

afro atlantic histories

Afro Atlantic Histories: Unveiling the Interwoven Narratives of Africa and the Americas

afro atlantic histories represent a rich tapestry of cultural, social, and political exchanges that have shaped the Atlantic world for centuries. These histories reveal the complex interactions between African peoples, indigenous communities in the Americas, and European colonizers, creating a dynamic and multifaceted story that continues to influence identity, culture, and society today. Understanding afro atlantic histories not only sheds light on the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade but also celebrates the resilience, creativity, and agency of African-descended populations across the Atlantic basin.

The Foundations of Afro Atlantic Histories

Afro atlantic histories are deeply rooted in the transatlantic slave trade, a tragic and transformative period that forcibly moved millions of Africans to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries. This forced migration was not just a movement of people but also a profound transfer of cultural traditions, languages, spiritual beliefs, and social practices. The Atlantic Ocean became a conduit for a new, interconnected world shaped by displacement and adaptation.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade and Its Impact

The transatlantic slave trade was one of the largest forced migrations in human history. European powers, including Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, and the Netherlands, established vast networks to transport enslaved Africans primarily to plantations in the Caribbean, Brazil, and North America. This trade had devastating effects on African societies, from demographic shifts to political upheaval.

However, afro atlantic histories emphasize that enslaved Africans were not passive victims. They retained and transformed their cultural heritage, influencing music, religion, cuisine, and political resistance movements in the Americas. The persistence of African cultural elements is evident in Afro-Brazilian Candomblé, Haitian Vodou, and African American spirituals, all of which trace back to roots in African traditions.

Intercultural Exchanges and Syncretism

One of the most fascinating aspects of afro atlantic histories is the

blending of African, European, and Indigenous cultures across the Atlantic world. This syncretism is visible in religion, language, and artistic expression. For example, the Yoruba religion from West Africa merged with Catholicism to create unique spiritual practices in the Americas.

Language also evolved in this context. Creole languages, which combine African linguistic elements with European languages, emerged in plantation societies as tools of communication and resistance. These languages are living testaments to the hybridity fostered by the afro atlantic experience.

Afro Atlantic Histories in Cultural Expressions

Culture has been a powerful vehicle for preserving and transmitting afro atlantic histories. Through music, dance, literature, and visual arts, African-descended peoples have narrated their stories, celebrated their heritage, and challenged dominant narratives.

Music and Dance: The Soundtrack of Survival and Resistance

From the rhythmic beats of African drums to the birth of genres like jazz, blues, reggae, and samba, afro atlantic histories pulse through music and dance. The call-and-response patterns, polyrhythms, and improvisational styles that characterize much of African music found new life in the Americas.

For instance, the spirituals sung by enslaved Africans in the American South served both religious and covert communication purposes, often expressing hope and plans for escape. Similarly, the vibrant dance forms in the Caribbean reflect a fusion of African, European, and Indigenous influences.

Literature and Storytelling

Storytelling, oral traditions, and later written works have been critical in preserving afro atlantic histories. Authors such as Aimé Césaire, Édouard Glissant, and Toni Morrison have explored themes of identity, diaspora, and memory rooted in the Afro Atlantic experience.

These narratives provide insight into the psychological and social impacts of slavery and colonialism, while also celebrating resilience and creativity. They invite readers to engage with history not as a distant past but as a living, evolving dialogue.

Political Movements and Afro Atlantic Histories

The afro atlantic world has been a crucible for political activism and movements for liberation. From slave revolts to modern civil rights campaigns, the fight for freedom and equality is central to these histories.

Slave Rebellions and Early Resistance

Resistance to enslavement took many forms, from subtle acts of defiance to organized revolts. The Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) stands as a monumental event within afro atlantic histories. It was the first successful slave uprising that led to the establishment of Haiti as the first Black republic, inspiring abolitionist movements worldwide.

Other significant uprisings, such as the Zanj Rebellion and the Maroon communities in Jamaica and Brazil, demonstrate the persistent resistance against dehumanization and oppression.

The Civil Rights Era and Beyond

In the 20th century, afro atlantic histories continued through the civil rights movements across the Americas. African-descended populations mobilized to dismantle institutional racism, secure voting rights, and assert cultural pride.

Movements like the Black Power movement in the United States and the fight against apartheid in South Africa are interconnected threads in the afro atlantic fabric. They highlight how history informs contemporary struggles for justice and equality.

