

# crystal am nelson

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## EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Cruz — PhD candidate, Visual Studies

University of California, Santa Cruz — MA, Visual Studies, 2017

San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA — MFA, Photography, 2010

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI — BA (Highest Honors), English, 2003

University of Stellenbosh, Stellenbosch, ZA — Concentration in South African Art and Literature, 2001-2002

## SELECT AWARDS

UCSC Art Division's Dean's Art's Excellence Award – 2016

UCSC Art Division's Dean's Art's Excellence Award – 2015

Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship – 2015

Center for Archival Research and Training (CART) Fellowship – 2014

Porter Travel Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz – 2013

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

### Articles

“And They Started Sayin’ “Black Power!,” *Feminist Media Histories*, Summer 2018

“Keisha Scarville,” *Contact Sheet*, Summer 2015

“African American Women and Photography,” Oxford African American Studies Center, July 2013

“Scandal,” *Brooklyn Rail*, June 2013

“New Growth, Contemporary Art, and Its Discontents: Dispatches from the Frontier,” *Art Practical*, Issue 4.12

“The Capital of Caribbean Cool,” *Art Practical*, Issue 4.4

*African American National Biography*, multiple entries, eds. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Oxford University Press, January 2008

### Book Reviews

“Jane Taylor: *William Kentridge: Being Led by the Nose*,” *caa.reviews*, May 31, 2018

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Monster’s Ball.” Chapter manuscript in progress, submitted for publication in February 2021.

“Richard J. Powell: *Going There: Black Visual Satire*.” Book review in progress to be submitted for publication in May 2021

“A Visual Politics of Black Pleasure.” *A Picture Gallery of the Soul* exhibition catalogue essay to be submitted for publication in May 2021.

## **SELECT LECTURES/PANELS/CONFERENCES**

### **2021**

CAA 109th Annual Conference

Paper: "Repose: Black Nightmares, Black Dreams"

Panel: co-chair, The Color of Joy: Rethinking Critical Race Visual Culture

### **2020**

16th Annual Yale University American Art Graduate Symposium on Embodiment

Paper: "Repose: Black Nightmares, Black Dreams"

\*CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

### **2018**

&Now biennial conference, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Paper: "a dubious, unofficial, highly abbreviated, deeply experimental history of how the black body has remained upright despite efforts to push it down"

Panel: Speculative Bodies: A Confluence of Imagetext

### **2014**

American Studies Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles

Paper: "In Search of Haydée"

Panel: The Black Feminist Pleasure Show: Perverse Bliss and Public Sex in Post-American Black Feminism

*This Is What I Want Performance Art and Film Festival*, San Francisco, CA

Pillars of Salt: A Reflective Roundtable Discussion (Symposium on the Gaze)

FAQ: A Salon Series in Feminist and Queer of Color Critique Graduate Student Conference, San Diego, CA

Paper: "Womb Culture: A Methodological Manifesto"

Panel: Temporality and Futurity

Association of Art Historians 40th Annual Conference, London, England

Paper: "We Ain't Gotta Be This: Queering Sights of Blackness"

Panel: Colour Me Queer

## **GUEST LECTURES**

### **2018**

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California

Paper: "Black Arts Movement/Black Aesthetics Movement"

### **2012**

San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California

Paper: "Performing Identity in American Art and Culture"

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Race and American Visual Arts

Department of the History of Art and Visual Culture, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA—  
Winter 2017

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of the History of Art and Visual Culture

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA — 2014-2018

**Guided Study Mentor;** Low Residence MFA Program; San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA—Spring 2011

## **EXHIBITIONS**

**Co-Curator,** *Pictures and Progress: The Black Panther, 1966-2016*  
Special Collections, McHenry Library, UC Santa Cruz—Fall 2016-Spring 2017

**Co-Curator,** *Raymond Saunders: Black Is a Color;* UC Santa Cruz Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery,  
UC Santa Cruz—Summer-Fall 2015

**Co-Curator,** *Activism in the Archives: Radical Imaginaries in the Papers of Ruth-Marion Baruch, Pirkle Jones, John Thorne, and Karen Tei Yamashita;* Special Collections, McHenry Library, UC Santa Cruz—May 29–Oct 15, 2015

**Co-Curator,** *This Is What I Want Performance Art Festival;* CounterPULSE,  
San Francisco, CA—2014-2015

**Curator,** *Dark Desires: The Erotic Lives of Black Women*  
Center for Sex and Culture, San Francisco, CA—2013-2014

**Curator,** *Heterotopia;* apexart, multiple venues, Marfa, TX—Oct 5–Nov 2, 2013

**Curator,** *Taste! Food.Art.Conversation,* Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA)—summer 2010

**Curator,** *The Listening Party,* Queen's Nails Projects, San Francisco, CA—Jan 30, 2010

## **SELECT RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS**

**2017—Yale University Art Gallery's Initiative for Curatorial Practice,** New Haven, CT

**2013—Critical Studies Resident,** Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY

**2012—Art Practical Writer—in—Residence,** Cannonball (formerly Legal Art Miami), Miami, FL

## **EXHIBITION JURIES**

**2012—SOMArts Commons Curatorial Residency Award Advisory and Selection Committee**

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

College Art Association (CAA)