

# MILESTONES

THE SONJA HAYNES STONE CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND HISTORY

fall 2019 · volume 16 · issue 1

[unc.edu/depts/stonecenter](http://unc.edu/depts/stonecenter)

## DO OR DIE: AFFECT, RITUAL, RESISTANCE

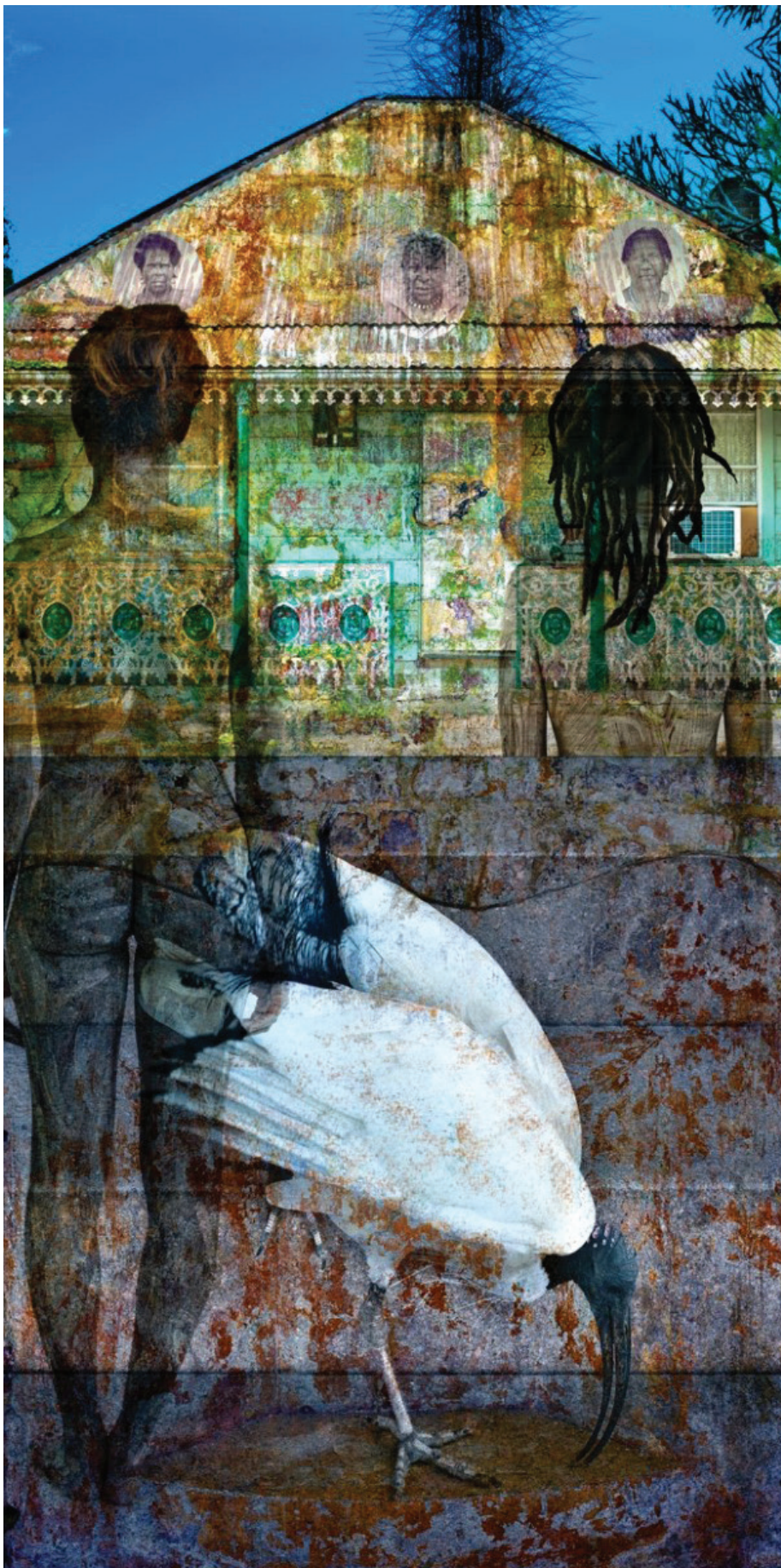


SEPT. 19 – NOV. 21

Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum  
Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History



# 1619 COLLECTIVE MEMORY(IES) PROJECT



*The Visit*, Michael Platt, Pigment Print on Paper, 2014 Courtesy of Carol A. Beane

UNC campus departments, Centers and Institutes and community partners are co-sponsoring an important symposium at the Stone Center on November 11, 2019 as the centerpiece of The 1619 Collective Memory(ies) Project. The Project examines the history of the 1619 arrival of the first group of enslaved Africans to an English-speaking colony in what is now the United States and embraces the challenge of exploring 'difficult knowledge' as a united and conscious community. This project includes film screenings, the day-long symposium and an exhibition and corresponds to similar observations that have been taking place and will continue to take place across the U.S. throughout the quadricentennial year of 2019.

The day-long symposium features 2 keynotes (morning and afternoon) that will serve as the foundation for the conversations that will take place between invited guests. Project co-sponsors include: The Center for the Study of the American South; the Office of the Provost; the African, African American And Diaspora Studies Department; The African Studies Center; the Orange County Community Reconciliation and Justice Coalition; the Institute for the Arts and Humanities; The American Indian Center; the Office of the Chancellor; and the Department of Communications and other campus and community organizations.

