

MILESTONES

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

spring 2011 · volume 9 · issue 1

www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter

EXHIBITION CHALLENGES DEFINITION OF “BLACKNESS” IN AMERICAN RACIAL IDEOLOGY

Left: *They Call me Redbone but I'd Rather be Strawberry Shortcake* (2009)

Right: *The Rabbit in the Hat* (2009)



From February 3 – April 22, 2011, The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum will feature the artwork of Amy Sherald, a Baltimore-based painter, in an exhibition entitled *The Magical Real-ism of Amy Sherald*.

Described by exhibition curator, Spelman College professor of art Dr. Arturo Lindsay, as “grounded in a self-reflective view of her life experiences as a young, black, Southern woman through the lenses of a post-modern intellectual,” Sherald’s introspective works exclude the idea of color as race by removing “color” (skin tones are depicted in grayscale) but still portraying distinct physical indicators of race. The paintings, according to Sherald, “originated as a creation of a fairytale, illustrating an alternate existence in response to a dominant narrative of black history.” As the artist’s concepts became more coherent, her use of fantastical imagery evolved into scenes of spectacle, making direct reference to “blackness” and racialization. The result is an arresting series of paintings that blur preconceived notions of how “blackness” is defined within the context of American racial dogma.

Sherald, a native of Columbus, Georgia, received her Bachelor of the Arts in painting from Clark-Atlanta University and Master of Fine Arts from Maryland Institute College of Art. While at Clark-Atlanta, she became an apprentice

to Lindsay, then her painting instructor at Spelman College. After her formal education, Sherald secured a prestigious private study residency with painter Odd Nerdrum whom she lived and studied with in Larvik, Norway.

Sherald’s paintings have been displayed in numerous exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad, and she has been Artist in Residence at Tong Xion Art Center in Beijing, China; Taller Portobello Artist Colony in Portobello, Panama; Spelman College Art Colony in Portobello, Panama; and Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine. One of her paintings was recently chosen as a Jurors Pick for the *New American Paintings* Edition 88.

An opening reception for the exhibition featuring an artist talk by Sherald will be held on February 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Stone Center. *The Magical Real-ism of Amy Sherald* will be on display through April 22, 2011. The gallery is open Monday–Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of friends of The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. The Brown Gallery serves as an exhibition space for the critical examination of the art and history of African-Americans, the African diaspora, and of Africa. ■

AMBASSADOR FROM THE AFRICAN UNION TO DELIVER AFRICAN DIASPORA LECTURE



Ambassador Amina Salum Ali

Her Excellency Amina Salum Ali, ambassador from the African Union (AU) to the United States, will deliver the spring African Diaspora Lecture on March 23, 2011. Her talk will take place at 7 p.m. in the Stone Center’s Hitchcock Multipurpose Room.

Ambassador Ali serves as the Permanent Representative of the AU to the United States and works on behalf of its member states to accelerate socio-economic integration of the continent, promote peace and stability, and build partnerships with all segments of civil society. Her office also supports the African

Diplomatic Corps to strengthen partnerships with the U.S. government and its agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the Organization of American States.

Ambassador Ali earned both her bachelor’s degree in economics and MBA

in marketing while studying in India. She was a long-serving member of the Tanzanian Parliament and has held a number of ministerial positions in its government, including Minister of State in the Office of the Chief Minister in Zanzibar. Ambassador Ali also served as a board member of institutions such as the Tanzania Telecommunication Company and Mzumbe University and established various capacity-building institutions including the Institution of Finance Administration and the Presidential Fund for Self-Reliance.

As the AU’s first female ambassador, Ambassador Ali is dedicated to advocating for women and children. She is the founder of Zanzibar Women Welfare Trust, an NGO that supports women and children in the struggle to combat devastating health issues such as HIV/AIDS. Ambassador Ali is also a member of IDB Bank’s Eminent Women panel to mainstream development policies for women in the bank.

The African Diaspora Lecture is an annual series that presents lectures, roundtables, and debates on a variety of subjects from the African diaspora. Past lecturers have included Anthony Bogues, Abdul Alkalimat, Micere Mugo, and Fatimah Jackson. This year’s event is co-sponsored by the Department of Women’s Studies at UNC. ■

STUDY ABROAD PROJECT COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL STAY IN VENEZUELA

The Stone Center, working with the University's Study Abroad Program, sponsored a 16-week international experience for ten undergraduate students from UNC and two from Bennett College for Women. The program, "Venezuelan Aspects of the African Diaspora," was a cooperative venture between the Stone Center, UNC Study Abroad and the Universidad Politecnica Argelia Laya in Higuerote, Venezuela. Higuerote is located on the Caribbean coast of Venezuela in the Barlovento region where the population is predominantly Afro-descendant.

