

Spring 2022

**AAAS 589S / VMS 555S  
BLACK VISUAL THEORY: PORTRAITURE**

Instructor: Rick Powell

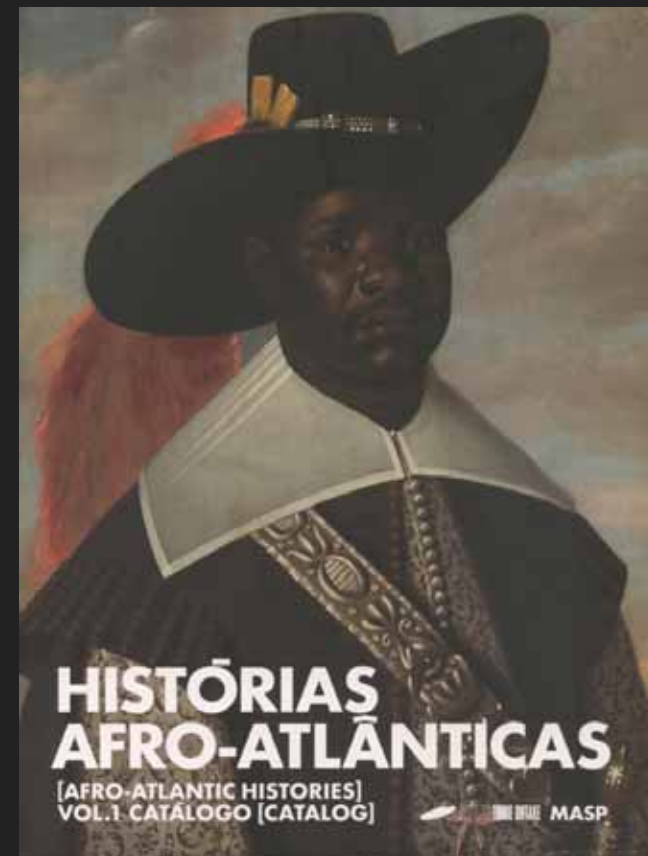
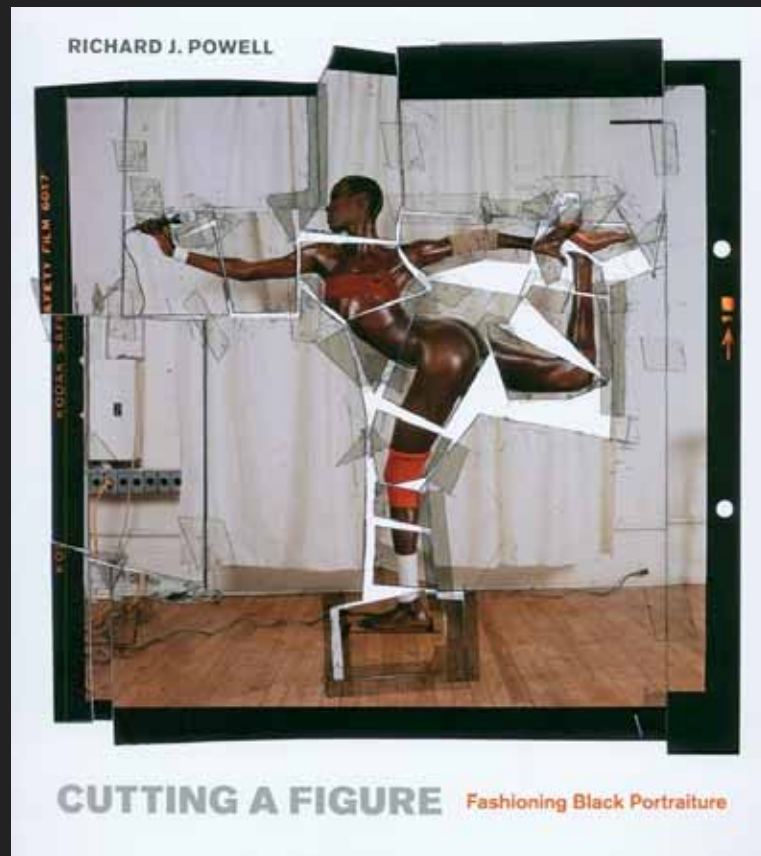
Thursday, 10:15am – 12:45pm

Smith Warehouse, Bay 10, A266



Left & right: Mario Moore (Spring 2022 seminar guest portraitist),  
*Seen* (Robert F. Smith), 2018. Pigment and hair on silicone, resin,  
plexi-glass.