## Confirmed symposium participants include:



**Jessica A. Krug** is Assistant Professor of History at George Washington University whose work focuses on politics, ideas, and cultural practices in West Central Africa and the African Diaspora, and maroon societies in the early modern period. She is deeply interested in intellectual histories of those who never wrote documents and the use of embodied knowledge for both research and teaching. Her book *Fugitive Modernities: Politics and Identity Outside the State in Kisama, Angola, and the Americas, c. 1594-Present*, interrogates the political practices and discourses through which those who fled from slavery and the violence of the slave trade in Angola forged coherent political communities outside of, and in opposition to, state politics.



**Chief Lynette Allston** is the Chief and Tribal Council Chair of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, one of 11 Tribes officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is co-author of the book entitled, *DoTraTung*, which offers a compelling look at the history, culture and lifestyle of the Nottoway Indians whose Community House and Interpretive Center is located in Capron, Virginia. Chief Allston is the former President of the Board of Rawls Museum Arts, Courtland Virginia. She currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia and is Chair of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Virginia. She also serves a commissioner on the Southampton County VA Planning Commission.



**Alan Rice** is Professor in English and American Studies and Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), United Kingdom. His scholarship has led to collaborative projects with museums and community organizations across the UK. His publications include *Creating Memorials, Building Identities: The Politics of Memory in the Black Atlantic and Radical Narratives of the Black Atlantic*. He also co-curated an exhibition mounted at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester entitled *Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery*, and served as a key advisor and commentator for the BBC Radio 4 program "Britain's Black Past: An Invisible Presence", broadcast in October 2016.



**Pura Fe** is an heir to the Tuscarora Indian Nation and is an artist/activist whose musical repertoire includes folk, blues and various mainstream forms. She is influenced by traditional music from all over the world where, as she says "...the spirit is connected to our roots". She has studied with the American Ballet Company and The Mercer Ellington Orchestra and is a founding member of the internationally known native women's A capella trio Ulali, a group that pioneered in bringing Native people's contemporary music to the world.



**Neil Roberts** is Chair and associate professor of Africana studies, and the W. Ford Schumann Faculty Fellow in Democratic Studies at Williams College. He is the author of the award-winning text *Freedom as Marronage*, and the collaborative work, *Journeys in Caribbean Thought* and several edited and coedited collections. His latest volume is *A Political Companion to Frederick Douglass*. Roberts also serves as President of the Caribbean Philosophical Association.



**Ann Chinn** is the founder of the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, a non-profit tax-exempt organization established in 2011 to honor the two million captive Africans who perished during the transatlantic crossing known as the Middle Passage and the ten million who survived to build the Americas. Chinn has also worked as an advocate for children and families in Washington, DC, and as a textile artist and historian. According to Chinn: "I also realized that each of us is deeply entwined with a local and national heritage that can be traced through memory as well as knowledge."



**Freddie L. Parker** is Professor Emeritus of History at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C. He is the author of *Running for Freedom: Slave Runaways in NC, 1775-1840* and *Stealing a Little Freedom: Advertisements for Slave Runaways in NC, 1791-1840*. In 2008, Dr. Parker was appointed by Governor Mike Easley to the then newly-created African American Heritage Commission and became Chair in 2011. He served two terms on the North Carolina Historical Commission and is past chairman of the North Carolina Highway Marker Commission. He is currently a member of the Board of the African American History Project Advisory Board at Tryon Palace in New Bern.

For Information about the 1619 Collective Memory(ies) Project please call 919-962-9001 or [stonecenter@unc.edu](mailto:stonecenter@unc.edu) ■



# STONE CENTER WELCOMES 2019 FELLOWS



(L to R) De'Ivyion Drew and Ajani Anderson

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center has selected the 2019 Sean Douglas Leadership Fellows and the 2019 Undergraduate International Study Fellows.

**The Sean Douglas Leadership Fellowship (SDLF) Program** provides an opportunity for undergraduate students interested in gaining practical experience in planning and managing arts, cultural, and academic programs to serve as an intern at the Stone Center. The 2019 Sean Douglas Fellows are:

**Ajani Anderson** is an Arts History major from Durham, NC and a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She plans to use this fellowship to better understand how to give a voice to marginalized groups in the cultivation, planning, and execution of exhibitions. She will use this experience to learn how to better highlight the important connection between art and social justice.

**De'Ivyion Drew** is from Raleigh, NC. As a Robertson Scholar, Drew attends classes at both UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University as a Studio Art and African, African American, and Diaspora Studies Major with a minor in Psychology. She plans to continue her arts education through global engagement opportunities before studying for an MFA and becoming a professional artist and curator.

The SDLF Program is now fully endowed, thanks to the support of numerous alumni and friends of Sean Douglas, who was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**The Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship (UISF)** supports the participation of students who are underrepresented in travel and study abroad programs. To date, UISF has provided over \$160,000 to UNC-Chapel students studying abroad. This year, six students received funding:

**Lauren Graham** is a sophomore from Durham, NC who is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration. This past summer, she traveled to China to participate in the Chinese University of Hong Kong's International Summer School Institute where she took classes in marketing and international business. During her time at UNC, Lauren has been a member of the UNC Gymnastics team, Honors Carolina, the Institute of Politics, and the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.



(L to R) Kerri Reid, Jacqueline Nkrumah, Asia Sellars, Lauren Graham; Not pictured: Latesha Sharpe, Sakari Singleton

Jacqueline Nkrumah is rising junior Psychology major on the pre-med track from Raleigh, NC. Jacqueline traveled to London, UK this summer to complete a psychology course for her major and enrolled in a course taught by faculty at King's College London. Through her program, she learned more about abnormal psychology in the context of British culture. Furthermore, she broadened her knowledge base about the British healthcare system and will use that knowledge in her path to medicine to help improve the US healthcare system.

**Kerri Reid** is a rising senior from Fayetteville, NC. She majors in Global Studies and Psychology. Kerri traveled to Salamanca, Spain to take an advanced Spanish language course as well as an art course in an effort to enhance her knowledge of the Spanish language and learn more about Spanish art. She aspires to become an occupational therapist for children and use her Spanish proficiency to help a wider demographic.

