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## Bennington College's Visual Arts Lecture Series

### Explores Movements, Migrations, Diasporas

**Bennington, VT:** Bennington College's Spring 2018 [Visual Arts Lecture Series \(VALS\)](#)

centers on the theme "Ways of Seeing: Movements, Migrations, Diasporas" with lectures from **Daphne Brooks, Tschabalala Self, Byron Kim, Margarita Cabrera, and Odili Donald Odita** MFA '90. All lectures will take place at 7 PM in Tishman Lecture Hall on the College's campus.

Each term, VALS offers lectures by visiting arts professionals: artists, curators, historians and critics, selected to showcase the diversity of contemporary art practices. VALS features artists who have remained pioneering and original for decades , as well as younger makers who are newly gathering international attention.

The Spring 2018 VALS began on March 6 with alum **Maren Hassinger '69**, whose show [The Spirit of Things](#) is running through May 26 at Art + Practice in Los Angeles.

On March 20, **Daphne Brooks** examined the politics of queer archival studies and black performance theory in order to trace a counter-history of blues record collecting and its listening publics. Brooks is a professor of African American Studies and Theater Studies at Yale whose current project is *Subterranean Blues: Black Women Sound Modernity*.

"The theme of VALS 2017/18 is offered as a point of departure for artists and scholars whose work is deeply invested in questions of representation, race, and gender," Visual Arts faculty member **Vanessa Lyon**, Professor of Arts History and convener of the series, said. "It is a framework for conversations with people who acknowledge and grapple with political, and often, cross-cultural and historical, movements and migrations, forced and otherwise."

Bennington's student-driven and inquiry-based programs and acclaimed Visual Arts Faculty provide a particularly dynamic liberal arts college community with which to explore the lived realities that fuel so much of today's contemporary art.

On **Tuesday, April 3, Tschabalala Self**, who has recently appeared in *The New York Times*, *W*, and *Art in America*, will discuss the role of intersectional race, gender, and sexuality in her multi-media works, which range from machine-stitched textiles and acrylic collage to drawing and animation.

A painter whose work occupies a position both between and among abstraction and figuration, **Byron Kim** will speak on **Tuesday, April 17** as the 2018 Adams-Tillim Lecturer, an honor

established in 1993 by alum David Beitzel '83 to honor two former Visual Arts faculty members: Pat Adams and Sidney Tillim. Kim comes to Bennington following two spring 2018 solo shows at [James Cohan Gallery](#), featuring his *Sunday* paintings and *Stain* paintings, respectively.

On **Tuesday, May 1, Margarita Cabrera** will discuss her socio-political multi-media art, which combines studio practice and social activism, which “venerates the lives of Mexican immigrants, paying careful attention to the contributions of the women who make consumer goods that are sold in the United States.”

**Odili Donald Odita** MFA '90 concludes the spring series on **Tuesday, May 15**. Earlier this year (along with fellow VALS speakers Ellen Gallagher and Margarita Cabrera), his signature geometric murals and site-specific flags appeared in New Orleans' citywide art triennial, *Prospect4*.

### About the Lecturers

**Maren Hassinger '69** is the Director of Rinehart School of Graduate Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. As a sculptor, Hassinger creates “installations, videos, performances and public artworks that deal with equality and our changing relationship to nature.” Hassinger’s work was featured in the Brooklyn Museum’s recent blockbuster: *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-1985*. After graduating from Bennington, Hassinger went on to receive an MFA from UCLA.

**Daphne Brooks** is professor of African American Studies and Theater Studies at Yale. Daphne Brooks writes about race, gender, performance and popular music culture. Author of two books and numerous articles, her current project is *Subterranean Blues: Black Women Sound Modernity* (Harvard University Press, forthcoming). Brooks, who taught at Princeton before joining the faculty at Yale, received her PhD in English from UCLA.

26-year-old **Tschabalala Self** has recently appeared in the pages of *The New York Times*, *W*, and *Art in America*. Self’s multi-media works range from machine-stitched textiles and acrylic collage to, more recently, drawing and animation. She describes her current work as “primarily devoted to examining the intersectionality of race, gender and sexuality.” Self received a BA from Bard College and an MFA in painting from Yale.

**Byron Kim** is Bennington College’s 2018 Adams-Tillim Lecturer. A senior critic at Yale, Byron Kim is perhaps best known for *Synecdoche*, his ongoing work, begun in 1991, and since on display in the National Gallery in Washington DC. Kim’s most recent work, a series of hauntingly

mimetic, large-scale “bruise paintings” described by *Art in America*’s William Smith as “a strange form of realism,” can also be readily viewed as a return to his longstanding exploration of the tensions between modernist abstraction and identity politics. Kim received a BA from Yale University and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

**Margarita Cabrera**’s socio-political multi-media art combines studio practice and social activism, often as a means of “venerating the lives of Mexican immigrants, paying careful attention to the contributions of the women who make consumer goods that are sold in the United States.” Cabrera, who grew up in Mexico City, creates soft-scale fabric sculptures, sometimes made from recycled Border Patrol Uniforms, as well as grid-based printed textiles. Cabrera attended the Maryland Institute College of Art and received a BFA and MFA from Hunter College. She is currently assistant professor of art at Arizona State University.

**Odili Donald Odita MFA ’90** is a Nigerian-born, Philadelphia-based artist who has been described as “an abstract painter whose work explores color both in the figurative historical context and in the sociopolitical sense.” Odita has received commissions for large-scale murals by Duke University’s Nasher Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, among others. Odita is currently associate professor of painting at Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. Earlier this year (along with fellow VALS speakers, Ellen Gallagher, and Margarita Cabrera), his work appeared in New Orleans’ citywide art triennial, *Prospect4*.

### **VALS Spring 2018**

*Dates and times are subject to change. Please check [www.bennington.edu/events](http://www.bennington.edu/events) for the most up-to-date information. These events are free, open to the public, and take place on [Bennington College's campus](#).*

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Tues. April 3 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Tschabalala Self**

Tishman Lecture Hall

26-year-old Tschabalala Self recently appeared in *The New York Times*, *W*, and *Art in America*. Her multimedia works range from machine-stitched textiles and acrylic collage to drawing and animation.

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**Byron Kim**

Adams-Tillim Lecturer

Tishman Lecture Hall

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**Margarita Cabrera**

Tishman Lecture Hall

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Tues. May 15 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

**Odili Donald Odita MFA '90**

Tishman Lecture Hall

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**BENNINGTON COLLEGE**

Located in picturesque Southwestern Vermont, Bennington College holds a distinguished place among American colleges and universities. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education. It is the only college to require that its students spend a term—every year—at work in the world.

Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at [bennington.edu](http://bennington.edu).