The program was lead by Stone Center Director Joseph Jordan who was joined by Sherry Venere, a Graduate Teaching Assistant and doctoral candidate from UNC's Department of Romance Languages. Participants in the program were enrolled in a full complement of courses including intensive Spanish. During the course of their stay they met with local and regional officials, community and student leaders, and representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas.

As part of their experience, student participants conducted English workshops for junior high and high school students in Higuerote and Tacarigua. Program participants were UNC students Hannah Eck, Janae Edwards, Maya Jumper, Erin Keefe, Ellen Louis, Kelsey Moeslinger, Colleen Muse, Claudia Nagel, Samuel Pride, and Briana Steele. They were joined by Raven Williams and Martina Gibbs from Bennett College for Women.

The Venezuela Study Abroad Program will be offered again in the Summer of 2012. ■



Clockwise, from top-left: Students survey threatened Mangroves in the coastal region near Higuerote; Program participants pitch in to shell cacao beans after roasting; Venezuelan performers from the Danzas Tacarigua dance and musical group

Photos by Joseph Jordan

THE SPRING 2011 UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FELLOWSHIP

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History is currently accepting applications for its spring 2011 Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship (UISF). The Stone Center, established in 1988 to support the critical examination of all dimensions of African and African-American diaspora cultures, created the UISF program in support of the University's effort to globalize the campus and internationalize the curriculum. Fellowship recipients are awarded up to \$2,500 toward academic research or study in an international setting. Through the fellowships, the UISF program seeks to increase the participation of students of color and other

underrepresented students at UNC at Chapel Hill in travel and study abroad programs. Students who plan to study abroad in the summer or fall of 2011 and who are in good standing and enrolled full-time are eligible to apply for the fellowship. Full instructions and applications are available at the Stone Center, suite 215 or on the Center's website at <http://sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu/programs/forms/uisf>. The application deadline is March 30, 2011. For more information on the fellowship, contact Joscelyne Brazile at (919) 962-9001 or email brazile@unc.edu.

COMMUNIVERSITY YOUTH PROGRAMS ENTERS 19TH YEAR

It has been 19 years since UNC alumna Michelle Thomas founded Communiversity Youth Programs. Thomas, a friend and protégé of the late Dr. Sonja Haynes Stone, created the program to honor Stone's commitment to community outreach and enrichment. Since its inception, Communiversity has evolved into a program focused on empowering the youth of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and surrounding communities. With partnerships with the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Society of Success and Leadership, members of the National Pan Hellenic Council, and the 3 C (Communication, Cooperation, and Confidence) for

Social Development, Communiversity continues to thrive and provide positive and practical experiences for served clients.

On April 28th, the program will commemorate 19 years of service to the immediate and surrounding communities at its annual end-of-year celebration. The celebration will include reflection on past years of success, recognition of past and present participants and volunteers, musical performances, and a reception. If you are or know of a former Communiversity participant or volunteer or would like to be a part of this celebration, please contact Lotticia M. Mack, Communiversity Youth Programs Manager. ■



2011 Spring PROGRAM CALENDAR

Monday Jan. 17 | 7pm
The Stone Center Theatre

He Was a Poem, He Was a Song

This annual program will explore Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy through music, poetry and spoken word. Community members, faculty, staff, and students will convene to pay tribute to Dr. King's life and work. The program will feature a poetry performance by the Sacrificial Poets and jazz performances by Ron Baxter and Joy Harrell accompanied by Marisa Whitesell.

Thursday Feb. 3 | 7pm
The Stone Center

**Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum
Opening Reception**

The Magical Real-ism of Amy Sherald
On display thru April 22, 2011

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum at the Stone Center will feature the artwork of Amy Sherald, a Baltimore-based painter, in an exhibition entitled *The Magical Real-ism of Amy Sherald* from February 3 - April 22, 2011. The exhibition, featuring large oil paintings on canvas that challenge prevailing notions of "blackness" in America, will open with a free reception and talk by Sherald on Feb. 3 at 7:00pm.