## Seminar Texts



Left: Richard J. Powell, *Cutting a Figure: Fashioning Black Portraiture* (featuring Jean-Paul Goude's Grace revised and updated, cut-up ekta, New York, 1978) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). Right: Adriano Pedrosa, Ayrson Heracito, Helio Menezes, Lilia Moritz Schwarcz, & Tomas Toledo, *Histórias Afro-Atlânticas* (featuring Unknown artist, *Don Miguel de Castro, emissary of Kongo, 1643*) (Sao Paulo: Museu de Arte de Sao Paulo, 2018).

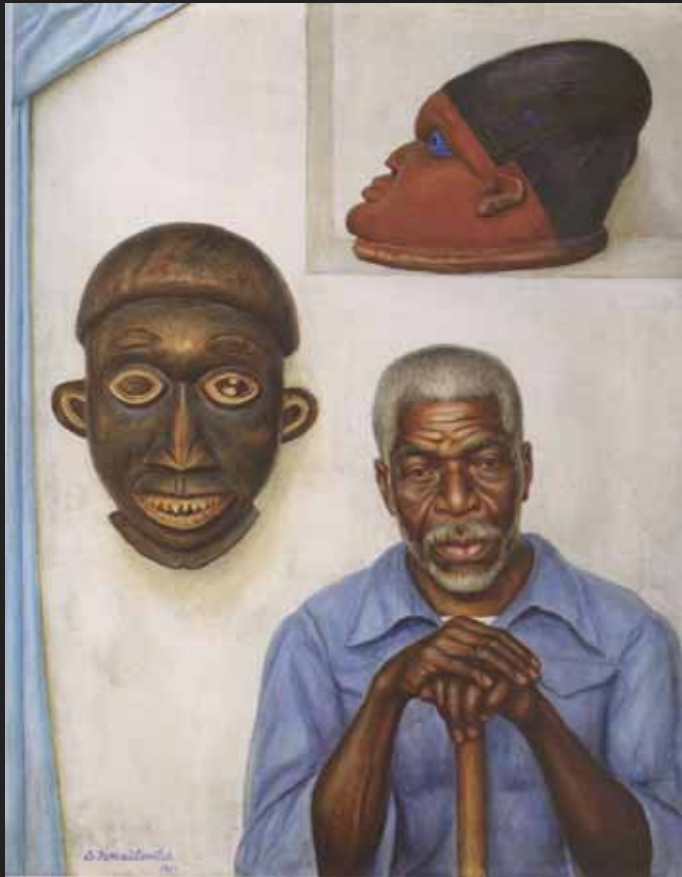
Thursday, January 6 / Introduction to Seminar

Thursday, January 13 / Introduction to Historias Afro-Atlanticas

Wednesday, January 19 / Add/Drop ends



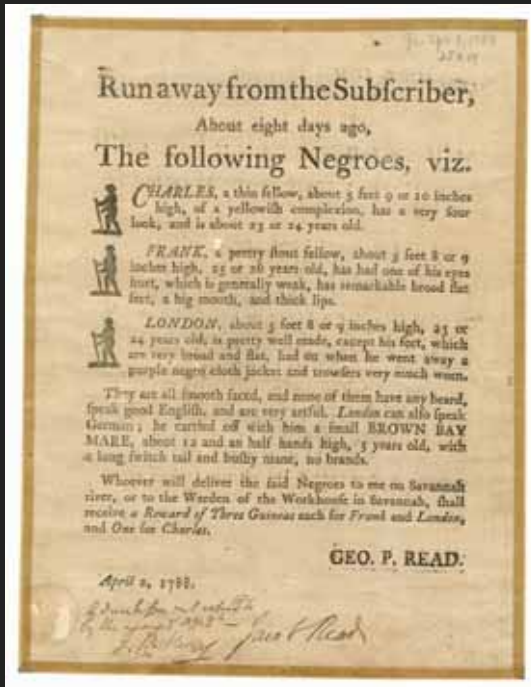
Above & right: Beverly McIver (Spring 2022 seminar guest portraitist), *Defiant*, 2018. Oil on canvas, 48 x 48 inches. Private collection.



Thursday, January 20 /  
Powell, *Cutting a Figure*,  
"Posing while Black"  
and "Interlocutors"



Dimitri Ismailovitch, *Bamoun Dance Mask, Yoruba Cameroun*, 1941. Oil on canvas, 90 x 71.5 cm). Private collection. Right: Anonymous (Woodard Studios, Chicago, IL), *Louis and Victor Powell, Chicago, Illinois*, ca. 1930. Gelatin silver print.



