



TEXTURES

THE HISTORY AND ART OF BLACK HAIR



CALL FOR PRESENTERS:

TEXTURES: the history and art of Black hair

Kent State University Museum

Kent, Ohio

(April 14-15, 2022)

Deadline for Submission: September 1st, 2021

The Kent State University Museum's exhibition ***TEXTURES: the history and art of Black hair*** synthesizes research in history, fashion, art, and visual culture to reassess the "hair story" of peoples of African descent. This exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue [TEXTURES: the history and art of Black hair](#) (available now). Long a fraught topic for African Americans and others in the diaspora, Black hair is here addressed by artists, barbers, and activists in both its historical perceptions and its ramifications for self and society today. This symposium surrounds these histories and intends to convene individuals from a variety of backgrounds, artistic, academic and beyond to discuss, engage, and celebrate ideas pertaining to Black history, hair, beauty, and culture. Cultivating new knowledge through consideration of topics related to the themes of the exhibition which include but are not limited to:

- The history of barbershop and salon culture within Black communities
- Entrepreneurial and economic autonomy of beauty salons and barbershops
- The articulation of masculinity within barbershop culture
- The articulation of femininity within hair salon culture
- The evolution of Black hair within advertisements and retail settings
- Hair in the context of individual or social identity
- Cultural/intraracial prejudice and assimilation
- Hair as a symbol of resistance
- Media and the power of representation
- Blackness on the Internet, such as "Black Twitter"; #BlackGirlMagic, and #BlackJoy
- Hair and Beauty emotional and physical trauma
- Cultural standards and expectations of aesthetic appearance (Black Hair, Beauty, and Fashion)

Submissions for presentations can be made via this [online submission portal](#), requiring contact information, a brief bio, and relevant information pertaining to proposed presentation including: title and topic, short abstract of presentation proposal, and A/V requirements.

It is the responsibility of each presenter/attendee to cover the costs of their own travel/lodging and the symposium organizers are not able to offer financial assistance. However, we will be able to offer free admission to the **TEXTURES** exhibition to all attendees, and a complimentary catalogue to all presenters.

The keynote speaker for this symposium will be announced in fall 2021. For more information, please contact the symposium coordinator at junder18@kent.edu