

# *Then and Now, Here and There*

## *The Curious Lives of Objects*

Second Annual Art Student Graduate Organization Symposium  
Art Department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
April 15 and 16, 2016

Keynote Address by Maya Stanfield-Mazzi, PhD  
Associate Professor, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida

We invite papers and artist talks that consider the use and translation of objects across temporal, spatial, and cultural borders throughout history. The keynote address and reception will be held on Friday, April 15, and panel sessions will take place the following day, Saturday, April 16.

A contact zone, Mary Louise Pratt writes in her now-classic *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, designates “the spatial and temporal copresence of subjects previously separated by geographic and historical disjunctures, and whose trajectories now intersect.” Yet, as the “cultural turn” in colonial history has demonstrated, it is increasingly possible to speak of objects themselves as contact zones, sites where cultures converge and conflict. Nor are those encounters merely synchronic: our modern world is inundated with remnants of the past that, through their continued availability, enable new forms of appropriation and identification. How have objects facilitated cultural encounters? How have they been decontextualized and recontextualized across time and cultures? What social,

economic, and historical processes have made such translations possible? What constitutes a transculturated or colonized object?

### **Possible topics include but are not limited to:**

- Translation of subjects, materials, and visual forms for and in new cultural contexts
- Envisioning empire and problematizing its hegemony
- Contemporary uses of the past
- Objects as storehouses of memory
- Exhibiting the “other” in museums, worlds fairs, and other exhibitions
- Commodification of “exotic” cultures
- The dematerialization of the object and its implications for artistic and art-historical practice

Current graduate students in art history, studio art, and cognate disciplines are invited to submit a CV (2 pages) and an abstract (300 words) by **February 1, 2016**. Applicants will be notified of the committee’s decisions by February 15, 2016.

**Please send materials and questions to [asgo.unc@gmail.com](mailto:asgo.unc@gmail.com).**