

Dear Colleagues,

For our next conference at The University of Arizona Poetry Center, the 2017 Thinking Its Presence Conference will explore the concept of José Esteban Muñoz’ “ephemeral archive.”

The Ephemeral Archive invites us to explore and reckon with the time and materiality of our ways of being and knowing, as writers, artists, educators and people in the world. What is lost, found, recovered, carried, (de)fetishized, recorded, accreted, (de)authenticated, faced with deletion, elided, made mythic, performed, reenacted, residual, embodied, anecdotal and made evidence, where race, language, queerness and the creative arts intersect? While such discussions on these topics and creative writing in the academy in general, and within MFA programs, are still few and far between, our 2017 conference expands to include performing arts, film studies, visual arts, socially engaged arts, and other creative mediums and disciplines that haven’t yet had a robust forum for this conversation. *The Ephemeral Archive* is an open, porous space for serious engagement, experimentation and play, a way for us to explore not only what our work means but *what it does*, within the contexts of arts teaching and artistic practice, community-based activism collectives and collaborations, areas of study, documentation and more, inside, outside and alongside academia.

We are proud to showcase interdisciplinary artist Coco Fusco, the Andrew Banks Endowed Professor of Art at the University of Florida; Poet, Scholar, Distinguished Professor in Latino and Latin American art, Roberto Tejada; and celebrated poet, performer and librettist Douglas Kearney as our keynote speakers. In addition to panels and readings, we will feature performances and exhibits that engage with the concerns of our mission and the lively Tucson cultural arts community.

As with previous conferences, we welcome proposals, tributes, and panels honoring the work of those who we have recently lost—teachers, mentors, friends, guides and influences—who contributed greatly to innovative arts.

PROPOSAL, READING/PERFORMANCE, AND PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THINKING ITS PRESENCE 2017: The Ephemeral Archive

OCTOBER 19-21, 2017, The University of Arizona Poetry Center, Tucson, AZ

We welcome writers, poets, artists, performers, and scholars to propose papers, panels, performances, and readings on the theme “The Ephemeral Archive,” as it relates to issues of race in contemporary prose, poetry, the visual and the performing arts, social practice, inclusive perspectives from critical race theory, poetics, performance studies, literary theory, art history, ethnic literature, Black and African Diasporic studies, LGBTQIA, Latinx, Native American and Indigenous studies, as well as proposals in tribute to or honoring the legacies and contributions of our ancestor artists. We are also interested in proposals that address the following:

- The idea of “the short lived” versus “the eternal” and theories and work inspired by keynotes, features, and tributes
- The question of “rigor” in critical and creative works by minoritarian culture workers and scholars
- The topic of race within MFA, PhD, and Academia in general, and institutions/memberships like AWP, MLA, ACLA, CAA, NAISA, NEA, AHA, and CCCC among others (to recognize the interdisciplinarity of pedagogy, rigor, scholarship, and practice across the disciplines and to welcome collaboration among the arts and humanities (for artists, historians, and scholars alike)
- Race and pedagogy
- Whiteness and literary and artistic authority
- The role of “performing” and “canonizing” in contemporary scholarship
- Fetish and authenticity
- The relationship among aesthetics, politics, and representation in minority literatures and broader creative practices
- Intersections between creative, autobiographical, and theoretical work in minority artistic traditions
- Intersectional practices and perspectives
- Writing, performing, teaching

Accepted panels and readings will be incorporated and celebrated with receptions and Q&A events. While funding is limited, small honorariums for additional readings will be considered.

Please submit:

- Valid email address and biography for all event participants
- Complete event description (500 word count) including a title. Type of event must be clearly stated. All events can have up to five participants. Please include a moderator, and up to four participants for panels and talks.
- Complete event statement of merit (500 word count).
- Confirmation that each proposed presenter is willing to participate in the event.

Registration Information

Pre-registration (by August 15):

- General registration: \$60
- Student registration (non-University of Arizona; must have valid student ID): \$30
- University of Arizona student, staff, faculty, alumni: \$15

Registration (on or after August 16):

- General registration: \$80
- Presenter (non-student, non-UA) registration: \$60
- Student registration (non-University of Arizona; must have valid student ID): \$50
- University of Arizona student, staff, faculty, alumni: \$20
- Day pass: \$30

Proposals for papers, panels, performances, and readings should be sent to:

- Prageeta Sharma at: tip2017proposals@gmail.com

The deadline for proposal submission is May 1, 2017.