



2024

HAITIAN ART SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Liminasyon / Illumination:
Honoring Tradition and Path Forging in Haitian Art**

SEPT 26-30 | Washington DC



Art
268093952

Conference PROGRAM

THURSDAY
09.26.2024



3-5pm **ARRIVALS**



6-8 pm **WELCOME RECEPTION : DRINKS and LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES**

Location: Motto By Hilton 627 H St NW, Washington, DC 20001
Hunting Gallery, Whiskey by Crimson

FRIDAY
09.27.2024



8am **DEPARTURE #1**

Bus Departs Motto



8:15am **DEPARTURE #2**

Bus Departs Eaton



9-11am **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI
BREAKFAST & PANEL DISCUSSION**

Location: Haitian Embassy

PANEL DISCUSSION *Liminasyon / Illumination: Honoring Tradition and Path Forging in Haitian Art.*

Join us as guests of the Ambassador at the Haitian Embassy for this year's featured artist panel, where we highlight the remarkable work of two Haitian artists. Moderator **Manbo Dr. Kyrah Malika Daniels** (Emory University), a scholar of Haitian art and religion specializing in the Black Atlantic's sacred arts, will offer featured artists **Babette Wainwright** and **Frantz Zéphirin** an opportunity to showcase select works from their artistic oeuvres, reflect on creative processes, and identify sources of inspiration.

Artists will illuminate how their artwork honors tradition and embodies path-forging initiatives in Haitian art and beyond.

Sponsored by Kent Family Foundation



11:30am **DEPARTURE to MUSEUM**

Bus Departs from Haitian Embassy to Hirschhorn Museum of Art

Conference PROGRAM

FRIDAY

09.27.2024

12pm -
1:45pm

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM and SCULPTURE GARDEN: TOUR of REVOLUTIONS

EXHIBITION TOUR: Join Haitian Art Society board member **MATT DUNN** and Hirschhorn assistant curator **BETSY JOHNSON** for a tour of [Revolutions: Art from the Hirshhorn Collection, 1860–1960](#), where the rich cultural tapestry of Haiti comes alive within the development of modern art through the works of artists Castera Bazile, Rigaud Benoit, and Hector Hyppolite. Beside Curator Betsy Johnson, Dunn will guide visitors through the narratives of these Haitian artists alongside pieces by figures with deep cultural connections to Haiti, including Cuban-born Wifredo Lam and American Jacob Lawrence.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION: [Revolutions: Art from the Hirshhorn Collection, 1860–1960](#) highlights works from the early half of the Museum's collection. Working in a time of new technologies, groundbreaking scientific discoveries, and rapidly expanding cities, while also responding to World Wars I and II, artists in both Europe and North America invented dramatically novel approaches to art-making. This period saw the development of abstraction in Western art, the increased use of nontraditional materials, and the rise of conceptualism—the notion that the idea behind an artwork is more important than the art object itself. Many artists used their work to comment on social and political issues; others looked inward, making art that dealt with personal expression or the problems of form. *Revolutions* is primarily organized chronologically, but it also opens dialogues across history, with select contemporary artworks installed in conversation with modern masterworks to demonstrate how ideas and approaches formulated from 1860 to 1960 remain critical today.

1:45pm

DEPARTURE MUSEUM #2

Walk to the African Museum

2-3pm

AFRICAN MUSEUM

EXHIBITION TOUR with Karen E. Milbourne, PhD

3:15pm

RETURN TO HOTEL

Bus Departs for Hotels

Conference PROGRAM

FRIDAY

09.27.2024

- **4:15pm DEPART HOTEL #1**
Bus Departs from Motto
- **4:30pm DEPART HOTEL #2**
Bus Departs from Eaton
- **6pm - PRIVATE COLLECTION VISIT - DINNER**
8:30pm Location: Silver Spring, MD
Sponsored by The Fritz Racine Foundation
- **8:45pm RETURN TO HOTEL**
Bus Departs for Hotels

SATURDAY

09.28.2024

- **8:45am DEPARTURE #1**
Bus Departs Motto
- **9am DEPARTURE #2**
Departs Eaton
- **10am - PRIVATE COLLECTION VISIT, BREAKFAST**
11:30am Location: Arlington, VA
Sponsored by Meg Gilroy
- **11:45am DEPARTURE**
Bus Departs for next destination

Conference PROGRAM

SATURDAY

09.28.2024

● 1pm - 4pm **PRIVATE COLLECTION VISIT, LUNCH**
Location: Little Washington, VA
Sponsored by John Fox Sullivan

● 4:30pm **DEPARTURE**
Busses Return to DC Hotels

● 6pm **FREE EVENING**
RETURN TO D.C.
Evening at your leisure

SUNDAY

09.29.2024

● 11am **DEPARTURE #1**
Bus Departs Motto

● 11:15am **DEPARTURE #2**
Departs Eaton

● 12pm - 1pm **ARTIST TALK , NATIONAL GALLERY**
ARTIST TALK Edouard Duval-Carrié
Location: East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art

Celebrate the opening day of the Spirit & Strength: Modern Art from Haiti exhibition with artist Edouard Duval-Carrié, whose L'Aesthete Hindu (1992) is a featured painting on view. Duval-Carrié will share his practice and the many myths and misconceptions of the Haitian art narrative. The presentation will be introduced by Kanitra Fletcher, exhibition curator and associate curator of African American and Afro-Diasporic Art.

