexts of the Americas conceived broadly, with awareness of the ways Florida, and South Florida especially, is a nexus of hemispherical interconnections. The symposium will be the culmination of a series of events at FAU that focuses on decolonization, building on the scholarly work on decolonization in the context of cultural intersections between Haiti and Florida, begun with Florida State University's exhibition and catalog. This symposium expands the discussion begun at FSU by considering decolonization in a larger hemispherical context.

Project Organizer:

Taylor Hagood, Professor of American Literature and Director of the Study of the Americas Initiative

Decolonizing Refinement organizers, curators and catalogue authors:

Paul B. Niell, Associate Professor
Department of Art History, Florida State University

Michael D. Carrasco, Associate Professor
Department of Art History, Florida State University

Lesley A. Wolff, Graduate Fellow in American Art
Norton Museum of Art

Lenders to the FAU Exhibition: Broward County African American Research Library and Cultural Center; Delray Beach Historical Society; Florida State Bureau of Archaeological Resources, Tallahassee; Florida Atlantic University Archaeology Collection; Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University

Decolonizing Refinement

Contemporary Pursuits in the Art of Edouard Duval-Carrié

Through February 2, 2019

Schmidt Center Gallery, Fau, Boca Raton

