**ART, WOMEN, RACE, AND CLASS READING GROUP**

*Read/Gather/Discuss: Angela Davis' *Women, Race, and Class* (1981)
at University Art Museum

**Wednesday, February 6 – April 3, noon – 1 p.m.**

Free and Open to the Public

Questions about past failures and future promises of intersectionality:
an Artist-led Conversation.

Carrie Schneider, Exhibiting Artist

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

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**CHAPTER 3: CLASS AND RACE IN THE EARLY WOMEN’S RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

The Seneca Falls Convention was the first women’s rights convention in the United States. Held in July 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, the meeting launched the women's suffrage movement, which more than seven decades later ensured women the right to vote.

The organizers included:

* Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a leading women’s rights advocate who first became invested in women’s rights after talking to her father, a law professor, and his students. She studied at Troy Female Seminary and worked on women’s property rights reform in the early 1840s.

* Lucretia Mott, a Quaker preacher from Philadelphia, who was known for her anti-slavery, women’s rights, and religious reform activism.

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**CHAPTER 4: RACISM IN THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT**

- History of Woman Suffrage – published in six volumes 1881 to 1922 – whitewashed depiction that rendered black women suffragettes invisible

- Sold out to white supremacy to ensure 19th Amendment pass

- After 19th amendment passed – NAACP, Justice Department, African American newspapers – well documented disenfranchisement of African Americans

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**INTERSECTIONALITY**

- 1866 Speech – American Equal Rights Association

- Demand white counterparts rid themselves of racism, accuse of being directly complicit in the oppression of blacks

- Pointed out race, class and gender were “All bound up” together

- Forefront racism as a women’s issue

- Contemporary Historians Glenda Gilmore, Martha Jones, Nel-Irvin Stewart, Kipra Franklin Cook

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**COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE**

**FOUNDED 1974**

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**SUFFRAGETTES**

- Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

- Lucretia Mott & Elizabeth Cady Stanton

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**ART**, **WOMEN**, **RACE**, **AND CLASS READING GROUP**

*Abigail reading Angela Davis (as autobiography, 1974) from the series Reading Women (2012–2014)*
"We realize that the only people who care enough about us to work consistently for our liberation are us. Our politics evolve from a healthy love for ourselves, our sisters and our community which allows us to continue our struggle and work."

Members include:
- Barbara Smith
- Demita Frazier
- Cheryl Clarke
- Audre Lorde
- Chirlane McCray
- Beverly Smith
- Kimberlé Crenshaw

Intersectionality: 30 Years Later
- Columbia Law School Interview: FULL TEXT HERE
- Originally intended as a lens to see the unique violence perpetrated against black women
- Importantly, now more inclusive: LGBTQ, disability rights
- Erasure: gender, race, class, sexuality – “A framework that erases”
- It is a concept, a tool
- Objects that it is used to excuse: “it’s complicated” excuse not to do anything
- Trump era: focus on white, working class cis men
- In truth: WOC most economically impacted by de-industrialization, de-funding public sector
- AAPF #sayhername – shines light on black women subjected to police violence – Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Tanisha Anderson, India Kager and others

Intersectionality and Angela Davis

Women’s March 2017

“...This is a women’s march that represents the promise of America as against the pernicious powers of state violence that attack and commit atrocities against the most vulnerable, but it is also the beginning of a Demand 15 campaign fueled by the power of the people. This is a people’s movement, this is a national movement, and this is an international movement against the racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant, state violence, gender violence, especially against black women, transgender women, in particular black women,... We who believe in freedom and justice will not rest until it comes.”

ART & IMAGINATION
“WE NEED TO ALLOW OUR IMAGINATION TO LEAD US IN A DIRECTION THAT MAY MEAN THAT WE WANT SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER ACTUALLY EXISTED IN THE WORLD BEFORE.”
– ANGELA DAVIS
BBC CHANNEL 4 INTERVIEW, 2017
DISCUSSING PRISON ABOLITION

“...I have often publicly expressed my gratitude to Herbert Marcuse for teaching me that I did not have to choose between a career as an academic and a political vocation.”

