

CRYSTAL AM NELSON

Education

University of California, Santa Cruz / PhD-visual studies, 2021 University of California, Santa Cruz / MA-visual studies, 2017 San Francisco Art Institute / MFA-photography, 2010 University of Rhode Island / BA (highest honors)-English, 2003

Professional Appointments

Assistant Professor, Art & Art History Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, CO—2022present

Just Transformations Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, African American Studies Department, The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA — 2021-22

Graduate Student Instructor, 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 — Fall 2014-Fall 2016, Spring 2017-Spring 2018

Guided Study Mentor, Low Residency MFA Program, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA—Spring 2011

Select Awards

2023 — CHA Small Grant (\$450)

— Kayden Research Grant (\$3000)

— Arts & Sciences Fund for Excellence Award for research (\$1000)

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

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

2015 — Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

2014 — Center for Archival Research and Training (CART) Fellowship 2013

— Porter Travel Fellowship, UC Santa Cruz

Select Publications (* indicates peer-reviewed)

Catalogues

“A Visual Politics of Black Pleasure,” *A Picture Gallery of the Soul* exhibition catalogue, 2022

Articles

*“Repose: Black Nightmares, Black Dreams,” *Art Journal*, Fall 2023

Michelle Yee and crystal am nelson in Conversation with zoë pulley, “The Black Joy Archive,” *Art Journal*, Fall 2023

crystal am nelson and Michelle Yee, “The Color of Joy: Reconsidering Critical Race Visual Culture,” *Art Journal*, Fall 2023

“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, March 26, 2013

“The Capital of Caribbean Cool,” *Art Practical*, Issue 4.4, November 15, 2012

Encyclopedia Entries

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

Book Reviews

“Tina M. Campt: *A Black Gaze* and Nicholas Mirzoeff: *White Sight: Visual Politics and Practices of Whiteness*,” *The Art Bulletin*, December 2023

“Richard J. Powell: *Going There: Black Visual Satire*,” *caa.reviews*, July 19, 2021

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

Panels/Conferences

2024

College Art Association 112th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

Feb 14-17

Panel: Chair, Re-Imagining the Black Atlantic

2023

American Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Canada Nov

2-5

Paper: “More than Just a Wash and Cut”

Panel: Chair, Black Feminist Pedagogies of (Self) Care

Caribbean Studies Association Conference, St. Croix
June 5-9

Paper: "Colored People's Time: Visualizing the Caribbean Quotidian"

Panel: Narrating Caribbean Futures by Holding the Past Close

2022

American Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA
November 3-6

Paper: "Sheltering the Spirit: The Ecstatic Black Body in the Black Romantic Tradition" Panel:
Incendiary Intimacies: Black Folks, Friction, Resistance, and Reckoning

CAA 110th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
February 16-19

Paper: "Heresies: An Anti-Racist Visual Politics"

Panel: Heresies and Other Mythologies

2021

ASAP/12, Reciprocity Virtual Conference
October 27-30

Paper: "Black Pleasure and Black Joy"

Panel: Thresholds of Black Thinking and Making

7th Feminist Art History Conference, American University, Washington, D.C.
September 24-26

Paper: "In Our Mothers' Gardens: Aesthetic Communities of Resistance"

Panel: Activism: Making Space

CAA 109th Annual Conference, virtual
February 10-13

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, New Haven, CT April
4

Paper: "Repose: Black Nightmares, Black Dreams"

*CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

2018

&Now biennial conference, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
Oct 5-7

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, CA

Paper: "In Search of Haydée"

November 6-9

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 Center for Sex and Culture,
San Francisco, CA

June 8

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, UC San Diego, San Diego, CA

May 2-3

Paper: "Womb Culture: A Methodological Manifesto"

Panel: Temporality and Futurity

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

April 10-12

Paper: "We Ain't Gotta Be This: Queering Sites of Blackness" Panel:
Colour Me Queer

Teaching

Courses Taught at University of Colorado, Boulder Undergraduate

ARTH 4919 African/Diasporic Portraiture (Fall 2023)

ARTH 4929 A History of Black Photographers (Fall 2023)

ARTH 3929 African American Art & Identity (Summer 2023)

ARTH 4929 Afrofuturism (Spring 2023)

ARTH 3929 Black Art in America (Fall 2022)

Graduate

ARTH 4919/5929/6939 Afro-Atlantic Imaginaries (Spring 2023) ARTH
6939 The Black Female Body (Fall 2022)

Courses Taught at University of California, Santa Cruz Undergraduate

HAVC 140C Race and American Visual Arts (Winter 2017)

MA Thesis Advised 2022-2023

Mattelyn Hough, thesis focus: photography as visual activism

MA Thesis Committee Member 2023

Shawn Simmons, Department of Art and Art History

2022-2023

Emily Berkes, Department of Art and Art History

MFA Thesis Committee Member

Nicholas Pope, Department of Art and Art History

Andi Newberry, Department of Art and Art History

Elisa Wolcott, Department of Art and Art History

Tiana Boisseau-Palo

Professional Development

2023

NCFDD Faculty Success Program

2022

CUAM Art Museum Pedagogy Workshop-Aug 17-18

Thriving at CU: Thriving in the Classroom, Handling Challenges-Oct 13

Thriving at CU: Thriving in the Community-Nov 10

Thriving at CU: Thriving as a Scholar-Dec 1

A&S BIPOC Mentoring Program-2022-2023

Service

2023-2025

Executive Committee

2024

Chair, panel for the 112th Annual CAA Conference

2023

Co-editor, special forum, *Art Journal*

Chair, panel for American Studies Association Conference

Undergraduate Scholarship Committee

Graduate Scholarship Committee

Merit Review Committee

CU Art Museum Collections Committee

2021

Ad hoc reviewer—*American Journal of Play*

Co-chair, panel for the 109th Annual CAA Conference

2015-2016

Co-organizer, Friday Forum, a weekly interdisciplinary colloquium series for sharing graduate research across the humanities.

2012

Juror, SOMArts Commons Curatorial Residency Award Advisory and Selection Committee

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

Professional Memberships

College Art Association (CAA)

The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)

American Studies Association (ASA)