

RIKKI BYRD

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University
Ph.D. Candidate in Black Studies, Expected 2024

Northwestern University
Master of Arts in Black Studies, June 2020

Parsons School of Design
Master of Arts in Fashion Studies, May 2016

University of Missouri-Columbia
School of Journalism
Bachelor of Journalism, May 2013
Minor in Black Studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Lecturer, Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism, 2022-2023
Courses: Introduction to African American Art; Black Fashioning

University of Chicago
Research Assistant, 2023-present
Dr. Hoda El Shakry, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and in the College; Dr. Leah Feldman, Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and in the College
Research Project: Costumes and Collapse

Northwestern University
Teacher's Assistant, 2020
Dr. Alexander G. Weheliye, Associate Professor of African American Studies
Course: The Black Diaspora and Transnationality: Britain and Germany

Research Assistant, 2019-2020
Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology

Washington University in St. Louis
Lecturer, Fashion Design Program, 2016-2018
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Culture
Courses: Fashion and Race; Fashion History and Research Methods

Lecturer, Department of African and African-American Studies, 2017
Course: Black is Beautiful: Race and Representation in American Fashion

Parsons School of Design

Teacher's Assistant, 2015-2016

Anya Kurrenaya, Adjunct Professor in The School of Art, Design, History and Theory

Courses: Introduction to Fashion Studies, Fashion and Hip Hop

Teacher's Assistant, Research Assistant, 2016

Dr. Christina Moon, Associate Professor of Fashion Studies, The School of Art, Design, History and Theory

Course: Fashion Cultures

Research Assistant, 2015-2016

Nadia Williams, Director of Parsons Scholars Program

CURATORIAL/ARTS

Radicle Curator-in-Residence, 2024-2025

Hyde Park Art Center

Chicago, IL

Curator, 2024

Lawrence Agyei: DRILL, Blanc Gallery, Expo Chicago

Chicago, IL

Co-Curator (with Gervais Marsh), 2023

All of Living is Risk: Nnaemeka Ekwelum and Cory Perry, South Side Community Art Center

Chicago, IL

Curatorial Advisor/Curator, 2022-2023

Can You See Me?, Expo Chicago, Weinberg/Newton Gallery, Arts+Public Life, SkyART, EXPO Chicago

Chicago, IL

Curatorial Research Assistant, 2021-2023

The Culture: Hip Hop & Contemporary Art in the 21st Century, Baltimore Museum of Art and Saint

Louis Art Museum

Interdisciplinary Curatorial Fellow, 2021

Behold, Be Held, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art

Evanston, IL

Communications Intern, 2015

Creative Time

New York, New York

Communications Intern, 2010

Regional Arts Commission St. Louis

St. Louis, Missouri

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

Peer-reviewed

“We Were What No One Else Had:’ How Black Fashion Models Constructed a New Wave of Performativity and Visibility.” *The Routledge Companion to African American Theatre and Performance*. Eds. Kathy A. Perkins, Sandra L. Richards, Renée Alexander Craft, Thomas F. DeFrantz. Abingdon, Oxon;; New York: Routledge, 2019.

“In Search of the Good Life: Toward a Discourse on Reading the Black Body in Hip Hop and Luxury Fashion.” *QED: A Journal of GLBTQ Worldmaking*. Special Issue: Sartorial Politics, Intersectionality, and Queer World Making 4, no. 3. Edited by Eric Darnell Pritchard. (2017): 180-84.

“On the ‘Black Designer.’” *The Fashion Studies Journal* 1, no. 1 (September 2016).
<http://www.fashionstudiesjournal.org/essays/2016/9/11/on-the-black-designer>.

“Looking the Part: The Liberation and Criminalization of Black Men Through Style and Adornment.” *BIAS Journal of Dress Practice* 4, no. 1 (May 2016): 90-96.
https://issuu.com/dresspracticecollective/docs/bias_issue_4_fashion_and_violence.

Editorial

Editor, “Open Space: Black Fashion Studies.” Special issue of *International Journal of Fashion Studies* 4, no. 1(April 2017): 103-139.

Book Reviews

“Dandy Lion: The Black Dandy and Street Style.” *College Art Association Reviews* (*caa.reviews*). Edited by Edward Chambers and Alan Gilbert. (April 2018).
<http://caareviews.org/reviews/3310#.XZyveudKj-Y>.

Book Chapters

“In Loving Memory: Toward a New Way of Reading Black Death Through Mourning Dress.” *Fashion in American Life*. London: Bloomsbury Fashion Publishing, forthcoming 2024.

“Designing Our Freedom: Toward a New Discourse on Fashion as a Strategy for Self Liberation.” *African-American Arts: Activism and Aesthetics*. Edited by Sharrell D. Lockett. (Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Bucknell University Press, 2019).

