

# REASON RHYTHM AND REFLECTION

# THE PARADOXES OF EXILE

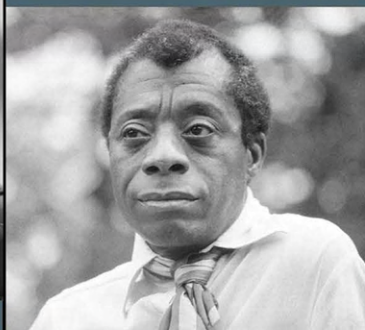
## PARIS

### 12-14 NOV



13 NOV: ON JOSEPHINE BAKER

14 NOV: ON JAMES BALDWIN



**WED. 12 NOV, 18H WELCOME & OPENING DISCUSSION**  
 AMPHITHÉÂTRE LIARD, SORBONNE NOUVELLE UNIVERSITY, 17 RUE DE LA SORBONNE 75005 PARIS

**THU. 13 NOV, 10H30-17H45 ON JOSEPHINE BAKER**  
 GRANDE SALLE GINSBERG-LECLERC. REID HALL. 4 RUE DE CHEVREUSE 75006 PARIS

**FRI. 14 NOV, 10H30-19H ON JAMES BALDWIN**  
 GRANDE SALLE GINSBERG-LECLERC. REID HALL. 4 RUE DE CHEVREUSE 75006 PARIS



# WED. 12 NOV. WELCOME

## 18H00-18H10 | WELCOMING REMARKS

Président Daniel Mouchard-Zay, *Sorbonne Nouvelle*

## 18H10-18H30 | OPENING REMARKS

Kaiama L. Glover, *Yale University*

## 18H30-19H30 | CONVERSATION

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *Harvard University* & Wole Soyinka

# THU. 13 NOV. ON JOSEPHINE BAKER

## 10H30-10H45 | WELCOMING REMARKS

Erwan Dianteill, *Université Paris Cité*

## 10H45-12H00 | OPENING CONVERSATION

Lauren Michele Jackson, *Northwestern University*

Maboula Soumahoro, *Université de Tours*

Kaiama L. Glover, *Yale University* (Moderator)

## 14H00-15H30 | SCHOLARS' ROUNDTABLE

Cheryl Finley, *Spelman College*

Terri Francis, *University of Miami*

Bennetta Jules-Rosette, *University of California-San Diego*

Salamishah Tillet, *Rutgers University*

Arlette Frund, *Université de Tours* (Moderator)

## 16H00-17H45 | ARTISTS' ROUNDTABLE

Mike Ladd

Ming Smith

Carla Williams

Deborah Willis, *New York University* (Moderator)

# FRI. 14 NOV. ON JAMES BALDWIN

## 10H30-10H45 | WELCOMING REMARKS

Arlette Frund, *Université de Tours*

## 10H45-12H00 | OPENING CONVERSATION

Farah Jasmine Griffin, *Columbia University*

Nicholas Boggs

Brent Hayes Edwards, *Columbia University* (Moderator)

## 14H00-15H45 | SCHOLARS' ROUNDTABLE

Yannick M. Blec, *University of Paris 8*

Jacqueline Goldsby, *Yale University*

Nadia Yala Kisukidi, *New York University*

Robert F. Reid-Pharr, *New York University*

Dagmawi Woubshet, *University of Pennsylvania*

Andrée-Anne Kekeh-Dika, *University of Paris 8* (Moderator)

## 16H00-17H45 | WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE

Jake Lamar

Léonora Miano

Simon Njami

Jesse McCarthy, *Harvard University* (Moderator)

## 18H00-18H45 | READINGS

Barbara Chase-Riboud

Marlon James

## 18H45-19H00 | CLOSING REMARKS

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *Harvard University*

# PARTICIPANTS



**Yannick M. Blec** is the author of a recent French biography of James Baldwin (*James Baldwin*, Folio Biographie, 2024). The other aspects of his research concern the construction of subaltern identities as his work focuses on African American identities, and more specifically on the intersection of Black LGBTQ+ masculinities in US inner cities. These are examined through popular culture elements, particularly hip hop culture with rap lyrics, music, rhythms, fashion, performances, and videos. In addition to representations, the analyses highlight the ways these representations are received by various Black male audiences/viewers. They also try to determine the extent to which Black masculinities are transformed by hip hop images as far as Black (queer) men are concerned, all in relation to the social, political, and economic US environment at large and within the more marginal Black community neighborhoods.



