

UN-BECOMING: DEBORAH ROBERTS ON BLACK GIRLHOOD

Presented by Kéla B. Jackson

In 2017, a groundbreaking study published by the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality concluded that widespread opinion believed Black girls, overall, to need less nurturing, less protection, less support, and less comfort.[1] The precarity of Black girls' citizenship and childhood brings forth the critical nexus between race, vision and power which emphasizes the study of Black girls' visibility as a way into the civic implications of racialized looking and seeing. This lecture specifically engages artist Deborah Roberts' 2018 collage, *Political Lambs in a Wolf's World*, as a case study through which we can consider: How can we think through rupture—specifically in collaged works—as generative theoretical model through which we come to visualize Black girls and by extension the social category of Black girlhood?

[1] Rebecca Epstein, Black, Jamilia J., González, Thalia. *Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Girlhood*. Georgetown: Center on Poverty and Inequality at Georgetown Law. 2017.

Kéla Jackson is a PhD candidate in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Her research explores notions of self-hood and citizenship through examinations of the visual and material culture surrounding Black girls and Black girlhood during and following the United States' Civil Rights Movement. She earned her BA in Art with a concentration in Art History and a minor in African Diaspora Studies from Spelman College.



Monday, February 21

5:00 pm

**To
register,
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Questions?

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