

Raél Jero Salley (MFA, PhD)

Curriculum Vitae

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LEADERSHIP, ADMINISTRATION, & MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2020— Founding Creative Director [The Space for Black Creative Imagination, Inc.](#)
- 2021 Principle Investigator [Unmaking Racism Curricular Program \(MICA\) LINK](#)
- Faculty, History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture (2022-Present)
- Chair, *Department of Art History, Theory, & Criticism. MICA* (2019-2022)
- Director, *The Space for Black Creative Imagination* (2020—Present)
- Interim Head of Department, *Art History, and Discourse, University of Cape Town* (2013-2014)
- Interim Head of Department, *Painting (Fine Art Practice), University of Cape Town* (2012)
- *The Getty Research Institute, AAAHI Selection Committee* (2021 -2023)
- Program Reviewer, Art History Dept., *The School of the Art Institute of Chicago* (2020)
- Institute-Wide Academic Assessment Committee, *MICA* (2018-2020)
- Lead, Full-Time Faculty Search Committee, Art History Dept. *MICA* (2019, 2020)
- Graduate Liberal Arts Committee, *MICA* (2019)
- Full-Time Faculty Search Committee, Art History. *MICA* (2018)
- Professional Cmte on Diversity Practices, *College Arts Association (CAA)* (2015-19)
- President’s Task Force on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, *MICA* (2015-18)
- Chair, Institution-Wide Cultural Expansion Committee, *MICA* (2015-18)
- Full-Time Faculty Search Committee (Masters of Art Education), *MICA* (2017)
- Full-Time Faculty Search Committee (Art History), *MICA* (2016)
- Visiting Critic, *Interdisciplinary Sculpture, MICA* (2015-2019)
- Promotion Assessor, Dept. Art Theory & Practice, *WITS University* (2015)
- Honorary Doctorate Assessor, *University of Cape Town* (2015)
- External Examiner (MFA and Undergraduate) *VAAL University, South Africa* (2014-15)
- External Examiner (MFA) *UNISA, South Africa* (2019)
- Promotion Assessor (Professor) *University of Zimbabwe* (2013)
- External Examiner (PhD) *University of Zimbabwe* (2012)
- External Examiner (MFA and Undergraduate) *University of Stellenbosch* (2013)
- Postgraduate Degrees Committee, *University of Cape Town (UCT)*
- Portfolio Selection Admissions Committee (*UCT*)

- Permanent Faculty Selection Committees: *University Administrative Staff, Tenure-Track Position, & African Studies (UCT)*
- Curating Convener, Michaelis School of Fine Art Lecture Series (*UCT*)
- Coordinator, International Student Exchange (Michaelis School of Fine Art, UCT)
- Lecturer, Workshop for Art Teachers, Frank Joubert Community Art Workshop

CURRICULUM DESIGN

- Unmaking Racism: (PI) *Institution-wide, Interdisciplinary Minor (MICA), 2021*
- Racism & Visual Culture: Unmaking Racism & Art History (MICA, 3 Credits/semester)
- Modernity, Difference, & Power: Art History (MICA, 3 Credits/semester)
- Art History and Its Methods: Art History Methodology (MICA, 3 Credits/semester)
- Art Matters, Cities & Empires: Intro to Art History (MICA, 3 Credits/semester)
- Graduate Survey of Contemporary Art (MICA, 3 Credits/semester x 2 semesters)
- Special Topic Course: 'Seeing After Freedom' (MICA, 3 Credits/semester x 1)
- Africana Art (MICA, 3 Credits/semester x 4 semesters; UCLA, 3 Credits/quarter)
- African American Art (MICA, 3 Credits/semester x 2 semesters)
- Seeing After Freedom (UCLA, 3 Credits/quarter x 3 quarters)
- Emergence of African Modernisms (UCT, 3 Credits/semester x 4 semesters)
- Theory of Art 3 (UCT, 3 Credits/semester x 4)
- Strategies for Art in Times of Change (UCT, 3 Credits/semester x 4)
- 'the names we give': Art, Culture and Society (Public Workshops)
- Second, Third, and Fourth Year Painting Studio (UCT, 3 Credits/semester x 8)
- Critical Theory (Dept of Religious Studies) (UCT, 3 Credits/semester x 1)

