

ALEXANDRA M. THOMAS

Curriculum vitae
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EDUCATION

Expected 2024 PhD, Yale University, History of Art and African American Studies
Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Council on African Studies Affiliate
European Studies Graduate Fellow
Dissertation: "Afrekete's Touch: Black Queer Feminist Errantry and Global African Art"
Committee: Pamela M. Lee, Tavia Nyong'o, Cécile Fromont

2021 MPhil, Yale University, History of Art and African American Studies

2020 MA, Yale University, History of Art and African American Studies

2018 BA (Highest Honors), Brandeis University, African and African American Studies and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Minors in Art History and English Literature
Thesis: Black Feminist Theories of Flesh: Embodiment, Biopolitics, Visual Culture
Committee: Faith Lois Smith, Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Salah Hassan

Honors: 2018 Doris Brewer Cohen Award in Justice and Public Life (awarded to the best senior thesis in the Social Sciences), 2018 W.E.B. Du Bois Award for Academic Achievement in African & African American Studies, 2018 Giller-Sagan Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Senior Paper Prize, 2016 David A. Alexander '79 Memorial Award for Social Consciousness and Activism

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Africa and African Diaspora; Global Modern and Contemporary; Art, Film, Media; Black Studies;; Feminist and Queer Theory; Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; Globalization; Domesticity; (De)coloniality; Critical Theory; Embodiment; Affect; Ethnic Studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2022 Visiting Professor, Critical Practice: Race, Migration, Diaspora, Yale School of Art

Spring 2022 Lecturer, History of Art and Architecture, UMass Amherst

(1) Visualizing Black Queer Feminisms, (2) Global Masquerade: Intro to African and African Diaspora Art, (3) Black Aesthetics and Globalization

Fall 2021 Adjunct Professor, African American Art, Fairfield University
 Summer 2021 Yale Young African Scholars, Instructor, Yale Summer Sessions
 Spring 2021 Teaching Fellow, Queer Modernisms, Yale University
 Fall 2020 Teaching Fellow, Black Feminist Theory, Yale University
 Summer 2019 Teaching Assistant, Social Life of Modern Art, Yale Summer Sessions
 Fall 2017 Teaching Assistant, Black Feminist Thought, Brandeis University
 Spring 2016 Peer Assistant, Sociology of Race, Class, and Gender, Brandeis University

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

2021- Present Curatorial Research Associate, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College
 Curated Exhibition: “Homecoming: Domesticity and Kinfulness in Global African Art,” (July 2023-June 2024)
 Curated Exhibition: “African Fashions” Pop-Up exhibition for Black Legacy Month, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, February 2023.
 2023 MoCA Westport, Guest Curator
 Curated Exhibition: “Paul Camacho: El Ritmo y La Unidad” (Winter 2023)
 2022 Exhibition Assistant, *Steve McQueen: Lynching Tree*, Yale Center for British Art
 2021-Present Curatorial Intern, Modern and Contemporary Art, Yale University Art Gallery
 2018-2022 Wurtele Gallery Teacher, Yale University Art Gallery
 2021 Summer Museum Professionals Seminar, Studio Museum, Harlem
 2020 Racial Justice Curriculum Design Intern, Mystic Seaport Museum
 2019-2020 Curatorial Research Assistant, African Arts, Yale University Art Gallery
 2019 Mellon-Marron Research Consortium, Study Sessions, MoMA New York
 Juror for MFA Student Exhibition, Indiana State University
 2018 Research Associate, African Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
 Rose Art Museum, Looking with the Learner, Museum Education Practicum
 2017 Installation Team, Artist Tony Lewis’s *Plunder* (2017), Rose Art Museum
 2016-2017 Sherman H. Starr Curatorial Intern, Rose Art Museum
 2014-2016 Gallery Attendant, Rose Art Museum

PUBLICATIONS

“Braiding, Weaving, Sweeping,” (Working title), in an edited volume on Black and Indigenous Art Histories, edited by Jami Powell and Michael Hartman, under tentative contract with University of Washington Press (Forthcoming, 2024).

