

QUANTUM AESTHETICS: THE COLOR OF LIGHT IN BEAUFORD DELANEY'S

"UNTITLED"
PROF. RUSS
CASTRONOVO

FUNG PING SHAN BUILDING
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

09 FEB [THU] 6:30PM



Delaney's painting offers a provocation about abstraction, art, and minority racial and sexual identities in transnational contexts. His work resounds with the history of African American art and aesthetics. With its play of light across surfaces of brown and white, Delaney's work forces us to examine our assumptions about the place of "color" as a historical structure within abstraction. By using the cues provided by Delaney's use of tone and texture, flatness and depth, and illumination and obscurity, we can see how this artist used light to begin painting, as he put in his own words, "with greater freedom."

This talk is part of a series of lectures organized by the American Studies Programme (SMLC) and inspired by the exhibition "Rising Above: The Kinsey African American Art and History Collection" which is on show at the University Museum and Art Gallery until February 26, 2017.

The exhibition is co-organized by the Faculty of Arts and the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong in collaboration with KBK Enterprises, Inc. and the Bernard and Shirley Kinsey Foundation for Arts & Education. Goldman Sachs is a Silver Sponsor and American Airlines is the exhibition's Official Airline. Supporting organizations include the Consulate General of the United States of America in Hong Kong and Macau, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Lan Kwai Fong Group, and the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong. With special thanks to Caripelago Trading Limited.



Russ Castronovo is the Dorothy Draheim Professor of American Studies and the Tom Paine Professor of American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is author of four books, *Beautiful Democracy: Aesthetics and the Anarchy of Global Culture*; *Necro-Citizenship: Death, Eroticism and the U.S. Public Sphere in the Nineteenth-Century United States*; *Fathering the Nation: American Genealogies of Slavery and Freedom*; and most recently, *Propaganda 1776: Secrets, Leaks, and Revolutionary Communications in Early America*, published by Oxford University Press. He has also edited several collections, including *The Oxford Handbook to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and States of Emergency: The Object of American Studies* (co-edited with Susan Gillman). His essays have appeared in such journals as *Critical Inquiry*, *PMLA*, *boundary 2*, *New Literary History*, and *American Literary History*. In all, his published work spans research in 18th-, 19th, and 20th-century literature and American cultural history on topics such as aesthetics, citizenship, and memory. He is the 2016 winner of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award at UW-Madison.

All are welcome. No registration is required. For enquiries, please contact Dr. Tim Gruenewald at tgruene@hku.hk