ADVISING + MENTORSHIP

Post Graduate Advising (in Honours, MA(FA), and MFA)

- Khanyisile Mbongwa (Honours in Curatorship, Distinction Earned)
- Alta Botha (MFA, Distinction Earned)
- Jody Paulsen (MFA, Distinction Earned)
- Kathy Robins (PG Diploma)
- Abel Mputing (MAFA)

Doctoral Advising (PhD)

- Riason Naidoo (PhD, supervision transferred in 2015)
- Muthoni Kimani (PhD, supervision transferred in 2015)

External Examinations (PhD)

- (2023) PhD in Fine Arts: Bhavisha Laxmi Panchia, “Playing it Back: Audible Traces in Contemporary African Art”
- (2022) PhD in Creative Work: Kolodi Doctor Senong, “Darkness After Light: The Visual Portrait of Lefifi Tladi” University of the Witswatersrand, Johannesburg, ZA

INSTRUCTION + TEACHING

2015—	<u>Faculty Professor, Chair</u> <i>History of Art, Design & Visual Culture.</i> <i>Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)</i>
2022	<u>Guest Researcher</u> , Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), Uni of Amsterdam
2014—21	<u>Visiting Professor</u> , <i>Africana Studies</i> <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>
2010 – 2015	<u>Senior Lecturer</u> , Art History & Fine Art (Tenure in 2014) <i>University of Cape Town, The Michaelis School of Fine Art</i>
2013– 2014	<u>Head of Dept (Interim)</u> : Art History and Discourse, <i>The Michaelis School</i>
2008-10	<u>Lecturer</u> in Art History, Columbia College, Chicago (University, 9 credits/semester x 4)
2005-08	<u>Adjunct Faculty</u> in Art History, Columbia College, Chicago
2007	<u>Adjunct Faculty</u> in Art History, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
2007	<u>Lecturer</u> , Anthropology, The University of Chicago (University, 3 cr/quart x 6)
2006	<u>Adjunct Faculty</u> in Philosophy, Prairie State College (Chicago Heights) <u>Teaching Intern</u> , The University of Chicago (University, 3 credits per quart x 2) <u>Mentor</u> , Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, University of Chicago
2005	<u>Writing Lector</u> , The University of Chicago (University, 3 credits per quarter x 3) <u>Instructor, Printmaking</u> , MARWEN (Public Arts Program, Secondary school) <u>Instructor, Drawing and Painting</u> , Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago (with Theaster Gates) <u>Instructor</u> , The University of Chicago-Kenwood Academy Program for Academic Excellence (with Melissa Harris-Perry). Secondary School.
2004	<u>Visiting Artist Lecturer</u> , Painting The University of Illinois, Chicago
2004-06	<u>Instructor</u> , Upward Bound, Columbia College Chicago (Secondary School)
2006	<u>Instructor, Fine Arts</u> for college preparatory high school students.
2005	<u>Instructor</u> , <i>The University of Chicago-Kenwood Academy Program for Academic Excellence (Secondary School)</i>
2003	<u>Managing Editor</u> , <i>FNews Magazine</i> , <i>The School of the Art Institute of Chicago</i> <u>Instructor</u> , The Chicago Park District (Primary School) <u>Instructor</u> , Rhode Island Arts Workshops, Little Compton, RI (Primary School)
2002-03	<u>Instructor, Hearing Impaired Learners</u> , Gallery 37, Chicago, IL
2002	<u>Instructor</u> , Highland Court Assist Living Facility, Providence, RI (Continuing Ed)

