

PRESS RELEASE

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THE WILLIAM GRANT STILL ARTS CENTER
A City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Facility
2520 West View Street, Los Angeles, CA 90016

PRESENTS: Colonialism: The Collective Unconscious

Curated by LILI BERNARD

LOS ANGELES, CA - Opening on Columbus Day weekend, this dynamic group show of fifteen emerging, established and legendary Los Angeles-based artists explores the impact of colonialism from Europe to Africa, Asia, The Middle East and the Americas.

ARTISTS: BARBARA CARRASCO, DORIT CYPIS, HARRY GAMBOA JR., JOHN OUTERBRIDGE, LAVIALLE CAMPBELL, LILI BERNARD, MARK BROYARD, RAKSHA PAREKH, RAUL PAULINO BALTAZAR, ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH (live performance), STEPHANIE MERCADO, STEVEN J. BROOKS, WILLIE MIDDLEBROOK, XILOMEN RIOS, ZEAL HARRIS

Show Dates: October 8 - November 19, 2011 Gallery Hours: Tue - Sat, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: THE WILLIAM GRANT STILL ARTS CENTER
2520 West View Street, Los Angeles, CA 90016 (near Adams & LaBrea)

OPENING RECEPTION: Free Admission
Saturday, October 8, 2011, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION features live performance at 4:00 p.m. by award-winning and critically acclaimed actor/writer/director ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH, performing "Christopher Columbus 1992," and live music by jazz musician MARCUS MILLER and his FREEDOM JAZZ MOVEMENT, including musicians KAMASI WASHINGTON on Sax and LEON MOBLEY on percussion

ARTISTS & CURATOR PANEL DISCUSSION: Free Admission
Saturday, October 22, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT DISCRIPTION - The exhibit includes Asco co-founder HARRY GAMBOA JR.'s avant garde video "Fire Ants for Nothing," where a man (text and performance by RUBEN GUEVARA) tries without success to affirm that he is not an ant, before extinguishing himself. Chicana artist

BARBARA CARRASCO offers her comic strip interpretation of colonialism via "Undiscover 500 Years (Columbus 1492-1992)," while 3D glasses are available to view the sarcastic cartoonish commentary of half Native American/half African-American artist STEVEN J. BROOKS on the conqueror's coiffeur via the artist's Conkaline's Glam-O-Rama. Contrastingly, the African American collective psyche resisting assimilation as expressed through natural hair styles is vividly explored in the sculpture, "Throne," by LAVIALLE CAMPBELL, the great-granddaughter of a slave who came to the New World from Africa through the Middle Passage. WILLIE MIDDLEBROOK reveals the impact of colonialism on his slave ancestors through his digital photographic collages.

New Orleans native MARK BROYARD takes us back to Katrina in his assemblage series which he composed of objects found in the wake of the hurricane, while JOHN OUTERBRIDGE ink drawings of the Watts Towers evoke memory of when the City of Los Angeles attempted to demolish the vernacular assemblage architecture built by Italian immigrant Simon Rodia.

Tel Aviv-born DORIT CYPIS uncovers a “self-knowledge that better recognizes otherness within” through a very personal conceptualization of colonialism in her native Israel, while XILOMEN RIOS explores her Jewish-Latino identity through collage.

Zimbabwe native RAKSHA PAREKH uses sugar and cotton to conceptualize the historical impact of those trade industries upon her native Africa and her East Indian ancestors, while Cuban native LILI BERNARD flips Eugene Delacroix’s Liberty Leading the People painting to tell the true story of a Cuban slave revolt lead by the African slave woman, Carlota, of the Triumvirato sugar plantation. ZEAL HARRIS tells the story of the Congolese woman, Kimpa Vita, who led a peaceful rebellion on the continent of Africa, when she attempted to Africanize and reform Catholicism, around 1704 AD.

Finally, Chicano artist RAUL PAULINO BALTHAZAR offers a photographic contemporary reenactment of the Mexican Revolution while first-generation American-born-Mexican artist STEPHANIE MERCADO uses maps, real-estate, ships and classical European high-fashion to explore the affects of colonialism from a historical perspective.

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