**Nicholas Boggs** is the author of *Baldwin: A Love Story* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), which was a finalist for the 2025 Kirkus Prize and currently longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. He is the co-editor of Baldwin's collaboration with French artist Yoran Cazac, *Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood* (Duke, 2018), and the recipient of a 2023 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Scholars-in-Residence Program at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Leon Levy Center for Biography, and the National Humanities Center, as well as residencies at Yaddo and MacDowell. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.



**Barbara Chase-Riboud** has created abstract art with a deep and nuanced understanding of history, identity, and a sense of place for over six decades. Her celebrated work operates on several dichotomies that have become central to her practice: hard/soft, male/female, flat/three-dimensional, Western/non-Western, stable/ fluid, figurative/abstract, powerful/delicate, brutal/beautiful, violence/harmony. Since 1958 her sculptures, drawings and writings which often monumentalize "the invisibles of history" have been presented at public and private institutions around the world. Equally renowned for her literary success, Chase-Riboud has published books of poetry and historical novels including *Everytime a Knot is Undone*, *a God Is Released: Collected and New Poems, 1974-2011*. In October 2022 her memoir, *I Always Knew*, was published by Princeton University Press. In 2024 Barbara Chase-Riboud's singular sculptures were presented as *Quand Une Noeud Est Denoue, Une Dieu Est Libere*, an exhibition mounted simultaneously in eight prestigious museums across the city of Paris including the Louvre, Musee D'Orsay, Centre Pompidou, Palais De La Porte D'Oree, Musee Guimet, Musee Du Quai Branly, Philharmonie and Palais De Tokyo.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Erwan Dianteill** is a French anthropologist and sociologist specializing in the anthropology of religion, particularly African and Afro-American traditions such as vodun, Santería, candomblé, and Louisiana spiritual churches. As a professor at the Sorbonne (Université Paris Cité) and founder of the Centre d'anthropologie culturelle (CANTEL), he explores transculturation, creolization, and ritual modernity in postcolonial contexts, emphasizing urban Africa and the Americas. Since 2007, his Porto-Novo fieldwork on Fa/Ifá divination, including a 2009 film, underscores his interdisciplinary approach, blending ethnography, theory, and multimedia to illuminate religion's role in power dynamics and cultural resistance across Afro-Atlantic. His last book, *L'oracle et le temple, de la géomancie médiévale à l'Eglise d'Ifa* (2024), is the first book on Africa to receive the Prize in History of Religion from the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (1663).



**Brent Hayes Edwards** is the Peng Family Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, where he is also affiliated with the Center for Jazz Studies. He is the editor of the journal *PMLA*. His books include *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism* (Harvard UP, 2003) and the English translation of Michel Leiris's monumental 1934 *Phantom Africa* (Seagull, 2017). His most recent publications are the co-edited volume *Écrire le monde noir* (Rot-Bo-Krik, 2024), a collection of the interwar writings of the pioneering Martinican intellectual Paulette Nardal, and *Easily Slip into Another World* (Knopf, 2023), the co-written autobiography of the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Henry Threadgill, which won the ASCAP Foundation Deems Taylor/Virgil Thomson Book Award in Pop Music and the American Book Award.



**Cheryl Finley** is the Walton Endowed Professor and Director of the Atlanta University Center Art History + Curatorial Studies Collective in the Department of Art & Visual Culture at Spelman College. Committed to engaging strategic partners to transform the arts and culture industry, she leads an innovative undergraduate program at the world's largest historically Black college and university consortium in preparing the next generation of African American museum and visual arts leaders. Dr. Finley's current book project, *Black Art Futures*, is a study of 21st century artist residencies and foundations established by artists in Africa and the diaspora as bold interventions of care, community, creativity, and possibility. Her current exhibition, *Free as they want to be: Artists Committed to Memory*, is co-curated with Dr. Deborah Willis and is on view at the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University. She is a recipient of the 2025 Project for Empty Space Badass Art Woman Award.