**Asia Sellars** is a junior from Burlington, NC. She is a Psychology major with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Asia traveled to Stockholm, Sweden to study gender, equality, and sexuality in Scandinavia in order to learn how gender equality manifests in Swedish culture, politics, and socioeconomics.

**Latesha Sharpe** is a third-year BSN student from Rocky Mount, NC and a member of the 7th cohort of Hillman Scholars in Nursing Innovation. As a Hillman Scholar, she will further examine her research interests in intergenerational cardiometabolic disease and disparities in African American communities. Latesha traveled to Tanzania this summer to explore the effects culture, nutrition and lifestyle on cardiometabolic health in African communities and its applicability to African American populations in the United States to decrease cardiometabolic health disparities. She and an inter-professional team from UNC will provide health assessments, health education, and treatment to the citizens of Tanzania.

**Sakari Singleton** is a junior Global Studies major with a minor in Hispanic Studies. She works with Outreach 360 on campus and with the local Refugee Support Center. Sakari plans to spend a semester in Sevilla, Spain in an effort to become fluent in Spanish as well as further her Global Studies work to prepare for a career in foreign service and international affairs. ■

## DONORS CONTRIBUTE TO A SUCCESSFUL GIVEUNC



The Stone Center received numerous gifts for GiveUNC. This event, taking place on April 9, 2019, was the University's second-annual giving day. For 24 hours, the Carolina community came together and gave back to the University they love. Various challenges offered throughout the day offered donors the chance to maximize their support of Stone Center programs and projects.

The Stone Center received over \$16,905 during the 24-hour giving period. We also received more than ten new donors, unlocking a \$25,000 match gift from Philip Charles Pierre for the Sean Douglas Leadership Fellowship. GiveUNC also helped fund the Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship and the Stone Center's general Gift Fund. This pushed the total gift amount to \$41,905.

Next year's GiveUNC will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Anyone can participate to support the Stone Center and we welcome all levels of support. More information will be available as we get closer to the date. ■



# NC POET LAUREATE JAKI SHELTON GREEN TO DELIVER 2019 STONE MEMORIAL LECTURE



Jaki Shelton Green will deliver the 2019 Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, October 22 at 7pm at the Stone Center. Green is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. When he appointed her in 2018, Governor Cooper stated “Jaki Shelton Green brings a deep appreciation of our state’s diverse communities to her role as an ambassador of North Carolina literature. Jaki’s appointment is a wonderful new chapter in North Carolina’s rich literary history.”

Her collegiate and professional experiences include currently teaching Documentary Poetry at the Duke University Center for Documentary Studies, Visiting Professor for the Carlow University MFA Program, Lenoir-Rhyne University Writer-in-Residence. She has also been a Duke University Teaching for Equity Fellow and was part of the Taller Portobelo Artist Colony in Portobelo Panama at the University of Panama. Her visiting experience includes the Department of Cultural Resources for Brazil, North Carolina Turkish Association, Alhambra Cultural Center in Marrakech Morocco, and the NC Symphony.

She is the owner of *SistaWRITE* and co-partner with Dream Yourself Awake and Vertikal Creative Ventures providing writing retreats and travel excursions for women writers in Sedona Arizona, Ocracoke North Carolina, Agadir Morocco, and Tullamore Ireland.

Green has won numerous awards including the 2019 NC Humanities Council Caldwell Award, 2019 American Academy of Poets Laureate Fellowship, 2018 Indies Arts Award, 2018 NC Literary and Historical Association R. Hunt Parker Award, 2018 Phi Beta Kappa Award, 2016 Kathryn H. Wallace Award for Artists in Community Service, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, and the 2010 Fine Arts Emerald Award (Raleigh LINKS). She is an NC Piedmont Laureate (2009), a 2003 inductee to the North Carolinian Society, and the 2007 Sam Ragan Award winner for Contributions to the Fine Arts of North Carolina. She is also a recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature, the highest award the state can bestow for significant contributions in science, literature, fine arts, and public service and was awarded two NC Emerging Artist Grants.

She is the author of eight collections of poetry including *Dead on Arrival*, *Dead on Arrival and New Poems*, *Masks*, *Conjure Blues*, *singing a tree into dance*, and *breath of the song*, published by Carolina Wren Press and Blair Publishers. Her other publications include *Feeding the Light* and *I Want to Undie You* were published by Jacar Press. Her poetry has been published in over eighty national and international anthologies and featured in magazines such as *Essence* and *Ms. Magazine*.

The Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture is an annual event that features a woman of color who is distinguished by her scholarship, commitment to social justice, and public service. This is a signature event and the lecture topics typically address the most significant issues, questions, and challenges in African American and Diasporic intellectual and social affairs. The Stone Center has hosted twenty-six lectures over the past thirty years, which have included such speakers as Edwidge Danticat, Bell Hooks, Eva Clayton, and Angela Davis. ■

## IN MEMORIAM: MICHAEL PLATT



Former Stone Center visiting artist Michael Platt passed away on January 20, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Platt and his partner and collaborator Carol Beane became close friends of the Stone Center and participated in the Stone Center’s Fall 2018 anniversary group show. Platt and Beane’s 2015 show, *Ritual +Time Travel = Rebirth: Images and Words* by Michael B. Platt and Carol A. Beane drew large crowds in the Stone Center’s Brown Gallery and helped to anchor a successful spring programming series that year. Platt was known for his printmaking and photography as well as for multimedia work, which he often paired with the Beane’s poetry. He taught and influenced students

at Howard University and throughout the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and his work also gained him attention in Europe, Australia and other countries where audiences celebrated the depth and range of his subject matter and his technique.

