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- Events
- Newsletter
- Calendar
- Security/Insecurity
- Contact

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Announcement: Tirza Latimer Talk on 3/9

by American Studies

AMS :: ATX is a blog dedicated to representing the many activities and interests of the department of American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Together with the department's Twitter feed, this blog exists to serve the AMS and Austin communities by acting as a hub for up-to-date information on events and opportunities at UT and beyond.





Tomorrow, 3/9, the Art History Lecture Series is hosting a talk by Dr. Tirza True Latimer, titled “A Manifesto of Eccentric Modernism.” The talk will be at 4 PM in ART 1.120. We’ve included the description of her talk, below. We hope to see you there.

Focusing on a case study from Eccentric Modernisms: Making Differences in the History of American Art (UC Press, 2017), Latimer presents a piece of ephemera she describes as a “manifesto of eccentric modernism” — a souvenir program for the 1934 opera Four Saints in Three Acts. The opera premiered in an eccentric venue, the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut. An eccentric libretto, penned by Gertrude Stein, was set to music by the modernist composer Virgil Thomson, choreographed by the neo-romantic Frederick Ashton,



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with extravagant sets and costumes by the uncatagorizable artist Florine Stettheimer. Perhaps the most unconventional aspect of the production was its all African American cast. Within the frame of American modernism, the opera's producers and performers challenged not only prevailing artistic heirarchies but also sex/gender codes and racial prohibitions to imagine daring social and cultural alternatives. The souvenir playbill presented this event in carefully calculated ways that enable us to speculate today about the collaborators' vision(s) of modernism in America.

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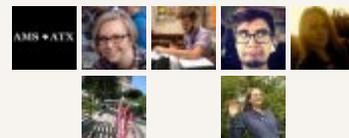
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- 5(ish) Questions: A Conversation With Dr. Ramzi Fawaz (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
- Announcement: Dr. Caleb Smith Lectures on Law and Literature
- Announcement: Stephen Vider gives talk on "queering domesticity" this Monday

Tweets

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