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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAM hosts a public discussion and community celebration surrounding the legacy of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines



Lorna Simpson, *Blue Love*, installation view, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, September 3, 2021–February 27, 2022. Photo: Dusty Kessler.

January 18, 2022 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) hosts a public discussion and community celebration surrounding *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm. The program is free. As a complement to the exhibition [Lorna Simpson: Heads](#), RE: *Ebony* and *Jet* explores the roles of these preeminent Black publications in visual culture and media.

CAM encourages attendees to arrive for the discussion with their own ideas, memories, and anecdotes to share relating to the meaning of *Ebony* and *Jet* in their lives, responding to the question: *What do Ebony and Jet mean to you?* Participation from a wide range of voices is anticipated, including scholars, artists, historians, journalists, and fans of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. Magazines were a popular form of mass media in the mid-20th century, found in most American homes. *Ebony* and *Jet* focused on subjects of lifestyle, culture, and politics from an African American perspective, a point of view underrepresented, misrepresented, or ignored by “mainstream” media.

RE: *Ebony* and *Jet* will be moderated by art historian and curator Bridget R. Cooks, author of *Exhibiting Blackness* and an associate professor at the University of California, Irvine. Invited guest speakers include:

- **Danielle Brown**, reporter with the *St. Louis American* newspaper;
- **Adrienne Davis**, William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity at Washington University in St. Louis;
- **Raven Maragh-Lloyd**, Assistant Professor of Critical Black Digital Media Studies at Washington University in St. Louis;
- **Christopher Tinson**, Associate Professor of African American Studies at Saint Louis University.

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Hours
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The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity (CRE²) at Washington University in St. Louis serves as a partner and sponsor for the event.

The artist Lorna Simpson's use of figures from vintage editions of *Ebony* and *Jet* in her large-scale videos *Blue Love* and *Redhead*—currently projected on the museum facade as a part of Street Views, CAM's outdoor video art series—prompted the evening's discussion. Since 2010, Simpson has developed several series of collages with source material from black-and-white photographs in *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. In the works on view at CAM, she embellishes the photographic figures with shimmering, flame-like, watercolor hairdos. "The notion of fragmentation, especially of the body, is prevalent in our culture, and it's reflected in my works," Simpson explains. "We're fragmented not only in terms of how society regulates our bodies but in the way we think about ourselves."

Following the discussion, visitors are invited to take part in a hands-on, art-making activity involving collage techniques.

To register for the free event, visit: camstl.org/event/re-ebony-and-jet/.



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mohumanities.org.

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM's distinct architecture reflects the organization's values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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