Platt introduced digital photography and non-toxic printmaking into Howard University’s Fine Art curriculum and connected with a new generation of artists who explore new multimedia techniques. He is considered by many to be one of the most influential D.C. artists and art professors in recent decades, joining the ranks of well-known figures such as Sam Gilliam, Lois Mailou Jones, and Skunder Boghossian. During his life he exhibited his artwork in solo and group shows in museums, art centers, and galleries in the United States and other nations such as Australia, Vietnam, Ukraine, Greece, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Italy, and France. In 1999, Platt won the Mayor’s Art Award for Excellence in Artistic Discipline (Washington, DC). In 2007, he received a Franz and Virginia Bader Fund Grant and won the Dorothy Frost Award for Digital Printmaking in 2008 from the Hampton University Museum.

In 2006, Platt was commissioned to create work for *At Freedom’s Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland*. This multi-venue exhibition was organized by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African-American History & Culture in Baltimore in collaboration with the Maryland Historical Society and the Maryland Institute College of Art.

His last show, entitled *Influences and Connections*, opened posthumously in 2019 at the American University Museum. It is also a collaboration with Carol Beane and is described as “although not a retrospective, did become a sort of summation” of his career.

The Stone Center joins the family in celebrating the life, work and legacy of Michael Platt and invite visitors to view a recreation of his haunting and visionary work, *The Visit*, which will be on display outside of the Stone Center theater on limited loan from Carol Beane. ■



## 2019 DIASPORA FILM FESTIVAL TO FEATURE PEABODY AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY ON LORRAINE HANSBERRY

The Stone Center will host a screening of *Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart* on Sunday, September 29 at Chapel Hill's Varsity Theatre. Sixty years ago, playwright Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, a riveting drama about one Black family's aspirations and struggles during the civil rights era, debuted at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre in New York on March 11, 1959. The play's title, derived from a line in Langston Hughes' poem "Harlem", was a reference to the plight of the Black poor whose dreams of breaking through barriers of class, segregation and racism were often unrealized and soon forgotten or left to dry up "like a raisin in the sun". When the play opened on Broadway, it marked the first time an African-American woman had breached the barriers that had frustrated so many other artists. Hansberry, a gifted playwright, was also a committed and dedicated social justice advocate and was active in the civil rights movement and a progressive voice for gay rights.

The documentary sheds important light on all aspects of the play, including the challenge of securing investment and a venue for the production, the casting process, artistic debates and finally its public reception. It also reveals how central the struggle for women's rights was to her ideas and boldly acknowledges (using her diary entries) her same gender relationships and private lesbian identity before the emergence of the gay rights movement. Her close friendship with Nina Simone and their willingness to place their politics within their creative work helped to set a standard for other artists who sought to make a difference in the world. Unlike some of her contemporaries who insisted that their work aspired to the universal, Hansberry saw the importance of seeking particularity as a foundation. In responding to theater critics who saw universal themes in *A Raisin in the Sun*, she noted that, "one of the most sound ideas in dramatic writing is that, in order to create the universal, you must pay very great attention to the specific."

She went further when she urged Black artists and Black writers in particular to become more aware of the relation between art and politics and to recognize that "all art is ultimately social" and there is no intellectual realm that writers should neglect. The documentary's title, *Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart*, comes from Hansberry's belief that "one cannot live with sighted eyes and feeling heart and not know or react to the miseries which afflict this world."

Hansberry died from cancer at age 34 in 1965.

*A Raisin in the Sun* won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play of 1959 and Hansberry became a recognized figure on the national stage particularly in Black households hungry for believable stories about the Black working class. Although the play attracted praise from many of the most noted writers in the Black community, some, including rising poet and playwright LeRoi Jones, who later changed his



name to Amiri Baraka, saw it as simply "protest art". Baraka's play, *Dutchman* had also caused waves in the theater world as it took a more visceral look at race relations and interracial relationships. However, before his death in 2014, he acknowledged the importance and truth in the themes of Hansberry's play and attributed his earlier comments to his naiveté in his younger years.

*Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart* is a winner of the Peabody Award, the American Historical Association's John E. O'Connor Award, the NAACP Image Award and a 2019 Notable Video Award from the American Library Association. The film features interviews with the play's original cast members: Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Louis Gossett, Jr. and Glynn Turman. Director Lloyd Richards, producer Phil Rose, supporter Harry Belafonte as well as writer Amiri Baraka along with excerpts from the 1961 Hollywood movie.

*Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart* will open the Stone Center Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film on Sunday, September 29 at 4pm at the Varsity Theatre in Chapel Hill. More information will be available on the Stone Center's website and social media. ■

# SPOTLIGHT DONORS

Each term the Stone Center recognizes supporters who've contributed to various funds that enable us to continue to fulfill our mission, and support the academic plan of the University. This term there are multiple supporters that helped us to reach important goals during the 2018-19 academic year. Although we highlight these specific donors, we always want all of our loyal donors know how much we appreciate their investment in the future of the Stone Center.

### The Alumni Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity (ACRED)

ACRED has been a strong supporter of the Stone Center starting with its beginnings in 1999. Over the past year, ACRED has spearheaded support for the Stone Center's Auditorium Seat Naming Campaign. ACRED members were the first to support the campaign by purchasing seats and encouraging all ACRED members and supporters to do the same. To date ACRED members have purchased and pledged to purchase ten seats. Their presence, at this time, surpasses all other seat purchases in the Auditorium. Many thanks to ACRED and to its officers and members for continuing to support the Stone Center.

### Anonymous Friend

In winter 2019, the Stone Center received word of a donation of \$40,000 from an unnamed friend. The donor, who preferred to remain anonymous, stated their only request was that the funds be used to support outstanding students who were seeking working to achieve at the highest level. This donation helped to make it possible for us to endow one of our most important student fellowships. We extend our deepest appreciation to our friend and benefactor for this gracious donation.