● 1pm - 3:15pm **LUNCH**
Lunch seating is reserved for HAS guests at the Cascade Cafe at the NGA for those who choose to share lunch with Edouard Duval-Carrié; you're free to wander the museum or grab a bite on your own!

Conference PROGRAM

SUNDAY
09.29.2024

- **3:30 - 5:30pm** **EXHIBITION TOUR- SPIRIT & STRENGTH: MODERN ART FROM HAITI**
Location: East Building National Gallery of Art

Meet at the entrance to Spirit and Strength for a tour with Curator Kanitra Fletcher.
- **6pm** **DEPARTURE**
Buses Depart for Collection Visit
- **6pm - 7pm** **PRIVATE COLLECTION VISIT, REFRESHMENTS**
Location: Washington, DC
Sponsored by Matt Dunn
- **7:15pm** **DEPARTURE**
Buses Depart to Hotel or Dinner

You can return to the hotel, have Dinner on your own, or join us at the Unconventional Diner, where a group reservation has been made.
No Buses are provided after dinner.
The restaurant is .6 miles from Motto and .5 miles from Eaton.
Walk or Uber to return to the Hotel.

MONDAY
09.30.2024

- **11am** **DEPARTURE #1**
Bus Departs Motto
- **11:15am** **DEPARTURE #2**
Bus departs Eaton
- **12pm** **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE**
Welcome and orientation with Joanne Hyppolite
Visit and Lunch on your own at the Museum.

Conference PROGRAM

MONDAY

09.30.2024

● **2:30pm DEPARTURE TO HOTELS**

Bus Departs for Hotels

● **5:30pm DEPARTURE FROM HOTELS #1**

Bus Departs from Eaton

● **5:45pm DEPARTURE FROM HOTELS #2**

Bus Departs from Motto

● **6:30 - RECEPTION at the NATIONAL GALLERY**

8:30pm OPENING: SPIRIT and STRENGTH: MODERN ART FROM HAITI
CHEESE and WINE

Location: East Building, National Gallery of Art
Attire: Casual Chic

Collections:

Kay and Rodrick Heller

Beverly and John Fox Sullivan

Art flourished in Haiti—the world’s first Black republic—in the mid-1900s. Painters like [Hector Hyppolite](#), [Rigaud Benoît](#), and [Philomé Obin](#) were known around the world for their images of Haitian daily life, religious traditions, and history. Their works influenced generations of African American artists. Several, including [Lois Mailou Jones](#) and [Eldzier Cortor](#), traveled to and worked in Haiti.

Spirit & Strength is the first chance to see 21 works by Haitian artists [recently given](#) to the National Gallery. Get an introduction to Haitian modern art and experience the remarkable creations of some of the most prominent artists in Haiti’s history alongside works by artists building upon their legacy today. Through its art, understand Haiti’s significant yet underrecognized importance in the culture of the African Diaspora. [Spirit & Strength: Modern Art from Haiti \(nga.gov\)](#)

● **8:45pm DEPARTURE**

Buses leave for hotel

Conference KEY INFO

The Haitian Art Society advocates for Haiti's rich visual and cultural heritage within the global art world. As a 501(c) 3 Educational organization, we develop curated programs, publications, and collaborations with museums, universities, and collectors to foster an appreciation of Haiti's unique artistic traditions.

