

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



Freedom Memorial, John Sims, 2020

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/>

2 <https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2020/07/24/we-must-repeal-florida-laws-that-protect-the-confederate-flag-and-honor-its-leaders-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 Enuji Kim, Joiri 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](https://www.facebook.com/monumentsandmemorycollective) on Facebook for more information

Presented by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, University of South Florida Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum New College Public Archaeology Lab and State College of Florida: Manatee-Sarasota. 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.