### Genna Rae McNeil

Dr. Genna Rae McNeil, Professor of History at UNC, has been one of the Stone Center's most loyal and vocal supporters over the last 20 years. She has been an early donor and participant in multiple fundraising drives. She is also a key point of reference for Stone Center history and, along with former music department chairperson Louise Toppin, donated a piano to the Stone Center auditorium. Last year, she joined others by being among the first to purchase a seat for the Auditorium Seat Naming Campaign, naming it for her friend and colleague Bill Ferris. Dr.

McNeil's support for the Stone Center has been immeasurable and she has established a high bar for other supporters.

### Philip Charles Pierre

Philip Charles Pierre is a name that is recognized both inside of the Stone Center and across UNC's campus. As a current member of the Board of Visitors and the Stone Center's External Advisory Board, he is a longtime supporter of the Stone Center. Over the past year, he went the extra mile and issued a challenge to his classmates and friends to help support the Stone Center's Sean Douglas Fellowship Program. His challenge pledge, along with the donations of those answering the challenge, raised enough to fully endow the Sean Douglas Fellowship and ensure that it will continue to support students in the coming years. ■



Philip Charles Pierre (center) seated with past and current Sean Douglas Fellows.



# FALL 2019

## program calendar

For more information about events, visit us at [www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter](http://www.unc.edu/depts/stonecenter) or email [stonecenter@unc.edu](mailto:stonecenter@unc.edu) or call 919-962-9001. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

**September 19 | 7pm**  
**Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum**

### **DO OR DIE: AFFECT, RITUAL, RESISTANCE OPENING**

The Sonja Haynes Stone Center will present a solo exhibition by artist Fahamu Pecou entitled *DO or DIE: Affect, Ritual, Resistance* from September 19 through November 21 in the Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum. Fahamu Pecou is an Atlanta-based visual artist and scholar whose works combine observations on hip-hop, fine art and popular culture. Dr. Pecou is profoundly involved in exploring the state of Black existence – life and death – in his work. In the midst of the endemic and pervasive threat of violence that is often a fact of life for young black men the artist asks, “Under looming threat of death, how might we inspire life? Through what mechanisms could we resist the psychological violence and despair inspired by the threat of violence and usher in hope?” Or how might art serve as a “space of resistance?”

*DO or DIE: Affect, Ritual, Resistance* serves as one artist’s action in opposition to these overwhelming societal forces, seeking instead to elevate and re-contextualize Black life and death. Through performance, painting, drawing and video Pecou reframes our view. He incorporates references from the West African religion Yoruba and Ifa rituals. In addition, Pecou integrates African cultural retentions found in hip-hop and the philosophy of Négritude as he shapes a story that seeks to affirm life via an understanding of the balance between life and death. This exhibit is born out of Pecou’s research and scholarship as a Ph.D. student at Emory University.

This exhibition is part of the Stone Center’s 1619 Collective Memory(ies) Project, taking place during the fall of 2019. This programming examines the idea of memory(ies) across generations, peoples, and experiences while focusing on the commemoration of 400 years since the landing of enslaved Africans in what is now the United States. Dr. Pecou will be in attendance during the exhibition’s opening on September 19 in the Stone Center’s Robert and Sallie Brown Gallery and Museum.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm and weekend by appointment only.

Fahamu Pecou’s *DO or DIE: Affect, Ritual, Resistance* has been organized by the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston, in collaboration with the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University.

Limited free parking is available through the Stone Center. Paid parking is available in selected lots on campus. For information call (919) 962-9001.







Check out the Stone Center on Facebook at [facebook.com/stonecenter](https://facebook.com/stonecenter) and follow us on Twitter @UNCStoneCenter

September 29 | 4pm  
Varsity Theater, 123 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill

## DIASPORA FESTIVAL OF BLACK AND INDEPENDENT FILM KICK-OFF

**Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes / Feeling Heart**  
Dir: Tracy Heather Strain | USA | 2017 | 118 mins | Documentary

A documentary feature about Lorraine Hansberry, whose play *A Raisin in the Sun* influenced the representation of African Americans and changed the American theater forever as the first by a black woman to be produced on Broadway. A passionate artist, she was also a committed activist and sought-after intellectual who waged an outspoken and defiant battle against injustice in 20th-century America.



October 22 | 7pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

## 2019 SONJA HAYNES STONE MEMORIAL LECTURE

North Carolina's Poet Laureate, Jaki Shelton Green, will deliver the Stone Center's annual Sonja Haynes Stone Lecture on Tuesday, October 22. Green is North Carolina's ninth poet laureate and the first African American and third woman to hold the title.

A North Carolina native, Green has been active in the state's literary and teaching community for more than 40 years and won numerous awards. She has taught poetry and facilitated creative writing classes at public libraries, universities and community colleges, public/private schools, and literary organizations. She currently teaches Documentary Poetry at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. As a creativity coach, Green facilitates workshops and trainings in the United States and abroad, and as a community arts advocate, creates and facilitates programs that serve diverse audiences and populations. Additionally, she judges poetry for schools, anthologies, and prizes such as the Lucille Clifton Poetry Award. Green is the owner of *SistaWRITE* which provides retreats and travel excursions for women writers.

The 2019 Sonja Haynes Stone Memorial Lecture will take place at the Stone Center at 7pm on October 22. This event is free and open to the public.

