Blackness and the Art of Empowerment in Bahia, Brazil
A Symposium at the Fowler Museum at UCLA

For many worldwide, the Brazilian state of Bahia represents the epicenter of Afro-Brazilian culture and its capital city Salvador has been lauded as a Black Rome (Roma negra) where African-derived traditions have flourished. Nonetheless, residents of African descent (Afrodescendentes) often face institutionalized racism and other forms of inequality. This one-day symposium brings together Bahian arts activists and US-based scholars to examine the ways in which arts practices can serve as potent modes of social critique and cultural resistance.

Related Exhibition
On view at the Fowler Museum through April 15, Axé Bahia: The Power of Art in an Afro-Brazilian Metropolis explores the distinctive cultural role of the city of Salvador, the coastal capital of the Brazilian state of Bahia and an internationally renowned center of Afro-Brazilian culture. Featuring more than 100 works from the mid-20th century to the present, including a stunning array of sculpture, painting, photography, video, and installation art, the exhibition explores the complexities of race and cultural affiliation in Brazil, and the provocative ways in which artists have experienced and responded creatively to prevailing realities of Afro-Brazilian identity in Bahia.

Axé Bahia: The Power of Art in an Afro-Brazilian Metropolis is part of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles, taking place from September 2017 through January 2018 at more than 70 cultural institutions across Southern California. Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America.

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**Morning Session**

9:30am // Coffee reception in Art Council Amphitheater

10:00am // Welcome and Introduction
Patrick A. Polk, Curator of Latin American and Caribbean Popular Arts, Fowler Museum at UCLA and co-curator of *Axé Bahia: The Power of Art in an Afro-Brazilian Metropolis*

10:15am // Axé: On the White-Hot Tension between Black Racial Empowerment and Religious Hierarchy in Candomblé
J. Lorand Matory, Lawrence Richardson Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

10:45am // Candomblé as Artistic Inspiration
Kimberly Cleveland, Associate Professor of Art History, The Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, Georgia State University

11:15am // Artist Presentation: Thaís Muniz

11:45am // Respondent: Aleca LeBlanc, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of California, Riverside

12:00pm // Q&A

12:15pm // Lunch Break

1:00pm // Turbante-se Workshop with Thaís Muniz in the UCLA Art Council Amphitheater

**Afternoon Session**

2:00pm // Black Bodies in the Streets: Urban Portraits in Salvador’s Tourist Guides of the 1950s–60s
Anadelia Romo, Associate Professor, Department of History, Texas State University

2:30pm // Artist Presentation: Àlex Ìgbó

3:00pm // Artist Presentation: Tiago Sant’Ana

3:30pm // Respondent: Elena Shtromberg, Associate Professor, Department of Art & Art History, University of Utah

3:45pm // Q&A

4:00-5:00pm // Celebrate the release of the *Axé Bahia* exhibition publication with a book signing and reception in the UCLA Art Council Amphitheater.

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