Exploring Afro Atlantic Histories Today

Today, scholars, artists, and communities worldwide continue to explore afro atlantic histories to better understand their significance and contemporary relevance.

Museums and Exhibitions

Institutions such as the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco and the Afro-Atlantic Histories exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago provide immersive experiences that bring these histories to a broader audience. These exhibitions showcase art, artifacts, and stories that

highlight the diversity and depth of the afro atlantic experience.

Educational Initiatives and Research

Academic programs and research centers now dedicate themselves to afro atlantic studies, incorporating interdisciplinary approaches that include history, anthropology, literature, and cultural studies. These initiatives emphasize the importance of acknowledging afro atlantic histories in global narratives, promoting inclusivity and understanding.

Community Engagement and Cultural Revival

Grassroots organizations and cultural festivals celebrate afro atlantic histories through music, dance, food, and storytelling. These events foster pride and connection among descendants and educate the broader public about the enduring legacies of African diasporic cultures.

By engaging with these histories actively, communities ensure that the struggles and triumphs of the past continue to inspire future generations.

Afro atlantic histories are not static relics but vibrant, living stories that shape identities across continents. By embracing their complexity and richness, we gain a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of human experiences and the enduring spirit of those who navigated the turbulent waters of the Atlantic world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Afro-Atlantic history?

Afro-Atlantic history is the study of the historical experiences, cultures, and contributions of African diasporic peoples across the Atlantic World, including regions in Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Why is Afro-Atlantic history important?

Afro-Atlantic history is important because it highlights the interconnectedness of African, American, European, and Caribbean histories, emphasizing the impact of the African diaspora on culture, politics, economics, and social movements.

How does the Afro-Atlantic history perspective

differ from traditional African or American histories?

Afro-Atlantic history adopts a transnational and diasporic approach, focusing on cross-cultural exchanges and the movements of people and ideas across the Atlantic, rather than examining African or American histories in isolation.

What role did the transatlantic slave trade play in shaping Afro-Atlantic histories?

The transatlantic slave trade was central to Afro-Atlantic histories as it forcibly brought millions of Africans to the Americas, shaping demographic, cultural, and social dynamics across the Atlantic World.

Who are some key figures studied in Afro-Atlantic histories?

Key figures include enslaved Africans, abolitionists like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, African intellectuals, maroon leaders, and cultural icons who have influenced Afro-Atlantic societies.

How do museums and exhibitions contribute to the understanding of Afro-Atlantic histories?

Museums and exhibitions provide visual and educational resources that showcase the art, artifacts, and narratives of Afro-Atlantic peoples, helping to preserve and disseminate knowledge about their histories and cultures.

What are some contemporary issues connected to Afro-Atlantic histories?

Contemporary issues include racial inequality, cultural identity, reparations debates, and movements for social justice that draw on the historical experiences of African diasporic communities in the Atlantic World.

Additional Resources

Afro Atlantic Histories: Exploring the Interwoven Narratives of Culture, Resistance, and Identity

afro atlantic histories represent a complex tapestry of cultural exchange, migration, resilience, and transformation spanning the vast Atlantic Ocean. This multifaceted field of study delves into the interconnected experiences of African-descended peoples across continents, tracing their movements, cultural syncretism, and the enduring legacies of the transatlantic slave trade. As an investigative lens, Afro Atlantic histories offer critical

insights into how African heritage has shaped societies in the Americas, Europe, and Africa itself, influencing social structures, cultural expressions, and political dynamics.

This article examines the key themes and nuances within Afro Atlantic histories, analyzing their significance in contemporary discourse while incorporating relevant historical data and scholarly perspectives. By unpacking the socio-political contexts and cultural ramifications, this review aims to deepen understanding of Afro Atlantic identities and their ongoing evolution.

Understanding Afro Atlantic Histories: A Transcontinental Perspective

Afro Atlantic histories encompass the chronicles of African diasporic communities formed primarily through forced and voluntary migrations between Africa, Europe, and the Americas from the 15th century onward. At the heart of this narrative is the transatlantic slave trade, which forcibly relocated millions of Africans, reshaping demographics and cultural landscapes on both sides of the Atlantic.

This historical framework also includes the post-abolition migrations, cultural resilience, and the creation of hybrid identities that defy simplistic categorizations. The term "Afro Atlantic" thus signals a dynamic space of interaction, where histories of oppression coexist with stories of resistance, creativity, and adaptation.