November 11 | 9am - 5pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

## 1619 COLLECTIVE MEMORY(IES) SYMPOSIUM

Join the Stone Center on Monday, Nov. 11 as we host the 1619 Collective Memory(ies) Symposium. This event will bring together "conversants" from communities thrown together as a result of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Representatives from Native/Indigenous American, African American, African, European and White American (descendant) communities will offer their unique insights and reflections on the 400th year since the eventful moment in 1619 when those enslaved Africans arrived at Point Comfort near the English settlement at Jamestown, in what is now Virginia.

The event will feature 2 keynotes (morning and afternoon) that will serve as the foundation for the conversations that will take place between invited guests. Participants include: Dr. Alan Rice, Pure Fe Crescioni, Chief Lynette Allston, Dr. Jessica Krug, Dr. Neil Roberts, Ann Chin, and Dr. Freddie Parker.

The symposium is free and open to the public. Registration information will be available at a later date.



*The Visit, Michael Platt, Pigment Print on Paper, 2014 Courtesy of Carol A. Beane*



# 2019 DIASPORA

Festival of Black and Independent Film

## LUNCH AND A MOVIE

October 3 | 12pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

October 3  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### MANHOOD

Dir: Rodney Stringfellow | 2019 | USA | 11 mins

On her tenth birthday, Olivia nervously waits for her father to arrive, fearing he will punch her in the nose – a ritual he’s done to each of her older brothers when they turned ten. When her father arrives, he explains that he’s not going to hit her; he only hits his sons so they can become men. Upon hearing the benefits of manhood, Olivia changes her mind and asks her father to punch her as well. .



October 3  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### I AM MY OWN MOTHER

Dir: Andrew Zox | USA | 23 mins | Short Narrative

An adopted woman on the cusp of childbirth reinserts herself back into the life of her biological mother and siblings, unsettling the entire family unit.

ALWAYS IN SEASON ▶



## ALWAYS IN SEASON

October 1 | 6:30pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

Dir: Jacqueline Olive | 2018 | USA | 89 mins

Teenager Lennon Lacy was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, North Carolina, in 2014. The circumstances of his death echo the long horror of lynching in America, especially in the South, and intersect with the stories of two other communities seeking justice and reconciliation. In Monroe, Georgia, a diverse group of reenactors promotes healing by annually performing the 1946 quadruple lynching of two African American couples. Through narrated invitations to public lynchings that play over gruesome archival images, the film additionally explores the 1934 murder of Claude Neal and others. These historical accounts construct the backbone of *Always in Season's* vital examination of Lennon's recent death. A call for justice by his family members leads to a federal investigation. The legacy of racial hatred and the practices of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina and Georgia are delineated as the film traces the night of Lennon's death, how we remember him and the past, and how we must remain vigilant.

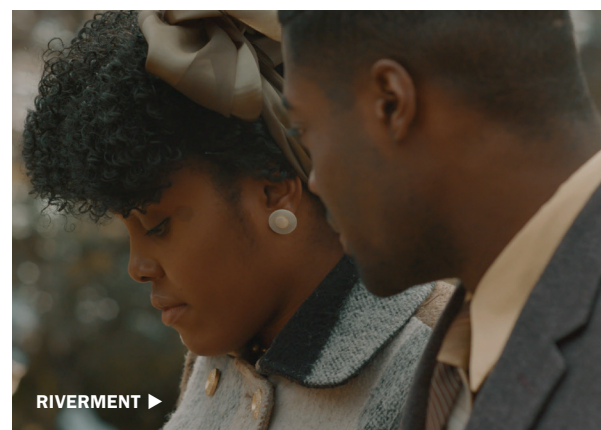


October 3  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

**INVINCIBLE BOY**

Dir: Julian Park | USA | 20 mins | Short Narrative

A wildly imaginative boy’s mission to become a superhero is challenged when his optimistic view of the world begins to crumble. Eleven year old Vincent has always imagined himself as a superhero in his daydreams. When he helps return a toddler’s toy by chasing down a car, the reality of being a superhero seems exhilarating and not so far-fetched. Vincent begins enacting small acts of kindness in his community. Together with his best friend Barney, they create a comic zine with hopes of inspiring others. However, Vincent soon learns that not everybody believes in his noble but childish mission. Discouraged by two different types of bullies, he has to decide whether to hold on to his foolish fantasies or accept the world as it is.



October 3  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

**RIVERMENT**

Dir: Shayla Racquel | USA | 20 mins | Short Narrative

A former Civil Rights activist fears for the safety of her granddaughter when her granddaughter decides to follow in her footsteps. As Civil Rights activists, Maureen and her husband Kenneth were no strangers to racial injustices and traumatic experiences during their fight for equal rights. To cope with what they’ve encountered, Maureen spends her time in her favorite place of peace, the riverbank. It is here where Maureen used to bond with her granddaughter Tyna. Now 20 years old, Tyna has become a freedom fighter in her own right, tackling inequalities and discrimination occurring on her college campus. When Tyna decides to take her activism outside the proposed safe boundaries of school, Maureen fears for her granddaughter’s safety, and ultimately her sanity.

October 8 | 6:30pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

**SPRINTER**

Dir: Storm Sauter | Jamaica | 114 mins | Feature Narrative

Akeem Sharp is set to be the next big thing in Jamaican athletics — not for nothing are they calling the dreadlocked teenage runner the Rasta Rocket. His older brother Germaine, once a promising track-and-field athlete himself and now involved in various shady schemes, is soon on the scene, looking to insinuate himself into Akeem’s life and manipulate his career. With the added burden of an unstable father at home, Akeem is hoping his meteoric rise will take him out of Jamaica and to the United States, where his mother has lived as an illegal migrant for over a decade. A highly accomplished, supremely entertaining drama.