Tuesday Feb. 8 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Frederick Douglass and the White Negro

This documentary tells the story of this important 19th century leader and his escape from slavery, leading to refuge in Ireland on the eve of the Great Famine. The film focuses on the powerful influence Ireland had on him as a young man. It also explores the turbulent relationship between African Americans and Irish Americans in general. The relationship is exposed as a complex and tragic sequence of events culminating in the bloodiest riot in American history. This transatlantic story covers the race issue and is as relevant today as it was when Douglass escaped to Ireland—"I can truly say, I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life since landing in this country. I seem to have undergone a transformation. I live a new life...I am met by no upturned nose and scornful lip telling me 'We don't allow niggers in here!'" Director: John Doherty/Ireland/2008/52 mins

Thursday Feb. 10 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Cuba: An African Odyssey

This documentary takes a look at the Cold War through a rarely explored piece in the puzzle—that of the then-newly independent Africa, that was caught between the communist and capitalist worlds. The film explores the continent's role in the conflict, including playing host to Che Guevara in Congo and Angola's little-known battle of Cuito Carnavale, and how these and other events influenced the end of the ideological war. Director: Jihan El Tahri/France/2007/118 mins

Thursday Feb. 17 | noon (double feature)
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Freddy Ilanga: Che's Swahili Translator | Amilcar Cabral

Freddy Ilanga: Che's Swahili Translator
This short documentary is about Freddy Ilanga, an African man whose life was abruptly transformed through a chance encounter with one of the great icons of the 20th Century and which has predominantly been determined by the power struggles of the Cold War and the Cuban Revolution. It is a story about migration and displacement and the high human costs of exile and family separation. Director: Katrin Hansing/USA | Cuba/2009/24 mins

Amilcar Cabral
A biographical film on the iconic African revolutionary who is widely regarded as one of the most important theorists and African nationalists among the continent's various revolutionary anti-colonial movements. Director: Ana Ramos Lisboa/Cape Verde | Portugal/2000/52 mins

Tuesday Feb. 22 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Eat, for This Is My Body

This film tells of the evolution of power in the director's native Haiti and the colonial relationship between black boys and white women. The film begins with a breathtaking aerial swoop over Haiti that seems to beckon the pain of poverty, war, and revolution to thrive and wreak havoc on the serene land. The viewer is then plunged into the thick heat of a voodoo ceremony, a beautifully quiet burial ground, and finally into the bedroom of an isolated chateau, where an elderly white woman lies on her bed, ruminating about her motherly power over black children. Eddy Souffrant, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UNC-Charlotte, will lead a post-screening discussion. Director: Michelange Quay/France | Haiti/2008/105 mins

Thursday Mar. 3 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Moloch Tropical

Master filmmaker Raoul Peck (*Lumumba, Sometimes in April*) returns with a haunting film on his home country—Haiti. Peck takes us to a hilltop fortress where the nation's president is falling apart, buckling under the pressure of civil unrest and the international community's increasing disapproval. Crafting an almost Shakespearean tragedy in the confines of this isolated citadel, Peck delivers a searing critique of a government corrupted by power and an individual driven mad by it. Completed just months before the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake, *Moloch Tropical* explores the ruinous costs of political dysfunction in Haiti. Director: Raoul Peck/France | Haiti/2009/107 mins



From top: High Yella Masterpiece: *We Ain't No Cotton Pickin' Negroes* by Amy Sherald, *Frederick Douglass and the White Negro* (2008), *Moloch Tropical* (2009)

Thursday Mar. 15 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film
Mountains That Take Wing: Angela Davis & Yuri Kochiyama - A Conversation on Life, Struggles & Liberation

This film is an inspiring, historically rich and unique documentary featuring conversations that span thirteen years between two formidable women who share a profound passion for justice. Through conversations that are intimate and profound, we learn about Davis, an internationally renowned scholar-activist and 88-year-old Kochiyama, a revered grassroots community activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Their shared experience as political prisoners and their dedication to Civil Rights embody personal and political experiences as well as the diverse lives of women doing liberatory cultural work. The film's directors/producers will lead a post-screening discussion. Directors/producers C.A. Griffith and H.L.T.Quan/USA/2009/97 mins

Wednesday Mar. 23 | 7pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

African Diaspora Lecture Series

Her Excellency Amina Salum Ali, ambassador from the African Union to the United States, will deliver the spring African Diaspora Lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Thursday Apr. 28 | 6pm
The Stone Center
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

***Communiversy Youth Programs
End of Year Ceremony***

This program is Communiversy's annual end of the year ceremony to reflect on successes of the past year and to recognize outstanding students and volunteers. A reception will follow the program. Contact Lotticia Mack at 962-9001 for more information.

DIASPORA FILM SERIES EXPLORES CUBAN REVOLUTION AND HAITI

The Spring 2011 edition of the Stone Center's Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film features eight films from around the world including France, Cape Verde, Ireland and Haiti. The festival will also feature two special sections.