The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Defining a Dark Epoch

The transatlantic slave trade, spanning approximately from the 16th to the 19th centuries, was a pivotal event in Afro Atlantic histories. Estimates suggest that over 12 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic, with a mortality rate during the Middle Passage reaching up to 15%. This human catastrophe not only decimated African populations but also laid the groundwork for systemic racial hierarchies in the New World.

The trade's economic underpinnings linked African labor to the rise of plantation economies in the Caribbean, Brazil, and the southern United States. This period catalyzed the formation of distinct Afro-descendant communities, whose cultural, linguistic, and religious traditions blended African origins with indigenous and European influences.

Cultural Syncretism and Identity Formation

One of the defining features of Afro Atlantic histories is the cultural syncretism that emerged from diasporic interactions. African religious practices, such as Vodou, Candomblé, and Santería, merged with Christianity and indigenous beliefs, creating unique spiritual traditions that persist today. Similarly, languages evolved through creolization processes—examples include Haitian Creole and Afro-Brazilian dialects—that reflect this intercultural fusion.

Music and dance also serve as vital markers of Afro Atlantic cultural identity. Genres like samba, reggae, blues, and jazz trace their roots to African rhythms and storytelling traditions, underscoring the enduring influence of African heritage on global popular culture. These creative forms often doubled as modes of resistance, preserving communal memory and fostering solidarity under oppressive conditions.

Key Themes in Afro Atlantic Histories

Resistance and Agency

Afro Atlantic histories are not solely narratives of victimization; they are equally chronicles of resistance and agency. Enslaved Africans and their descendants continuously challenged colonial and racial domination through revolts, maroon communities, and cultural preservation. The Haitian Revolution (1791–1804), the first successful slave revolt leading to the establishment of an independent Black republic, stands as a seminal event illustrating Afro Atlantic resistance.

Additionally, everyday forms of resistance—work slowdowns, sabotage, escape attempts—demonstrate the persistent refusal to accept subjugation. These acts contributed to shaping Afro Atlantic political thought and movements for abolition, civil rights, and decolonization.

Memory, Heritage, and Scholarship

The study and commemoration of Afro Atlantic histories have gained momentum in recent decades, propelled by scholars, activists, and cultural institutions committed to recovering marginalized narratives. Museums, archives, and digital platforms are instrumental in preserving Afro Atlantic heritage, offering critical counter-narratives to Eurocentric histories.

Academic disciplines such as African Diaspora Studies and Atlantic World history emphasize interdisciplinary approaches, integrating archaeology, anthropology, literature, and oral histories. This broadened methodology enriches understanding of how Afro Atlantic identities have been constructed and contested over time.

Contemporary Relevance and Challenges

Today, Afro Atlantic histories resonate profoundly in discussions about race, identity, and social justice. They illuminate the structural inequalities rooted in colonialism and slavery that continue to affect Afro-descendant populations globally. Addressing these legacies requires nuanced engagement with history to foster reconciliation and equity.

However, challenges remain, including the risk of homogenizing diverse Afro Atlantic experiences or commodifying cultural expressions without context. It is crucial to approach Afro Atlantic histories with sensitivity to local particularities and ongoing community struggles.

Comparative Perspectives: Afro Atlantic Histories Across Regions

Examining Afro Atlantic histories regionally reveals both shared experiences and divergent trajectories shaped by local circumstances.

- **Caribbean:** The Caribbean's Afro-descendant populations are characterized by creolized cultures, robust resistance histories, and significant contributions to global culture. Countries like Jamaica and Haiti are emblematic of Afro Atlantic resilience and identity formation.
- **Brazil:** Home to the largest African-descended population outside Africa, Brazil showcases complex racial dynamics and vibrant Afro-Brazilian cultural expressions such as capoeira and Candomblé.
- **United States:** The African American experience integrates Afro Atlantic histories within the context of slavery, segregation, and civil rights, emphasizing ongoing struggles for equality and recognition.
- **West Africa:** As the origin point of many enslaved Africans, West African societies have been deeply affected by diaspora connections, with cultural and economic exchanges continuing into the present.

These regional comparisons highlight the multiplicity of Afro Atlantic identities and the importance of contextualizing historical and cultural phenomena.

