Visualising the ‘Other’

#picbod @picbod
In this session we will

• What we mean by the term the ‘other’
• Look at the relationship between early photography and colonialism
• Consider the problems with early representation’s of ‘other’ cultures
• Look at how contemporary practitioners are reclaiming their own identity through their representations
• Task for next week
• Further reading
The ‘Other’
Inside or out, one remains confronted with the ethical and political issues posed by Sontag and Rosler, where it is a question of the representation of the other, where the analysis depends on notions of voyeurism and objectification, tourism or imperialism.

Key theorists who contributed to the colonial theories

Johann Friedman Blumenbach (1752-1840)
Key theorists who contributed to the colonial theories

Johann Friedman Blumenbach (1752-1840)
Samuel Morton (1849)
Photography became a tool to support Colonialism
KELIWA, a Woman of the Ta-keda Tribe, Andaman Islands approx. 1905 – photographed for the purpose of documenting both race and biological research.
Comparative photograph for the turn of the century
Hottentot Venus (Sara Bartman) Most famous example of African sexuality in the 19th century. Simultaneously aroused fear and desire.

Photography as an Orientalism
A mode for defining the presumed cultural inferiority of the Islamic Orient... part of the vast control mechanism of colonialism, designed to justify and perpetuate European dominance

Said (1978) *Orientalism*
“The fertiliser of colonial vision”
The Occidental/The Oriental
Paul Gaugin 1899

Two Tahitian women
Paul Gaugin 1899
Two Tahitian women

1920’s travel poster for Ocean Steamship company
Paul Gaugin 1899
*Two Tahitian women*

1920’s travel poster for Ocean Steamship company

2011
Contemporary advertising image for Tahiti
Recreating Orientalism?
The vanishing race (1903/4) Edward Curtis
**Worlds in a small room (1960s/70s)** Irving Penn
Al Jolson 1886-1950
Al Jolson 1886-1950
How do contemporary practitioners reclaim their identity?
SYRCAS (1993) Maud Sulter
Mother (2009)
Michael Cook
Mother (2009)
Michael Cook
Yinka Shonibare *Nelson’s Bottle* 2010-12
Kara Walker – Sugar Baby (2014)

• http://creativetime.org/projects/karawalker/
Who do we think is the ‘Other’ today?
Dzhangal 2017
Gideon Mendel
Dzhangal 2017
Gideon Mendel

Installed at Autograph ABP Jan 6 – Feb 11 2017
Recap – We have looked at

- What we understand to be the ‘Other’
- Looked at the relationship between early photography and anthropology
- Photography as a tool for orientalism
- Selling the myth
- Historical representations
- Contemporary artists reclaiming their identity
- We will now look at this weeks task
- We now have a cultural awareness task – followed by group feedback
Task

A dialogue with a stranger

You are asked to record a dialogue with a stranger. This task needs to be practice based but can be any lens based media or an audio piece. It needs to represent and/or respond to the dialogue with the stranger.

Experimentation is encouraged. What medium are you going to use? Colour, Black and White? What format are you going to use? What presentation may support the portrait? Do you need to make more than one image? How did you negotiate the story with the participant?
Masterclass (reminder)

*Embodying the Other*

Dr. Nicola Conibare and Caroline Molloy

10-4 Rm 221

A collaborative workshop between BA Photography and BA Dance. That will look at the marginalised body through performance and image making.

**Bring a digital camera and laptops**

There will be a lecture, a fasciliation task and a self-directed workshop. You will need to document your experiments and put them on the google+ page and share your learning with the cohort in the next session.
Cultural Awareness Task

• There are series of images dotted around your seminar rooms. Working in small groups (about 5) and **without using your computers**, try and work out the following:

• 1 What is being documented?

• 2 What ethical issues could arise from this body of work?

• 3 What problems could you encounter undertaking this assignment?

• We will reconvene as a seminar group after 15-20 minutes to discuss and comment on your findings.
Further Reading & References

- Franz, F. (1951) *Black skin, white masks*. Editions de Seuil

Catalogues

- *Art and Empire* (2015) Tate