

Digital Archives

radical acts of self-preservation

A talk by Ravon Ruffin (@ravon_ashley)

Digital Dialogues

Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities

25 October 2016

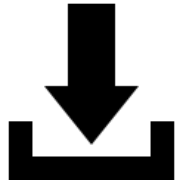
What began with JSTOR and ended with an examination of every issue of the JER [Journal of the Early Republic] from the past decade yielded very few results. I found myself in that most frustrating and energizing situation, one familiar to graduate students—and began reworking my search terms over and over. Yet no matter how I sequenced or parsed...the terms left me with a bibliography barely three pages long and a lot of questions about how to explain the omission.

Clearly, something about the rubric doesn't fit, resulting in a problem of periodization that both secures an imaginary space of ungendered and de-racinated clarity on the one hand, and that situates scholars like myself in academic and, apparently, chronological isolation on the other.

Jennifer L. Morgan, "Periodization Problems: Race and Gender in the History of the Early Republic." *Journal of the Early Republic* 36, no. 2 (2016): 351–57.

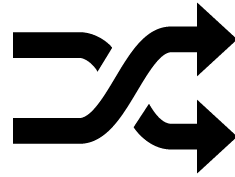
Shifting Sites of Navigation

institutional silos, as
containers of information,
upheld by the institution



community

limited by documentation
sources

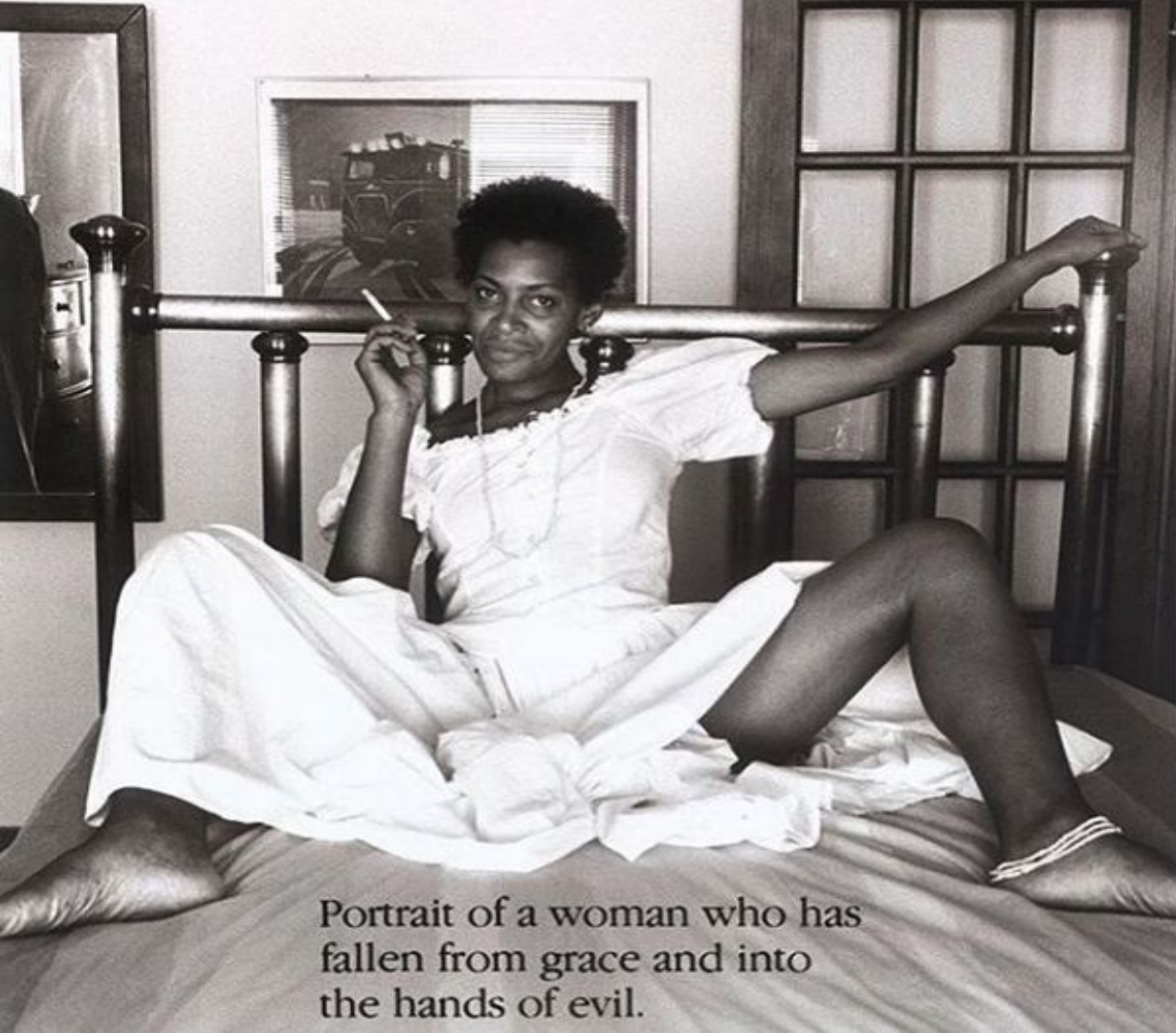


intersections

recognized as the
standard, unified history



politics