The Role of Diaspora in Shaping Global Narratives

The Afro Atlantic diaspora serves as a bridge linking continents and

cultures. Migration patterns, whether forced or voluntary, have fostered transnational networks that sustain cultural, political, and economic ties. Diasporic communities often negotiate their identities in relation to homeland connections and host society contexts, contributing to evolving conceptions of belonging.

The diaspora's influence extends into literature, art, and activism, with figures like Aimé Césaire, W.E.B. Du Bois, and bell hooks articulating Afro Atlantic perspectives that challenge dominant paradigms.

By tracing these diasporic linkages, Afro Atlantic histories reveal the fluidity and resilience of African-descended peoples' identities, underscoring their significant role in shaping the modern world's cultural and intellectual landscapes.

Afro Atlantic Histories

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afro atlantic histories: Afro-Atlantic Histories Adriano Pedrosa, Tomás Toledo, 2021-10 A colossal, panoramic, much-needed appraisal of the visual cultures of Afro-Atlantic territories across six centuries Afro-Atlantic Histories brings together a selection of more than 400 works and documents by more than 200 artists from the 16th to the 21st centuries that express and analyze the ebbs and flows between Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe. The book is motivated by the desire and need to draw parallels, frictions and dialogues around the visual cultures of Afro-Atlantic territories--their experiences, creations, worshiping and philosophy. The so-called Black Atlantic, to use the term coined by Paul Gilroy, is geography lacking precise borders, a fluid field where African experiences invade and occupy other nations, territories and cultures. The plural and polyphonic quality of histórias is also of note; unlike the English histories, the word in Portuguese carries a double meaning that encompasses both fiction and nonfiction, personal, political, economic and cultural, as well as mythological narratives. The book features more than 400 works from Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean, as well as Europe, from the 16th to the 21st century. These are organized in eight thematic groupings: Maps and Margins; Emancipations; Everyday Lives; Rites and Rhythms; Routes and Trances; Portraits; Afro Atlantic Modernisms; Resistances and Activism. Artists include: Nina Chanel Abney, Emma Amos, Benny Andrews, Emanuel Araujo, Maria Auxiliadora, Romare Bearden, John Biggers, Paul Cézanne, Victoria Santa Cruz, Beauford Delaney, Aaron Douglas, Melvin Edwards, Ibrahim El-Salahi, Ben Enwonwu, Ellen Gallagher, Theodore Géricault, Barkley Hendricks, William Henry Jones, Lois Mailou Jones, Titus Kaphar, Wifredo Lam, Norman Lewis, Ibrahim Mahama, Edna Manley, Archibald Motley, Abdias Nascimento, Gilberto de la Nuez, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Dalton Paula, Rosana Paulino, Howardena Pindell, Heitor dos Prazeres, Joshua Reynolds, Faith Ringgold, Gerard Sekoto, Alma Thomas, Hank Willis Thomas, Rubem Valentim, Kara Walker and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

afro atlantic histories: The Princeton Companion to Atlantic History Joseph C. Miller, Vincent Brown, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, Laurent Dubois, Karen Ordahl Kupperman, 2015-01-18

The first encyclopedic reference to Atlantic history Between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, the connections among Africa, the Americas, and Europe transformed world history—through maritime exploration, commercial engagements, human migrations and settlements, political realignments and upheavals, cultural exchanges, and more. This book, the first encyclopedic reference work on Atlantic history, takes an integrated, multicontinental approach that emphasizes the dynamics of change and the perspectives and motivations of the peoples who made it happen. The entries—all specially commissioned for this volume from an international team of leading scholars—synthesize the latest scholarship on central themes, including economics, migration, politics, war, technologies and science, the physical environment, and culture. Part one features five major essays that trace the changes distinctive to each chronological phase of Atlantic history. Part two includes more than 125 entries on key topics, from the seemingly familiar viewed in unfamiliar and provocative ways (the Seven Years' War, trading companies) to less conventional subjects (family networks, canon law, utopias). This is an indispensable resource for students, researchers, and scholars in a range of fields, from early American, African, Latin American, and European history to the histories of economics, religion, and science. The first encyclopedic reference on Atlantic history Features five major essays and more than 125 alphabetical entries Provides essential context on major areas of change: Economies (for example, the slave trade, marine resources, commodities, specie, trading companies) Populations (emigrations, Native American removals, blended communities) Politics and law (the law of nations, royal liberties, paramount chiefdoms, independence struggles in Haiti, the Hispanic Americas, the United States, and France) Military actions (the African and Napoleonic wars, the Seven Years' War, wars of conquest) Technologies and science (cartography, nautical science, geography, healing practices) The physical environment (climate and weather, forest resources, agricultural production, food and diets, disease) Cultures and communities (captivity narratives, religions and religious practices) Includes original contributions from Sven Beckert, Holly Brewer, Peter A. Coclanis, Seymour Drescher, Eliga H. Gould, David S. Jones, Wim Klooster, Mark Peterson, Steven Pincus, Richard Price and Sophia Rosenfeld, and many more Contains illustrations, maps, and bibliographies

