

Culture&

TIME, SPACE & MONUMENTALITY



KV Duong, Foreigners Here,

Acrylic on latex, Vietnamese newsprint, painted wooden stretcher,
198 x 100 cm, 2024

Wednesday, 4th September 2024

09.00 – 17.30

Lecture Theatre 0004, Ground Floor

University of Greenwich

10 Stockwell St, London, SE10 9BD



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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This is more than a conference of talking heads; it is an immersive and interactive experience hosted by Culture& and the University of Greenwich Galleries. It is part of our Time, Space, and Empire programme at the V&A Wedgwood Collection in Stoke-on-Trent, the University of Greenwich, Royal Museums Greenwich, and St Alfege Church Greenwich.

Monumentality, in the form of public statues, has become an increasingly contested and prominent topic since the advent of popular movements against colonial statuary in South Africa, the United States and the UK.

The conference focuses on four key themes:

- What is the future of statues?
- Who should we memorialise and why?
- What is the legal validity of the UK Government's 'Retain and Explain' policy?
- Are there alternative forms of monumentality to those cast in stone and bronze?

Through academic papers, visual interventions, an exhibition, and performances by artists, Culture& is delighted to present an eclectic programme that imagines new ways of perceiving statues and their relevance. By sharing new research, experiences, and artistic and academic developments on commemoration, we hope to provoke researchers, academics, and artists to imagine new potentials.

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PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

9:00 AM **Registration / Tea & Coffee**

10:00 AM Welcome, **David Waterworth**, Curator and Senior Lecturer in Media, University of Greenwich

Featuring **Ed Wall**, Professor of Cities and Landscapes
Ways of Being Seen: cleared lands, imposing scenes, long views (reflections on the Leveson-Gower monument in Sutherland)

10:30 AM **Dr Errol Francis**, Honorary Visiting Fellow, University of Leicester Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, Director of Culture&
Time, Space and the Cult of Monumentality

11:00 AM **Binki Taylor**, Director, Brixton Project
Reinterpretation of statues of Thomas Guy and Robert Clayton at Guy's Hospital London

11:30 AM Keynote Speaker, **Dr Nathaniel Adam Tobias Coleman**
Back to Plaque

12:15 PM **Coffee Break**

12:30 PM Morning Session Panel + Q&A

13:00 PM **Lunch**

14:00 PM **Dr Simon Bowes**, Lecturer in Drama, University of Greenwich
Time, Space and Matter in Monumental Performance Practices

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PROGRAM TIMES & SPEAKER DETAILS

14:30 PM *Spirits of the Black Meridian*
written by **Hassan Mahamdallie** & performed by **Dervish Productions**

Spirits of the Black Meridian is a lecture demonstration in development by writer and director Hassan Mahamdallie. An ensemble of performers alongside Hassan will use performance, sound and image to interrogate one of Greenwich's most important monuments: the prime meridian adjacent to the Royal Observatory. The performance seeks to displace the Greenwich Meridian with a future-past 'Black Meridian' that recentres all of travel, time, space, history, and the cosmos.

15:30 PM **Break**

15:40 PM **Professor Stephen Kennedy**, Professor of Critical Theory and Practice
Simon Withers, Senior Teaching Fellow in Architecture
Monumental Process: Cleopatra's Needle

16:10 PM Afternoon Session Panel + Q&A

16:40 PM **Closing remarks, Dr Errol Francis**

16:45 PM **Refreshments & Private Viewing of Layered and Interwoven Exhibition**

17:00 PM **KV Duong**, Performance: *Threshold*
Stephen Lawrence Gallery

PLEASE SCAN CODE TO SHARE FEEDBACK



TIME, SPACE & MONUMENTALITY

Speakers

Dr Errol Francis

Errol was appointed CEO of Culture& in 2016. He has substantial experience in community engagement around mental health and the arts with minority groups. Errol was awarded his PhD from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, where his research focused on postcolonial artistic responses to museums. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of West London in 2017.

Dr Andrea Wallace

Dr Andrea is an Associate Professor in Law and Technology (Education and research) who teaches Art and Law, Intellectual Property Law, Internet Law, Legal Foundations, Torts, and the cultural heritage Digitization Lab. Her research focuses on the intersections of art and cultural heritage law with the digital realm and digital heritage management.

Binki Taylor

Binki Taylor is an experienced coach-mentor, creative producer, and community activator. As commissioner for the Mayor of London's Diversity in the Public Realm, curator for the London Festival of Architecture 2023, and partner of The Brixton Project, formerly The Brixton Design Trail, she advocates for fusing the skills, knowledge, culture, and heritage of local people into future community development.

Hassan Mahamdallie

Hassan Mahamdallie is an artist, playwright, theatre director, writer and specialist in diversity and the arts. A senior policymaker and consultant, he authored Arts Council England's Unique Approach: The Creative Case for Diversity. He was, until recently, Director of the Muslim Institute and helps edit its journal Critical Muslim, for which he is its roving reporter. He is the founder of the theatre company Dervish Productions.

KV Duong

KV Duong is an ethnically Chinese artist with a transnational background—born in Vietnam, raised in Canada, and now living as a queer person in Britain. He paints, sculpts, performs, and creates installations, all centred around form and materiality in response to his life experiences. He is currently working with latex, highlighting its historical connection to French colonial rubber plantations in Vietnam while simultaneously embracing its sensuality and symbolic association with the queer experience.

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Speakers

Dr Simon Bowes

Dr Simon Bowes is an artist-researcher based at University of Greenwich, where he Lectures in Drama. His academic research is shaped by an interest in ethics and ecology, ways of thinking, acting, working— toward a liveable future. For his current research project, Developing a Situated Practice, he takes on the role of artist in residence at the University from September 2024. The project will explore the diverse — neurodiverse — potentials of creative arts in an educational context.

Dr Nathaniel Adam Tobias Coleman

Dr Nathaniel Adam Tobias Coleman is an historian of abolitionist ideas and currently research fellow at the University of Birmingham. A co-ordinating member, in both 2015 and 2020, of Rhodes Must Fall in Oxford, a Cast in Stone research fellow interviewing Bristolians about the contestation of the statue of Edward Colston, and a Henry Moore Institute podcaster explaining Britain's neglected memorials to abolition, they are a critic of what Fanon has denounced as Britain's colonial 'World of Statues'. In November 2024, they will respond to the book Britain's Black Debt, by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, during the University of Oxford's Seminar on Reparations.

David Waterworth

David Waterworth's research interests lie in mapping processes and practices of representation, production and dissemination in visual culture. In addition to his lecturing duties, David is Curator of the University of Greenwich Galleries. Waterworth was instrumental in expanding the Stephen Lawrence Gallery, offering yearly exhibitions and events to support learning and research at the University.

Simon Withers

Simon Withers is the lead of Captivate: Spatial Modelling Research Group. Captivate is building a digital model of the entire Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site above and below ground in partnership with Royal Parks, Royal Museums Greenwich, the Old Royal Naval College and St Alfege Church. Using LiDAR scanners, photogrammetry, Ground Penetrating Radar and military drones with ground penetrating capacity, Captivate is creating unprecedented mapping of Maritime Greenwich.

Professor Stephen Kennedy

Professor Stephen Kennedy's work extends across Media, Digital Arts and Sound Design. His research interests lie at the intersection of theory and practice in relation to the political economy of contemporary communications technology. He is the author of Chaos Media: A Sonic Economy of Digital Space (Bloomsbury, 2015) and Future Sounds: The Temporality of Noise (Bloomsbury, 2018).