A Luta Continua (The Struggle Continues) highlights three films. The first is filmmaker Jihan al-Tahri's monumental work on the Cuban internationalist mission in Africa, *Cuba: An African Odyssey*. This screening covers Part One of the two part documentary and follows Che Guevara's efforts in the Congo after the fall of Patrice Lumumba, and continues with the Cuban role in countering the South African invasion of Angola in the 1970s. The second film in this series is the short film *Freddie Ilanga: Che's Swahili Translator* from filmmaker and Baruch College professor Katrin Hansing. The film's subject is Freddie Ilanga, a Congolese citizen who served as the guide and translator for Che Guevara during his unsuccessful military mission in the Congo. Ilanga returned to Cuba with Cuban forces in the 1960s and has lived there for almost fifty years. *Freddie Ilanga* will be screened as part of a double-feature with *Amilcar Cabral*, a biographical film on the iconic African revolutionary who is widely regarded as one of the most important thinkers to come out of the anti-colonial movements of the 1960s.

The special section entitled *Imagining Haiti*, brings two provocative and moving films to the festival. The first is Michaelange Quay's *Eat, For This Is My Body*, a film that has been characterized as hypnotic, as a non-narrative film, and as a psychological study focusing on the interrelationship between liberation, racism, colonialism and desire. Quay's foray into psycho-history challenges audiences to examine Haiti's relationship to the world. Rounding out this section is celebrated director Raoul Peck's *Moloch Tropical*, a retelling of Russian director Aleksandr Sokurov's *Moloch*. Peck's version places the tale in Haiti and uses the Caribbean setting to tell a sharply critical and cautionary tale. Eddy Souffrant, associate professor of Philosophy at UNC-Charlotte will lead post-screening discussions for both films.

The festival is supplemented by two additional documentaries. *Frederick Douglass and The White Negro* is a fascinating look at Douglass' sojourn in Ireland on the eve of the Great Famine. The film focuses on the impressions Ireland had on him as well as the troubled relationships between African Americans and Irish Americans during that period in history. The relationship is exposed as a complex and tragic sequence of events culminating in one of the bloodiest riots in American history. *Mountains That Take Wing/Angela Davis & Yuri Kochiyama: A Conversation on Life, Struggles & Liberation* is a film that was ten years in the making. The film, produced and directed by Arizona State University professors C.A. Griffith and H.L.T. Quan (who will together lead a post-screening discussion), features conversations between two formidable women whose lives and political work remain at the epicenter of the most important civil rights struggles in the U.S. Through the intimacy and depth of conversations, we learn about Davis, an internationally renowned scholar-activist and 89-year-old Kochiyama, a revered grassroots community activist and 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee's shared experiences as political prisoners and their profound passion for justice.

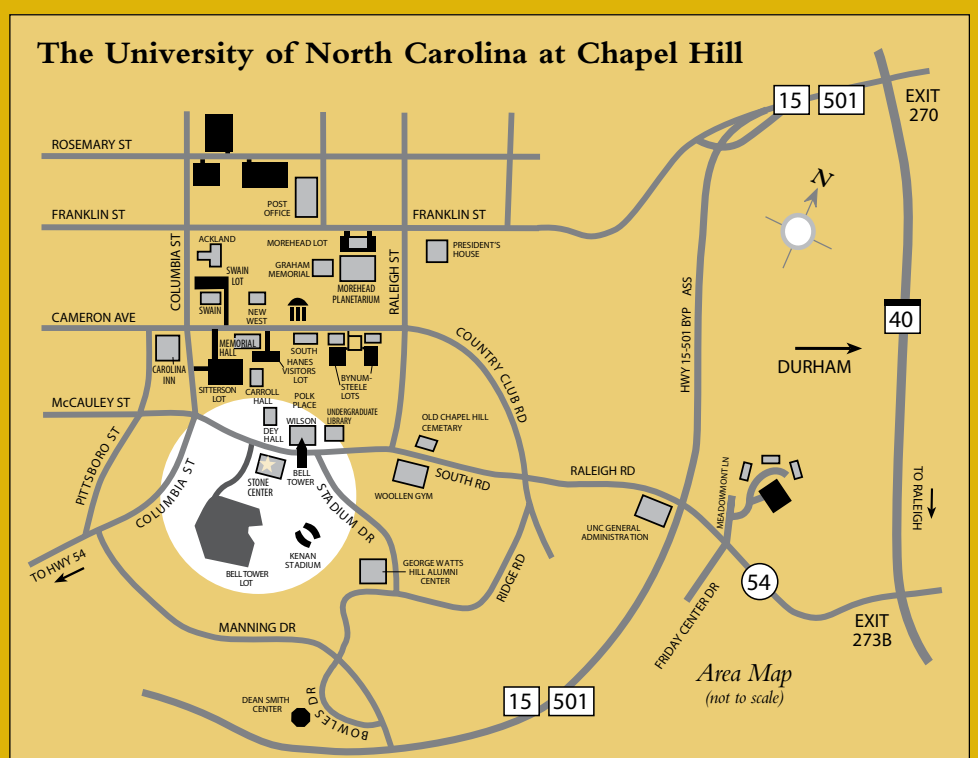
All films will be screened in the Hitchcock Multipurpose room of the Stone Center. ■