afro atlantic histories: Historias Afro- Atlânticas - Vol. 01 - Catálogo Adriano Pedrosa, Tomas Toledo, Organizada em parceria com o Instituto Tomie Ohtake, a mostra Histórias afro-atlânticas reúne extensa seleção de obras de arte e documentos relacionados aos “fluxos e refluxos” entre a África, as Américas, o Caribe e também a Europa, ao longo de cinco séculos. De maneira inédita, a exposição reúne mais de quatrocentas obras vindas da África, das Américas e do Caribe, bem como da Europa, do século 16 ao 21.

afro atlantic histories: Claiming Exodus Rhondra Robinson Thomas, 2013 Shows how writers such as Absalom Jones, Daniel Coker, and W.E.B. Du Bois employed the Exodus metanarrative to ask profound, difficult questions of the African experience in America from the eighteenth century onward.--Jacket flap.

afro atlantic histories: In the Black Fantastic Ekow Eshun, 2022-09-13 A richly illustrated exploration of Black culture at its most wildly imaginative, artistically ambitious, and politically urgent. A richly illustrated exploration of Black culture at its most wildly imaginative and artistically ambitious, In the Black Fantastic assembles art and imagery from across the African diaspora. Embracing the mythic and the speculative, it recycles and reconfigures elements of fable, folklore, science fiction, spiritual traditions, ceremonial pageantry, and the legacies of Afrofuturism. In works that span photography, painting, sculpture, cinema, graphic arts, music and architecture, In the Black Fantastic shows how speculative fictions in Black art and culture are boldly reimagining perspectives on race, gender and identity. Standing apart from Western narratives of progress and modernity premised on the historical subjugation of people of color, In the Black Fantastic celebrates the ways that Black artists draw inspiration from African-originated myths, beliefs, and knowledge systems, confounding the Western dichotomy between the real and unreal, the scientific and the supernatural. Featuring more than 300 color illustrations, this beautifully designed book brings together works by leading artists such as Kara Walker, Chris Ofili, and Ellen Gallagher;

explores groundbreaking films like *Daughters of the Dust* and *Get Out*; considers the radical politics of pan-Africanism and postcolonialism; and much more. Each section—"Invocation," "Migration," and "Liberation"—includes an introductory text by Ekow Eshun and longer essays by Eshun, Kameelah L. Martin, and Michelle D. Commander. Artists featured: Larry Achiampong, Jim Adams, Djeneba Aduayom, Leonce Raphael Agbodjelou, John Akomfrah, David Alabo, Edgar Arceneaux, Marc Asekhome, Belkis Ayón, Radcliffe Bailey, Raphaël Barontini, Beddo, Sanford Biggers, Nuotama Bodom, Nick Cave, Sedrick Chisom, Jacek Chyrosz, Coldefy, Raffaele Contigiani, Damon Davis, Cristina de Middel, Imani Dennison, Jeff Donaldson, Kimathi Donkor, Aaron Douglas, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Curtis Essel, Minnie Evans, Rotimi Fani-Kayode, Ali Fao, Raymond Thomas Farah, Adama Delphine Fawundu, Heinz Fenchel, Ellen Gallagher, Rico Gatson, Maïmouna Guerresi, Prince Gyasi, Lauren Halsey, Allison Janae Hamilton, Thomas Heatherwick, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Kordae Jatafa Henry, David Huffman, Juliana Huxtable, Zs Ieluhe, Alex Jackson, Ayana V. Jackson, Fabiola Jean-Louis, Shintaro Kago, Kéré Architecture, Black Kirby, Victoria Kovios, Wole Lagunju, Wifredo Lam, Jean François Lamoureux, Thomas Leitersdorf, Namsa Leuba, Hew Locke, Michael MacGarry, Gerald Machona, Loïs Mailou Jones, Jean-Louis Marin, Markn, Kerry James Marshall, Moshel Mayer, Mohau Modisakeng, Puleng Mongale, Fabrice Monteiro, Ronald Moody, Kristin-Lee Moolman, Jean-Claude Moschetti, Aïda Muluneh, Wangechi Mutu, Gustavo Nazareno, Rashaad Newsome, Daniel Obasi, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Chris Ofili, Ruby Okoro, Rinaldo Olivieri, Yaoundé Olu, Zohra Opoku, Tasha Orlova, Frida Orupabo, Gordon Parks, Jordan Peele, James Phillips, Naudline Pierre, Keith Piper, Robert Pruitt, Umar Rashid, Robert Reed, Tabita Rezaire, Stacey Robinson, Athi-Patra Ruga, Stanisław Rymaszewski, Alison Saar, Zina Saro-Wiwa, Ignace Sawadogo, Devan Shimoyama, Yinka Shonibare, Mary Sibande, Lorna Simpson, Cauleen Smith, Tavares Strachan, Mickalene Thomas, Bob Thompson, Wilfred Ukpog, David Uzochukwu, Lina Iris Viktor, William Villalongo, Hannsjörg Voth, Kara Walker, Gerald Williams, Kandis Williams, Peter Williams, Saya Woolfalk, Alisha B. Wormsley, Zaha Hadid Architects