**LUNCH AND A MOVIE**

October 10 | 12pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

**EDGECOMB**

Dir: Crystal Kayiza | 2018 | USA | 15 mins

Edgecombe is an open-ended and thoughtful inquiry into home and place. Less than 100 miles east of Durham, North Carolina, in Edgecombe County’s African American community, three stories come together in a succinct and pointed collective portrait. Shaka Jackson, Doris Stith, and Deacon William Joyner tell their personal narratives, with a backdrop of expansive historical patterns of injustice, commitment to community, and endurance. Meditative cinematography and a sensitive soundtrack give weight to the film’s demonstration of how poverty itself is punished, how slavery is not so distant, and how the damages of Jim Crow segregation persist.





October 10  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### AN ACT OF TERROR

Dir: Ashley Brim | USA | 16 mins | Short Narrative

The true story of Virginia Christian, a 16-year-old African American girl accused of murder in the Jim Crow South.

October 10  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### THE INFAMOUS FUTURE

Dir: Richard Butterworth | USA | 40 mins | Short Documentary

After a famous study revealed that seventy-five percent of New York state inmates came from seven specific neighborhoods in New York City, one civic organization decided to make a change. By creating New York City's first all-boys public school in over thirty years, David C. Banks and his Eagle Academy defy an entrenched American mindset, insisting that young black and brown men are not one of America's problems, but instead one of its greatest successes.

October 17 | 6:30pm  
North Carolina Central University

### SCARED OF REVOLUTION

Dir: Daniel Krikke | 2018 | 72 mins

The legacy of the Last Poets is a signature and essential Black Arts Movement contribution, part of the African diaspora oral tradition that includes storytelling, the blues, jazz singing, spoken word, and rap. The influential group of performance poets and musicians emerged from the 1960s civil rights movement and black nationalism, and their work has had a significant impact on hip-hop. The Last Poets member Umar Bin Hassan has that delivery that melts mics and those on the other end of his verbal ire. Just like Gil Scott-Heron, he shares the troubled life of many an artist—substance abuse, failed parenthood—yet he survives. He acknowledges his failures as he struggles to amend and atone, grandson in tow, with the blessings of his daughters, mother, and colleague Abiodun Oyewole. In intimate conversations with Hassan and those closest to him, *Scared of Revolution* follows the visionary artist as he confronts the hardships of his past and strives to reconnect with his family.



## LUNCH AND A MOVIE

October 24 | 12pm  
Hitchcock Multipurpose Room

LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### OBINI BATÁ: WOMEN OF THE DRUMS

Dir: Damián Calvo | USA/Cuba | 14 mins | Short Documentary

Twenty-five years ago a group of dancers formed Obini Batá and challenged the tradition of all-male drummers by becoming the first women to perform with the Batá drums in Cuba. Obini (the Yoruba word for Women) thus shaped the history of one of Cuba's most influential instruments, but there were many who thought women playing the drum was scandalous, and it became a struggle to gain wider acceptance. The multigenerational group ranges from Eva Despaigne, la Maestra and last of the founding members, to younger women from diverse professional and artistic backgrounds. In moments of rest taken from intense practice, Eva outlines the history of the group and provides an introduction to the Batá drums: Iyá, Itótele, and Kónkolo. Eva maintains a long view that Obini Batá must preserve two goals: First, a creative nucleus that can train new artists and secondly, a platform that defends the rights of women in society, in art and in the drum.

October 24  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

Dir: Ricky Rosario | USA | 20 mins | Short Narrative

This story follows Clayton, a young dancer who's facing the challenges of chasing his dreams. He hustles his way around LA, juggling his responsibilities of working at a part-time job and attending auditions in hopes of catching his big break. The disappointment from his circumstances grow as he observes the people around him receiving great opportunities deriving from their personal relationships. In the midst of his daily grind he maintains a caring relationship with a crazy, elderly homeless woman.

October 24  
LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES

### GIVE

Dir: David de Rozas | 2018 | USA | 17 mins

*GIVE* explores Roland Gordon's motivations to create a monumental visual archive displaying centuries of black agency and achievements in the United States and beyond. Comprised of thousands of photographic portraits, newspapers, and magazines cutouts, Roland's collage *The Cloud of Witnesses*, presents an alternative visual history to empower the black community.

For more information about events, please call the Stone Center at 919-962-9001, email [stonecenter@unc.edu](mailto:stonecenter@unc.edu) or visit [stonecenter.unc.edu](http://stonecenter.unc.edu).





Check out the Stone Center on Facebook at [facebook.com/stonecenter](https://facebook.com/stonecenter) and follow us on Twitter @UNCStoneCenter

**October 24**  
**LUNCH AND A MOVIE SHORT FILM SERIES**

**THE CHANGING SAME**

*Dir: Michèle Stephenson | USA | 21 mins | Short Narrative*

In the Florida Panhandle lies the town of Marianna, Florida, where one resident runs a particular marathon in hopes of lifting the veil of racial terror caused by the town's buried history. Lamar Wilson discovers a book, *Anatomy of a Lynching: The Killing of Claude Neal*. Intrigued, he starts to read it and finds that his hometown of Marianna is the scene where this horrific event took place. On October 26, 1934, Claude Neal was brutally lynched by a mob of white men who stormed the county jail where Neal was held after being accused of the murder of a 20-year-old white woman, Lola Cannady. The spectacle lynching was the worst act of torture and execution of 20th century America, yet there are no physical markers to remind anyone of this. Now, annually, out of a sense of duty to shine a light on the past and the love for his town, Lamar is motivated to run the 13 miles retracing the same route Claude Neal took that fateful night. Black people ask him to stop because they don't want trouble. White folks dog whistle, they don't like it. But with the help of three other residents, he works towards trying to heal a community that has paid a price for silence and denial for too long.



STRIVE ▶

**October 30 | 6:30pm**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

**STRIVE**

*Dir: Robert Ripberger | 2019 | USA | 82 mins*

A teenager from the projects in Harlem aims to get into Yale, but must push against the world holding her back.