“[Marcuse] emphasized the important role of intellectuals within oppositional movements, which, I believe, led to more intellectuals to frame their work in relation to these movements than would otherwise have done so.”

“The lesson I draw from these reminiscences about Marcuse is that we need to recuperate the ability to communicate across divides that are designed to keep people apart.”

“One of the great challenges of any social movement is to develop new vocabularies...” [quoting Marcuse]...the radical opposition develops its own language in protest spontaneously subversively against one of the most effect “secret weapons” of domination and deformation.”

“...art can fulfill its inner revolutionary function only if it does not itself become part of any establishment.”

ANGELA DAVIS ON HERBERT MARCUSE IN MARCUSE’S LEGACIES (1998)

LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER

Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis
The answer to the disparity in death rates is everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

By Linda Villarosa for the New York Times
Photographs by Latoya Ruby Frazier
April 11, 2018

• Black infants in America are now more than twice as likely to die as white infants.
• Education and income offer little protection. A black woman with an advanced degree is more likely to lose her baby than a white woman with less than an eighth-grade education.
• The tragedy of black infant mortality is intimately intertwined with another tragedy - a crisis of death and near death in black mothers themselves.
• For black women in America, an inescapable atmosphere of societal and systemic racism can create a kind of toxic physiological stress, resulting in conditions that lead directly to higher rates of infant and maternal death.

Why are black mothers and babies in the United States dying at more than double the rate of white mothers and infants? The answer has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.

LATOYA RUBY FRAZIER

HERBERT MARCUSE

• Frankfurt School – Critical Theory
• Marxist theories influenced leftist student movements of the 1960s, including Civil student rebellions in Paris and West Berlin and at New York City’s Columbia University.
• He taught at Columbia and Harvard Universities, Brandeis University, and UCLA. Mentor of Angela Davis.
• He had an extensive body of work which includes One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society (1964), An Essay on Liberation (1969), and Counterrevolution and Revolt (1972).

“...the concept of the imagination as a cognitive faculty capable of transcending and breaking the spell of the Establishment.”

“In the One-Dimensional Society (1967):
“...art can fulfill its inner revolutionary function only if it does not itself become part of any establishment.”

Herbert Marcuse and Angela Davis

WHAT CAN AN ARTIST DO?

ANGELA DAVIS ON HERBERT MARCUSE IN MARCUSE’S LEGACIES (1998)

LANDRUM AND GIWA DURING A PREGNATAL VISIT AT LANDRUM’S HOME LAST NOVEMBER
**Flint is Family**
By Mattie Kahn for Elle
Photographs by Luke Rudy Kraiger
April 11, 2018

- In 2013, the Flint City Council voted to leave the Detroit water system and contract with the still-incomplete Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA), a water-distribution corporation. But while the city waited to join the KWA, Flint would need an interim water source. In June, state-appointed emergency manager Ed Kurtz ruled that Flint would start to draw water from the 78-mile Flint River, which flows from Lapeer County into the Saginaw Bay.
- When the first problems with the water started surfacing, Mayor Walling said “I think people are wasting their precious money buying bottled water.”
- Lapeer County into the Saginaw Bay.
- Mayor Walling said “I think people are wasting their precious money buying bottled water.”
- In the following months experts shared how the exposure to lead, pollution, raw sewage, and E. coli from the water was affecting Flint’s residents, mostly black and 40 percent poor. Mayor Walling said “I think people are wasting their precious money buying bottled water.”
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**This Side of Paradise**
What survivors' stories of the deadliest blaze in California’s history tell us about the new state of climate change.
By Rebecca Bengal for the Vogue
Photographs by Justine Kurand
March 6, 2019

- The Camp Fire began on the morning of November 8, 2018. It burned through rural Concow, through Magalia, through Paradise. On Butte Creek it burned the Honey Run Covered Bridge, a local landmark for 132 years. It devastated entire neighborhoods, and inexplicably it left some houses untouched. It is believed to have originated on Camp Creek Road, north of Paradise.
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**Return to Standing Rock**
What began on April 1, 2016, with a single teepee staked in the ground and a fire burning beside it has grown into an unprecedented indigenous-led spiritual resistance against the $3.8 billion, 1,172-mile-long Dakota Access Pipeline.
By Rebecca Bengal for the Vogue
Photographs by Mitch Epstein
April 18, 2018