CONTACTS

Ed Gessen

HAS, Chairman
Mobile: 310.600.1007

Magdalah Racine-Silva

HAS, Vice President
Mobile: 240.535.3314

Matt Dunn

HAS, Treasurer
Mobile: 202.509.2484

Natasha Tauber

HAS, Secretary
Mobile: 917.674.7210

LODGING

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTELS

Motto By Hilton: 627 H St NW, Washington, DC 20001

Eaton DC: 1201 K St NW, Washington, DC 20005

ATTIRE

Conference Attire : Casual

NGA Reception Attire : Casual Chic

*** Program Cover Photo

Frantz Zéphirin | La Cérémonie du Bois Caïman, 2022

Conference BIOS



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI WASHINGTON D.C

MANBO DR. KYRAH MALIKA DANIELS is an Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Emory University. She completed her B.A. in Africana Studies from Stanford University, and earned her M.A. in Religion and her Ph.D. in African & African American Studies at Harvard University. Dr. Daniels teaches courses on Africana religions and art history, material culture and museum studies, and race, religion, and representation. Her research centers on African derived religions, sacred arts, religious initiation and conversion, and ritual healing traditions in the Black Atlantic. Daniels has just completed her book manuscript, *Art of the Healing Gods* (under review) investigates how sacred art objects mediate relationships between humans and spirits in healing ceremonies to treat spiritual illness and imbalance holistically. A HAS board member, Daniels currently serves as Leadership Council Member for the [African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association \(ADRSA\)](#), and as Vice President for [KOSANBA, the Scholarly Association for the Study of Haitian Vodou](#).

BABETTE WAINWRIGHT (Featured Artist / Panelist) Originally a painter, Babette Wainwright discovered the pleasure and power of expressing herself with clay, making sculptures which are informed both by her African roots, and by the work of the pre-Colombian people of Haiti, the Arawaks. In 2000, she earned an MFA in Ceramics at UW Madison. She has since been working in both mediums, using the female image as a vehicle for conveying her sense of uprootedness, and her spirituality.

FRANTZ ZÉPHIRIN (Featured Artist / Panelist) Born in Haiti in 1968, Frantz Zéphirin started painting in 1973. Though Zéphirin studied under the Haitian master Antoine Obin, he soon pulled away from the stylized Cap-Haitien school. Today, his paintings are characterized by bright colors, intricate patterns, tightly compacted compositions; and human figures with animal heads, which represent his cynicism for the ruling body. Zéphirin's highly creative paintings are inspired by Haitian history, politics, the bible, and vodou.

SHNEIDER LÉON HILAIRE (Work on View) Born in 1990, Hilaire is a Haitian visual artist based in Port-au-Prince. He began teaching himself the rudiments of drawing by reproducing cartoon characters at an early age, and later sharpened his sense of observation and reflection by making self-portraits. As Hilaire began to receive commissions, he decided to focus on portraiture. As an adolescent, he was committed to art-making and familiarize himself with the techniques of realistic painting. He registered at Le Centre d'Art de Port-au-Prince, where he developed his own style and visual language with the help of internationally renowned artists, such as Mario Benjamin, Emilcar "Simil" Similien, and Frantz Zéphirin. In his paintings, Hilaire channels the profound faith of a people attached to their ancestral heritage and constantly challenged by adversity.

Conference BIOS



MATT DUNN Board of Directors member and Treasurer of the Haitian Art Society. Matt Dunn is a published photographer, art collector, and entrepreneur based in Washington, DC. He designed, hosts, and maintains the Haitian Art Society's renowned website at <https://haitianartsociety.org>.

BETSY JOHNSON Co-curator of Revolutions Betsy Johnson joined the Hirshhorn's staff in January 2016 and was appointed Assistant Curator in March 2018, with responsibilities for overseeing the Museum's photography collection. Prior to coming to the Hirshhorn, Johnson worked from 2011 through 2015 for Glenstone, where she guided the development of their visitor experience and education programs. She holds a master's degree in art history from Pennsylvania State University and is ABD in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland, College Park.



KAREN E. MILBOURNE PhD, is the new J. Sanford Miller Family Director at The Fralin Museum of Art at UVA. She was previously the senior curator at the National Museum of African Art, a Smithsonian Institution located in Washington DC, since 2008. Before taking the Directorship at The Fralin, she also served on the museum's senior management team as Acting Head of Knowledge Production. Previously, she was Associate Curator of African Art and Department Head for the Arts of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific Islands at The Baltimore Museum of Art.

National Gallery of Art

EDOUARD DUVAL- CARRIÉ (Born Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 1954) Carrié is an artist, curator, and educator based in Miami, Florida. As a teenager, he emigrated to Puerto Rico with his family during the François Duvalier regime. Duval-Carrié studied at the Université de Montréal and McGill University in Canada before graduating with a BA from Loyola College, Montreal (1978). He also attended the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France (1988-1989). Duval-Carrié's work combines his academic training and artistic sensitivity toward the multifaceted identities that form his native Haiti. His mixed media works and installations present migrations and transformations, featuring dense iconography derived from Caribbean history, politics, and religion. Duval-Carrié's art asks the viewer to question the Western canon, how Africa has shaped the Americas, and how the Caribbean has shaped the modern world. Since 2009, Duval-Carrié has curated Global Caribbean/Borderless Caribbean, a project proposed by the French government and presented with the Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance. His curatorial work focuses on the presentation, promotion, and understanding of the visual production of artists from the Caribbean. Duval-Carrié received the inaugural Michael Richards Award (2018), a nomination-based recognition given to a distinguished artist who has sustained their practice in the Miami-Dade area and given back to its community throughout their career.

