

## Afrotropes and Art History's Global Imagination (online, 23 Apr 21)

Online / The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, Apr 23, 2021

Registration deadline: Apr 23, 2021

Sarah Hegenbart, TUM

"...an afrotropic analytic requires methodologies mindful of temporal moments and material markers of different states of appearance and disappearance. The forms themselves continue to morph; meaning arises in the interstices, in moments of transmutation and exchange, so that art historical inquiry must be alert to the whole ecology that the afrotrope both participates in and actively produces."

– Huey Copeland and Krista Thompson, in "Afrotropes: a Conversation with Huey Copeland and Krista Thompson, with Leah Dickerman, David Joselit, and Mignon Nixon"

This symposium will explore the afrotrope as an intervention into global art historiography. Huey Copeland and Krista Thompson introduced the afrotrope as an analytical framework to examine the circulation of motifs that feature centrally in African Diaspora aesthetics. The afrotrope's facilitation of alternative theoretical models beyond Western epistemologies structured by linear conceptions of time and space is indebted to many different intellectual histories, including Mikhail Bakhtin's 'chronotope' and its subsequent adoption in the work of Paul Gilroy; as well as Hortense Spillers concept of the 'pornotrope'. As such, the afrotrope requires a rethinking of "African" art history's relationship to "Western" art history, and raises important questions about the transmission and translation of images and image cultures within and beyond the African Diaspora.

Throughout the symposium, we will interrogate the afrotrope as a site of novel intersections for scholarly inquiry, in cross-disciplinary conversations driven by art historians and contemporary artists engaged with new materialisms, postcolonial and decolonial studies, as well as critical race, feminist and queer theory.

### PROGRAMME

April 23, 2021

2:00 - 2:30 pm Introductions

Sarah Hegenbart (Technical University Munich) and Levi Prombaum (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art); Huey Copeland (University of Pennsylvania) and Krista Thompson (Northwestern University)

2:30 - 2:40 pm Break

2:40 - 3:40 pm Presentations followed by Q&A

Janine Francois (Central Saint Martins): Reparations for Black People should include Rest: How do Black Female Artists employ Rest as an Aesthetic Motif within their Artistic Practices?

Meleko Mokgosi (Yale School of Art): Artist Presentation

Elvan Zabunyan (Rennes University): The photographic portrait of Ras Tafari by the Boyadjians, an Afrotrope in Relation

3:40 pm Break

3:50 - 4:50 pm Presentations followed by Q&A

Dhanveer Singh Brar (University of Leeds): Knowing Manufacture of an RnB Feeling

Evan Ifekoya: Artist Presentation

Blue Curry: Trope as Trap

4:50 pm Break

5:00 - 5:45 pm Presentations followed by Q&A

Amy Mooney (Columbia College) and Giulia Smith (Oxford): Afrotrope: A Workshop that Never Happened

Kader Attia: Artist Presentation

5:45pm Break

6:00pm Keynote Conversation: On Afrotropic art histories

Huey Copeland (University of Pennsylvania) and Krista Thompson (Northwestern University)  
(40-45 minutes followed by Q&A)

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Organised by

Dr. Sarah Hegenbart - Technical University Munich

Dr. Levi Prombaum - Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art

Ticket / entry details:

Free, but booking essential

This is a live online event.

Please register for more details:  
<https://courtauld.ac.uk/event/afrotropes-and-art-historys-global-imagination>

The platform and log in details will be sent to attendees at least 48 hours before the event. Please note that registration closes 30 minutes before the event start time.

If you have not received the log in details or have any further queries, please contact [researchforum@courtauld.ac.uk](mailto:researchforum@courtauld.ac.uk).

Reference:

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