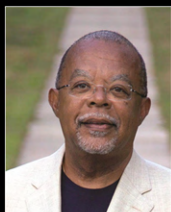
# PARTICIPANTS



**Terri Francis** is the author of *Josephine Baker's Cinematic Prism* (2021) and an associate professor at the University of Miami. She has lectured internationally on Baker's legacy and co-curated *Icon in Motion: Josephine Baker* at the New National Gallery in Berlin in 2024. Dr. Francis's video essay, *Josephine Baker Watches Herself*, was published with an introduction in *Feminist Media Histories* (2023)



**Arlette Frund** is Associate Professor emeritus at the University of Tours, France, who specializes in African American literature and culture. She is the author of *Phillis Wheatley et Olaudah Equiano : Figures pionnières de la diaspora atlantique* (Michel Houdiard Editeur 2006) and of articles on African American women writers. She is at work on a book on Anna Julia Cooper and her continuing relevance for our contemporary conversations on race, gender, place and self-affirmation. She has organized international conferences and numerous symposiums for the Center of African American and Diasporic Studies in Paris (CEAAD) and for the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University.



**Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. Emmy, DuPont, and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, cultural critic, and institution builder, Professor Gates has published numerous books and produced and hosted an array of documentary films about Black History, most recently *Great Migrations* (PBS). *Finding Your Roots*, Gates's groundbreaking genealogy and genetics series, which received a Primetime Emmy nomination, returns for its twelfth season in January of 2026. His latest book, *The Black Box: Writing the Race* (Penguin Random House, 2024), was named one of the *New York Times* 100 Best Books of the Year. Most recently, he was awarded the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and was elected an Honorary Fellow by the Royal Academy of Arts in England. His next documentary series, *Black and Jewish America: An Interwoven History*, will air in February on PBS. Gates is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on a wide array of boards, including the New York Public Library, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Aspen Institute, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Library of America, and The Studio Museum of Harlem. In 2011, his portrait, by Yuqi Wang, was hung in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. In 2023, his portrait, by Kerry James Marshall, was hung at the Fitzwilliam Museum at The University of Cambridge.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Kaiama L. Glover** is Professor of Black Studies and French at Yale University. She is the author of *A Regarded Self: Caribbean Womanhood and the Ethics of Disorderly Being* (Duke UP) and *Haiti Unbound: A Spiralist Challenge to the Postcolonial Canon* (Liverpool UP), and is completing a biography, *For the Love of Revolution: René Depestre and the Poetics of a Radical Life* (Liveright/Norton) and an essay collection, *'Blackness' in French*. She is an award-winning translator of francophone literature, the founding co-editor of *archipelagos | a journal of Caribbean digital praxis*, and the founding co-director of *In the Same Boats*, an Afro-Atlantic digital cartography. She has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the PEN/Heim Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination.



**Jacqueline Goldsby** is Thomas E. Donnelly Professor of English and Black Studies at Yale University. She specializes in African American literary criticism and Print Culture Studies during the long century of Jim Crow segregation, from 1865 to 1965. She is the author of the prizewinning *A Spectacular Secret: Lynching in American Life and Literature*, and the widely-acclaimed Norton Critical Edition of James Weldon Johnson's 1912 novel, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*. She's currently at work on two book projects, *Doing a New Thing: James Baldwin and the Work of Art*, and *Writing from the Lower Frequencies: African American Literature and Its Mid-Century Moment*, and has founded two Archival Studies projects, *Mapping the Stacks: A Guide to Black Chicago's Hidden Archives* and *The Black Bibliography Project* (co-directed with Meredith McGill at Rutgers University).