Left: George P. Read, "Runaway from the Subscriber,..." April 2, 1788. Runaway Slave Notice. Item ID: 10346, Folder GA 1, Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University, Durham, NC. Center: Nathaniel Jocelyn, *Cinque*, ca. 1840. Oil on canvas, 30 ¼ x 25 ½ inches. New Haven Museum and Historical Society. Right: Christian Mayr, *Kitchen Ball at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia*, 1838. Oil on canvas, 24 x 29 ½ inches. North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh.



Clockwise from lower left: Mathew Brady (after McPherson and Oliver, New Orleans), *The Peculiar Institution Illustrated (or The Scourged Back)*, 1863. Carte-de-visite photograph. Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Anonymous (British, after Scipio Moorehead?), frontispiece to Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects, religious and Moral*, 1793. Engraving, 5 1/16 x 4 inches. Rare Book Collection, UNC Chapel Hill, NC. Anonymous, *Sojourner Truth*, ca. 1864. Albumen print on carte-de-visite. 4 x 2 1/4 inches. Smith College, Northampton, MA. Attributed to Elisha Hammond, *Frederick Douglass*, ca. 1844. Oil on canvas, 27 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Thursday, January 27 / Pedrosa, Heraclito, Menezes, Moritz Schwarcz, & Toledo, *Historias Afro-Atlanticas*, "O escravizado e os libertos"



Left: Jacques Arago, *Slave Punishment*, 1839. Lithograph, 50 x 60 cm). Fundacao Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro. Center: Revert Henry Klumb, *Untitled*, c. 1864. Stereoview on paper, 8.5 x 16.5 cm. Private collection. Right: Victor Meirelles, *Conductor Henrique Alves de Mesquita*, 1862. Oil on canvas, 193 x 130 cm). Private collection.



Thursday, February 3 / Pedrosa, Heraclito,  
Menezes, Moritz Schwarcz, & Toledo,  
*Historias Afro-Atlanticas*, "New Negroes"



Left: Lasar Segall, *Zulima's Profile*, 1928. Oil on canvas, 62.5 x 54 cm). Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Sao Paulo. Right: Ismael Nery, *Lovers*, c. 1927. Oil on canvas, 58.5 x 58.5 cm). Private collection.