Exhibition essays and conversations

“Notes on Provenance.” *Amanda Williams: What Black Is This, You Say?*. (forthcoming 2023).

“Rikki Byrd in conversation with Suzanne Jackson.” *Suzanne Jackson: Listen N’ Home*. (Chicago: Chicago Arts Foundation, 2022).

“Hip Hop’s Mourning Aesthetics.” *The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*. (Gregory R. Miller & Co.; Baltimore Museum of Art; Saint Louis Art Museum, 2023.)

“A Gem.” *Sandra Payne: A World of Shine*. (St. Louis: Barrett Barrera Projects, 2022).

“Kwame Brathwaite, Untitled (Grandassa Models, Merton Simpson Gallery).” *In Who Says*,

Who Shows, What Counts: Thinking About History With The Block's Collection. Edited by Essi Ronkko and Kate Hadley Toftness. (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2021).

“Afterword.” *Abstractions in Black Citizenship: African American Art from St. Louis* exhibition catalog. Edited by Jasmine Jamillah Mahmoud. (Forthcoming).

“How We Endure: A Conversation on Blackness with Esmāa Mohamoud.”
Cry of Victory and Short Walks to Freedom exhibition catalog. Edited by Modou Dieng and Jesse Siegl. (St. Louis: Barrett Barrera Projects, 2018).

“Taking Care.” *Amongst Friends* exhibition catalog. Edited by Dario Calmese. (St. Louis: Barrett Barrera Projects, 2018).

“New Feelings.” *New Feelings* exhibition catalog. Edited by Modou Dieng. (February 2018).

General Interest and Special Projects

Black Fashion Archive. Edited by Rikki Byrd. 2018-present.

<https://www.instagram.com/blackfashionarchive/?hl=en>

Fashion and Race Syllabus. Edited by Rikki Byrd. 2016-present.

<https://fashionandrace.wordpress.com/>

“More Than Just a Footnote,” special issue for *Black Fashion Fair*, 2022.

“A Great Day in Hip Hop – A Decade of Hip Hop Style’s Influences,” special project for Fashion and Race Database and Tommy Hilfiger, April 6, 2022.

<https://fashionandrace.org/database/a-great-day-in-hip-hop/>.

“Eartha Kitt,” special project for Fashion and Race Database and Tommy Hilfiger, April 6, 2022.

<https://fashionandrace.org/database/eartha-kitt/>.

Feeling It Out: What We Do When We Get Together, collaborative essay with Camille Bacon, Rikki Byrd, Doriana Diaz, Carla Forbes, Amari Arrindell, and Kanyinsola Anifwoshe. In *Studio Magazine*. (Harlem: The Studio Museum in Harlem, 2022).

<https://studiomuseum.org/article/feeling-it-out-what-we-do-when-we-get-together>

“Virgil Abloh’s Stylish Wordplay.” *Vox*, September 1, 2021.

<https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2021/12/1/22812220/virgil-abloh-off-white-louis-vuitton-obit>.

“Enunciated Life’: Taylor Renee Aldridge and Shikeith on the Queering of Black Spirituality.” *Frieze*, July 21, 2021.

<https://www.frieze.com/article/enunciated-life-taylor-renee-aldrige-and-shikeith-queering-black-spirituality>.

“The department store’s false promise to Black America.” *Vox*, January 21, 2021.

<https://www.vox.com/the-goods/22229054/department-stores-black-america-marshall-field>.

“Amy Sberald on Her ‘Gentle Presentation of Black Identity’ and More (interview).”

Hyperallergic, May 24, 2018.

<https://hyperallergic.com/443819/amy-sberald-contemporary-art-museum-st-louis/>

“Mickalene Thomas: Mentors, Muses, and Celebrities (review).” *Hyperallergic*, November 27, 2017.
<https://hyperallergic.com/413543/mickalene-thomas-makes-black-women-the-protagonists-of-their-own-stories/>

SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND RESIDENCIES

Buffett Graduate Research Travel Award, 2023

Core Visiting Fellowship, Modern Ancient Brown Foundation, 2024 (awarded 2023)

Chicago Critic’s Table Fellowship, Arts + Public Life, University of Chicago, 2023

Rauschenberg Residency, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, 2024 (awarded 2023)

Presidential Fellowship, Northwestern University Graduate School, 2022-2024

Dissertation Proposal Development Program and Award, Northwestern University – Social Science Research Council (SSRC), 2020

Andrew W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellowship in Critical Studies in Theater and Performance, Northwestern University, 2018

Outstanding Student Program of the Year Award (Fashion and Diversity Event Series), The New School, 2016

SELECTED PANEL DISCUSSIONS, CONVERSATIONS and LECTURES

Invited Lectures

“Black Contributions to Luxury Fashion,” Kering Americas, 2022.