KANITRA FLETCHER is the associate curator of African American and Afro-Diasporic art at the National Gallery of Art. Fletcher is the curator of Spirit & Strength: Modern Art from Haiti, on view at the National Gallery from September 2024 to March 2025. She was previously an associate curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where she organized the US tour of Afro-Atlantic Histories (presented at the National Gallery in 2022) and oversaw the presentation of such major traveling exhibitions as Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power and Odyssey: Jack Whitten Sculpture, 1963-2017. She has presented and published articles on modern and contemporary art of the African Diaspora as it relates to gender, labor, body politics, the avant-garde, and self-representation. Since 2013, Fletcher has curated a video art series for Landmarks, the public art program of The University of Texas at Austin. She received her PhD in history of art from Cornell University in 2019.



JOANNE HYPOLITE was born in Haiti and grew up in Boston, MA. She is the African Diaspora curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC. Prior to joining the Smithsonian in 2014, she was the Chief Curator at History Miami Museum for eight years. Joanne has published two popular middle-grade novels for children with Penguin Random House: Seth and Samona, which won the Marguerite DeAngeli prize for New Children's Fiction and Ola Shakes It Up. Her adult fiction has been published in the Caribbean Writer and The Butterfly's Way: Voice from the Haitian Dyaspora.

Conference

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHT

National Gallery of Art

Spirit & Strength: Modern Art from Haiti

Art flourished in Haiti—the world’s first Black republic—in the mid-1900s. Painters like Hector Hyppolite, Rigaud Benoît, and Philomé Obin were known around the world for their images of Haitian daily life, religious traditions, and history. Their works influenced generations of African American artists. Several, including Lois Mailou Jones and Eldzier Cortor, traveled to and worked in Haiti.

Spirit & Strength is the first chance to see 21 works by Haitian artists recently given to the National Gallery. Get an introduction to Haitian modern art and experience the remarkable creations of some of the most prominent artists in Haiti’s history alongside works by artists building upon their legacy today. Through its art, understand Haiti’s significant yet underrecognized importance in the culture of the African Diaspora.

Spirit and Strength is made possible by a transformative gift of 15 artworks by modern and contemporary Haitian artists from two important collections: the Kay and Roderick Heller Collection of Franklin, TN, and the Beverly and John Fox Sullivan Collection of Washington, VA. The first works by Haitian artists to enter the National Gallery’s collection, the objects represent a variety of styles, mediums, and subject matter by some of the most celebrated Haitian artists of the 20th century. The Heller and Sullivan collections include work by self-taught artists, such as Rigaud Benoit, Wilson Bigaud, Hector Hyppolite, and Louisiane Saint Fleurant, as well as works by two living artists of international renown, Myrlande Constant and Edouard Duval-Carrié.

“Assembled with great care, curiosity, and passion over many decades, the Heller and Sullivan collections demonstrate the remarkable spirit and strength of artistic production across the Republic of Haiti. We are immensely grateful for these generous gifts as they contribute to the National Gallery’s representation of the African Diaspora. The works included in the gift relate meaningfully to our collection of work by African American artists, and enable us to tell significant global, transnational stories,” said Kaywin Feldman, director of the National Gallery of Art.

Conference

EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHT

“To have our 40-year passion for collecting Haitian art validated by the National Gallery brings us such joy and pleasure. Beverly traveled to Haiti more than 25 times over three decades, discovering—often with Kay Heller—the extraordinary vitality of the country and its art. We are delighted to now share these works with thousands of visitors to the National Gallery,” said John Fox Sullivan.

“Since Kay lived in Haiti in the 1980s, she has been impressed by the vitality, creativity, and dignity of the Haitian people and their art, and has become a committed collector. Sharing our appreciation of Haitian art with Beverly and John Sullivan as well as other friends, has been an inspirational and instructive experience. We are so pleased that the uniqueness and significance of these works are being recognized by the National Gallery and presented to a much wider audience,” said Roderick Heller.

The gift provides the National Gallery an opportunity to shed light on Haiti’s cultural and religious traditions, difficult socioeconomic history, and complex geopolitical relationship with the US, which occupied it in 1915. This history also includes artistic connections made with the help of the Julius Rosenwald Fund (created in 1917 by the father of National Gallery founding benefactor [Lessing J. Rosenwald](#)). This fund has enabled African Americans, including numerous artists, to study and work in Haiti since the 1930s. Many of them are already represented in the National Gallery’s collection, which includes work by Richmond Barthé, Eldzier Cortor, Lois Mailou Jones, and William Edouard Scott.

