



Oregon Humanities Center

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Fall 2018

Artist takes action to address pollution from plastics

How can we stem the tide of plastics overwhelming our planet? The Oregon Humanities Center's (OHC) O'Fallon Lecture in Art and American Culture presents a talk about the pervasive problem of plastic pollution with artist and activist Dianna Cohen on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in 156 Straub Hall on the UO campus.



Inspired by her creative work with ubiquitous plastic bags, artist Dianna Cohen co-founded the Plastic Pollution Coalition (PPC), a global alliance of individuals, organizations, businesses, and policymakers working toward a world free of plastic pollution and its

toxic impacts on humans, animals, waterways and oceans, and the environment.

In her lecture, "Plastic Pollution: Art to Action," Cohen will speak about her 2D and 3D artwork, sculptures, and installations. She hopes to inspire conversation and action around the issue

of plastic pollution, alternatives, and solutions. At a time when sustainability is an international concern, Cohen asks us to rethink our relationship with plastic

and consider the material as a valued resource instead of waste.

Cohen will be one of the 58 artists featured in the exhibit "Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials" that is on view at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art through December 30, 2018. The JSMA will be offering public events surrounding the "Plastic Entanglements" exhibit, which will include an opening reception, panel discussions and research presentations, a lecture by another featured artist, and a family day. For more information about these events go to: jsma.uoregon.edu/peprograms.

Cohen's talk is the first lecture in the OHC's year-long theme "The Common Good" in which speakers will examine critical topics that impact the world we

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New speaker series explores black feminist theory and practice

Aiming to foster campus-wide, interdisciplinary dialogue around the histories and futures of black feminist theory and praxis, several UO faculty members have organized the 2018–19 "New Directions in Black Feminist Studies" speaker series that will bring four scholars to the UO throughout the academic year.

The first talk, "Black Feminism, Labor, and Sex Work," will be given by Mireille Miller-Young, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara, on October 19 at noon in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge. Her research explores race, gender, and sexuality in visual culture and sex industries in the United States. Miller-Young's 2014 book *A Taste for Brown Sugar* takes on representations of black women's sexuality in the porn industry. Building on the



MIREILLE MILLER-YOUNG

work of other black feminist theorists, and contributing to the field of sex work studies, she expands the discussion of black women's sexuality to include their eroticism and desires, as well as their participation and representation in the

adult entertainment industry.

Emily A. Owens, Assistant Professor of History at Brown University will speak on "Sexuality, Slavery, and Affect" on December 6 at noon in Crater Lake



EMILY A. OWENS

South (145 EMU). Her research focus is on the history of sexuality and slavery. Owens's current book project, *Fantasies of Consent: Sex, Affect, and Commerce in 19th Century New Orleans* is a cultural and legal history of the sex trade in antebellum New Orleans. The project explores the lives of women of color who sold (or were sold for) sex in that market, as well as the legal, economic, and affective structures that determined much of their existence. Owens is also a faculty fellow at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice.

In winter term Erica R. Edwards, Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University will speak on "Feminism, Internationalism, and State Power" on February 7, 2019 at noon in Crater

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A message from Paul Peppis, OHC Director

As the beautiful Oregon summer draws to a close, and a new academic year begins, we at the Oregon Humanities Center are gearing up for another year of stimulating humanities events and activities. Although campus has been comparatively quiet these past three months, we have been hard at work on a number of exciting projects.

Most important, we've completed planning for this year's named-lecture series on our theme of "The Common Good." One of the oldest concepts in political philosophy, the common good has been discussed and debated at least since Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics*. Living as we do at a time of deep disagreement and division, a time when the very idea and value of a common set of beliefs, institutions, and practices, has come under serious question, even attack, we've invited a fascinating group of speakers from a range of fields and experiences to share



their perspectives on this ancient and enduring concept. Our first speaker, the artist and environmental activist Dianna Cohen, this year's O'Fallon Lecturer in Art and American Culture, will speak on the topic of "Plastic Pollution: Art to Action" on Wednesday, October 17th at 7:30 pm in 156 Straub Hall on the UO

campus. The founder of the Plastic Pollution Coalition, Cohen is also one of the artists featured in UO's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art's fall exhibit, *Plastic Entanglements*, which explores plastic, as artistic material and symbol of modern life, and its environmental impacts. During winter term, we will host Nalini Nadkarni, University of Utah Professor of Biology and expert on forest ecology and canopies, and journalist Alisa Roth, who studies the crisis of mental illness in the US criminal justice system. This spring, Chuck Collins, author and senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, and Danielle Allen, Conant University Professor at Harvard and Director of Harvard's Safra Center for Ethics, will offer their perspectives. Together, these lectures promise to enrich and challenge our understandings of the common good, its legacy and value. Stay tuned for more updates on these talks in our winter and spring newsletters and the OHC's website.