“Geoffrey Holder’s Errantry” (Working title), in an edited volume on Geoffrey Holder’s art and life, edited by Erica Moiah James, under tentative contract with Duke University Press (Forthcoming, 2024).

“We Don’t Need Another Hero: Black Feminist Curatorial Practice at the 2018 Berlin Biennale,” in *Innovations in Black Europe Studies*, Tiffany Florvil and Vanessa D. Plumly, Frankfurt: Peter Lang Press (Forthcoming, 2023).

Exhibition Review of *African Arts — Global Conversations* at the Brooklyn Museum, *African Arts* (2022).

“Black Radical Imagination,” co-authored with Clara I. Díaz, Tiera Lee, Andrea Lewis, Anthony Reid, Amiri Tulloch, Studio Magazine, Studio Museum Harlem (2022).

Book Review of Media Primitivism: Technological Art in Africa, Media-N, *Journal of the New Media Caucus* (2022).

“Coding: Braiding: Transmission: On the Aesthetic Life of Dark Sousveillance,” *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* (2021).

"Book Review of *Bloodflowers: Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Photography, and the 1980s*." *African Arts* (2021) 54 (2): 93–95.

Film Review of *Becoming Black* by Ines Johnson-Spain, *Art and Race in Central and Eastern Europe*, Special Issue of *ARTMargins* (2021).

“On Rebellious Teaching: Lessons from a Black Feminist Gallery Teacher,” *Pedagogy Roundtable*, Hazine Blog (2021).

“Dear May Ayim, Dear Audre Lorde, Dear Us,” *In Solidarity*, Special Issue of *Paprika!*, Yale School of Architecture/Yale School of Art (2020).

ART WRITING

Interviews with several artists in “Luncheon on the Grass” exhibition catalog at Jeffrey Deitch (Forthcoming, 2023).

“Subjectivities,” in catalog for “Narrative as Reality,” Kelvin Beachum collection exhibition at Martin Museum of Art, Baylor University (Forthcoming, 2023).

Exhibition reviews and interviews in [Hyperallergic](#), [Texte-Zur-Kunst](#), [Contemporary And](#), and [Frieze](#) (2020-2022).

“Arcadia” for Kemi Onabulé’s solo exhibition at Sim Smith, London (Forthcoming, 2022).

“Black Millennial Femmehood: Qualeasha Wood,” in *Mousse Magazine* (2022).

“Black Cowboys” in catalog for Otis Kwame Kye Quaicoe’s “Black Rodeo: Cowboys of the 21st Century,” exhibition at Almine Rech in Brussels (2022).

“When I Get That Mood Indigo: South x South Ecologies and Black-Asian Intimacies,” exhibition essay for “Bhasha Chakrabarti: When I Get That Mood Indigo” at [M+B Gallery in Los Angeles \(2021\)](#).

“Amina Ross,” and “Kevin Hernández Rosa,” [Yale Sculpture MFA Thesis Exhibition \(2021\)](#).
Yale Painting MFA Thesis Virtual Exhibition at Perrotin Gallery, [Introduction Text \(2020\)](#).

[H-Black-Europe](#), H-Net Reviews, Reviews of [Rosine Mbakam Films](#) (2019).

FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Beinecke Library Pre-Prospectus Research Fellowship, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University

2017 Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library. 2017

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY AND INVITED TALKS

“Africa is Queer: Zanele Muholi and Rotimi Fani-Kayode,” September 27, 2022, undergraduate Art History course, Mount Holyoke College, taught by Kymberly Newberry.

“Braiding, Weaving, Sweeping: Domesticity and Curating Diasporic Intimacies,” April 7, 2022, Convening: Re-envisioning Histories of American Art, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College.

“Global Africa,” March 28, 2022, Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Global Art History, UMass Amherst course taught by Christine Ho.

“Black Queer Diaspora,” March 23, 2022, Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Global Art History, UMass Amherst course taught by Christine Ho.

“Work Wives: (Post)Colonial Domesticity, Maintenance Art, and Queer African Feminism,” December 4, 2021, Woman/Artist Conference, Yale History of Art Department.

