

Ubuntu dialogues

RETHINKING DIALOGUE : RETHINKING MUSEUM

WHEN GLAMOUR WAS AFRICAN

Etta Moten Barnett and Race, Gender and Celebrity
in the Black Freedom Struggle, 1945-1970

13 April 2021

Angela Tate - Speaker

Uhuru Phalafala - Respondent

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Angela Tate is a PhD student in History at Northwestern University, Illinois, US. Her dissertation focuses on the intersection of race, gender, popular culture and the Pan-African politics of the 20th century. Her research on women and gender through an African diasporic lens draws on collections from multiple institutions across the globe. Her experience in museums and archives shapes her commitment to bridging the gap between the public, cultural heritage institutions and the academy, as she sees history as a means to empower, reimagine and expand the boundaries of memory and place and to give a voice to marginalised communities.

In the 1950s, African American singer and actress Etta Moten brought together the worlds of Africa and the Americas through her radio programme, *I remember when*. Technology seems irrelevant to Pan-Africanism but radio, print, film and television melded with the age-old technologies of oration and performance in the era of decolonisation and civil rights. Tate's research looks at women across the African diaspora who engaged with these to express their solidarity with the global black freedom struggle, display their role as activists and make visible the invisible voices (primarily those of women) in the cacophony of international relations and Cold War diplomacy.

Uhuru Portia Phalafala (PhD, UCT) is a lecturer in the Department of English at Stellenbosch University. She is an archivist of black cultural production and a jazz record collector. Her research interests are material cultures, black archives, anti-apartheid and anti-colonial movements, Cold War-era cultural circuitries and black internationalism. She is currently completing her book project on black radical traditions from the south.



Tuesday, 13 April 2021

9:00 - 11:00 am EST (3:00 - 5:00 pm South African time)

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Ubuntu Dialogues is an exchange project between Michigan State University, in the United States and the Stellenbosch University in South Africa.



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