“Black Fashion Archive,” South Side Community Art Center, 2022.

“Luxury Fashion and the Black Diaspora,” School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2019.

“Where Fashion Meets Activism,” Missouri History Museum, 2017.

“Gallery Talks: Reflections on the African American Experience Through Everyday Dress,” Saint Louis Art Museum, 2017.

Panels and Conversations

“Costumes & Collapse,” Nick Cave, CHAOS, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Hoda El-Shakry, Leah Feldman, Logan Center for the Arts, 2024.

In conversation with Nnaemeka Ekwelum, Gervais Marsh, Cory Perry, South Side Community Art Center, 2023.

“A Critical Moment: Regina Victor, Martine Kei Green Rogers, and the UChicago Critic’s Table in Conversation,” Understudy, Chicago, 2023.

In conversation with Antwaun Sargent, *The New Black Vanguard*, Museum of African Diaspora San Francisco, 2023.

“Black Fashion History and the Digital Platform,” *The Color Is*: Renaissance Symposium, DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center, in conversation with Jonathan Michael Square, moderated by Danny Dunson, 2022.

“We are the Definers: Fashion and Photography in the New Black Vanguard,” with Stephen Tayo, Daniel Obasi, and Lawrence Agyei, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Museum of African Diaspora San Francisco, 2022.

In conversation with Devan Shimoyama and Alisa Sikelianos-Carter, Kavi Gupta Gallery, 2022.

In conversation with Crystal Campbell, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 2022.

“Debating the Black Body,” University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), in conversation with Monica Miller and Danielle Hollowell, 2021.

“Holding Space: Breaking Barriers Through Curation,” in conversation with Kendra Greedner and John Chaich, moderated by Diane Baird N’Diaye, Surface Design Association, 2021.

“Studio Salon | Conversations in the Commons|Self/Fashion,” in conversation with Antoine Gregory and Danilo Machado, Studio Museum in Harlem, 2021.

“Exhibition Keynote Conversation for *Who Says, Who Shows, Who Counts*,” with Tonika Johnson, Andrea Carlson, Chris Pappan, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 2021.

“A Field Guide to Fabulousness,” in conversation with Madison Moore, Columbia College Chicago, 2020.

“Kavi Gupta Artist Talk” with Mickalene Thomas and Salimishah Tillett, Expo Chicago, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).

“Visual Culture Caucus: Teaching Fashion: Theory and Practice,” with Jonathan Michael Square, Sarah Pickman, Rachel Gross, Victoria Pass, American Studies Association Conference, (canceled due to COVID-19), 2020.

“Fashioning Identities,” American Everyday Conference, with Sara Idacavage, Anya Kurrenaya, Fiona Dieffenbacher, Jacqueline Wayne-Guite, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Columbia College Chicago, 2020.

“On Black Death,” with Anna-Lisa Cox, De Angela Duff, Chiyuma Elliott, Kia Melchor Hall, Nataleah Hunter-Young, Michele Prettyman, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Black Portraiture Conference, New York University, 2019.

“Fashioning the Black Body,” with Dario Calmese, Kenturah Davis, and Basil Kincaid, moderated by Rikki Byrd, projects+gallery, 2019.

“Culture and Creation x Fashion Optics,” Black Founders Forum, with Bethann Hardison, Dario Calmese, Chioma Nnadi, Jahleel Weaver, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Google and the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), 2018.

“Community Curating: Stitching Together the History of a People,” with Tanisha Ford, Kimberly Jenkins, moderated by Jonathan Michael Square, Weeksville Heritage Center, 2017.

“Hip Hop and Fashion: From the Streets to the Runway,” *Reigning Men: Fashion in Menswear, 1715-2015*, with Genevieve Cortinervis, Basil Kincaid, Jeffrey McCune, moderated by Rikki Byrd, Saint Louis Art Museum, 2017.

“Black Style Matters,” with Dario Calmese, Marquelle Turner-Gilchrist, moderated by Mikaila Brown, Parsons School of Design, 2017.

Afrofuturism Conference Fashion Panel with Kiara Shardé, Devonrae Jones, Zunyda, moderated by Rikki Byrd, The New School, 2016.

Conferences/Symposiums

Presenter. “‘A Second Life:’ R.I.P. T-shirts, Black Portraiture, and Archiving.” Black Mourning and Memorials in the Struggle for Racial Equality, American Historical Association Conference, 2024.

Presenter. “‘A Second Life:’ R.I.P. T-shirts, Black Portraiture, and Archiving.” Black Aesthetic Presence Now!: art tactics in conversation with Julius Fleming’s “Afro-Presentism,” American Studies Association Conference, 2023.

