

Nicole Smythe-Johnson

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EDUCATION

- M.A. University of Leeds, UK- Postcolonial Literary & Cultural Studies, September 2011.
- B.A. Macalester College, USA- Humanities, Media & Cultural Studies, May 2007.
- Cert. Boston University Corporate Education Center, Distance Programme- Applied Project Management, June 2012.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Curator

August 2013 - Present

- Plan and execute exhibitions in partnership with local and international art institutions, government agencies and private collectors.
- Develop and deliver talks, workshops, and other programming activities.
- Manage budgets and teams including- administrators, graphic designers, publicity specialists etc.
- Develop media campaigns (with a focus on social media) to support exhibition promotions and programming.
- Write essays, reports etc and develop publications in support of exhibitions and participating institutions & artists.
- Ongoing studio visits and research into artist's work and practices.

Freelance Writer & Editor

June 2012 - Present

- Write critical essays on art and culture for online and print publications.
- Manage and deliver business and PR writing projects for corporate, public sector and NGO clients.
- Edit manuscripts in a range of disciplines and genres. Projects typically include substantial fact-checking, content and structural editing, as well proof-reading and sentence-level editing.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Co-Curator, *Leasho Johnson: Playing the Fields 2* at the Third Horizon Caribbean Film Festival (September 2017), O Cinema Wynwood (90 NW 29th St, Miami, FL 33127, USA).
- Assistant Curator, *John Dunkley: Neither Day Nor Night* (August 24, 2015 – Jan. 14, 2018), Perez Art Museum of Miami (1103 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132, USA).
- *Trajectories* (July 25 to 27, 2014), Myers, Fletcher and Gordon Attorneys-at-Law (21 East St, Kingston, Jamaica W.I.).
- Project Manager, *Jamaica Biennial 2014* (Dec 7, 2014 – March 15, 2015), National Gallery of Jamaica (12 Ocean Blvd, Block C, Kingston Mall, Kingston, Jamaica W.I.).
 - Coordinated installation and travel arrangements for international artists; including James Cooper (Bermuda), Blue Curry (Bahamas/UK), Richard Mark Rawlins (Trinidad and Tobago).
 - Supported artists with special projects.
 - Oversaw the installation of the Devon House segment of the exhibition.
- Curator, *Float* (May 17 to June 21, 2014), Transformer (1404 P Street, NW Washington, DC 20005, USA).
- Curator, *Transforming Spaces* (April 2 to 6, 2014), Hillside House (Nassau, Bahamas).
- Senior Curator (December 2012 to August 2013), National Gallery of Jamaica (12 Ocean Blvd, Block C, Kingston Mall, Kingston, Jamaica W.I.).
 - Developed and installed exhibitions in collaboration with the curatorial team- *National Biennial 2012* (Dec 2012 - March 2013), *Natural Histories* (April - June 2013), *New Roots* (July - Sept 2013).
 - Led the development of a film programme with a series of filmic supplements to exhibitions; *Better Mus' Come* (Storm Saulter, 2010) for the *National Biennial*, and *Countryman* (Dickie Jobson, 1982) for *Natural Histories*, curated a filmmaker into *New Roots* (July 28- Nov 2, 2014).
 - Contributed regular 500 to 1200 word posts to the NGJ's blog.
 - Facilitated a writing workshop for the NGJ curatorial team (three two-hour sessions)- outputs from the workshop can be found on the NGJ blog at <http://nationalgalleryofjamaica.wordpress.com>

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- Editor- *Caribbean Quarterly: a Journal of Caribbean Culture* (August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018), University of the West Indies (Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of the West Indies, PO Box 130, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica W.I.)

- Writer & Research Consultant- coffee table book with working title *100 National Treasures* (Oct 2015 to present), The Institute of Jamaica (10 – 16 East St, Kingston, Jamaica W.I.)
 - Select 100 objects from the collections of the Institute of Jamaica’s seven national museums; including the National Gallery of Jamaica, Natural History Museum and Jamaica Music Museum.
 - Conduct research and write 200 to 500 word texts to accompany each object.
- Editor- manuscript, working title *A History of Appleton Estate* (July 2014 to Dec 2015), J. Wray and Nephew Ltd. (23 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.)
- Senior Art Writer and Editor- *ARC Magazine* (Sept 2013- Jan 2014), ARC Magazine (P.O. Box 184 BQ, Bequia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines VC0400 W.I.)

PUBLICATIONS

- “Coherence and Context: Rewriting Puerto Rico”, *Terremoto*, Issue 11: Curadores al borde de un ataque de nervios, 12 Feb to 14 May 2018. Web & Print.
- “2017 Jamaica Biennial”, *The Miami Rail*. Summer 2017. Web & Print.
- Nawi, Diana and Nicole Smythe-Johnson, *John Dunkley: Neither Day nor Night*. Perez Art Museum Miami and DelMonico Books-Prestel, 2017. Print.
- “Curating beyond the Exhibition: Reflecting on Three Weeks in Scotland”, *TiltingAxis.org*. May 2017. Web.
- “Nordic Routes”, *Caribbean Beat*, 142. November/December 2016. Web & Print.
- “Five Caribbean Artists in the brave new digital world”, *Caribbean Beat*, 139, May/June 2016. Web & Print.
- “Rooting Routes”, *Jamaican Routes*. Oslo, Norway: Punkt Ø AS, Feb 2016. Print.
- “Creating Space for Magic: A Conversation with Rozi Chung”, *Jamaica Journal*, Vol. 36, Nos. 1-2, December 2015. Print.
- “Book Review: A Brief History of Seven Killings”, *Jamaica Journal*, Vol. 36, Nos. 1-2, December 2015. Print.
- “Review of Nancy Lupo at 1857”, *Flash Art*, Issue 305, November-December 2015. Print.
- “Nari Ward with Nicole Smythe-Johnson”, *The Miami Rail*, Winter 2015. Web & Print.
- “The Anti-Expected”, *Caribbean Beat* 133, May/June 2015. Web & Print.
- “Reporting from En Mas’: Carnival and Performance Art of the Caribbean”, *ARC Magazine*, ARC Inc, 7 May 2015. Web.
- “Anything with Nothing: An Ongoing Conversation between the Street and the Gallery”, *Jamaica Journal*, Vol. 35, No. 3, March 2015. Print.
- “From a Place of Love”, *Caribbean Beat* 132, March/April 2015. Web & Print.

