

Heritage and the Memory of Slavery *How to exhibit collections related to this history?*

25 November 2024 / 6 pm – 8.30 pm (CEST)

Jacqueline Lichtenstein Auditorium at the Institut National du Patrimoine and
on digital platform

About the evening

Finally, it is only relatively recently in the history of museums that the issue of slavery as a subject and as a representation has been taken into account. Today, alongside contemporary society's strong desire to tackle the issue head on, our institutions have gradually committed to embracing this subject and to promoting the heritage associated with it. Museums of history and society are no longer the only ones to offer their visitors dedicated tours, permanent galleries, temporary exhibitions, mediation and cultural programming. Fine art museums and contemporary art venues, whose collections or the sites that house them are linked to the history of slavery, are also taking up the subject.

How do different types of museums, with different scientific and cultural projects, approaches and resources, respond to the issues raised by the exhibition of collections linked to the history of slavery?

There are many issues at stake: re-reading the collections, calling on outside expertise to give an accurate and nuanced account of the history of slavery, expanding the debate to all forms of slavery, from antiquity to the contemporary period and on all continents, creating space for dialogue with militant associations and for co-constructing discourse, considering the role of artists in this complex dialogue. How are museums tackling these issues today, and what proposals are they putting forward? How can they contribute, with the means at their disposal, to creating new narratives that avoid clichés?

As the French Ministry of Culture is working on the promotion of 'contested heritage'; as the issue of the 'decolonisation' of museums, collections and the way our institutions operate is at the heart of the discussions being held by the professional community in France and abroad, particularly within ICOM; as the issue of human rights is increasingly present in our professional exchanges, this evening is an opportunity for professionals to share their experiences and thoughts on this fundamental issue, which today concerns a wide range of museum types.

Émilie Girard, Chair, October 2024

Programme

Official openings

Charles Personnaz, Director of the Institut national du patrimoine

Émilie Girard, Chair, ICOM France

Speakers

- **Klara Boyer-Rossol**, Historian, researcher and curator of the exhibition 'Visages d'ancêtres' - Musée du Château Royal de Blois, Musée de l'Esclavage Intercontinental de Port-Louis (Mauritius)
- **M'hamed Oualdi**, Professor of 19th and 20th century European and North African History at the European University Institute (Italy)
- **Hanna Pennock**, Co-chair of the ICOM Working Group on Decolonisation
- **Aly Ndiaye**, alias **Webster**, Hip-hop artist and independent historian, curator of the exhibition 'Fugitifs!'
- Conclusion by **Coralie de Souza Vernay**, Head of Heritage & Research at the Fondation pour la Mémoire de l'esclavage et **Dominique Taffin**, Mission Head at the French Ministry of Culture and former Director of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de l'esclavage.

Nathalie Bondil, Director of the Museum and Exhibitions at the Institut du Monde Arabe, will moderate the evening.

Practical details

Jacqueline Lichtenstein Auditorium of the Institut national du patrimoine:

2 rue Vivienne – 75002 Paris

Public welcome from 5.40 pm

On line (zoom):

Subject: SDD du 25 novembre

Time: 25 nov. 2024 06:00 PM Paris

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82969853690?pwd=A2dEom2b0PuKuhOj8tMLOcuNuzXfSp.1>

Meeting ID: 829 6985 3690

Secret Code: 360457

This event will be simultaneously translated into English, Spanish and French
with the support of the Ministry of Culture