

Country-Focused Season: Thinking the Archipelago: Africa's Indian Ocean Islands
Colorful Threads: The Interwoven Worlds of Art and Culture in the Western Indian Ocean

Public Program | 14-15 December, 2023



Location: [The Africa Institute, Auditorium](#)

Free admission. [Pre-register to attend.](#)

DAY 1

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

10:00 AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

- **Hoor Al Qasimi** – President, The Africa Institute and Sharjah Art Foundation, U.A.E
- **Salah M. Hassan** – Director, The Africa Institute, U.A.E; Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University, U.S.A

10:15 AM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- **Prita Meier** – Associate Professor of Art History, New York University, U.S.A
- **Laura Fair** – Professor of African History, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University, U.S.A

10: 30 AM

PANEL 1: WOMEN, FEMINISM, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

Discussant

- **Elizabeth W. Giorgis** - Associate Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism, The Africa Institute, U.A.E

Panelists

- **Archival Entropy: Tracing the Photographic Representations of Djoumbé Fatima Kinaya Hassane** - Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, U.S.A
- **Women and the creation of Omani-Swahili Identity**
Jodie Marshall - Historian of Africa in the Indian Ocean, Michigan State University, U.S.A
- **The Indian Ocean as Feminist Aesthetic Space: Thinking with Lubaina Himid's Contemporary Practice**
Franziska Fay - Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany

12:30 AM | LUNCH

Location: The Africa Institute Courtyard

2:00 PM

PANEL 2: MATERIAL CONNECTIONS AND RUPTURES

Discussant

- **Rachel Ama Asaa Engmann** - Associate Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Africa Institute, U.A.E

Panelists

- **The Commonality of Labor: The History and Legacy of Building Construction in Modern Mauritius**
Dwight Carey - Assistant Professor of Art and the History of Art, Amherst College, U.S.A
- **From Swamp to Sea: Mangrove Poles and the Making of Space in the Western Indian Ocean**
Nidhi Mahajan - Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, U.S.A
- **Escape Artist: Vamona Navelcar's Flight Across Continents**
R. Benedito Ferrao - Assistant Professor of English & Asian and Pacific Islander American Studies, William and Mary, U.S.A

4:00 PM | COFFEE BREAK

Location: The Africa Institute Courtyard

5:00 PM | EXHIBITION TOUR

Gavin Jantjes: To Be Free! A Retrospective 1970–2023

Location: [Gallery 4, 5 & 6, Al Murejiah Square, Sharjah Art Foundation](#)

Guided tour by exhibition curator, Salah M. Hassan – Director, The Africa Institute, U.A.E

DAY 2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

10:00 AM

PANEL 3: CINEMA AND PLACEMAKING

Discussant

- **Surafel Wondimu Abebe** - Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Theory, The Africa Institute, U.A.E

Panelists

- **Cinema as an Archipelago of Desires: Mauritian Film Culture in the 1930s**
Debashree Mukherjee - Assistant Professor of Film and Media, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University, U.S.A
- **Movie-mad Island: Cinema and Public Leisure in Colonial Mauritius**
James Burns - Professor and Director of the Humanities Hub, Clemson University, U.S.A
- **Imaging the Peripheral: Island Making in Postcolonial India**
Bindu Menon - Associate Professor of Media Studies, Azim Premji University, India

12:00 PM | LUNCH

Location: The Africa Institute Courtyard

1:30 PM

PANEL 4: REPRESENTATIONS AND IMAGINARIES

Discussant

- **Meg Arenberg** - Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Department of Humanities and the African Languages and Translation Program, The Africa Institute, U.A.E

Panelists

- **Arrivals and Departures, Desertions and Betrayals: Fraught Intimacies in Zanzibar and the East African Coast**
Gaurav Desai - Professor and Chair of the English Department, University of Michigan, U.S.A
- **Imaging the Dodo Bird, Imagining Extinction (Mauritius)**
Pamila Gupta - Research Professor, Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of the Free State, South Africa
- **Black, Brown, and Blue: Fabulatory Aesthetics in the Work of Shiraz Bayjoo and Kama La Mackerel**
Natasha Bissonauth - Assistant Professor, Visual Art and Art History, York University, Canada
- **Distributed Objects, Distributed Personhood: Interwoven Relations between the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean Worlds**
Neelima Jeychandran - Assistant Professor of African Visual Culture, Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar

3:30 PM | COFFEE BREAK

Location: The Africa Institute Courtyard

4:00 PM | GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS

Location: [Sharjah Art Museum](#)

Lasting Impressions: Samia Halaby

Parallel Histories: Barjeel Art Foundation

*Free admission.
[Pre-register to attend.](#)
[Learn more about the theme.](#)*

**Image Credit: The City Soaks Up Like a Sponge and Expands (2011) Ink and Watercolour on Arches by Naiza Khan | Photo: Mehmood Ali*