With guidance from the UO's Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and Research Advisory Board and drawing on the results of the stakeholders' survey we conducted last spring, we've devoted significant effort this summer to completing a new strategic plan for the OHC. This plan assesses all our research, teaching, and public programs and charts a clear vision for the OHC for the next five years, a vision responsive to the significant changes and challenges taking place at the UO, in the academy, and the world around us. We are excited to meet those changes and challenges and to help guide the OHC on the next stage of its development as an essential defender and champion of the humanities.

Another major project we undertook this summer was a full overhaul of the

OHC website. Based on key input received from our stakeholders' and website surveys,

our incomparable staff have added new features, enhanced functionality, and redesigned the look and feel of our website. We believe that the new site will make finding information about OHC news, fellowship and research support programs, UO Today interviews, and lectures and events easier and more intuitive.

The enclosed fall calendar of events provides details of not only our fall term Common Good lecture but also the other great humanities events occurring on campus this fall, often co-sponsored by the OHC, as well as our regular Work-in-Progress talks (WIPs), delivered by our resident research fellows. I look forward to seeing our loyal and generous friends at many of the humanities lectures, exhibitions, symposia, and events scheduled this fall.

Finally, I offer heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all those people who help the OHC carry out its critical mission to promote and strengthen the humanities and humanities research: our exceptional staff, Faculty Advisory Board, external Board of Visitors, and those many fellow devotees of the humanities at the UO, in Eugene, and around the state of Oregon and beyond who help support and advance the humanities. Thank you in joining us in that essential work and all best wishes for an enlightening autumn!



OREGON HUMANITIES CENTER

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share, such as the environment and ecology, economic disparity, mental health and incarceration, and technology and ethics. The series will provide audiences with a variety of perspectives on how the common good has shaped—and sometimes failed to shape—our shared social, political, cultural, and ethical history, how it is working or not working in today's society, and how it might contribute to and strengthen human identity and society in the years to come.

Scholar examines the visual culture of Israel

From the early days of photography, tourists, researchers, and adventurers were interested in the Dome of the Rock, an Islamic shrine located on the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem. It has been a volatile rock of contention, threatening daily to ignite the whole Middle East. The visual presence of the Dome of the Rock in the Palestinian-Israeli public realm has continued to grow throughout the years. A scholar of Israeli visual culture will examine the role of the shrine as a key icon in a variety of cultural arenas in Israel on November 5.

Noa Hazan, Research Fellow at the Minerva Humanities Center at Tel Aviv University will give a talk, “The Dome of the Rock in Israeli/Palestinian Visual Culture,” at 4 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room as a guest of the Harold



The Colin Ruagh Thomas O'Fallon Memorial Lectureship was established by a gift from Henry and Betsy Mayer, named in memory of their nephew, son of law professor James O'Fallon (1944–2017) and his wife, artist Ellen Thomas. The subject of this lecture alternates each year between law and art and American culture. Past topics have included philosophy, jurisprudence, American political life, architecture, and art theory and criticism.

Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies.

The following evening, Hazan will discuss how American Jews viewed Israel in the 1940s and 1950s in “Race and Class in American Photographs of the Israeli State in the Making” at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 1175 E. 29th Ave.

Currently a visiting scholar at New York University, Hazan is the editor of *The Mount, The Dome and the Gaze: The Temple Mount in Israeli Visual Culture* (2017) and is currently completing a book, *Race and Visual Culture in Israel*,

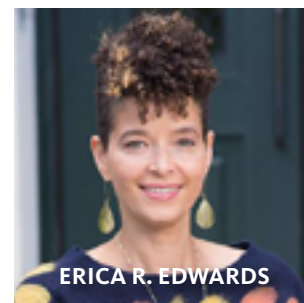
for Indiana University Press.