Portrait of a woman who has fallen from grace and into the hands of evil.



brwngirlsmusebl...

Following

114 likes

10w

brwngirlsmuseblog If your #WCW doesn't seek to disrupt patriarchal societal norms and standards, she basic. (Carrie Mae Weems, Portrait of a Fallen Woman, 1988) #BGMBfindyourspace

#acreatedc #carriemaeweems #museum #wce #blackgirlmagic #carefreeblackgirl #arthoe #browngirls #blog #blogger #museblack #selfie #artist #blackartist

culturedbazaar Carrie is a Favorite of Mine too!!!!

moonpieface @snapshotbones @nymcat



snapshotbones @moonpieface never has



Add a comment...



Brown Girls Museum Blog an archive of radical politics

Create Space for our Communities

Preserve Our Voices

Narrative as the Rubric





youngthugaspai...

Following

1,999 likes

7w

youngthugaspaintings got me a check I got a check 📄📄 Orestes Pursued by the Furies by William-Adolphe Bouguereau (1862)

view all 64 comments

pschubloom SHEEEEEEEESH

mixedb.tch @andrewmamo5 @_ctal @ashwinrao97 @billybighouse @nikunjjan fuckin lit

mixedb.tch @de__anda

m_blair23 Thank you for making this Insta account

colejkennedy @lindaa_what

lindaa_what @colejkennedy ILYSM

thevinylcat @emilystatkun

mia_p_m_stewart @mgnsnkn

goth.zaddy @notkihaha

davton.blanev @losie.williams

@youngthugaspaintings

An archive of radical function

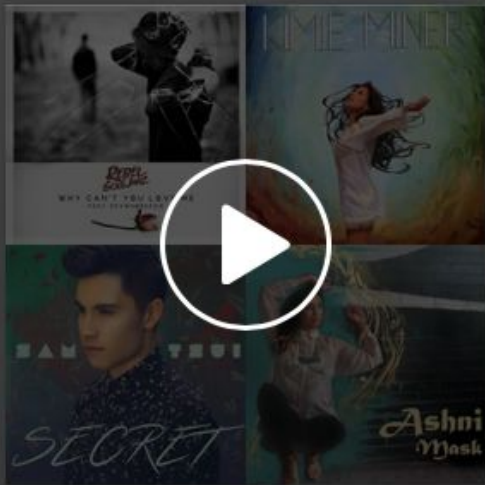
Restructures the Archive

Renegotiate the Terms

Intersectionality within the Archive



Her music lesson by Frédéric Soulacroix (1858 - 1933)