- Instructor, Barton Street Community Center, Pawtucket, RI (Primary School)
Instructor, New Urban Arts, Providence, RI
 2001 Instructor, Parks and People Foundation (Superkids Literacy) Baltimore, MD
 2000 Teaching Assistant, "Printmaking" *Rhode Island School of Design* Providence, RI.
Teaching Assistant, FINCO Arts Workshop, Nassau, Bahamas

VISUAL PRACTICE, EXHIBITIONS (Solo)

- 2019 'War of the Roses' (Gallery MOMO, Cape Town)
 2015 'PRESENT' (Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa)
 2014 'AVELOKITESHIVARA' (Sattva Studio, Los Angeles, California)
 2012 'PROMISE' (South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa)

VISUAL PRACTICE, EXHIBITIONS (Selected, Group)

- 2023 EXPO Chicago (International Art Fair, Gallery MOMO)
 2018 EXPO Chicago (International Art Fair, Gallery MOMO)
 2015 Johannesburg Art Fair (International Art Fair, Gallery MOMO)
 'Toward Intersections: Negotiating Subjects' (UNISA, Pretoria, ZA)
 2014 Kampala BIENNALE (Exhibition, Kampala, Uganda)
 2013 'VISTAS' (Center for African Studies Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa)
 2012 'PROMISE' (South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa)
 2006 'Nothing Lasts Forever' (Higher Gallery, Chicago, IL)
 2000 FINCO Arts Exhibition (Nassau, Bahamas)

CREATIVE, CURATORIAL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

- 2024 *Looking Rights* Exhibition (Project Curator) Partnership with Johns Hopkins University (The Right to the City Collective), hosted by Nomunomu Gallery, Baltimore, MD, USA.
 2023 *The Juneteenth Institute at the Liverpool Biennial* (Producer) Partnership with Liverpool Biennial & Howard University Art School, Liverpool, UK.
 2022 *Making Art History Now* (Producer & Coordinator) Partnership with Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA.
 2022- [...] *Ellipses : Journal of Creative Research* (Board Member) Johannesburg, ZA.
 2017 *Looking After Freedom* (Traveling Curatorial Project, Co-curated with Nkule Mabaso) Cape Town; Stellenbosch, South Africa.
 2017 *The Visual Subject* (Curatorial Project, Co-curator Nkule Mabaso) Bellville, ZA.
 2013 *The Exuberance Project* (Cape Town, Mandela Rhodes Gallery).
 2011 'the Names We Give' Symposium & Performances (The University of Cape Town)

2010 *Extreme Studio* (Co-curated with Sabina Ott. A+D Gallery) Chicago.

AWARDS / HONORS

2022 Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), Research Fellow
 2020-2021 AICAD BIPOC Leadership Institute, Fellow
 2019 Professional Development Grant (MICA) "Leadership & Management, JHU"
 2018-2020 Honorary Research Associate (Philosophy) Uni of Stellenbosch, ZA
 2018 College Arts Assc, Co-convener (w/ LeRonn Brooks): "Blackness, Care, & Love"
 2017 College Arts Association, Co-convener (w/ Tobias Wooford): "Collectivities"
 Professional Development Grant, MICA "English Language Learning"
 2015 & 2017 Lucas Grant Award for Curriculum and Teaching, MICA.
 2016 College Arts Association Session: Race, Remembrance, and Reconciliation:
 International Dialogue in National Museums (Convenor: Julie McGee)
 2011-14 Knowledge Interchange & Collaboration Grant (NRF), South Africa.
 2010-11 Fellowship, Gordon Institute for the Fine and Performing Arts
 Director, Postgraduate Research Travel Trip: Sao Paulo Biennial.
 2009 Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism (WITS University)
 2008-09 Institut D'Études Politiques De Paris Ecole Doctorale, Fellow
 Universiteit Van Amsterdam International Humanities Wksp: Black Europe
 Doctoral Fellowship, Africana Studies. Florida International Uni. (Declined)
 2008 Derrick Gondwe Fellowship in the Humanities, Gettysburg College (Declined)
 2007-09 Fellow, Diversifying Faculty in Illinois
 2007 The Provost's Research Fellowship, The University of Chicago
 Research Fellow, The University of Chicago Paris Center
 2005 Kamiyama Artist in Residency Program (Kamiyama, Japan)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