Clockwise from top: Freddie Ilanga; Amilcar Cabral; Angela Davis & Yuri Kochiyama; *Eat, For This Is My Body*; *Cuba: An African Odyssey*

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STONE CENTER DONOR SPOTLIGHT: HAROLD WOODARD

Since the inception of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History, our supporters have shared in the many milestones that chart the progress of the center. For fellow Tar Heel and Associate Dean of Academic Counseling, Harold Woodard, watching the Stone Center evolve has been a labor of love.

The native North Carolinian speaks fondly of his time as a student at Carolina. Having served on staff at UNC since 1995, Dean Woodard was active in all phases of planning for the Stone Center's free-standing facility. Since that time, Dean Woodard has participated on our Advisory Board and has faithfully engaged in monthly giving to the Stone Center.

As the Director of The Office for Student Academic Counseling, Woodard offers academic and personal support to all UNC student sponsored programs and activities that promote academic excellence, increase retention, and improve the campus climate for diversity among Native American and African American undergraduates. His level of engagement with Stone Center programs is an extension of this commitment, and we are deeply grateful for his service. For this reason, Dean Harold Woodard is the Stone Center's Spotlight Donor. ■



Harold Woodard

THE STONE CENTER RECOGNIZES FIRST TIME DONORS

The Stone Center greatly appreciates and recognizes first time donors for the 2011 fiscal year through December 15, 2010:

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A LOOK BACK AT FALL 2010

This past fall semester, the Stone Center engaged UNC and local communities through several programs.

From September 23 to December 3 the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery showcased the incredible documentary work of artist Kendall Messick. The exhibit showcased the memoirs of the primarily elderly black townspeople of rural Corapeake, NC through intimate photographs, a documentary film, and a collection of ephemera. An opening reception was held on September 23, and the audience was treated to a talk by Brenda Parker Hunt, a native of Corapeake and the film's producer.

On October 14, the Stone Center held its annual Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture. This year's

speaker was Melissa Harris-Perry, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University, columnist for *The Nation*, frequent politics and race commentator on MSNBC, and author of the book *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*. Harris-Perry's thought-provoking lecture focused on "Race and Politics in the age of Obama."

The fall semester also featured the latest series in our ongoing Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film. Throughout the semester, the Stone Center hosted free screenings of five films and led post-screening discussions with audience members. The selected films collectively posed the question: "Is Cultural Identity (Really Only) Racial Politics?" ■



Top: Melissa Harris-Perry

Bottom: Corapeake exhibition opening

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STONE CENTER ISSUES CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR BROWN GALLERY 2012-13 EXHIBITION SEASON

The Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum at the Stone Center is accepting proposals for exhibitions for the periods of September–December 2012 and January–May 2013. Proposals will be accepted from established and emerging artists, or groups presenting new and challenging works that reflect the mission of the Stone Center and the Brown Gallery and Museum. We are interested in work in a variety of media and techniques that may not fall within traditional boundaries.

The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2011. Selections will be announced at the end of May 2011.

Your proposal should provide background on your concept for the exhibition, a statement on how it fits into the mission of the Brown Gallery and Museum, and all artists that will be included in the show. Submissions should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the following support materials:

- a brief artist's statement, and/or short narrative about the work;
- a current CV or resume, listing all previous exhibitions (if applicable);
- one of the following: a slide sheet of 15–20 35mm slides; or a CD with 10 to 15 digital images in jpeg format, or documentation in a DVD or VHS video (CD or DVD preferred). All slides or digital images must be numbered and identified accompanied by a list indicating title, date, medium, and dimensions (height x width x depth).
- Do not send original works of art.

Visit the Stone Center's website for more information on the Gallery and its mission: www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter.

Please send all submissions to: Brown Gallery Art Committee
The Sonja Haynes Stone Center
150 South Rd., CB#5250
UNC at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5250

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