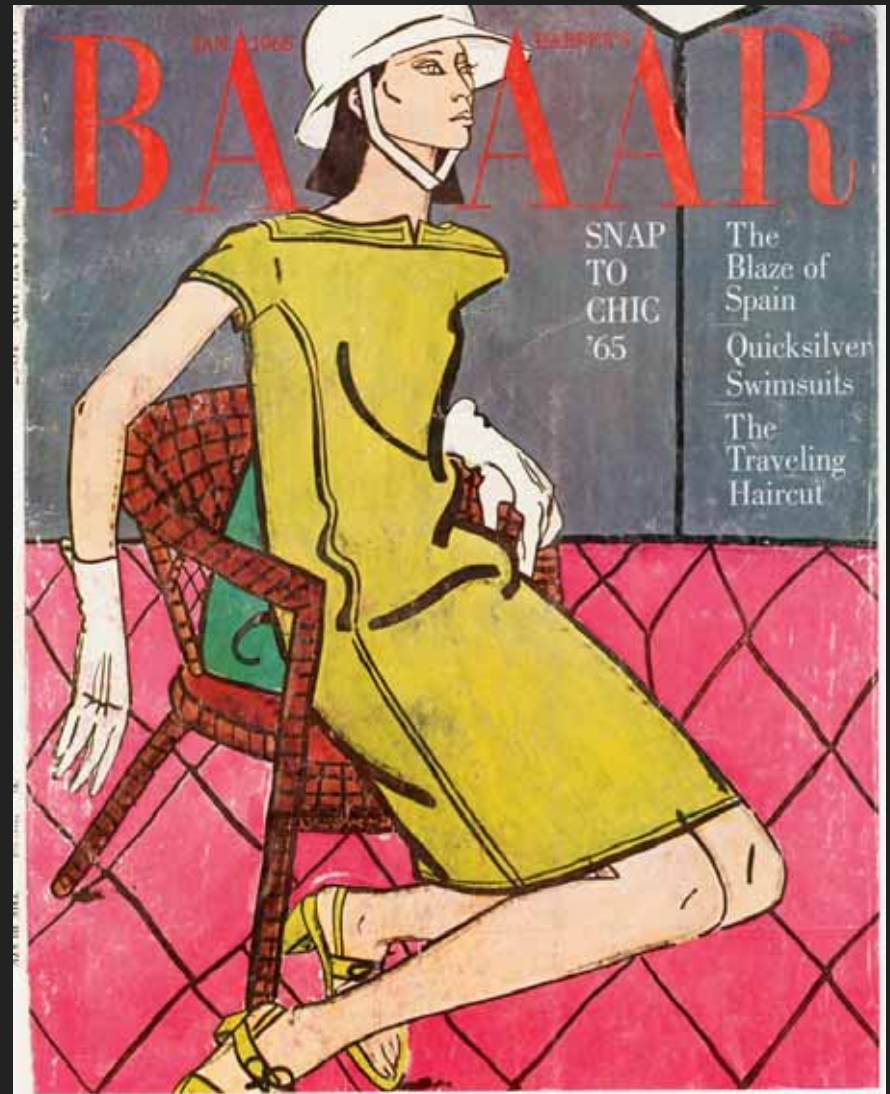




Thursday, February 10 /  
Powell, *Cutting a Figure*,  
"Luna Obscura"



Left: Donyale Luna, in an advertisement for Macshore Classics in *Ebony*, December 1966. Above: Charlotte March, Donyale Luna with earrings for *twen* magazine, 1966. Gelatin silver print. Right: Katharina Denzinger, cover illustration featuring Donyale Luna for *Harper's Bazaar*, January 1965. Colored ink on paper.







Left: Charles Moore, *Mattie Howard Being Handcuffed by the Police during a Civil Rights Demonstration, Birmingham, Alabama, May 1963*. Gelatin silver print. Right: Luigi Cazzaniga, *Donyale Luna, Rome, 1970s*. Color Photograph.



Thursday, February 17 / Independent Research Day

Thursday, February 24 / Pedrosa, Heraclito, Menezes,  
Moritz Schwarcz, & Toledo, *Historias Afro-Atlanticas*,  
"Negro es Bello"

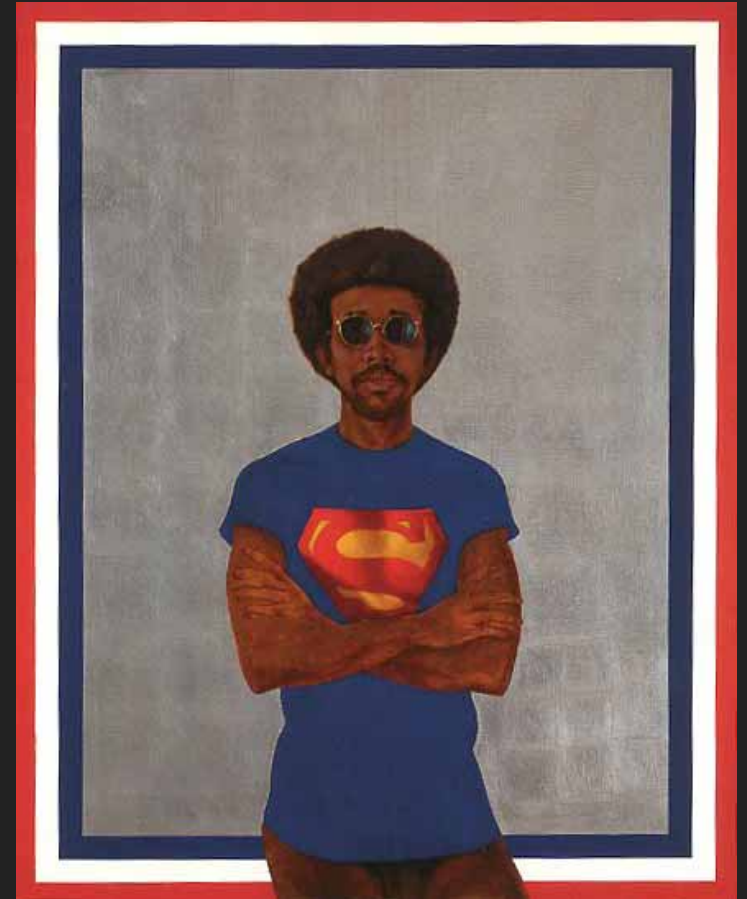
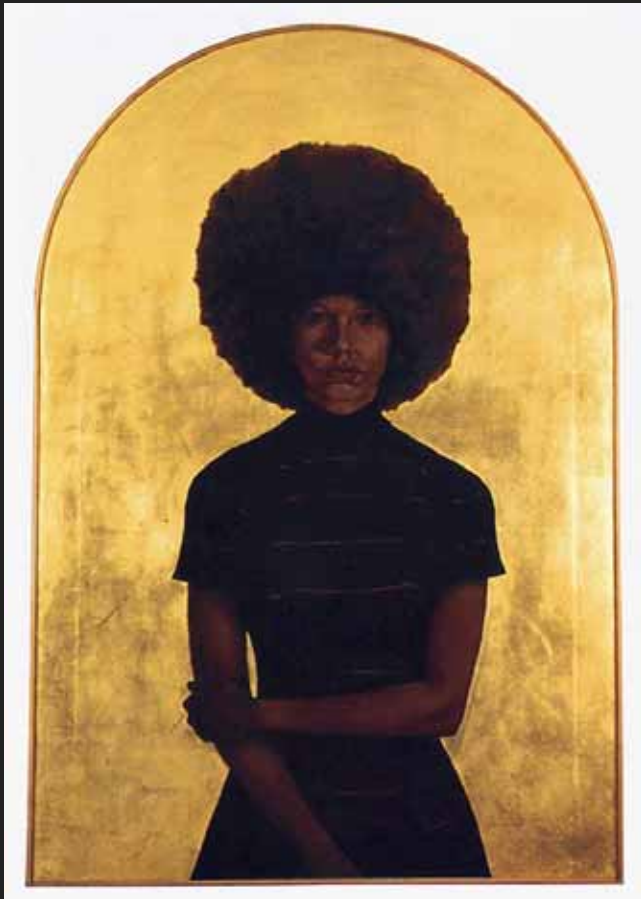