1. [*The Visual Dynamics of Art, Black Care and Ethics in South African Art. \(New York & London: Routledge, 2025\).*](#)
2. Promise: Visuality in Contemporary South Africa (2013) ed. Raél Jero Salley (UCT)

BOOK CHAPTERS & ARTICLES

1. "Kehinde Wiley" *In Our Time*. Singer Collection Catalogue (2023) Ed. Allison Glenn. Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMOCA)

2. "Vaughn Spann" *In Our Time*. Singer Collection Catalogue (2023) Ed. Allison Glenn. Scottsdale Museum
3. "On Homage" *Homage* (2023) Eds. Gary D. Johns & Greg Gorman. Los Angeles, CA.
4. "Visions, Writings and Walls: Perceptual Learning and the artwork of Kemang Wa Lehulere" in *Critical African Studies* (2021) Ed. Shose Kessi (Cambridge: Harvard University Press)
5. "Potentials of Exchange, Fellowship, and Love: Contemporary Art, Citizenship, and Performance in South Africa" in *Contemporary Citizenship, Art, and Visual Culture: Making and Being Made* (2018) Ed. Corey Dzenko and Theresa Avila (New York: Routledge)
6. "If You're Black, You really are coming from behind": Kerry James Marshall" (2016) *MOMUS Journal*
7. *Vistas* (2013) ed. Rael Jero Salley Exhibition Catalogue
8. "Remembrance: the Essop brothers, formative realism and contemporary African photography" *Social Dynamics: A journal of African studies* 40 (3), 2014, pages 495-513 Journal
9. "Vecinos. Neighbours 'Home is the planet, don't accept anything else': The Postcolonialist ISSN: 2330-510X (online) 24 February 2014. <http://postcolonialist.com/>
10. "The Changing Now of Things" Third Text Special Issue: "The Art of Change in South Africa" 122, vol. 27 (3) May 2013, pages 355-366 Journal
11. "Jared Thorne's Black Folk: 'I who speak here am'" *Art South Africa*: 11 (3) Autumn 2013, pages 40-41
12. "Charting Dreams: Dineo Bopape" *Art South Africa*: 11(4) Winter 2013, pgs 34-38 Journal
13. "Romare Bearden and Sam Nhengethwa: Collage, Jazz, Politics and Everything In-Between" Sam Nhengethwa (Johannesburg: UNISA) Book Chapter
14. "The New Danger of the Pure Idea" Kerry James Marshall (Vienna: Secession Gallery 2012) Book Chapter
15. "Abstraction" (2012) *Uncontained The Community Arts Project* (Cape Town: University of the Western Cape) Book Chapter
16. "Zanele Muholi's Elements of Survival" *African Arts Journal*: 45 (4) Winter 2012, pgs 58-69 Journal
17. "Zanele Muholi's Photographs" in *The Queer Africa Reader*, ed. Sokari Ekine and Hakima Abbas (Nairobi: Pambazuka Press, 2013) ISBN-10: 0857490990. Book Chapter
18. "No One Size Fits All: Painting and Design" *Art South Africa* (2011): 9 (3) Autumn 2011, pages 40-41
19. "Extreme Studio: Beyond Convention" in *Extreme Studio*, ed. Sabina Ott, Rael Salley (Chicago: Columbia College Chicago, 2011) Catalogue Essay
20. Review of Romare Bearden: *The Caribbean Dimension* by Sally Price and Richard Price. *Transforming Anthropology* TA 19(1), Spring 2011 Review
21. "To be Determined: Romare Bearden's Mysteries" in *Romare Bearden in the Modernist Tradition*, ed. Kobena Mercer et al. (New York: Romare Bearden Foundation, 2007) ISBN- 9780615202914. Chapter
22. "Imagine Equality: Hank Willis Thomas" *Art South Africa* (2010): 9 (2) Fall 2010, pages 36-39 Journal
23. "UltraBlackLight: Kerry James Marshall's Artworks" *Chicago Art Journal*: Autumn 2010. Journal
24. "Trying to talk to you while I'm looking at me" in *Across the Divide: Reconsidering the Other*, ed. Robert Sill (Springfield: Illinois State Museum, Chicago, IL, 2009). ISBN-13: 9780897921701. Book Chapter
25. "Unfinished Visuality: Contemporary Art & Black Diaspora 1964-2008" (PhD diss., Uni of Chicago 2009)