**Farah Jasmine Griffin** is University Professor at Columbia University, where she also served as the inaugural Chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies. She is the author or editor of eight books including *Who Set You Flowin?: The African American Migration Narrative* (Oxford, 1995), *If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday* (Free Press, 2001), *Harlem Nocturne: Women Artists and Progressive Politics During World War II* (Basic Books, 2013) and *Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature* (W.W. Norton, 2021). Griffin collaborated on two theatrical projects, for which she wrote the book: The first, *Geri Allen and Friends Celebrate the Great Jazz Women of the Apollo*, with Lizz Wright, Dianne Reeves, Teri Lyne Carrington and others, premiered on the main stage of the Apollo Theater in May of 2013. The second, *A Conversation with Mary Lou*, premiered at Harlem Stage in March 2014. Griffin has been a Guggenheim Fellow and Mellon Foundation Fellow in Residence.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Lauren Michele Jackson** is an assistant professor of English at Northwestern University and contributing writer at *The New Yorker*. She is the author of the essay collections *White Negroes* (2019) and the forthcoming *Back*.



**Marlon James** was born in Jamaica. He is the author of multiple award-winning novels including *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, which won the 2015 Booker Prize and the American Book Award. His novel, *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*, was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction, among other accolades. His sixth novel, *The Disappearing*, comes out in fall 2026.



**Bennetta Jules-Rosette** is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the Director of the African and African-American Studies Research Center (AAASRC) at the University of California, San Diego. Professor Jules-Rosette's areas of interest include contemporary sociological theory and semiotic studies of religious discourse, tourism, and African art and literature. She has conducted extensive research in France, Congo (DRC), Zambia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sénégal, and has also published nine books and over one hundred and twenty articles. She has visited 52 nations in Africa where she served as a representative of the U. S. State Department. Her most recent books include *Josephine Baker in Art and Life: The Icon and the Image* (University of Illinois Press, 2007), and *African Art Reframed: Reflections and Dialogues on Museum Culture*, co-authored with J. R. Osborn (University of Illinois Press, 2020). She is currently working on a new book on the legacies of Black Utopias.



**Andrée-Anne Kekeh-Dika** is Full Professor at Université Paris 8 (France). She teaches anglophone literature and translation. Her recent research has focused on the intersections between Caribbean literature and science — *The Poetics of Plants: Performing Speech, Performing Self, Performing Green* in *Plant Poetics: Literary Forms and Functions of the Vegetal, From "Half" to "Half," or the Question of Being in Alecia McKenzie's Sweetheart* in *Experimental Subjectivities in Global Black Women's Writing: Race and Narrative Innovation*. She has co-edited several books and special issues, *Penser la ligne brisée* (Épistémocritique, 2020), *Jamaica Kincaid as Crafter and Grafter: Agency, Practice, Interventions* (Wagadu, 2019), *Toni Morrison, au-delà du visible ordinaire/Toni Morrison: Beyond the Ordinary Visible* (2014).

# PARTICIPANTS



**Nadia Yala Kisukidi** is a writer and philosopher. She is Associate Professor of French Literature, Thought, and Culture at NYU and affiliated with the University of Paris 8 Vincennes Saint Denis (France). She was vice-president of the Collège International de Philosophie (2014-2016) and fellow at the Institute for Ideas and Imagination/ Columbia University (2022-23). She was co-curator of the Yango II Biennale in Kinshasa from February of 2020 to August of 2022. Nadia Yala Kisukidi specializes in French and African philosophy. She has published *Bergson ou l'humanité créatrice* (Paris, CNRS, 2013), directed collective essays for the revue *Tumultes* (2020), *Kinshasa Star Line* (Kisukidi dir.) for the revue *Multitudes* (2020) and written many articles in French and African philosophy. She has written *Dialogue transatlantique* with the feminist and Brazilian philosopher Djamila Ribeiro in 2021, and her first novel, *La Dissociation*, in 2022.



**Mike Ladd**, born in Boston (USA) in 1970, is a Black American poet, lyricist and music creator. He has released over fourteen records with important labels. His collaborative recordings have included artists from Vijay Iyer and Tyshawn Sorey to U-God of Wu-Tang. His collaborations with French groups such as Arat Kilo/Mamani Keita can often be heard on French radio. He has made full soundtracks for a Netflix series, short films and documentaries. He's created soundscapes for artists Kanishka Raja and Raphaël Barontini notably at Palais de Tokyo and The Panthéon. He's performed his original work worldwide at venues including The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), Queen Elizabeth Hall and L'Olympia in Paris. His writing has appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies including *Long Shot Review*, *Bostonia* and *Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Café*. Most recently he co-authored a collection of poems, *Baldwin in Transit* with Jamika Ajalon and Tamara Walcott.