Presenter. “‘A Second Life:’ R.I.P. T-shirts, Black Portraiture, and Archiving,” 18th Annual Yale University American Art Graduate Symposium, 2023.

Presenter. “In Loving Memory: Performance of Black Mourning Through Adornment.” Rise Up!: Power, Protest and Representation in Black Visual and Material Culture, 1835 to the present panel, College Art Association Conference, 2020.

Presenter. “‘But What of Black Women?:’ Fashioning Black Women’s Liberation,” Fashion and Feminism Symposium, *Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist*, Barnes Foundation, 2018.

Presenter. “Black the Color We Wear: Representing Blackness in American Fashion,” Parsons School of Design, 2016.

Presenter. “Looking the Part: The Liberation and Criminalization of Masculinity via Style and Adornment,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, (accepted, was not able to attend), 2016.

Presenter. “Black the Color We Wear: The Temporality of Blackness in American Fashion,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2015.

PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, AND EVENTS ORGANIZED

Co-organizer, “Glitch Feminism,” conversation with Legacy Russell and Black Arts Consortium Graduate Working Group, Northwestern University, 2022.

Co-organizer, “The Black Gaze,” conversation with Tina Campt, Alexander Weheliye, and Black Arts Consortium Graduate Working Group, Northwestern University, 2021.

Co-organizer, “Survey: Contemplation, Control, Creativity.” Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diaspora Speaker Series, Northwestern University, 2019-2021.

Lectures and conversation with Bimbola Akinbola, Marquis Bey, Patricia Nguyen.

Lectures and conversation with C. Riley Snorton and Tony Beauchamp, moderated by aeryka hollis o'neal.

“The Black Shoals,” lecture by Tiffany Lethabo King.

Lectures and conversation with Faheem Majeed and LaCharles Ward.

“For the People: A Roundtable on Community Organizing and Mutual Aid,” panel discussion with Evanston Fight for Black Lives and NU Community Not Cops, moderated by Andrea Y. Adomako.

Moderator and Co-organizer, “State of the Black Arts,” panel with Taylor Aldridge, Jessica Lynne, Dominic Chambers and Amani Olu. Artists in the Room Event Series, St. Louis, MO., 2019.

Moderator and Co-organizer, In conversation with Larry Ossei-Mensah. Techartista, Artists in the Room Event Series, St. Louis, MO, 2018.

Project Manager, Saint Louis Fashion Incubator Designer Competition and Fashion Presentation, Saint Louis Fashion Fund and World Chess Hall of Fame, 2016-2017.

Co-organizer, Fashion and Diversity Series, Parsons School of Design, 2015-2016.

“Fashion and Jazz,” lecture by Alphonso McClendon.

“Fashion and Race,” panel with Charles Harbison, Dario Calmese, Kimberly Jenkins, and Jeremy Lewis, moderated by Julee Wilson.

“Fashion and Women in Technology,” panel with Liz Bacelar, Madison Maxey, and Birce Ozkan.

SELECTED GRANTS

Conference Grant, Andrew W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellowship in Critical Studies in Theater and Performance, The Graduate School – Northwestern University, 2023

Conference Travel Grant, The Graduate School – Northwestern University, 2023

Conference Travel Grant, The Graduate School – Northwestern University, 2019

Summer Research Grant, The Graduate School – Northwestern University, 2019

Summer Small Grant, African American Studies Department – Northwestern University, 2019

Travel Grant, Washington University – St. Louis Vice Provost Office, 2016

Travel Grant, Parsons School of Design, 2015

Graduate Scholarship, Support Creativity, 2014-2015

Dean’s Award, Parsons School of Design, 2014-2016

University Merit Award, Parsons School of Design, 2014-2016

University Scholars Award, Parsons School of Design, 2014-2016

SERVICE

Publishing

Bloomsbury Publishing Fashion Central, Editorial Advisory Board Member, 2022-Present

University

Co-Founder and Co-organizer, Black Arts Consortium Graduate Working Group – Northwestern University, 2020-Present

Interim Co-President, Department of African American Studies Graduate Student Association – Northwestern University, 2020-2021

Steering Committee Member, “Fashion at the Periphery” Symposium, Chicago Fashion Lyceum, 2019-2020

Social Chair, African American Studies Department Graduate Student Association – Northwestern University, 2019-2021

Co-Founder and Co-organizer, Fashion and Diversity Series, Parsons School of Design, 2015-2016

External Communications Coordinator, Afrofuturism Conference, The New School, 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association, 2023-Present

Member, College Art Association, 2018-2020

Board Member, Women and the Kemper, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, 2018-2019