Left: Carybe, *Alexandrina and her city*, 1944. Oil on canvas, 110 x 80 cm). Private Collection. Above: Carlos Vergara, *Untitled* (from the *Carnival series*), 1972. Metacrilato, 101 x 151 cm). Private collection.

Thursday, March 3 /  
Powell, *Cutting a Figure*,  
"Barkley L. Hendrick's  
Afro-Shrine"

Friday, March 3 / Spring  
recess begins

Monday, March 14 /  
Classes resume



Above: Barkley L. Hendricks, *Lawdy, Mama*, 1969. Oil & gold leaf on linen canvas, 54 x 36 inches. Studio Museum in Harlem, NY. Center: Photograph of singer/songwriter Valerie Simpson, wearing a Stephen Burrows knit and suede patchwork ensemble, 1972. Right: Barkley L. Hendricks, *Icon for My Man Superman*, 1969. Oil, acrylic & aluminum leaf on linen canvas, 59 ½ x 48 inches.



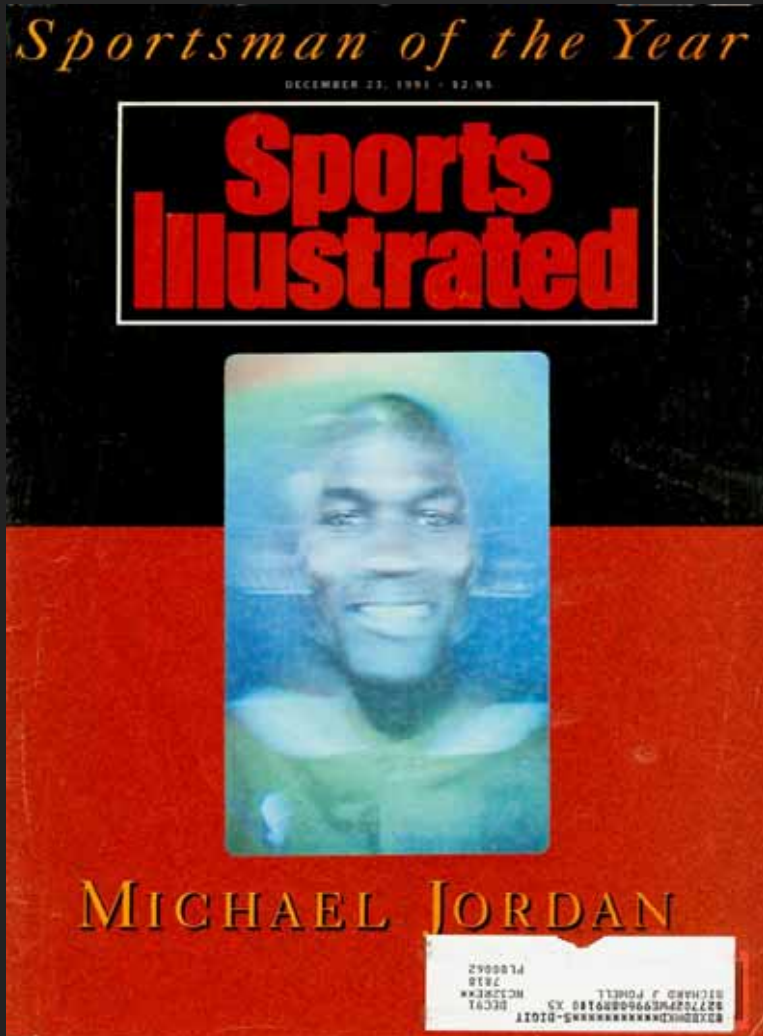
Left: Barkley L. Hendricks, *Miss T*, 1969. Oil & acrylic on canvas, 78 x 56 inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Center: Barkley L. Hendricks, *Self-Portrait*, 1970s. Photograph. Right: Barkley L. Hendricks, *Bahsir (Robert Gowens)*, 1975. Oil & acrylic on linen canvas, 83 x 66 inches. Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University.