afro atlantic histories: *50 Events That Shaped Latino History* Lilia Fernández, 2018-03-22 Which historical events were key to shaping Latino culture? This book provides coverage of the 50 most pivotal developments over 500 years that have shaped the Latino experience, offering primary sources, biographies of notable figures, and suggested readings for inquiry. Latinos—people of European, Indigenous, and African descent—have had a presence in North America long before the first British settlements arrived to the Eastern seaboard. The encounters between Spanish colonizers and the native peoples of the Americas initiated 500 years of a rich and vibrant history—an intermingled, cultural evolution that continues today in the 21st century. *50 Events that Shaped Latino History: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic* is a valuable reference that provides a chronological overview of Latino/a history beginning with the indigenous populations of the Americas through the present day. It is divided into time period, such as Pre-Colonial Era to Spanish Empire, pre-1521-1810, and covers a variety of themes relevant to the time period, making it easy for the reader find information. The coverage offers readers background on critical events that have shaped Latino/a populations, revealed the conditions and experiences of Latinos, or highlighted their contributions to U.S. society. The text addresses events as varied as the U.S.-Mexican War to the rise of Latin jazz. The entries present a balance of political and cultural events, social developments, legal cases, and broader trends. Each entry has a chronology, a main narrative, biographies of notable figures, and suggested further readings, as well as one or more primary sources that offer additional context or information on the given event. These primary source materials offer readers additional insight via a first-hand account, original voices, or direct evidence on the subject matter.

afro atlantic histories: *Moving on* John W. Pulis, 1999 First Published in 1999. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

afro atlantic histories: *The Routledge Companion to African Diaspora Art History* Eddie Chambers, 2024-10-31 This is an authoritative companion that is global in scope, recognizing the presence of African Diaspora artists across the world. It is a bold and broad reframing of this neglected branch of art history, challenging dominant presumptions about the field. Diaspora

pertains to the global scattering or dispersal of, in this instance, African peoples, as well as their patterns of movement from the mid twentieth century onwards. Chapters in this book emphasize the importance of cross-fertilization, interconnectedness, and intersectionality in the framing of African Diaspora art history. The book stresses the complexities of artists born within, or living and working within, the African continent, alongside the complexities of Africa-born artists who have migrated to other parts of the world. The group of international contributors emphasizes and accentuates the interplay between, for example, Caribbean art and African Diaspora art, or Latin American art and African Diaspora art, or Black British art and African Diaspora art. The book will be of interest to scholars and students working in art history, the various branches of African studies, African American studies, African Diaspora studies, Caribbean studies, and Latin American studies.