As a new feature for the 2019 Diaspora Festival of Black and Independent Film, the following films are available for community screenings. Please contact the Stone Center for more information:

**October 30 | 6:30pm**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

**JEZEBEL**

*Dir: Numa Perrier | 2018 | USA | 88 mins*

In the last days of her mother's life, 19-year old Tiffany crashes with five family members in a Las Vegas studio apartment. In order to make ends meet, her older sister, a phone sex operator, introduces her to the world of internet fetish cam girls.

**October 30 | 6:30pm**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

**SAME DIFFERENCE**

*Dir: Derege Harding | 2019 | USA | 88 mins*

As Tonya Keating grapples with the innate knowledge that her death is imminent, she is compelled to let go of the past and reconcile with her estranged twin sister.



PRINCESS OF THE ROW ▶

**PRINCESS OF THE ROW**

**October 29 | 6:30pm**  
**Hitchcock Multipurpose Room**

*Dir: Van Maxmilian Carlson | 2018 | USA | 85 mins | Feature Narrative*

The inspiring tale of a runaway foster child who will stop at nothing to live with the only family she knows: her father... a homeless mentally ill veteran who lives on the streets of LA's Skid Row.

**The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**



The Stone Center is ADA compliant. Free visitor parking is available in the Bell Tower parking deck behind the Stone Center after 5pm. Call for directions and for visitor parking before 5pm.



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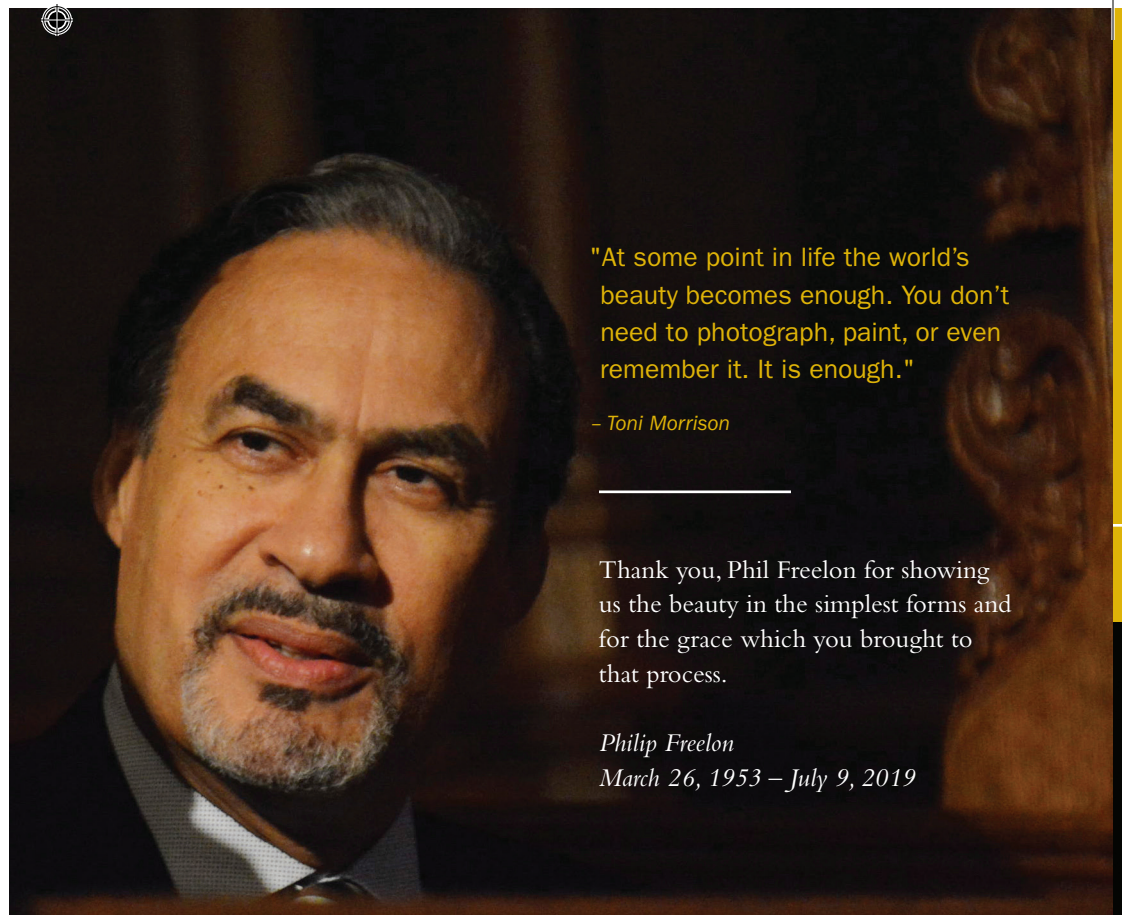
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"At some point in life the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint, or even remember it. It is enough."

- Toni Morrison

Thank you, Phil Freelon for showing us the beauty in the simplest forms and for the grace which you brought to that process.

Philip Freelon

March 26, 1953 – July 9, 2019

## NEW STONE CENTER DRIVE OPENS AND NEW WEEKNIGHT PARKING RULES

There will be changes coming to parking around the Stone Center, beginning August 15. The campus will shift to a weeknight parking program and permits will be required on beginning at 5pm. Due to the new program, free parking in the Bell Tower Deck will no longer be available. The Stone Center will purchase a limited number of parking permits for our event guests. These permits will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Metered spots will be available behind our building.

In addition to parking changes, the new semester will bring a new name to the street behind the building. During the spring, the Board of Trustees voted to rename the road between the Stone Center and the Bell Tower as "Stone Center Drive". UNC Athletics Director, Bubba Cunningham, recommended the new designation. ■