AAPI Heritage Month

By White House Initiative on AAPIs

31 SONGS

PLAY ON SPOTIFY

1. **Why Can't You Love Me (feat. Spawnbreezie)** 4:01
Rebel Souljahz, Spawnbreezie • Why Can't You Love Me (feat. Spawnbreezie)
2. **Secret** 3:53
Sam Tsui • Secret
3. **Hot Neck** 3:56
Ashni • Mask
4. **Love's in the Melody (Feat. Caleb Keolanui)** 3:38
Kimie Miner • Kimié Miner
5. **Into the Stars (feat. MC Jin)** 4:06
Tim Be Told, MC Jin • Into the Stars (feat. MC Jin)
6. **Ode to My Hometown** 2:52
Vikesh Kapoor • The Ballad of Willy Robbins
7. **Simple Love Song** 3:44
Anuheā • For Love
8. **Your Best American Girl** 3:32
Mitski • Your Best American Girl

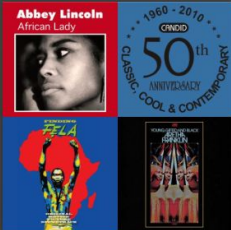
Spotify Playlists

An act of radical archiving

New forms of Public Engagement

Explore Collective Identity


Intimacies in the Archive



Black Art Incubator Collaborative Playlist
By blackartincubator
86 SONGS

[PLAY ON SPOTIFY](#)

1. **Young, Gifted And Black**
Aretha Franklin • Young, Gifted And Black 3:34
2. **Rock Steady**
Aretha Franklin • Young, Gifted And Black 3:13
3. **Freedom Day**
Abbey Lincoln, Booker Little, Coleman Hawkins, Tomas Duvall, Julian Priest... 6:09
4. **Straight Ahead**
Abbey Lincoln • African Lady 5:26
5. **Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense (Edit)**
Fela Kuti & Egypt 80 • Finding Fela - Original Motion Picture Soundtrack 13:44
6. **Lonely Woman**
Ornette Coleman • The Shape Of Jazz To Come 4:59
7. **La Conga Blicoti**
Joséphine Baker • La Conga Blicoti 2:24
8. **As**
Stevie Wonder • Songs In The Key Of Life 7:08



The President's Summer Playlist: Day
By The White House
20 SONGS

[PLAY ON SPOTIFY](#)

1. **Ain't Too Proud To Beg**
The Temptations • Gettin' Ready 2:36
2. **Live It Up, Pts. 1 & 2**
The Isley Brothers • Live It Up 6:15
3. **Memories Live**
Reflection Eternal • Train Of Thought 3:58
4. **Tombstone Blues**
Bob Dylan • Highway 61 Revisited 5:56
5. **So Much Trouble In The World**
Bob Marley & The Wailers • Survival 4:00
6. **Paradise**
Coldplay • Mylo Xyloto 4:38
7. **Tengo Un Trato - Remix**
Mala Rodriguez • La Nina (USA) 3:16
8. **Wang Dang Doodle**
Howlin' Wolf • 20th Century Masters: The Millennium Collection: The Best ... 2:22
9. **Another Star**
Stevie Wonder • Songs In The Key Of Life 8:28

Shifting the Narratives

- Communities reclaim their stake in the institution
- Our collective histories are not always consistent
- Change the geography of the archive
- De-emphasis on the institution as sole site for learning
- Redefine language of cultural competency (i.e. tags, hashtags)
- Wayfinding and finding aids
- Time and space

How we as members of local and global communities remember the past is wholly bound up with how we imagine what is possible in the future.

In this light, archivists are not just memory activists, but visionaries whose work reconceives imagined worlds through space and time.

Michelle Caswell, “Inventing New Archival Imaginaries: Theoretical Foundations for Identity-Based Community Archives,” in *Identity Palimpsests: Archiving Ethnicity in the U.S. and Canada*, ed. Dominique Daniel and Amalia Levi (2014). .

Resources & Suggested Radical Archives

DocNow

Rediscovering Black History

ADPHD

LIS Microaggressions

Visitors of Color

The Very Black Project

Queering Slavery

Art hoe collective

Latina Rebels

AAIHS (African American
Intellectual Historical
Society)

PhilaPrint

Museum Hue

Museum of Impact

THANK YOU.