



Considering Subjectivity | Meleko Mokgosi

Collaborative Document

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7-8:30 PM ET

Your facilitator : mark

Zoom Group / Open Access



Image: *Democratic Intuition*, Lerato: Agape / 96 × 78 inches, oil on canvas, 2016 (detail)

👏 Thank you for attending *Considering Subjectivity*. We are so grateful for your participation and welcome you to our online community. This document is a community document to be shared with all who attended our interactive conversation. Think of it as a place where you are invited to add any additional resources, thoughts. Or perhaps, this is a space to find additional tour content and contact/social information? It's really up to you - you have editorial control. Cool right?

Collaborative thoughts and shared material. Let's go!

We are excited to see what you share.

Jack Shainman Gallery:

https://jackshainman.com/artists/meleko_mokgosi

Artist's website:

<https://www.melekomokgosi.com/>

Word cloud:

subjection gravity surveillance
shoeless gaze tufted
archive justice confront secure empowered
solemnity surrounded portrait grounded
bust protective territory resistance
strength environment defiance power
lineage marking stance formal
family pose outside pride sightline
ancestors regal sturdy reverence solidity
network parlor figure rigid guard genealogy
periphery square grace patriarchy
floating earth forgotten subjectivity

About the artist:

Meleko Mokgosi (born in Francistown, Botswana; lives and works in Wellesley, MA) is an artist, Associate Professor and co-director of graduate studies at the Yale School of Art, and the co-director of the [Interdisciplinary Art and Theory Program](#).

Mokgosi's large-scale, figurative, and often text-based works engage history painting and cinematic tropes to uncover notions of colonialism, democracy, and liberation across African history. His most recent body of work, *Spaces of Subjection*, examines subjection and subjectivity as they pertain to perspectives on African, African American, and Black life. Using Foucault's theory of "subjection" where social, political and historical networks produce subjecthood and subject formation, the focus is not on the subject's agency but on systems of power. Mokgosi's series explores how systems of power and political forces affect how people live their daily lives. For example, the oppressive didactic and educational structures that contribute to how racial, gender, and other differences between identities learned from childhood. *Spaces of Subjection* was part of a solo exhibition "Currents 122" at the St. Louis Art Museum in 2022 as well as a solo exhibition "Imaging Imaginations" at Art Gallery of York University in 2023.

Mokgosi received his BA from Williams College in 2007 and participated in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study program that same year. He then received his MFA from the Interdisciplinary Studio

Program at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2011, and was an Artist in Residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem from 2011-2012.

His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, recently at Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, Sweden and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston both in 2015; other venues include the Botswana National Gallery, Gaborone, Botswana; The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art Museum, Peekskill, NY; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture Center, Los Angeles, CA; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; and the Lyon Museum of Contemporary Art, France. His work is included in public collections such as the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; the Alford Collection of Contemporary Art for Rollins College, Winter Park, FL; and the Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, ME. In Spring 2017, Mokgosi had solo exhibitions at the Williams College Museum of Art, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, and the University of Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery.

His most recent solo exhibition at Jack Shainman Gallery is *Democratic Intuition* at The School, and *Pan-African Pulp* (2019), which was held at both the 20th and 24th Street locations. Other recent solo exhibitions with the gallery include *Democratic Intuition: Lerato* at 20th Street and *Democratic Intuition: Comrades II* at 24th Street (both in 2016). From Jack Shainman Gallery https://jackshainman.com/artists/meleko_mokgosi

Some URLs to explore:

Recent group exhibition: *Stressed World* at The School (Jack Shainman Gallery)

<https://jackshainman.com/exhibitions/stressed-world-2022>

Solo exhibition: *Democratic Intuition* at The School (Jack Shainman Gallery)

https://jackshainman.com/exhibitions/democratic_intuition

Democratic Intuition Press Release

https://jackshainman.com/uploads/3500035/1582820034412/Meleko_Mokgosi_The_School_Press_Release_final.pdf

Solo exhibition: Meleko Mokgosi: Your Trip to Africa

<https://www.pamm.org/en/exhibition/meleko-mokgosi-your-trip-to-africa/>

Solo exhibitions: *Pan African Pulp* and *The social revolution of our time cannot take its poetry from the past but only from the poetry of the future* at Jack Shainman Gallery

https://jackshainman.com/exhibitions/meleko_mokgosi_panafrican_pulp

Meleko Mokgosi Challenges Tropes of Mastery

<https://www.frieze.com/article/meleko-mokgosi-imaging-imaginations-2023-review>

Meleko Mokgosi by Zoé Samudzi

<https://bombmagazine.org/articles/meleko-mokgosi/>

Your Trip to Africa - Contemporary And

<https://contemporaryand.com/magazines/meleko-mokgosi-your-trip-to-africa/>

Meleko Mokgosi Wants You to See the Politics of Everyday Life

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/23/arts/design/meleko-mokgosi-shainman.html>

Meleko Mokgosi's Democratic Intuition - Ocula

<https://ocula.com/magazine/conversations/meleko-mokgosi/>

Review: The art of daily existence: Meleko Mokgosi's provocative show at the UCLA Fowler Museum

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-mokgosi-fowler-20180507-htmllstory.html>

The Ideal Between Intuition and Institution: Meleko Mokgosi's Bread, Butter and Power at the Smart Museum of Art