- "Natural Histories: an interdisciplinary project joining Art History and Natural Science", *Jamaica Journal*, Vol. 35, Nos. 1-2, July 2014. Print.
- "A Practice of Generating Interaction: The Work of Rodell Warner", *ARC Magazine*, ARC Inc, 3 June 2014. Web.
- "Planting Seeds: A report on the Caribbean Linked II Residency Project", *ARC Magazine*, ARC Inc, 11 Nov 2013. Web.
- "The Evolution of Narrative at tfff and ARC's New Media", *ARC Magazine*, ARC Inc, 9 Oct 2013. Web.
- "New Roots: An Invitation to Dialogue", *National Gallery of Jamaica Blog*, National Gallery of Jamaica, 14 Sept 2013. Web.
- "The Art of Hope", *Caribbean Beat*, Issue 123, Sept - Oct 2013. Web & Print.
- "The Museum and the World: A Review of the 2013 CIMAM Annual Conference", *National Gallery of Jamaica Blog*, National Gallery of Jamaica, 8 August 2013. Web.
- "New Roots: Some Thoughts on the Artist as Author", *National Gallery of Jamaica Blog*, National Gallery of Jamaica, 8 August 2013. Web.
- "Melancholic Soup of Signs: The works of Gerard Ellis Ruiz", *ARC magazine*, Issue 7. June - August 2013. Print.
- "Intimate Encounters: Marlon James' portraits", *Intimate Encounters*. Kingston, Jamaica: NLS, March 2013. Print.
- "Conversations in the Gallery (or a few curatorial notes)", *National Gallery of Jamaica Blog*, National Gallery of Jamaica, 18 Jan 2013. Web.
- "Lawrence's Son of a Champion and the Guilty Male Body", *ARC Magazine*, ARC Inc, 20 Sept 2012. Web.

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS

- Tilting Axis Curatorial Fellowship (August 2016 - August 2017). The fellowship offers support for critical development of curatorial practice, and a practical base in partner institutions with visits to Scotland and throughout the Caribbean.
- The Harbor Residency at Beta-Local in San Juan, Puerto Rico (September to October 2016).
- A Pendaflex for the Future Curatorial Research Residency at the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter in Oslo, Norway (September 2015). Residents are selected based on nominations by an international panel of curators and museum professionals.
- International Committee of ICOM for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM) Travel Grant, funded by Coleccion Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (August 2013). Grant to attend CIMAM's 2013 Annual Conference, "New Dynamics in Museums: Curator, Artwork, Public & Governance" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- Kenyon Institute Tuition Scholarship (June 2013). “The Art of Writing about Art” workshop at the Gund Gallery, Kenyon Institute, Ohio USA.
- Kofi Anan Scholarship, Macalester College (September 2003 - May 2007).

CONFERENCES

- Museums Association of the Caribbean Annual Conference: Beyond Boundaries: Transcending Geographies, Disciplines, and Identities, October 2017, Miami, USA.
- Tilting Axis 3: Curating the Caribbean, May 2017, National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands. (presenter)
- Museums Association of the Caribbean Annual Conference: The Essential Museum – Redefining the role of the cultural and heritage sector for 21st century audiences, October 2016, National Gallery of the Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands. (presenter)
- Tilting Axis 2: Caribbean Strategies, February 2016, Perez Art Museum Miami, USA.
- International Committee of ICOM for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM) 2013 Annual Conference: New Dynamics in Museums- Curator, Artwork, Public & Governance, August 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Southern African Studies Conference, February 2011, School of English, University of Leeds, UK. (organiser and presenter)
- Caribbean Studies Association XXXIV Annual Conference: Centering the Caribbean in Caribbean Studies, June 2009, Kingston, Jamaica. (presenter)

EDUCATION & OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

- Reader (March to May 2018), Creative Capital Foundation (15 Maiden Lane, 18th floor, New York, NY 10038, USA)
- Residency Application Evaluator (Feb to March 2018), New Local Space (190 Mountain View Ave, Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.)
- Art Writers Grant Programme Evaluator (June to July 2016), Creative Capital & Warhol Foundation (15 Maiden Lane, 18th floor, New York, NY 10038, USA)
- External Examiner (May 2013 to Dec 2015), Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (1 Arthur Wint Drive, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.)
- Outreach Coordinator & Host of *IN* talk show (Dec 2013 to Aug 2014), New Local Space (190 Mountain View Ave, Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.)
- External Examiner (May 2013 to October 2015), University of the West Indies, St Augustine (Trinidad and Tobago)