26. "Body, Mind, Culture: Woolfalk and Lears' Ethnography of No Place," Emisferica 5.2 Race and its Others (December 2008): <http://hemi.nyu.edu/hemi/e-misferica-52>

LECTURES

1. "Art History & Creative Imagination" Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) Feb 2021.
2. "Unmaking Racism" (Department of Illustration, MICA. Whitney Sherman, Chair. November 2020).
3. "Discussing 'The Space for Creative Black Imagination'" (Department of Architectural Design, MICA. Frank Fanatuzzi, Chair. October 2020).
4. "On the 4th Industrial Revolution & the Arts" (Invited Speaker: Uni of Johannesburg, ZA. Nov 2019)
5. "Holding Space": Simone Leigh, Care and Contemporary American Art (Presenter: "The James Porter Colloquium": Howard University, Washington, D.C. April 2019)
6. "Blackness, Care, and Love" (Panel Co-Convener with LeRonn Brooks. College Arts Association: New York, NY. February 2019)
7. "Enabling Freedom Together" (Presenter: "Education & Social Justice" 8th Int'l Conference on Education and Social Justice, University of Hawai'i, Manoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 2018)
8. Moderator: "New Art Histories Scholars Panel," The James Porter Colloquium: Howard University, Washington, D.C. April 2018)
9. "Conditional Uncertainty: Collective, Curating, and Africana" (Presenter: "Curatorial Care, Humanising Practices" Autograph ABP & VIAD: University of Johannesburg. Johannesburg, ZA, April 2018)
10. "Collectivities" (Panel Co-Convener with Tobias Wofford. College Arts Association: Los Angeles, CA. February 2018)
11. "Beyond Art Practice" (Convener. Panel Discussion with Penny Siopis, Hasan Essop, and Jackie Karuti. Investec Cape Town Art Fair: Cape Town, ZA 2018. Lead: Tumelo Mosaka).
12. "Imagining the Black Subject: Mohau Modisekeng's Performance" (Black Extraordinary: Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, September 2017)
13. "On Looking After Freedom" (Keynote: 1:54 Contempo Art Fair, Brooklyn, NY (2017)
14. "Dreams, Imagination & Pictures: On Modisekeng's Artwork" (Visual Histories: University of the Western Cape, Bellville, WC, South Africa 2017)
15. "On K. W. Lehulere" (Panel: Fictions by Krista Thompson. ACASA, Accra, Ghana (2017)
16. "Museums, Memory and Freedom" (Panel: Julie McGee. College Arts Assn, NYC (2017)
17. "On Seeing After Freedom" (Panel Presentation: College Arts Assn, Wash, DC (2016)
18. "Art, Culture, Diversity and Equity: Best Practices" (California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, 2014)
19. "Contemporary Art in South Africa: Theorizing Formative Realism" (Presentation: South African Visual and Art Historians (SAVAH) Conference, UCT, Cape Town 2013)
20. "The Changing Now of Things" (Lecture: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, 2013)
21. "On African Exuberance" (Lecture and Discussion: Talking Heads: Africa Centre, Cape Town 8 May 2013)