Thursday, March 17 / Powell, *Cutting a Figure*, "The New Black Portraiture" and "Beyond the Bodies of Evidence"



Left: Lizzie Himmel, *Jean Michel Basquiat*, 1985. Color photograph. Right: Jeff Koons, *Michael Jackson and Bubbles*, 1988. Ceramic, 42 x 70 ½ x 32 ½ inches. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Left: Cover of *Sports Illustrated*, featuring a hologram by Sharon McCormack of Michael Jordan, December 23, 1991. Above from left to right: Anonymous (British), Mike Tyson "mirror" doll, 2000. Plastic, cloth, rubber, 4 ½ inches high. Hasbro Inc., Starting Lineup Shaquille O'Neal "King of the Paint" action figure, 1993. Plastic, 7 3/8 inches. Tonka Corp., Starting Lineup Rudd Gullit action figure, 1989. Plastic, 4 ½ inches. Private Collection.





Above: Beverly McIver, *Remembering Mom*, 2003-04. Oil on canvas, 54 x 54 inches (137 x 137 cm). Private collection, Greensboro, NC. Right: Kehinde Wiley, *Judith and Holofernes*, 2012. Acrylic on canvas, 120 x 90 inches (304.8 x 228.6 cm). North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh.



Thursday, March 24 / Pedrosa, Heraclito, Menezes, Moritz Schwarcz, & Toledo, *Historias Afro-Atlanticas*, "Black Looks"



Left: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, *Speaker for the Right*, 2013. Oil on canvas, 185 x 165 cm. Private collection. Right: Ad Junior, Edu Carvalho & Spartakus Santiago, *Intervention in Rio: How to Survive an Improper Approach*, 2018. Video.



Thursday, March 31 / Part One of Student Presentations



Left: Archibald J. Motley, Jr., *The Octoroon Girl*, 1925. Oil on canvas, 38 x 30.25 inches (96.5 x 76.8 cm). Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, NY. Right: Belmiro de Almeida, *Figure of a Young Black Woman*, 1880s. Oil on canvas, 46 x 38 cm). Museu de Arte do Rio.



Saturday, April 9 or Sunday, April 10 / Part Two of Student Presentations from Afro-Atlantic Histories, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC



Detail: Aaron Douglas, *Into Bondage*, 1936. Oil on canvas, 60 3/8 x 60 1/2 inches (153.4 x 153.7 cm). National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Sunday, April 10 / Richard J. Powell's  
Lecture at the National Gallery of Art,  
Washington, DC: Lecture 4: Red  
Combustion, Blue Alchemy



Above: Raymond Saunders, Exhibition Announcement, Mythology Shop, New York, 1977. Colored pencil and lithography on paper.  
Right: Sam Gilliam, *Blue 96" Disc*, 2020. Wood, aluminum, diestain, lacquer, 96 x 96 x 2 ¼ inches (243.8 x 243.8 x 5.7 cm). Pace Gallery, New York.



Friday, April 23 / Final Paper due on selected works of art from Afro-Atlanticas



Left: Mass Design Group, Ltd/Equal Justice Initiative, *National Memorial for Peace and Justice*, Montgomery, Alabama, 2018. Right: Paulo Nazareth, *Untitled* (from the *For Sale* series), 2011. Photo print on cotton paper, 93 x 70 cm.