Hazan's Eugene visit is cosponsored by the OHC. Her talks are free and open to the public. For more information contact David Wacks, wacks@uoregon.edu

Cohen's talk is free and open to the public and will be live-streamed. For more information or disability accommodations (which must be made by October 10, 2018), go to ohc.uoregon.edu or call (541) 346-3934.

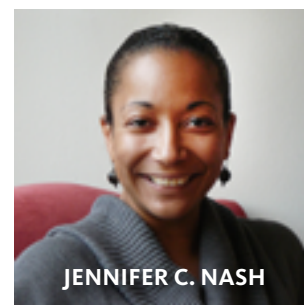
Feminists *continued from page 1*

Lake South (145 EMU). Edwards specializes in African American literature, gender and sexuality, and black political culture. She is the author of *Charisma and the Fictions of Black Leadership*. Her work demonstrates how contemporary African American literature challenges us to think in new ways about the relationships between African American narrative, American popular culture, and the contemporary history of black politics and black social movements.



ERICA R. EDWARDS

Finally, Jennifer C. Nash, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University, will speak about Black feminism, intersectionality, and contemporary feminist politics on April 18, 2019 at noon in Crater Lake South (145 EMU). Nash's work focuses on black sexual politics, black feminism, and intersectionality and the debates around it. Her forthcoming book, *Black Feminism Reimagined*, rewrites black feminist theory's engagement with intersectionality, an innovation that is often celebrated as black feminism's primary intellectual and political contribution to feminist theory and related fields.



JENNIFER C. NASH

Cosponsored by the OHC, “New Directions in Black Feminist Studies” lectures are free and open to the public. For more information contact Shoniqua Roach, shoniqua@uoregon.edu

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The **Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship (HURF) Program** provides humanities undergraduate students with an opportunity to undertake a 16-week research project under the guidance of a UO faculty mentor during the winter and spring terms, and to present their work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in May. During the fellowship period the cohort of fellows meets regularly to workshop their projects and participate in seminars on topics such as developing research skills; communicating research orally and in writing; understanding the ethics of research; and preparing for graduate school and/or other career opportunities. Fellows receive a \$2,500 stipend, faculty mentors receive a \$500 stipend.

The HURF Program is the result of a collaboration between the Oregon Humanities Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, and the Division of Undergraduate Studies. **Application deadline is November 8, 2018.** For information, visit: uop.uoregon.edu/hurf/



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Noh theatre expert demonstrates costuming and performance

The Center for Asian and Pacific Studies will host a noted performer of traditional Japanese theatre who will give two presentations on the history of Noh, its performance, and costumes at two workshops in early October. Developed in the 14th century, Noh theatre is structured around song and dance. Noh is characterized by symbolic gestures and simple sets—there is no curtain between the stage and the audience, as in other traditional theater. Noh is often based on tales from traditional literature with a supernatural being transformed into human form as a hero narrating a story. Noh integrates masks, costumes, and various props in a dance-based performance, requiring highly trained actors and musicians. Emotions are primarily conveyed by stylized conventional gestures while the iconic masks represent the roles such as ghosts, women, children, and the elderly.

Tomoyuki Takeda, from the prestigious Kanze School of Noh, will give a presentation on Noh costuming and masks on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 5

p.m. in the EMU Redwood Auditorium. Takeda will discuss costume history, materials, and designs; and give a dressing demonstration. Noh costumes consist of multiple layers and textures of fabric that create an effect of resplendent elegance but also a bulky, massive figure. Noh masks are carved from blocks of Japanese cypress. Their three dimensional properties allow skilled actors to induce a variety of expressions with changes in head orientation.

Takeda will give an introduction to Noh history and performance on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 5 p.m. in the EMU Redwood Auditorium. He will also present excerpts from two plays: *Hanjo (Lady Ban)*, a tale of true love between a courtesan and courtier; and *Tsuchigumo (Earth Spider)*, an exciting warrior tale of vanquishing a monstrous spider.

In addition, “Vibrance and Serenity: Art of Japanese Noh Traditional Theatre,” an exhibition of selected prints by Kōgyo Tsukioka (1869-1927), is on view at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art through August 4, 2019.

The workshops, cosponsored by the OHC’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, are free and open to the public. For more information go to: caps.uoregon.edu/2018/08/16/flowers-of-performance.