**Jake Lamar** is the author of seven novels, a memoir, numerous essays, reviews and short stories, and a play. He was born in 1961 and grew up in the Bronx, New York. After graduating cum laude from Harvard University, he spent six years writing for *Time* magazine. He has lived in Paris since 1993 and has taught creative writing at one of France's top universities, Sciences Po. In 2024, his latest work, *Viper's Dream*, won Britain's most prestigious prize for crime fiction, the Dagger Award, in the historical novel category. That same year, his novel *If 6 were 9* won the top crime fiction prize in Germany, the Deutscher Krimipreis, in the international category. He is currently at work on a memoir about his life in Paris.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Jesse McCarthy** is John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Blue Period: Black Writing in the Early Cold War*, the essay collection *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?* and a novel, *The Fugitivities*. He is editor of W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* for the Norton Library, co-editor at the *Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, and co-editor with Henry Louis Gates Jr. of the Norton Critical Edition of Jean Toomer's *Cane*. His writing on literature, politics, and the arts has appeared widely including in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and *The New York Review of Books*.



**Léonora Miano**, a French citizen born in Cameroon (1973), is a great voice in French speaking literature. A novelist, playwright and essayist, she is the author of more than 20 books. Her work explores sub-Saharan or Afro-descendant experiences. Léonora Miano has been awarded the famous Prix Goncourt des lycéens in 2006 for *Contours du jour qui vient*, the Seligmann Prize against racism in 2012 for *Écrits pour la parole*, the prestigious Prix Fémina and the Grand Prix du roman métis in 2013 for *La saison de l'ombre*. In 2020, the University of Lorraine, in collaboration with the University of the Greater Region which brings together 6 European academic institutions, created the "Prix Frontières - Léonora Miano" in tribute to her writings and commitments. In 2024, she received the Prix des mots pour Changer at the Blue Metropolis Festival in Montreal. Léonora Miano has founded and curates the Quilombola series at Seagull Books, an independent publisher located in Kolkata (India). She has founded and runs The Quilombo Publishing in Lomé (Togo) where she resides. Also a stage artist, Léonora Miano has been offering performances mixing music and literature for about ten years. She is an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters (France).



**Daniel Mouchard-Zay** has been president of Sorbonne Nouvelle University since April 2023. Professor of political science at the Institute of European Studies and researcher in the Integration and Cooperation in Europe team, he is a specialist in political sociology and political theory applied to European issues. He has been director of the UFR Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Foreign Societies since 2018. He also held the positions of Deputy Director, then Director of the UFR of European Studies (2006-2008) and Vice-President of the Board of Directors (2008-2010). Between 2010 and 2018, he served as an advisor to the Mayor of Paris and then as the office director of the Deputy Mayor in charge of higher education, research and student life.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Simon Njami** is a Paris-based independent curator, lecturer, art critic and novelist. Njami was the co-founder and editor-in-chief of *Revue Noire*, a journal of contemporary African and extra-occidental art. He co-curated the first African pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale in 2007. Njami was curator of the 2020 Abu Dhabi art fair and co-curator of the Sao Paulo Biennale 2002. He is member of the jury of MAST photography awards in Bologna. Njami has curated numerous exhibitions of contemporary art and photography, including, most recently, *The Studio* (Kampala Biennale 2019), *This space between us* (Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas 2020), *Materia Prima* (San Gimignano, 2021), *A Collective Diary* (Tunis 2022), and *Charades* (Marrakech 2022). Njami is the chief-curator of the international annual exhibition *Something Else*, at the Salah Adin Citadel in Cairo (2023). He curated *Awakenings* at the Abu Dhabi Louvres (2024), *Il Sole Nero*, Naples (2025), and *Maschere*, Naples (2025). Njami studied literature, law, and philosophy at the Sorbonne University in Paris.