- In late 2016, a resistance made their home in teepees and yurts and tents at Standing Rock to protest the Dakota Access oil pipeline and to defend treaty rights and sacred lands and, primarily, water. They weathered storms, blizzards and bitter cold and a muddy thaw; they endured surveillance by helicopter and surveillance by drone. They faced tear gas, LRAD sound cannons, mace, pepper spray, and dogs, too.
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**Sacred Stone camp site and “Not Afraid to Look” by Charles Rencountre of Artists Make Art.**
Heading north on Highway 1806.

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard at her home in Fort Yates, North Dakota.

Oceti Sakowin Camp site.


Abigail DeVille

Harlem Flag, 2014; Sheetrock, door, American flag, wax, encaustic paint, charcoal dust, wallpaper scrap, window shade, and staples, 96 x 120 in.

Abigail DeVille

Katie reading Moyra Davey, ed. (Mother Reader: Essential Writings on Motherhood, 2001) from the series Reading Women (2012–2014)

Katie Herzog

• Transtextuality (Senate Bill 48) reinterprets Gerhard Richter’s “48 Portraits,” originally completed for the 1972 German Pavilion of the Venice Biennale.
• Richter’s study of the learned portrait, however, instead of choosing white men of letters as Richter did, Herzog selects forty-eight transgender leaders in the fields of science, philosophy, and literature.
• In her title, Herzog also aligns her project with Senate Bill 48 signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011 requiring the inclusion of trans individuals in school textbooks.
• Herzog’s project, utilizing images from Wikipedia and other online sources, addresses transgender representation in the public sphere and aligns painting with interactive digital archives to investigate an aesthetic, social, and epistemological need.
• In the process, the term Men of Letters is critically engaged to open dialogue surrounding gender, language, and the intellectual body.

Katie Herzog

Christine reading Ruth Wilson Gilmore (Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California, 2007) from the series Reading Women (2012–2014)

Christine Tien Wang

Transtextuality (Senate Bill 48), 2013
CHRISTINE TIEN WANG

Angela Davis, 2016; Oil and gold leaf on gesso on panel

Frantz Fanon, 2017; Acrylic on Canvas 60 x 48”

CURATE THIS PAINTING INTO A GROUP SHOW WITH ALL WHITE PEOPLE

Frantz Fanon, 2017; Acrylic on Canvas 60 x 48”

CLAIRE CHASE

Claire reading Laura Mullen (Was O, 2011) from the series Reading Women (2012–2014)

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CLaire reading Laura Mullen (Was O, 2011) from the series Reading Women (2012–2014)

NAOMI BECK WITH


SAMINA AKBARI


From Sundance:
“A young woman that makes up one part of a interracial relationship copes with the arrival of her family while trapped in a rat-infested apartment.”

The Visitors, 2009; 7 minutes

SAMINA AKBARI

SAMINA AKBARI

CAULEEN SMITH

Still from Remote Viewing (2011)
Digital film for projection, color/sound
Total running time: 15 minutes, 24 seconds.

Context for Remote Viewing (2011)
In the animated StoryCorps essay School’s Out, the Reverend James L. Seawood shared a heartbreaking story about the day the pre-integration school that his mother ran in Sheridan, Arkansas was shut down and literally buried in a giant hole. The closure was due to the dwindling African-American population who had been fired from their jobs at the lumber mill and evicted from their homes in the 1950s.

Eventually, the black population began to go down that left my mother there at the school as the principal, the teacher, the janitor, whatever she had to do everything. It was long after those events and black school had shut down, they had to keep the school open for one last child, his family, so they had to keep doing that. So in the end, it was through this event that my mother decided she would make her own films.

Chronicles of a Lying Spirit by Kelly Gabron
(a film by Cauleen Smith)(1998)

... spirit, girl, woman, narrator:

“I decided I'll just have to make my own damn films.”

CAULEEN SMITH