Press Release
December 21st, 2020
University of South Florida, Department of Anthropology
Monuments, Markers and Memory 2021 Symposium series

Motivated by national movements and protests associated with Black Lives Matter, and the pushback and removal of Confederate iconography, the Monuments, Markers and Memory symposium series critically explores power, politics and activism around public monuments and memorials.

This four-part series unites artists, academics, activists, politicians, organizations, institutions, and local communities to address public memory, heritage and memorialization, and promotes restorative justice, social equity and legislative action.

This symposium is centered on the works of artist, writer, and activist John Sims and his recent series of Op-Eds (1, 2, 3) in the Tampa Bay Times. John suggests that we are at a critical moment, and must “start deep conversations around the culture of white supremacy and propriety of Southern Heritage.”

As a focal point for all of the events, the Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park in Ellenton reflects these larger concerns. The series will begin with a panel (January 23, 2021) opening the “Marking Monuments” exhibition at the USF Contemporary Art Museum. In each of the four events (see below for other dates), participants will examine the themes of Reimagining, Response, Recovery, and Redress.

The four panels and talks will discuss these concepts and push for concrete action, through legislative change, artistic re-imaginings, and historical justice. The series will conclude with a Keynote presentation (February 6, 2021) by John Sims.

1 https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/06/26/a-change-is-coming-for-confederate-iconography-column/
3 https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/08/28/heres-the-slave-memorial-i-have-imaged-for-floridas-gamble-plantation-column/
For more info and links to events, visit the Monuments, Markers and Memory 2021 Symposium Series Facebook Page @monumentsandmemorycollective https://www.facebook.com/monumentsandmemorycollective/

Sponsored by the Florida Humanities, the Florida Public Archaeology Network, the University of South Florida Department of Anthropology, The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, the University of South Florida ResearchOne, The Ringling Museum of Art, and the New College Public Archaeology Lab.

Funding for this program was provided through a grant from Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities. www.floridahumanities.org

Event Dates and Registration Links:

Saturday, January 23 / 11am EST
Monument, Markers, and Memory: Reimagining
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RP2M_7OXR7KEiianXLrtdQ

Saturday, January 30 / 2pm EST
Monument, Markers, and Memory: Response
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n5bq4MdWTXewO0wxToGDCw

Wednesday, February 3 / 7pm EST
Monuments, Markers, and Memory: Recovery
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YmZsR165Te-ARkwXKWeNog

Saturday, February 6 / 7pm EST
Monuments, Markers, and Memory: Redress
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P2fiFJuySROVvamnXLEG-Q

Affiliated exhibitions:
Marking Monuments USF Contemporary Art Museum Lee and Victor Leavengood Gallery
John Sims Performance of 2020: (Di)Visions of America The John and Mable Ringling Museum

Symposium Series Contacts:
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MONUMENTS MARKERS & MEMORY
2021 Symposium Series

This four-part series unites artists, academics, activists, politicians, organizations, institutions, and local communities to address public memory, heritage and memorialization and promote historical justice, social equity and legislative action. This symposium is centered on the works of artist, writer, and activist John Sims and his recent series of Op-Eds in the Tampa Bay Times around the themes of reimagining, response, recovery, and redress.

I. REIMAGINING MONUMENTS:
Contemporary Interventions in Public Space
Saturday, January 23 / 11am EST
Participants: Ariel René Jackson, Patricia Eunjii Kim, Joi Ito, Minaya, Karyn Olivier and John Sims
Moderator: Sarah Howard, USF Curator of Public Art and Social Practice
Presented by USF Contemporary Art Museum

II. RESPONSE:
Challenging the State-Sponsored Protection of Confederate Monuments, Iconography, and Heritage in Florida
Saturday January 30 / 2pm EST
Participants: Thomas Barwin, Antoinette Jackson, John Sims, Diane Wallman
Moderator: Renee Gilmore
Presented by USF and FPAN

III. RECOVERY:
Critical Approaches to Heritage, Monuments and Memory in the Academy
Wednesday, February 3 / 7pm EST
Participants: Uzi Baram, Tiffany C. Fryer, Jennifer Scott, Diane Wallman
Moderator: Emerald Morrow
Presented by New College PAL, USF and FPAN

IV. REDRESS:
The Plantation as Marker, Memorial and Monument
Saturday, February 6 / 7pm EST
Keynote Speaker: John Sims
Presented by The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE
Visit @monumentsandmemorycollective on Facebook for more information

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