



# ART HISTORY INSIGHTS

## DECEMBER 2020

The monthly newsletter that brings you selected articles of interest and opinion from the world of art history and visual culture. Here are highlights from 2020 Art History Insights worth re-visiting.

### STATUES ON THE FALL (August 2020)

The past few months have seen massive changes to memorial landscapes across the world. Monuments and statues once thought of as permanent have been removed, covered, or destroyed, as their links to white supremacy have become more widely recognised. Read the artist and art historian Eddie Chambers's powerful perspective as he draws parallels across the Atlantic, highlighting the international resonance of recent protests and the centrality of monuments to them.

<https://bit.ly/2LAMyUQ>

### RE-VISIONING ART & HISTORY (September 2020)

Across the world many people are questioning the systems, structures, and values that museums are built upon. In another brilliant 30 minute 'Desktop Dialogue' from Cleveland Museum of Art, Andrew Cappetta and Key Jo Lee explore objects that reshape what we know about art and museums including Fred Wilson's *To Die upon a Kiss*, and learn the value of adopting multiple perspectives to understand works of art.

<https://bit.ly/3a6Phj2>

### QUEER ART AND 'POST-BLACKNESS' (June 2020)

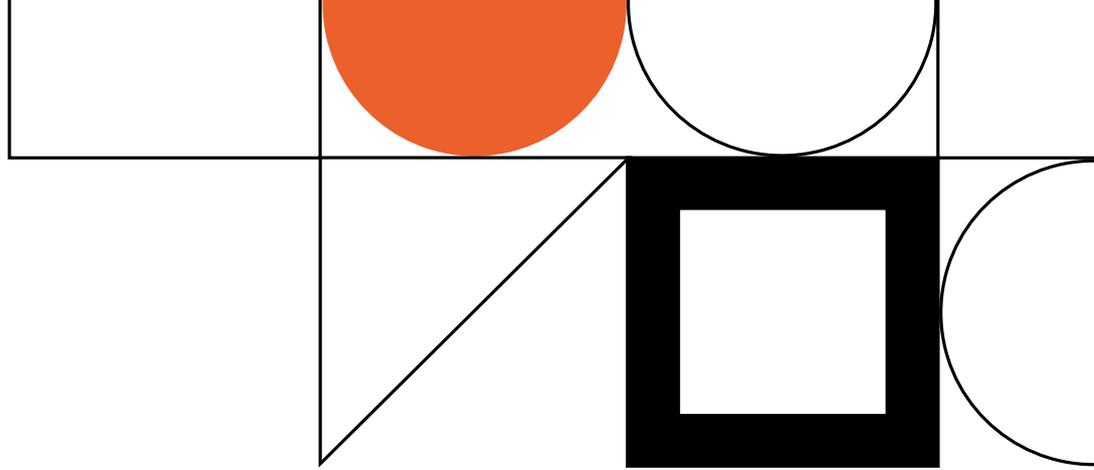
A great interview that talks about a collection of essays by Derek Conrad Murray which explore questions of 'postblackness' by looking at the work of Glenn Ligon, Kehinde Wiley, Mickalene Thomas, and Kalup Linzy. Published three years ago but unsurprisingly the content remains relevant and timely.

<https://bit.ly/2KsxYOT>

### HOW THE P&D MOVEMENT CHALLENGED MACHISMO MODERNISM (October 2020)

Artists Valerie Jaudon and Joyce Kozloff were central figures in the 1970s Pattern and Decoration (P&D) movement. They set out to challenge modernism's white male-centric concept of what constituted 'good art', and the notion that decorative and applied arts were not of 'a lesser order'. Today, the movement resonates with our current moment, looking ahead as it did to the plurality of traditions and cultures celebrated in today's art world, to its rejection of sexist and ethnocentric biases and its aspirations of inclusivity.

<https://bit.ly/3niFVnX>



## **WHEN WE FINALLY RE-OPEN MUSEUMS, HOW WILL WE FIND THEM TRANSFORMED? (May 2020)**

'The future of many museum operations—events, education, outreach—could hardly be more uncertain. Careers and livelihoods are on the line. Is this the end of the 'universal museum'? Will museums re-evaluate their approach now? Here are some compelling thoughts from Professor Dan Hicks, art historian, curator, and speaker in our 'Future of the Blockbuster' online event.

<https://bit.ly/37hJp4Q>

## **MARY CASSATT'S OVERLOOKED RADICALISM (March 2020)**

This month Griselda Pollock became the first art historian to win the prestigious Holberg Prize. Earlier this year she was also nominated as a Fellow of the Association for Art History in honour of her significant contribution to and for art history. In this article Griselda Pollock makes the case for the overlooked radicalism of impressionist Mary Cassatt.

<https://bit.ly/2INuVA9>

## **MEDIEVAL WOMEN UNVEILED (March 2020)**

'Conversations on gender and diversity are at the core of our historical collections – a powerful reminder when you see a medieval portrait.' Veils covering the hair and face have existed cross-culturally since ancient Greece, and across multiple faiths and religions. A great article by Jon Sleight for ArtUK that explores women's headwear through art works.

<https://bit.ly/2WboA18>

## **WHAT IF OUR TEXT BOOKS WERE BLACK (February 2020)**

Naomi Beckwith is international curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. In this fantastic radio series she argues that we must reconsider our models of education, and invites artists to imagine a new cultural textbook that reinstates Black cultural figures who've been sidelined from history and culture. 'If we change our exhibitions without changing our textbooks, then nothing changes at all'. This episode includes an interview with artist Kerry James Marshall.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000c9mj>

## **CHINA'S GHOST MUSEUMS (January 2020)**

China is undergoing the biggest museum building boom in history, but many of these new, architectural showpieces remain empty and unprogrammed. 'Museums in China are a distinctly modern intrigue...Museums and other cultural facilities are a big part of the identity creation and branding of China's new cities and districts. These are places without history, whose stories are just starting to be written'.

<https://bit.ly/3oSxQHa>

## **YOUR INSIGHTS**

We promote a broad and inclusive art history, and look to engage with as wide an audience as possible. Please get in touch with articles you think may be of interest for newsletter. We welcome all content suggestions.

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