“Adejoke Tugbiyele’s Embodied Architectures: Contemporary Yoruba Masquerade and Queer African Possibility,” September 8, 2021, African Dance Workshop Presentation, Zoom.

“Can I Love You Without Capitalism?: Vanessa German’s Glittering Vessels of Abundance,” June 18, 2021, Conference Presentation, Arts Council of the African Studies Association.

“Urban Arts: Ode-Lay Masquerade in Freetown and Concert/Film Posters in Accra,” April 1, 2021, Guest Lecturer, The Artist in African Art, Yale College Course taught by James Green.

“Black Art, Black Feelings, Black Possibilities,” Feb 27, 2021, Virtual Workshop, CT-CORE-Organize Now!, New Haven, CT.

“(Post) Colonial Domesticity and Kink: Zanele Muholi’s Dark Lioness,” November 9, 2020, Presentation, Yale WGSS Colloquium.

“Queer Black Feminist Art Histories.” Presentation. Black Feminist Kitchen Summer School, Zoom, June 2020.

“Adrian Piper’s *Concrete 8” Square* and Howardena Pindell’s *Untitled #4*.” Mellon-Marron Research Consortium Study Sessions: Artist’s Instructions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, May 2019.

“Black Feminist Theories of Flesh.” Bodies of Power/Theory in the Flesh Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference. Rutgers University, New Jersey, October 2018.

PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

- 2022 Moderator, “The Body Politic,” featuring Meera Mukherjee, Caitlin Beach, Aglaya Glebova, and Vera Mukhina, “Surrogates: Embodied Histories of Sculpture in the Short Twentieth Century” Symposium, Yale University
- 2021 “Rotimi Fani-Kayode: Online talk featuring Alexandra M. Thomas, Sunil Gupta, Evan Moffitt, Paul Mpagi Sepuya,” Hales Gallery
- “Lights, Camera, Activism: Black Creativity and Community Organizing,” Yale Africa Film Festival
- “Afronauts, Palestinants, Indigenants” Yale RITM Winter Colloquium
- “Braiding Black and Indigenous Intimacies,” Yale History of Art Modern and Contemporary Forum

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- 2020-Present Assistant Director, Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute,
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library
- 2021-2022 Coordinator, Colloquium and Working Group, Yale Women’s, Gender, &
Sexuality Studies
- 2020-2021 Humanities Research Tutor, House For Arts
Archival Research Assistant, Denyse Thomasos Book Project, Art Institute of Canada
Department Admissions Committee, Yale History of Art
Co-Organizer, Modern and Contemporary Forum, Yale History of Art
- 2019-2020 Department Graduate Representative, Yale History of Art
Conversation Partner, Yale Center for Language Study
- 2016 - 2018 Senior Administrative Assistant, African and African American Studies,

Brandeis University
 Research Assistant, Feminist Sexual Ethics Project, Brandeis University
 Research Assistant, Archival Project with Ghanaian Newspapers, Brandeis University
 Rose Art Museum Director Search Committee

GRANTS

2022 Council on African Studies, Graduate Research Award, Yale University
 2020 Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Research Award, Yale University
 2019 Dean's Emerging Scholars Award, Yale University, 2019.
 2018 Max Kade Travel Grant, German and European Studies, Brandeis University
 2016 Rapaport Grant, Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

WORKING GROUPS

African Dance Workshop, led by Cécile Bushidi, 2022- Present
 Race, Migration, and Coloniality in Europe, Yale RITM, 2022
 African Humanities Forum, History of Art Department. 2019- 2021
 Art and Protest, Beinecke Library. 2020
 Black Feminist Theory, African American Studies Department. 2018-2020
 Americanist Symposium, History of Art Department. 2018- 2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Arts Council of the African Studies Association
 Black Women's Studies Association
 College Art Association
 Society of Contemporary Art Historians

LANGUAGES

English (Native Speaker)
 Spanish (Proficiency in Reading and Speaking)
 French (Proficiency in Reading)
 Yoruba (Elementary Skills)
 German (Study in Progress)