



NSCAD Launches Study of Canadian Slavery

NSCAD University's Institute for the Study of Canadian Slavery (the Institute) announced on September 9th its first cohort of artists-in-residence and graduate student fellows. The Institute supports and promotes traditional academic fellows and artists-in-residence working in its mandate areas through funding, office or studio space, and library access that allows for research and production time, peer-support, mentorship, and exhibition/collaboration opportunities.

"After joining NSCAD University and launching the Institute in 2020, I am thrilled to be able to welcome our first cohort of fellows so soon," says the Institute's founding director Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson, who joined NSCAD in 2020 as Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Transatlantic Black Diasporic Art and Community Engagement awarded through the tri-agency initiative of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The Institute is the first research establishment in the nation and only one of a handful in the world that focus on Transatlantic Slavery. It was established at NSCAD University through funding from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The Institute's position within an art and design school allows the context of 'research' to encompass traditional academic outcomes, arts, culture, and media.

"Without fellows, the Institute is just a building," says Dr. Nelson. "We are very grateful to those in the NSCAD community and beyond who generously donated funding for our three graduate student fellows, and to The Office of African Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, and Heritage for funding our two artists-in-residence."

For the fall 2021 semester, the Institute welcomes:
Jason Cyrus, graduate student fellow, who analyzes fashion and textile history to explore questions of identity, cultural ex-

change, and agency. His project, *Dressing for the Resistance: Style as Amour Among Black Canadians*, will result in an exhibition proposal that will chronicle Black Canadian history from the perspective of dress, enslavement, and resistance.

Tonya "Sam'Gwan" Paris, artist-in-residence fellow, is an established Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotia artist activist based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who has had several art exhibits and installations within the province. Her project, *Freedom Is No Game*, is her response to Canada's legacy of Indigenous residential school systems and historic involvement with the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Bruno R. Véras, graduate student fellow, is a historian and cultural producer native of Recife, Brazil. His research interests include the African Diasporas, West African history, the transnational history of slavery, and the memory of slavery and reparations. His project, *The Canadian press on "Quant à ce qui concerne Bahia": White fear, Diplomacy, Abolitionism, and the News Coverage of the Muslim African slave rebellions*, will use post-colonial strategies to read the transnational links between slave rebellions, anti-slavery debates, colonial policies, and ideologies through the Canadian and international press.

For the winter 2022 semester, the Institute will welcome:
Chris J. Gismondi, graduate student fellow, is a PhD candidate at the University of New Brunswick who is completing his doctoral project under the guidance of Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson. Chris' research project examines the unique and understudied site of Upper Canada, in particular how enslaved women and families navigated the gradual abolition of 1793 and if processes like flight were used to resist the reproductive violence of the slow emancipation process.

Tyshian Wright, artist-in-residence fellow, is a "Keeper Of The Heritage" (Jamaica

Gleaner) and maker of Jamaican Maroon instruments and cultural objects whose work explores intersections between traditional and contemporary craft. His project, *The Trelawny Town Maroons: Between Sovereignty and Slavery*, examines the behaviours and cultural practices of Jamaican Maroons in colonial Nova Scotia, and the effects of colonialism and Transatlantic Slavery on the Maroons' sovereignty.

More biography and project information on the Institute's first cohort of fellows is available at <https://nscad.ca/the-institute-fellows>.

Fall Guided Walks Offered Throughout NS

Enjoy yourself in the outdoors by participating in a guided walk in your area. "Fall is a perfect time to experience nature in our beautiful province. Whether you are a seasoned hiker or someone who enjoys less strenuous outings, our walk series has you covered," says Janet Barlow, Hike Nova Scotia Executive Director.

"These past 18 months have shown us more than ever how much getting outdoors and being with others is essential to our physical, mental and social health. It's so simple and it works!"

Hike NS and 13 host organizations have partnered to offer the Fall Guided Walk Series from September 12 to November 14. There are 28 walks scheduled province-wide. Walks are led by local folks and participants qualify to win trail prizes. These free or low-cost walks require pre-registration and will follow public health protocols.

The full schedule with registration details and directions is found at www.hikenovascotia.ca. Hikes are listed by month or region (Halifax,



South Shore, Valley, Highland and Cape Breton) and include various lengths and difficulty levels.

Hike NS thanks its local partners on the ground for organizing the walks as well as The Trail Shop, Goose Lane Editions and the NS Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for their support. Hike NS encourages and promotes a growing walking and hiking culture throughout the province, striving to be the voice for those who hike, walk and snowshoe.

Verse and prayer (heavens faith)

*Growing up in our world today
 Can be a difficult thing to do
 So many paths to find our way
 Now as if we had only knew*

For the earth and souls we pray

*Our earth is bleeding pints of blood
 Death surrounds us everywhere
 Storms and wind a natures flood
 Maybe we forgot to care*

For the earth and souls we pray

*Darkness comes now we dream
 Of hope from our dispare
 Unanswered prayers it would seem
 Our goodness just isn't there*

For the earth and souls we pray

*But the sun will shine another day
 For our faith in god is strong
 We thank the lord to come our way
 We've put our love in verse and song!*

For the earth and souls we pray

*God bless and thank-you
 Thomas a. Marshall (Ex-Navy)*

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