Tuesday Talks

PRESENTS

Dr. Jean-Philippe Marcoux

Institute on Québec Studies

Speaking on

"Black History Makers Reclaiming Black History: The 1960s in African America"

At the turn of the 1960s in the U.S., African American artists and intellectuals sought to affirm their political and cultural solidarity with African revolutionaries who fought for decolonization and independence. Through black internationalist and Pan-African perspectives, artists such as Harlem poet Langston Hughes and jazz musicians like Max Roach, Abby Lincoln and Charles Mingus affirmed a kinship with African political revolutionaries grounded in the desire to reclaim the historical and cultural links with Africa – John Henrik Clarke calls it a "new nationalism" – as they negotiated their own American experiences with racism and oppression. The various iterations of black consciousness and cultural nationalist movements ultimately led to campaigns to create Black Studies programs at Merritt College, San Francisco State University, and UC Berkeley, opening up the field for Ethnic Studies programs across the nation. In this presentation, the story of the 1960s' artistic, cultural and political campaigns for historical reclamation will be unpacked in order to understand how black artists, activists and intellectuals responded, in their respective ways, to Malcolm X's call to use African American "history and culture [as] indispensable weapons in the black quest for freedom" (Van Deburg 4). As these black artists and activists were re-engaging with and reclaiming their diasporic history and interconnectedness, they were changing the course of American political and cultural history.



If you wish to be a speaker on this lecturer series, pleases contact Kristin Short, ext. 3150.