

UOL BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

Ut Pictura Poesis

An evening of Poetry, Art
and Art History

2 OCTOBER

7PM BST

FREE
ONLINE EVENT
Click here to
register



KADIJA SESAY

Activist,
writer, poet



VICTORIA BURGHER

Artist



MARK THOMPSON

Performer,
educator



MICHAEL OHAJURU

Art historian



CARMEN FRACCHIA

Art historian

Co-organised by the Global and Transregional Studies research group, the Race, Ethnicity and Equality Committee, & the Art History Programme of the School of History & Heritage, and generously supported by the HR Equality and Engagement Team from the University of Lincoln, UK.





PHOTO: JOHN BLANKE PROJECT



KADIJA SESAY

Kadija Sesay, FRSA, is the founder/publisher of SABLE litmag, and co-founder of The Mboka Festival of Arts, Culture. She is the editor of several anthologies of work by writers of African and Asian descent. Her poetry collection, *Irki* (which means 'Homeland' in the Nubian language) (Peepal Tree Press, 2013) was shortlisted for the Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry in 2014. She received an Arts Council grant for Research and Development for her second collection, *The Modern Pan Africanist's Journey* which includes a poetry and Pan-Africanism app. Kadija has received several awards for her work in the Creative Arts. She currently is a scholarship student researching Black British Publishing and Pan-Africanism.



PHOTO: GIGIGIANELLA_PHOTO



VICTORIA BURGHER

Victoria Burgher's sculptural practice is rooted in craft processes, focusing on a conceptual use of colonial commodities to visually re-examine whitewashed narratives of empire and neo-imperial exploitation. A sense of place and personal identity as an artist from a colonising country are engrained in her approach to making.

She has a background in ceramics, but has used sugar, bread, rubber, copper, indigo, salt and bagasse, among other materials, for her sculptures and installations. She holds a Masters in Art & Politics from Goldsmiths College, University of London, and exhibits regularly in the UK and Europe.

PICTURED: [MISSION \(OPIUM\)](#) (2020) AFRICAN HARDWOOD, OPIUM POPPY HEADS, SUGAR, PLASTER (10X10X60CM) BY VICTORIA BURGHER



PHOTO: JOHN BLANKE PROJECT



MARK THOMPSON

Performer. Educator. Creative. Activist. These are the professional pillars on which my career has been built. I started performing spoken word and using it to facilitate workshops on culture, identity and poetics before I published *Mixed Messages* in 2009. My work has been heard live as far afield as Johannesburg and been featured in venues from the Hackney Empire to the Paralympics, as well as on BBC One, Radio 4, Radio London and Choice FM. Online I have performed in New Zealand, the Caribbean, Malaysia, across North America and I also won the televised final of biggest ever UK slam online, Manorlogs. Currently having a poem illustrated to create a children's book, hosting a monthly online event 'Poetry From The Grassroots' and working on new commissions for Radio 4 and the homelessness charity Crisis.



PHOTO: JOHN BLANKE PROJECT



MICHAEL I OHAJURU

Michael I. Ohajuru is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies with honours degrees in Physics (Leeds, 1974) and Art History (Open University, 2008). He retired in 2014 after a twenty-five-year career holding senior positions in international sales and marketing in the data and mobile communications industry, he lives in South London. He blogs, writes and speaks regularly on the black presence in Renaissance Europe, he has spoken at the National Gallery, Tate Britain, British Library, National Archives and Victoria, Albert Museum and other institutions on the subject. Founder of the Image of the Black in London Galleries a series of gallery tours highlighting the overt and covert black presences to be found in the national art collections in London. He is the Project Director and Chief Evangelist of [The John Blanke Project](#): a contemporary Art and Archive project celebrating John Blanke the Black trumpeter to courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Michael is the co-convenor of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies [What's Happening in Black British History](#) series of workshops fostering a creative dialogue between researchers, educationalists (mainstream and supplementary), archivists and curators, and policy makers, now it its fifth year having held 10 workshops. He is also co-convenor of the Institute of Historical Research [Black British History seminar programme](#) and a founder member of the Black Presence in British Portraiture network.



PHOTO: PETER ABRAHAMS



CARMEN FRACCHIA

Professor of Hispanic Art History, Birkbeck University of London, School of Arts, Department of Cultures and Languages.

My main interest is the visual representation of blackness and the articulation of human diversity, subjectivity, agency, self-representation, religion, slavery, freedom, hybridity, and, race in the early modern Hispanic period. My new book *'Black but Human': Slavery and Visual Art in Hapsburg Spain, 1480-1700* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2019) explores the emergence of the enslaved and freed subjects in the visual form of Hapsburg Spain

My research is partly informed by my teaching to undergraduates and postgraduate students and the international dissemination and impact that my work has in academia and outside academia. My work has received considerable international recognition through papers given in international conferences, my involvement in 3 international networks about Slavery and Abolitionism in Spain sponsored by the Spanish government; my teaching at Birkbeck and abroad in Spain, Mexico and the United States of America, and, my publications in journals and edited collections in Latin America, Europe and the United States.

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