

ART HISTORY INSIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

The monthly newsletter that brings you selected articles of interest and opinion from the world of art history and visual culture. September is 'back to school' month and a time to learn new things. This issue invites readers to re-think, or think differently about aspects of art and art history.

WHAT IS 'FALLISM'?

Communities are making connections between racist statues in the streets and displays of White supremacy in museums. Fallism and restitution (the quest, and long-standing decolonising movement, to return Africa's plundered cultural heritage) are part of the same struggle, say Professors Dan Hicks and Nicholas Mirzoeff. As this new transatlantic civil rights era begins to unfold, these twin movements hold at least three common lessons for the global north.

<https://newafricanmagazine.com/23931/>

RE-VISIONING ART & HISTORY

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://www.clevelandart.org/desktop-dialogues?fbclid=IwAR3Ly7SxT8hl6kSJVN4bKC84-YGxwLfHu88-umTAdFx7GQiThRnB-yrd0E>

MAKING VISIBLE FORGOTTEN WOMEN ARTISTS

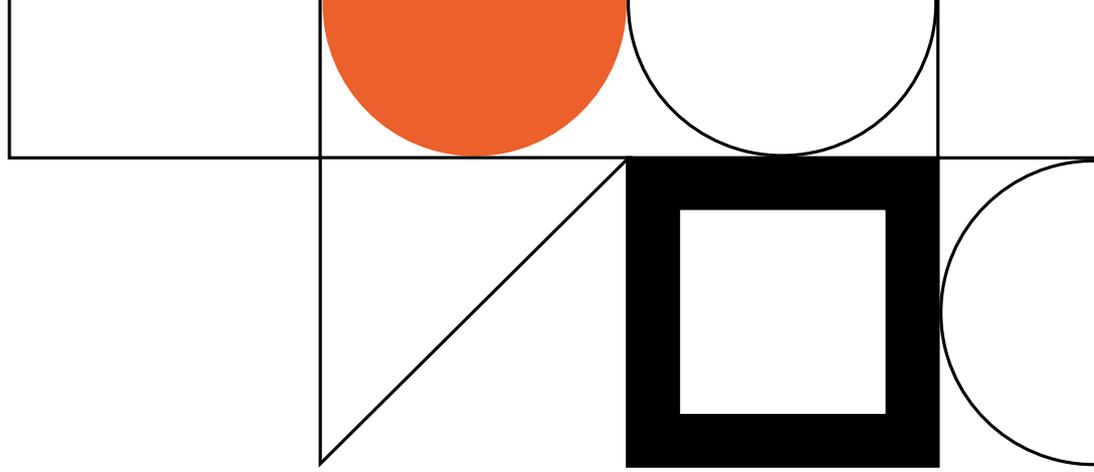
The Spanish sculptor Luisa Roldán (1652–1706) was recognised in her lifetime as an artist of considerable talent. After moving to Madrid, she spent seventeen years producing work in wood and terracotta for two Spanish kings and for members of the aristocracy. By the time she died in 1706, she was acknowledged as one of Spain's finest sculptors, but her name is rarely mentioned in the art historical literature.

<https://artherstory.net/finding-luisa-roldan-a-north-american-road-trip/>

WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

How do images of leaders from the ancient world influence our understanding of what leadership can look like today? Another fascinating 30 minute film from Cleveland Museum of Art that offers a refreshing look at how power and leadership have been depicted from ancient Greek and Roman statues, coins, murals, to Kehinde Wiley's more recent Obama portrait. Interesting to watch in itself or include as a teaching resource.

<https://www.clevelandart.org/desktop-dialogues?fbclid=IwAR3Ly7SxT8hl6kSJVN4bKC84-YGxwLfHu88-umTAdFx7GQiThRnB-yrd0E>



HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF A STRANGE WORLD?

"Strange Worlds" by Todros Geller explores important concepts such as immigration and identity in early twentieth-century America. In this short Smarthistory film they look at the struggles behind mass-immigration and what it took to maintain cultural identity in America, which prompts parallels with debates about belonging and identity in our society today. This is an insightful film in itself, but also a great teaching resource for topics around identity.

<https://smarthistory.org/seeing-america-2/geller-strange-worlds-2/>

LEARN 5 FACTS ABOUT ELIZABETH CATLETT

Did you know that in 1941, when Elizabeth Catlett was chair of Dillard University's art department in New Orleans, she planned to take her students to the Delgado Art Museum (now the New Orleans Museum of Art) to see a Picasso retrospective. However, the museum was located in City Park, which did not allow African American visitors at that time. Undeterred, Catlett took her students by bus directly to the entrance, thereby avoiding the park. Learn more about this trail-blazing artist via the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

<https://nmwa.org/blog/5-fast-facts-elizabeth-catlett/>

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.

info@forarthistory.org.uk