**Robert Reid-Pharr** is Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and an M.A. in African American Studies from Yale University as well as a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A prominent scholar in the field of race and sexuality studies, he is the author of four books and numerous essays. His research and writing have been supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, and the American Academy in Berlin. His work has been honored by the Publishing Triangle and the Modern Language Association. In 2015 he was inducted into the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars and he is the recipient of a 2016 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.



**Ming Smith**, a Harlem-based photographer, has used her camera as a spiritual practice to capture the movement, light, rhythm, and shadow of Black life. A pioneering artist, she was the first woman to join the Kamoinge Workshop and the first Black woman photographer acquired by The Museum of Modern Art in 1979. Recognized for her poetic black-and-white street photography and portraits of Black cultural figures, Smith's work has been featured in major exhibitions at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Tate Modern, Whitney Museum of Art, International African American Museum, and Columbus Museum of Art.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Maboula Soumahoro** is an associate professor in the English Department of the University of Tours and president of the Black History Month Association, dedicated to celebrating Black history and cultures. She is the author of *Le Triangle et l'Hexagone, réflexions sur une identité noire* (La Découverte, 2021), translated in English by Dr. Kaiama L. Glover as *Black Is the Journey, Africana the Name* (Polity, 2021) and prefaced by Saidiya Hartman. This book was distinguished by the FetKann! Maryse Condé literary prize in 2020. She was the inaugural Villa Albertine Resident in Atlanta (2021-2022); Mellon Arts Project International Visiting Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University and Visiting Faculty at Bennington College (2022-2023); fellow at the Columbia University Institute for Ideas and Imagination (2023-2024) and served as a member of the National Committee for the Memory and History of Slavery (2013-2017). She translated Saidiya Hartman's classic work, *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along The Atlantic Slave Route* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007), from English as *À perte de mère - Sur les routes atlantiques de l'esclavage* released in September 2023 (Brook).



**Wole Soyinka**, GCON is a Nigerian author, best known as a playwright and poet. He has written three novels, ten collections of short stories, seven poetry collections, twenty-five plays and five memoirs. He also wrote two translated works and many articles and short stories for many newspapers and periodicals. He is widely regarded as one of Africa's greatest writers and one of the world's most important dramatists. He was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature for his "wide cultural perspective and poetic overtones fashioning the drama of existence".



**Salamishah Tillet** is the Distinguished Professor of Africana Studies and Creative Writing at Rutgers University, Newark, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning contributing critic-at-large at *The New York Times*. She is the author of *Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination* and *In Search of the Color Purple: The Story of an American Masterpiece*. Tillet is currently completing the book, *All The Rage: Nina Simone and The World She Made*. In 2025, she received the 2025 Emerson Collective Fellowship and Gordon Parks Foundation's Genevieve Young Fellowship in Writing. In 2003, she and her sister, Scheherazade Tillet, founded A Long Walk Home, an arts organization that empowers young people to end violence against girls and women. She is the former director of Express Newark, a center for socially engaged art and design, and the faculty founder of New Arts, a public arts studio at Rutgers. In 2023, she and Paul Farber of Monument Lab co-curated *Pulling Together*, the first public arts exhibition on The National Mall. She is now curating *The Wards of Newark: Then and Now*, a city-wide exhibition that explores themes of gentrification, belonging, and urban renewal.

# PARTICIPANTS



**Carla Williams** is a photographer, archivist, editor, and writer born and raised in Los Angeles. A graduate of Princeton University and the University of New Mexico, she is the author of two histories of photography including *The Black Female Body: A Photographic History* with Deborah Willis. Her first monograph, *Tender*, was published in 2023 by TBW Books and received the Aperture/Paris Photo First PhotoBook Award. Williams is a 2025 Guggenheim Fellow. She exhibits with Higher Pictures in New York and lives in New Orleans.



