

MAY 29TH - JUNE 1ST, 2019.

BEYOND TRENDS: DECOLONISATION AND ART CRITICISM

SALLE DES CONGRÈS
ET DES ARTS VIVANTS



CARIBBEAN CENTER
OF EXPRESSIONS
AND MEMORY OF
THE SLAVE TRADE
AND SLAVERY



2017 MUSEUM PRIZE
PRIX DU MUSÉE



TILTING
AXIS

“BEYOND TRENDS: DECOLONISATION AND ART CRITICISM” will explore the theme of decolonisation—thinking beyond its currently popular usage as cultural and institutional critique. Unlike its application to specific sites and processes, has decolonisation been a constant and ubiquitous practice in the Caribbean? This gathering will re-consider the currency of these discourses, identifying site-specificity within the Caribbean.

For example, what does it mean for art institutions to negotiate decolonisation after postcoloniality? What different approaches can be deployed in decolonising discourses—specifically in relation to art criticism—and made more visible in spaces where their prevalence renders them invisible?

Examining the roles of artists, curators, educators, arts managers, scholars, art writers and critics, and policy writers, etc., we will consider how to strategically involve discourses on decolonisation that are useful for the Caribbean’s cultural sector.

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, MAY 28TH | ARRIVAL

6:00 p.m.: Welcome Toast at Mémorial ACTe: one free drink with canapes, followed by cash bar on the terrace.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH | DAY I

8:30 a.m.: Shuttle pick up at Canella Beach Hotel.

9:00 a.m.: Registration and arrival at MACTe with teas and coffee.

10:00 a.m.: **Welcome by Mémorial ACTe Chairman, Jacques Martial**, “Mémorial ACTe: An Act of Resistance.”

10:15 a.m.: **Tilting Axis Overview and History** with Annalee Davis and Holly Bynoe.

10:30 a.m.: **Keynote Presentation:** Manthia Diawara is a writer, cultural theorist, film director, and scholar. He is Professor of Comparative Literature and Cinema Studies at New York University and is director emeritus of the Institute of African American Affairs. Born in Mali’s capital Bamako, Professor Diawara spent his youth in Guinea until 1964 when his family was expelled from the country by the regime of Ahmed Sékou Touré.

11:30 a.m.: Pause café.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.: **A tribute to Alanna Lockward.**

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Lunch at Mémorial ACTe.

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: **Panel 1: Words as Weapons: Decolonising Art Criticism**

Art criticism is seldom self-critical. Postcolonial interventions have helped to change how institutions, academic fields, and the market have approached art by reconsidering the power dynamics and hegemonies at play. Current calls for decolonisation, however, demand action. This panel will analyse the current state of art criticism in the Caribbean and its diasporas—both as the object of a process of decolonisation—as in how we should go about decolonising art criticism—and as itself a practice for decolonisation.

Dominique Brebion, Jocelyn Valton & Hrag Vartanian.
Moderator : Mario A. Caro.

3:00 p.m.: **Break-Out Session #1**

The related break-out session will explore how art criticism as a practice in the Caribbean is (mis)understood and how it is being regenerated in this context through online blogs, self-publishing, institutional programming and publications, informal conversations, etc. We will focus on the broader challenges of democratising art criticism, the established power relations within criticism, and the usefulness of criticism being deployed as a tool to gather a more authentic and expansive tool of learning and empowerment.

4:00 p.m.: Pause café.



4:15 p.m.: 2019 Tilting Axis Curatorial Fellow Presentation with Lise Ragbir (the University of Texas at Austin) and Natalie Willis, 2019 Fellow (The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas).

4:45 p.m.: Announcement of Tilting Axis Fellow 2019 / 2020, Tiffany Boyle, Mother Tongue.

5:00 p.m.: MACTe Tour of Permanent Exhibition with Jacques Martial and Thierry L'Etang.

6:30 p.m.: Return to Hotel. Free evening.

THURSDAY, MAY 30TH | DAY 2

8:30 a.m.: Shuttle pick up at Canella Beach Hotel.

9:00 a.m.: Local Art Tour at Musée Schœlcher and Musée St John Perse, Pointe à Pitre, Spice Market, and Thierry Alet's studio with pause café.

12:30 p.m.: Lunch at Mémorial ACTe.

