

Historically free African Americans via visual and spatial representations

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

This workshop focuses on free African American people through art, visual culture and studies of space. It investigates circumstances of freedom and the disconnection from slavery prior to the Civil War, representations of free people of colour and descendants in visual culture and studies of space into the 21st century, and 17th and 18th-century White European immigration into Black America.

Presentations may focus on artworks made by free people of colour, such as sculptor Edmonia Lewis, portrait photographer J.P. Ball, landscape artist Robert S. Duncanson, and painters Henry Ossawa Turner and Edward Mitchell Bannister. How did their status as free play a role in their artistic careers or impact the content of their artworks? Papers may also focus on mobility and migration into free Black settlements across the United States and Canada. Topics include visual and spatial analyses of Black churches and schools, ownership of property shown in land surveys, rural roads named after free families of colour, or cemeteries.

With our location in Germany for the workshop, we seek to explore European migration into enslaving territories. What are the through lines of White families who become Black in the new world? They may have become enslavers who bore liberated children of colour. Or they may be indentured servants who bore free children of colour. Some free people of colour in the United States descended from German, British, Irish and Scottish forebears. What are the global ramifications of such disrupted, disconnected genealogies?

Overall, the workshop seeks to contribute new scholarship to the underrecognised subject of free African Americans and descendant populations in visual and spatial representation.

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photographic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity. Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.

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Concept and organisation:
Andrea Frohne

2-3

**September
2024**



Please register by 07 August 2024:

<https://www.globaldisconnect.org/registration/>

A link will be sent for remote participation upon registration.

Käte Hamburger
Research Centre
global dis:connect
LMU Munich

Maria-Theresia-Straße 21
81675 München
gdc@lmu.de

Monday, 02. September 2024

- 9:30 Coffee | registration
- 10:05 OPENING REMARKS
- 10:15 RURAL AND URBAN DISCONNECTIONS
Chair: Claiton Marcio da Silva (global dis:connect; Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul)
Andrea Frohne (Ohio University) Free Black Ohio communities and disconnected rural empowerment
Cicero Fain III (Marshall University in West Virginia) The construction of Black Huntington, West Virginia, 1871–1930
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:45 GENERATIONAL INTERRUPTIONS
Chair: Felix Ehlers (LMU)
Film screening of *Tablertown, Ohio Meets Kirchheim am Neckar, Germany. The Reunification of One Family*. Dir. Talisa Lemke, 2023. 22 min
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:45 INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTATIONS
Chair: Andrea Kifyasi (global dis:connect; University of Dar es Salaam)
Renate Bartl (Manager of the American Indian Workshop, Munich) Identifying free persons of colour in the U.S. census, 1790–1860
Jazma Sutton (Miami University) Archiving legacies of freedom: The Jennie Elder Suel and Black Women of Oxford Digital Collection
- 19:00 Dinner

Tuesday, 03. September 2024

- 9:30 ART HISTORICAL RECUPERATIONS
Chair: Sophie Eisenried (global dis:connect; LMU)
Theresa Leininger-Miller (University of Cincinnati) J.P. Ball's Splendid, Mammoth Pictorial Tour of the United States: The world's only African American, abolitionist panorama (1855)
Dustin Breitenwischer (University of Hamburg) 'Pictures come not with slavery and oppression and destitution': Freedom, artistry and the legacy of Frederick Douglass's iconography
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:05 FREE COMMUNITIES THROUGH FLOW AND FRICTION
Chair: Ben Kamis (global dis:connect)
Hampton Smith (Mellon Fellow at John Carter Brown Library and Library Company Philadelphia) Striking the common wind: Ornamental wrought iron and the Black radical tradition in New Orleans
Warren Milteer (George Washington University) Tracing the history of Hertford County, North Carolina's free people of colour and their descendants
- 12:20 Lunch
- 14:00 BREAKOUT GROUPS | WORKSHOP TAKEAWAYS