

Art as Activism in the Post-Colony (Cambridge MA, 16-17 Apr 08)

Gemma Rodrigues

ART AS ACTIVISM (AND ITS LIMITS) IN THE POST-COLONY

Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts, 16-17 April 2008

The Harvard University Committee on African Studies announces a two-day event to be held on Wednesday, April 16 and Thursday April 17, 2008, co-sponsored with the Du Bois Center, and Harvard University Art Museums. The event is free and open to the public. Graduate students and recent PhDs, as well as senior scholars, are encouraged to attend. Travel and accommodation expenses will be the responsibility of attendees.

In the wake of Africa's anti-colonial struggles and decolonization, the politically engaged artist has come to occupy a more complex and unstable terrain. Charged with exciting possibility as much as with challenge, the postcolonial era brings in its wake new subjectivities and new demands on art.

The event "Art as Activism (and its limits) in the Post-Colony" pushes the conversation in challenging new directions with two key events, a roundtable discussion on Wednesday April 16 (6:30-10pm), and an artist's talk on Thursday April 17 (6:30pm).

Wednesday's program brings together three leading edge activist cultural workers from Africa, and three U.S. scholars whose work examines intersections between art and activism. Hailing from fields as diverse as contemporary theory, Africanist studies, and art practice, participants will briefly present their own work and join in what promises to be a fiery and provocative roundtable discussion, moderated by Professor Biodun Jeyifo.

The roundtable emphasizes contexts in Africa and the African Diaspora, but will also consider these themes in other times and places.

Thursday's program features internationally acclaimed artist, Sokari Douglas Camp. She will present her reflections on themes related to those suggested here, and on her recent work, powerful steel-wrought indictments of transnational oil companies in the Niger Delta, which have been responsible for systematic patterns of violence and environmental damage in the region.

For full program details see: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~afrart/>

Speakers:

April 16, 2008, 6:30PM - 10:00PM

Round Table Discussion

Biodun Jeyifo, Moderator

Part 1: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

N'tone Edjabe

Chaz Maviyane-Davies

Thierry N'Landu

Part 2: 8:40 - 10:00 PM

Duana Fullwiley

Doris Sommer

Carrie Lambert-Beatty

April 17, 2008, 6:30PM

Sokari Douglas Camp, "'Let Me Land': Listen Up"

Belfer Case Study Room, CGIS South Building, Harvard University

1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge MA 02138

Reference:

ANN: Art as Activism in the Post-Colony (Cambridge MA, 16-17 Apr 08). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 9, 2008
(accessed Sep 1, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/30379>>.