<https://art.newcity.com/2019/10/22/the-ideal-between-intuition-and-institution-meleko-mokgosis-bread-butter-and-power-at-the-smart-museum-of-art/>

Artist Meleko Mokgosi's Latest Paintings Capture Marvelous Moments

<https://www.harpersbazaararabia.com/culture/art/artist-meleko-mokgosis-latest-paintings-capture-marvellous-moments>

Paintings that Question the Promises of Postcolonial Democracy

<https://hyperallergic.com/429226/meleko-mokgosi-fowler-museum-democratic-intuition-bread-butter-and-power/>

Andrea Gyorody on Meleko Mokgosi

<https://www.artforum.com/print/reviews/201806/meleko-mokgosi-75586>

Pan-African Pulp: A commission by Meleko Mokgosi

<https://umma.umich.edu/node/5046>

Solo exhibition: Bread, Butter, and Power

<https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/meleko-mokgosi-bread-butter-and-power/>

Meleko Mokgosi: Pax Kaffraria

<https://mag.rochester.edu/exhibitions/meleko-mokgosi/>

Meleko Mokgosi | Issac Julien | Video Interview

<https://gagosian.com/quarterly/2021/02/08/video-interview-artist-artist-isaac-julien-and-meleko-mokgosi/>

Meleko Mokgosi and Louise Neri in Conversation

<https://gagosian.com/quarterly/2021/01/06/video-democratic-intuition/>

An interrogation of post-colonial history - Mail & Guardian

<https://mg.co.za/article/2014-06-26-an-interrogation-of-post-colonial-history/>

Recommended books:

Considering.Live™

Meleko Mokgosi: Bread, Butter, and Power

Erica P Jones (Author)

<https://bookshop.org/a/15158/9780990762676>

Democratic Intuition

Jessica Bell Brown, Seph Rodney, Antwaun Sargent, Debora Silverman (Contributors)

<https://gagosianshop.com/products/meleko-mokgosi-democratic-intuition-book>

Expressionism in Art and Film

Text by Kristina Jaspers and Marek Zydowicz, Lisa Felicitas Mattheis and Wolf Eirmann (Foreword)

<https://bookshop.org/a/15158/9788836650361>

Shared resources (please feel free to add/edit) :

Anne:

Africanis (animal)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africanis>

Chesterfield Queen Anne chair

<https://www.chesterfieldleathersofas.com/queen-anne-chesterfield-chairs>

The portrait is painted by Catharina van Hemessen (16th century):

<https://www.tuttartpitturasculturapoesiamusica.com/2021/02/Catharina-van-Hemessen.html>

Dorothea von Lothringen, a German duchess:

https://www.kleio.org/de/geschichte/stammtafeln/vip/dorothea_lothringen/

Streisand Effect

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streisand_effect

Barbara:

"We're here, we're queer, get used to it"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_slogans

Jahannah:

Anti-monarchy protesters shout 'not my King'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-65511791>

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther:_Wakanda_Forever

Black Panther (film)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_(film))

History of mortarboards

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/05/28/what-origin-commencement-mortarboards/bVmqSzUMWTatlm0RqEI5xJ/story.html>

Jess:

Portraits of a dynasty: North Korea's ever-present Kims

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-kim-portraits/portraits-of-a-dynasty-north-koreas-ever-present-kims-idUSKCN1M42QJ>

Lessie:

Body language

<https://fremont.edu/how-to-read-body-language-revealing-the-secrets-behind-common-nonverbal-cues/>

Michael:

Doberman (dog breed)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dobermann>

Cougar (animal)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>

Sonya:

Why people never smiled in old photographs

<https://www.vox.com/2015/4/8/8365997/smile-old-photographs>

The Earliest Known Photos of People Smiling

<https://petapixel.com/2015/04/15/the-earliest-known-photos-of-people-smiling/>

Why is America obsessed with perfect teeth?

<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/why-america-obsessed-perfect-teeth>

Mark:

The Subject and Power- Michel Foucault

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/448181>

Subjectification in Foucault

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3685230>

On the Concept of History - Walter Benjamin

<https://www.sfu.ca/~andrewf/CONCEPT2.html>

Louis Althusser on Interpellation, and the Ideological State Apparatus

<https://notevenpast.org/louis-althusser-on-interpellation-and-the-ideological-state-apparatus/>

Unicorn in the royal coat of arms (UK)

<https://www.rct.uk/resources/pdf-pack-unicorns>

Why does democracy need education?

https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/shleifer/files/democracy_final_jeg.pdf

Judith Butler 'speech acts;

<https://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/english/theory/genderandsex/modules/butlerperformativity.html>

Performative Acts and Gender Constitution - Judith Butler

https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/1650/butler_performative_acts.pdf

Museums Are Not Neutral: A Discussion on Why There is No Museum Neutrality in Museum Education

<https://medium.com/@steward.lindsey/museums-are-not-neutral-a-discussion-on-why-there-is-no-museum-neutrality-in-museum-education-526e8de21f77>

Additional Learning Resources

[Incomplete BLM Reading List](#) | [Curated Bookshelf](#) | [Collaborative Docs](#)

Get Social - we love hearing from you

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Homepage](#)

Have a question?

Amazing, you can always reach us via info@considering.art

or why not send us a DM [@considering.art](#) - you can text us too send ART to + 1 888 987 0031 (US only).

Network access rates may apply).

Your voice. Your idea.

You make this.