1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Panel 2: Mashing up the Canon Art worlds in the global north are increasingly condemned for controversies surrounding 'ownership' of misappropriated artefacts. Simultaneously, there is a move among some museums to 're-hang' their Age of Enlightenment galleries and or repatriate collections to countries of origin. In tandem, we are witnessing increased diversity in the hiring of persons of colour across US-based cultural institutions. This panel will explore strategies for decolonising cultural spaces, offering innovative theories and methodologies/practice within the institution and the academy.

Mireille Badamie, Charles Campbell & Laurella Rinçon.

Moderator: Johanna Auguaic.

3:30 p.m.: Break-Out Session #2

The related break-out session will explore provocative approaches enacted across the archipelago to co-write multiple narratives, challenging how the Caribbean continues to be determined by prevailing neocolonialist ideologies that perpetuate disempowerment and the demise of arts ecologies in the region. What are examples of Caribbean cultural institutions confronting inequities in its arts ecology or institutions further afield that have mirrored concerns? Where are the striking examples of cultural workers challenging systemic injustices, cultural biases, and dominant ideologies?

4:30 p.m.: Pause café.

4:45 p.m.: Pop ups:

- Paulo Miyada, Adjunct Curator, São Paulo Biennial, Brazil.
- Berette Macaulay, Freelance Artist, Scholar, Writer.
- Christelle Lozère, University of Martinique.
- Matilde Dos Santos, Art Historian.

5:30 p.m.: Performance by Artist-in-Residence Max Diakok "J'habite une blessure sacrée".

6:15 p.m.: Tour of Taíno Exhibition, with Jacques Martial and Thierry L'Etang.

Shuttle to arrive 6:15 p.m. and then again at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 31ST, | DAY 3

8:30 a.m.: Shuttle pick up at Canella Beach Hotel.

9:00 a.m.: Pause café.

9:15 a.m.: Carte Blanche by Edouard Duval-Carrié Edouard Duval-Carrié is a contemporary artist and curator based in Miami, Florida. Born and raised in Haiti, Duval Carrié fled the regime of "Papa Doc" Duvalier as a teenager and subsequently resided in locales as diverse as Puerto Rico, New York, Montreal, Paris, and Miami. Parallels thus emerge between the artist's cosmopolitan lifestyle and his artistic sensitivity toward the multifaceted identities that form his native Haiti. At heart, Duval Carrié is an educator: he challenges the viewer to make meaning of dense iconography derived from Caribbean history, politics, and religion. His mixed media works and installations present migrations and transformations, often human and spiritual. Recently the conceptual layering of Duval Carrié's works has been further emphasized in his materials and through consistent attention to translucent and reflective mediums, such as glitter, glass, and resin. The introspective effects of these mediums transform his works into spatial interventions that implicate the viewer in their historicity. At their most fundamental, Duval Carrié's works ask the viewer to complicate the Western Canon, to consider how Africa has shaped the Americas, and how the Caribbean has shaped the modern world.

9:45 a.m.: Panel 3: Colonisation in Reverse

With an introduction to Louise Bennett's seminal poem "Colonisation in Reverse" this panel foregrounds presentations deployed by artists, cultural instigators and theoreticians whose diverse working methodologies employ a deepening assessment of decolonial aesthetics, methods of interpretation, postcolonial representation, and the ethos of civil disobedience. What are the dilemmas that we currently face as a result of persevering colonisation, and where is the more expansive thinking happening in the wider Caribbean regarding alternate pedagogical methods, art praxes, curatorial strategies, and advocacy around intersectionality?

Erin Christovale, Carlos Motta, & Jerry Philogene.

Moderator: Tobias Ostrander.

11:30 a.m.: Break-Out Session #3

In the related break-out session, we want to seek out different approaches being deployed across the wider Caribbean, for example by artist-led initiatives or as expressed by artists exploring decolonisation in their practice. Colonisation in Reverse requires we all show up to the frontline to express discontent with the conscription of artists' works as product for the marketplace and an answer to economic crises faced by many Small Island Developing States.

12:30 p.m.: Lunch at Mémorial ACTe.

2:30 p.m.: On Koze:

- Ian Bethell-Bennett, Writer and lecturer, University of The Bahamas.
- Florence Alexis, Art Critic and Curator, France.

3:30 p.m.: Pause café.

4:00 p.m.: Bénédicte Alliot, La Cité des Arts presentation.

4:20 p.m.: Feedback forms, wrap up and Vote of Thanks.

5:00 p.m.: Return to the hotel.

7:00 p.m.: Pick up from hotel.

7:30 p.m.: Farewell Cocktails.



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