afro atlantic histories: The Rise of the Therapeutic Museum Janet Kraynak, 2025-09-30 This book considers how and why respite rooms, emotional support brochures, well-being guides, psychological consultants, and care days are becoming common features in the museum of art. Kraynak poses and answers this question, arguing that under its rightful ambition to decolonize--i.e., to rectify past and present inequalities-- the museum of the Global North is gradually replacing a commitment to knowledge, teaching, and learning with a focus upon care, healing, and well-being (the "therapeutic"). While this transformation might appear, on the surface, benign, culturally familiar, and politically desirable, the author counters these presumptions, probing the history and implications of "the therapeutic museum." Here, curatorial attention shifts away from the art on view and onto the spectator, whom the museum imagines as a precarious psychological subject, and primary source of meaning. External forces-- new forms of knowledge, encounters with difficulty, even an engagement with art--are treated as a potential threat. As a result, the therapeutic museum not only encourages the beholder to turn inward, but in so doing deflects attention from or scrutiny of its own practices and systems that perpetuate inequality. Among these are the ongoing legacies colonialism's epistemic violence, which elevated the knowledge and aesthetic traditions of the Global North while suppressing those of the Global South. In contrast, the book proposes a "pluriversal" (versus universal) museum that maintains the political necessity of knowledge and views pedagogy as a path to emancipation. Emphasizing epistemic justice and the moral right to learn during a time when such freedoms are increasingly under attack, the book makes a powerful case for questioning rather than romanticizing the therapeutic museum, which it ultimately reveals to reinforce rather than challenge dominant power. This is an important intervention that is essential reading for researchers and scholars in Art History, Visual Studies, Museum Studies, and Cultural Studies.

afro atlantic histories: Connecting Continents Kenneth G. Kelly, 2020-12-30 This volume draws together richly textured and deeply empirical accounts of rice and how its cultivation in the Carolina low country stitch together a globe that maps colonial economies, displacement, and the creative solutions of enslaved people conscripted to cultivate its grain. If sugar fueled the economic hegemony of North Europe in the 18th and 19th century, rice fed it. Nowhere has this story been a more integral part of the landscape than Low Country of the coasts of Georgia, South and North Carolina. Rice played a key role in the expansion of slavery in the Carolinas during the 18th century as West African captives were enslaved, in part for their expertise in growing rice. Contributors to this volume explore the varied genealogies of rice cultivation in the Low Country through archaeological, anthropological, and historical research. This multi-sited volume draws on case studies from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and South Carolina, the Caribbean and India to both compare and connect these disparate regions. Through these studies the reader will learn how the rice cultivation knowledge of untold numbers of captive Africans contributed to the development of the Carolinas and by extension, the United States and Europe. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of *Atlantic Studies*.

afro atlantic histories: Come Shouting to Zion Sylvia R. Frey, Betty Wood, 2000-11-09 The conversion of African-born slaves and their descendants to Protestant Christianity marked one of the most important social and intellectual transformations in American history. *Come Shouting to Zion* is

the first comprehensive exploration of the processes by which this remarkable transition occurred. Using an extraordinary array of archival sources, Sylvia Frey and Betty Wood chart the course of religious conversion from the transference of traditional African religions to the New World through the growth of Protestant Christianity in the American South and British Caribbean up to 1830. *Come Shouting to Zion* depicts religious transformation as a complex reciprocal movement involving black and white Christians. It highlights the role of African American preachers in the conversion process and demonstrates the extent to which African American women were responsible for developing distinctive ritual patterns of worship and divergent moral values within the black spiritual community. Finally, the book sheds light on the ways in which, by serving as a channel for the assimilation of Western culture into the slave quarters, Protestant Christianity helped transform Africans into African Americans.

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afro atlantic histories: *Rewriting the African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean* Robert L. Adams Jr., 2014-10-14 This volume considers the African Diaspora through the underexplored Afro-Latino experience in the Caribbean and South America. Utilizing both established and emerging approaches such as feminism and Atlantic studies, the authors explore the production of historical and contemporary identities and cultural practices within and beyond the boundaries of the nation-state. *Rewriting the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America* illustrates how far the fields of Afro-Latino and African Diaspora studies have advanced beyond the Herskovits and Frazier debates of the 1940s. The book's arguments complicate Herskovits' insistence on Black culture being an exclusive reflection of African survivals, as well as Frazier's counter-claim of African American culture being a result of slavery and colonialism. This collection of thought-provoking essays extends the concepts of diaspora and transnationalism, forcing the reader to reassess their present limitations as interpretive tools. In the process, Afro-Latinos are rendered visible as national actors and transnational citizens. This book was originally published as a special issue of *African and Black Diaspora*.

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