



ART HISTORY INSIGHTS

JUNE 2020

The monthly newsletter that brings you selected articles of interest and opinion from the world of art history and visual culture. June is Pride month. This issue celebrates queer art and art history, particularly through the lens of black artists and intersectional art history. It links with the current Twitter campaign by our Doctoral and Early Career (DECR) Committee, and is co-edited by Daniel Fountain, a member of our DECR committee.

A QUEER WALK THROUGH BRITISH ART

Starting in 1600 with 'The Cholmondeley Ladies' and arriving in 2012 with Anthea Hamilton's 'Karl Lagerfeld Bean Counter', take an online stroll/scroll through Tate Britain's collection of work, as chosen by artists, curators, cultural producers and filmmakers from the UK's LGBTQ+ creative communities, Tate's own vibrant LGBTQ+ staff network and also young people finding affinities between the works and their own gender and sexual identities.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain/queer-walk-through-british-art>

QUEER ART AND 'POST-BLACKNESS'

A great interview that talks about a collection of essays by Derek Conrad Murray which explore questions of 'post-blackness' 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://hyperallergic.com/361646/the-queer-art-that-helped-define-post-blackness/>

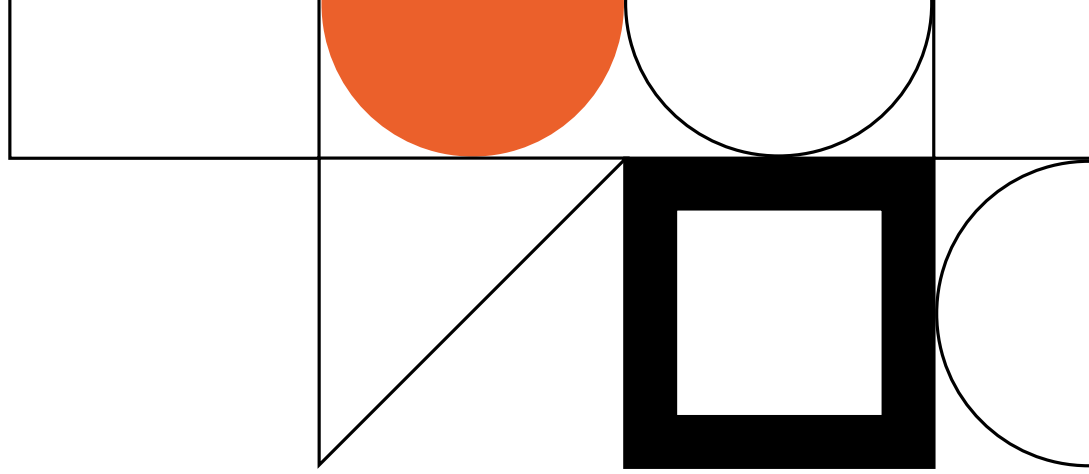
QUEER(ING) CRAFT

Decorating Dissidence is an interdisciplinary project exploring the political, aesthetic and conceptual qualities of craft from modernism to the contemporary. The project brings together art practitioners, makers, curators, activists and academics to break down disciplinary boundaries and find new ways to critically engage with art and art history. Issue Eight of their journal focuses on 'Queer(ing) Craft'. It features the work of several artists and writers who identify as LGBTQ+, from well known artists to more emerging figures. The issue includes features such as 'Hybrid Forms and Second-Skins' about the work of artist Adejoke Tugbiyele.

<https://decoratingdissidence.com/tag/issue-eight/>

'PHOTOGRAPHY IS MY VISUAL VOICE'

Artist Ajamu X talks about his inspiration and approach in an interview with Rob Perrée: 'Identity is one of the themes in my work, however I would say it is primarily about difference...I think there is cultural shorthand to think that black and queer artists' work can only be about identity and



representation...What I am most interested in is how we can move outside of the straight jacket of identity politics. Pleasure, the erotic, the sensual in key to my practice. I am thinking about one of my favorite quotes by Foucault: "What we must work on, it seems to me, is not so much to liberate our desires, but to make ourselves infinitely more susceptible to pleasure".

<https://africanah.org/ajamu-queer-photographer-and-activist/>

THE BRILLIANCE OF 'SOUNDSUITS'

Artist Nick Cave creates 'Soundsuits', majestic objects that fuse fashion, performance and sculpture. They originated as metaphorical suits of armour in response to the beating of Rodney King at the hands of LAPD officers in 1991, which sparked a wave of riots. The suits have evolved into vehicles for empowerment and are often 'activated' by dancers and sometimes even Cave himself. In this 'Art in the Twenty-First Century' film Cave talks about his work and processes of making.

https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s8/nick-cave-in-chicago-segment/?utm_source=instagram.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=ig_bio_link&utm_campaign=Art21_Instagram&fbclid=IwAR0EYcLrqQbrlMpo6qJqUDb-h9LR5vvtfJh_eeG4RFEL95t9uh27zTSR6do

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 our newsletter. We welcome all content suggestions.

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