22. "The Exuberance Project" (Keynote: Gordon Institute for Creative Performing Arts, Cape Town. 11 May 2012)
23. "The Changing Now of Things" (Keynote Paper presented at HUMA, University of Cape Town. 26 April 2012)
24. "Dialogues Between Past and Present" (Paper: 38th Annual Association of Art Historians Conference, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK. 29-31 Mar 2012)
25. "Fore-Sights: Prospects for Africana Visuality" (Panel Convened at the Undisciplining Knowledges Conference, The Center for African Studies, University of Cape Town 13-15 Dec 2011)
26. "Chaotic Vision" (Paper presented at the Undisciplining Knowledges, Center for African Studies, University of Cape Town 13-15 Dec 2011)
27. "Zanele Muholi: 'the face I love'" (Paper presented at the Arts Council of the African Studies Association, Los Angeles, UCLA 15-18 June 2011)
28. "'the names we give': On hosting, being hosted, and the visual world" (Keynote at 'the names we give' Events, Cape Town, UCT 13-15 May 2011)
29. Johannesburg Workshop on Theory and Criticism (JWTCT) (Fellow, Techniques of Capital: Property, Self-Creation, and Politics in Precarious Times 18-28 July 2010)
30. "On Contemporary Art and Black Diaspora" (Paper presented at "Black Knowledges," Universiteit Van Amsterdam, July 2010)
31. "Ultrablacklight: Kerry James Marshall's 7 am Sunday Morning and Black Artist" (Paper in Blackness as Model, Huey Copeland, Chair. College Arts, 98th Annual Conference, Chicago 10-13 Feb 2010)
32. "Out of Time: Moments in Yinka Shonibare's Diary of a Victorian Dandy" (Paper National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian. Washington, D.C., U.S.A. December 12, 2009)
33. "Remembering Me: Bili Bidjocka's L'Écriture Infinie #3." (Lecture, University of Cape Town, 2009).
34. "Knowing present past: Shonibare's Diary & Diaspora" (Paper, "Seeing Knowledge Work," University of California, Santa Barbara, April 2008)
35. "Blackness in 99 Problems: Looking, Seeing and Representing in Music Video" (Paper, "Optika," University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM), 2006)
36. "On Yinka Shonibare and Hybridity" (Paper, "Theorizing African Black Diaspora," DePaul University, Chicago 2006)
37. "*Yinka Shonibare's Memory*" ("The Politics of Memory," Uni of Toronto, 2006)

EDUCATION

2020-21	AICAD BIPOC Leadership Prgm. Assoc. of Independent Colleges of Art & Design
2019	Leadership & Management Prgm. Carey Schl of Business, Johns Hopkins University
2017	Certificate, Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL, ELL) Anaheim University

2009 PhD., *The University of Chicago*
 The Committee on the History of Culture: Art History & Visual Studies.
 Doctoral Dissertation Chair: [W.J.T. Mitchell](#)

2004 MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
 Fine Art/ Visual Practice (Interdisciplinary Painting) & Art History, Theory, & Criticism

2002 BFA, The Rhode Island School of Design

1999 Brown University (Coursework)

1997 Dartmouth College

REFERENCES

Kymberly Pinder	<i>Dean, Yale University</i>	kymberly.pinder@yale.edu
Sheri Parks	<i>Emeritus, Uni. Maryland</i>	slp@umd.edu
Zachary Price	<i>Assc. Prof. UCI</i>	zachary.price@uci.edu
Lester Spence	<i>Prof. Johns Hopkins</i>	unbowed@gmail.com
Lyssa Paluay	<i>Director, MassArt</i>	lpaluay@massart.edu
LeRonn Brooks	<i>The Getty Research Inst</i>	LBrooks@getty.edu
Lisa Brock	<i>Emeritus, Kalamazoo Uni</i>	lbrock@kzoo.edu
W.J.T. Mitchell	<i>Emeritus Uni Chicago</i>	witm@uchicago.edu

Sincerely,



Raél Jero Salley, MFA, PhD
 History of Art, Visual Culture, and Design (MICA) &
 Founding Director, [The Space for Creative Black Imagination](#)
<http://raelsalley.studio>