**Deborah Willis**, photographer and historian, is Chair of the Department of Photography & Imaging at New York University. She is the recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. She is the author/co-author of several books including *Reflections in Black: A Reframing; Photography & the Black Arts Movement; Kamala: Her Historic, Joyful, and Auspicious Sprint to the White House; The Black Civil War Soldier: A Visual History of Conflict and Citizenship; and Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*, among others. Professor Willis's curated exhibitions include *Reflections in Black: A Reframing, Migrations and Meanings in Art, Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits* at the International Center of Photography; *Out of Fashion Photography; Framing Beauty* at the Henry Art Gallery and *Reframing Beauty: Intimate Moments* at Indiana University. Her art works have been exhibited at the Park Avenue Armory, Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, The University of Arts, Monument Lab and the Philadelphia African American Museum and Common Cause in Chicago, Brooklyn College, Photoville, among others.



**Dagmawi Woubshet** is the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Endowed Associate Term Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. A scholar of literature and visual culture, he works at the intersections of Africana and LGBTQIA+ studies. He is the author of *The Calendar of Loss: Race, Sexuality, and Mourning in the Early Era of AIDS*; and co-editor of *Ethiopia: Modern Nation, Ancient Roots* and *Ethiopia: Literature, Art, Culture*. His essays have appeared in *Callaloo, Transition, NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art*, and *The Atlantic*. He is currently completing two books, *Noways Tired: James Baldwin and the Art of Late Style*, and a book of personal essays, *New Flower: Lyric Essays*. Woubshet is the recipient of fellowships from Civitella Ranieri (Italy), the Africa Institute in Sharjah (UAE), and the Modern Art Museum in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), where he curated *Julie Mehretu: The Addis Show*.

# ORGANIZERS & SPONSORS

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

**H** Hutchins Center  
for African &  
African American  
Research

Harvard  
University



**unesco**

Commission nationale  
française pour l'UNESCO



ACADÉMIE  
DE PARIS

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

PARIS  
GLOBAL  
CENTER

+ Thinking  
Doing  
Columbia  
Global

Sorbonne  
Nouvelle   
université des cultures

UNIVERSITÉ  
**PARIS8**  
DES CRÉATIONS

**transcrit**  
transferts critiques anglophones



Interactions  
Culturelles et Discursives

# VENUES

## Salle Louis Liard, Sorbonne Nouvelle University



The Salle Louis Liard is the room in which PhD theses are defended and where diplomas giving accreditation to supervise research projects are awarded. These sessions are open to the public.

The decoration of the wood panelling was sculpted by Eugène Legrain. On the medallions are the portraits of Pascal, Bossuet, Descartes, Racine, Molière and Corneille by the painter François Schommer. At the far end of the room is a portrait of Richelieu by François Schommer.

The stucco ceiling was decorated by Legrain and the painting is by Schommer (1889): a candidate appears before Truth, who is surrounded by Philosophy, Science and History. All four are represented in the guise of goddesses.

## Grande Salle Ginsberg-LeClerc, Reid Hall, Columbia Global Paris Center



The Grande Salle Ginsberg-LeClerc was built at Reid Hall in 1912 and extensively renovated in 2023 with the generous support of Judith Ginsberg and Paul LeClerc.

The space has served as a dining room, a wartime hospice, an art gallery, but most notably as Reid Hall's premier lecture hall and performance space. Today, it hosts a variety of programming, including symposia, concerts, film screenings, and classes for undergraduate and graduate students.

Restored to its full glory, the Grande Salle Ginsberg-LeClerc will continue to foster social, intellectual, and artistic exchanges, reflecting the dynamic spirit of the era when the room was originally designed – when Montparnasse was the epicenter of artistic innovation and creation in Europe.

# TRANSLATION



Simultaneous translation services provided by Fluent Planet. Please inquire with an event organizer.

Service de traduction simultanée assuré par Fluent Planet. Veuillez contacter l'organisateur de l'événement pour plus d'informations.

# COMMUNITY



Join the conference WhatsApp Group to connect with attendees, as well as receive updates from the organizers.

**Join: [tinyurl.com/BakerBaldwinParis](https://www.tinyurl.com/BakerBaldwinParis) (clickable)**

**[hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/bakerbaldwin2025](https://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/bakerbaldwin2025)**