

OTRAS
MONTAÑAS,
LAS QUE ANDAN SUELTAS
BAJO EL AGUA

THE
CURRENT
CARIBBEAN IV

OTHER MOUNTAINS
ADRIFT BENEATH THE WAVES

...TELLING
OF OCEANIC
TRANSFORMATIONS

WORKSHOPS

CONVERSATIONS

FILM SCREENINGS

FOOD

FESTIVAL

CONVENING #2

JAN.10 — 11 2025

ALLIGATOR HEAD FOUNDATION
PORT ANTONIO, PORTLAND, JAMAICA

T ~ Thyssen-Bornemisza
B ~ Art Contemporary
A ~ Academy



...PARA CONTAR TRANSFORMACIONES OCEÁNICAS

TBA21–Academy and Alligator Head
Foundation present

The Current IV Caribbean

Convening #2:

...telling of oceanic transformations.

A two-day transdisciplinary festival
inspired by the continuous
movement of the tides and the
Earth's crust and reflecting on
improvisation~freestyle as a
practice related to the experience
of Marronage that invites us to
challenge a land-based
understanding of the Caribbean
from an oceanic perspective.

Convening #2:

...telling of oceanic transformations.

is curated by Yina Jiménez Suriel.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
Blue and John Crow Mountains

*CLOSED RESEARCH GROUP

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
**HIKING TRIP TO THE BLUE
AND JOHN CROW MOUNTAINS**

MONIQUE JOHNSON, O'NEIL LAWRENCE,
MAURICE LEE, ALEX MOORE-MINOTT,
INA VANDEBROEK, AND JASON WEST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
Alligator Head Foundation,
Port Antonio, Portland

ALL THE ACTIVITIES ARE FREE OF CHARGE
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
MOTION WORKSHOP

YEWANDE YOYO ODUNUBI

11:00 AM – 11:35 AM
FILM SCREENING

NADIA HUGGINS AND
TEMITOPE AJOSE-CUTTING & QUINN LATIMER

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM
CULINARY WORKSHOP

LISA AND CHRIS BINNS,
STUSH IN THE BUSH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
LUNCH BREAK

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BUY BITES, LUNCH,
AND REFRESHMENTS AT OUR PICNIC AREA.
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR REUSABLE
WATER BOTTLE!

2:00 PM – 2:20 PM
WELCOME REMARKS

FRANCESCA THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA,
MARKUS REYMANN, AND NICKIE MYERS

2:30 PM – 3:20 PM
ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION

MONIQUE JOHNSON AND TESSA MARS,
MODERATED BY YINA JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

3:25 PM – 4:00 PM
FILM SCREENING

NADIA HUGGINS AND TEMITOPE
AJOSE-CUTTING & QUINN LATIMER

4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION

ONEIKA RUSSELL AND O'NEIL LAWRENCE,
MODERATED BY YINA JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
READING AND LISTENING SESSION

NOHORA ARRIETA FERNÁNDEZ AND ANNIE PAUL

6:40 pm – 7:00 pm
PERFORMANCE

YEWANDE YOYO ODUNUBI

Telling of oceanic transformations is a rehearsal, a constant rehearsal. To tell oceanic transformations is to attempt to narrate—or rather to try to compose a narrative—with variables the existence of which we can barely elucidate. With that proposition in mind, past and upcoming Convening festivals of *The Current IV: Caribbean* have been conceived as moments of rehearsal, practicing while sharing and developing the research processes initiated during *The Current IV Caribbean: otras montañas, las que andan sueltas bajo el agua* [other mountains, adrift beneath the waves].

One of its main tasks has been to contribute to building and disseminating an oceanic perspective of the Caribbean, challenging the solely terrestrial perspective that prevails today and that conceives the region only from what is visible above the sea level. Convening #2 is designed with the objective of fostering discussions on the evolution of the Ocean and its implications in what is today the island of Jamaica, which appeared in the part of the planet skin that we call the Caribbean Tectonic Plate more than fifty million years ago. The festival begins in the Jamaican geological system of the Blue Mountains with a hike through the Cunha Cunha Pass Trail, one of the most important Maroon trails on the island. This passage bears witness to both the geological transformations that contribute to an oceanic perspective of the region and some of the emancipatory processes of the human species that have made these mountains their home.

We will reflect on the Maroon experience as a process taking place in the mountains above sea level, but always searching to approach the other mountains, those adrift beneath the waves. By studying and rehearsing the aesthetic tools and strategies¹ of Marronage such as improvisation ~ freestyle for their potential to strengthen our relationship with the Ocean, we aim to contribute to navigating contemporary emancipatory processes in the Caribbean and the planet.

YINA JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

¹ Jimenez Suriel has been developing the idea of aesthetics tools and strategies through the research project *la historia de las montañas*, and refers to different forms of sensorial knowledge generated by human beings in relation to other forms of life which allow us to become attuned to our desire and thus access what the psychoanalyst Suely Rolnik calls our vital force. There is a distinction to be made between aesthetic strategies and tools, with the former being intangible technologies that enable tools to operate as such.

ACTIVITIES

HIKING TRIP TO THE BLUE AND JOHN CROW MOUNTAINS

January 10, 2025 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

*Closed research group

STORIES TOLD BY THE CUNHA CUNHA PASS TRAIL

MONIQUE JOHNSON, O'NEIL LAWRENCE, MAURICE LEE, ALEX MOORE-MINOTT, INA VANDEBROEK, AND JASON WEST

The Cunha Cunha Pass Trail is a path of great historical and cultural significance in Jamaica. It was first traced in the 1600s by enslaved Africans who escaped from the plantations to regain their freedom and has evolved to become an important trade, transport, and escape route for the Maroons. Guided by artists, scientists, and representatives of the Maroon communities, the participants will walk along the trail, imagining how the island might look from an oceanic perspective, both in the present and in deep geological times. They will look at various life forms in the area, their transformations, and the lingering human presence in this path across history.

MOTION WORKSHOP

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

LISTENING WITH OUR BODIES: A MOVEMENT WORKSHOP ON LAND AND SEA

YEWANDE YOYO ODUNUBI

This two hours workshop aims to explore the Maroon's improvisation and freestyle strategy as a language for attuning to the liveness of the moment, to help disrupt our understanding of being fixed, allowing us to tap into the body's capacity to imagine and create new &/or enliven practices. UK artist Yewande YoYo Odunubi will lead the participants on a bodily experience both on water and land on the premises of Turtle Bay. The workshop will combine movement, writing, drawing, vocal, breathing and listening exercises working individually, in pairs, and as a collective group. This activity is recommended for people interested in dance, body movement, improvisation, fishing, swimming, and other forms of experiencing watery worlds.

FILM SCREENING

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025,

11:00 am – 11:35 am (Morning Pass)

3:25 pm – 4:00 pm (Afternoon Pass)

LET'S SWIM UNTIL WE BECOME CORALS

TEMITOPE AJOSE-CUTTING AND QUINN LATIMER

HOW TO MOVE LIKE THE OCEAN

(LIQUEFACTION, LUBRICATION

& EXPANSION IN TWELVE

EASY STEPS), 2020

HD video, color, sound, 11 minutes 56 seconds

Commissioned by TBA21–Academy with the support of Institut Kunst HGK FHNW in

“Basel”

What is a body, and what is a body of water? In this film the dancer and choreographer Temitope Ajose-Cutting passes through the rooms of her London apartment and then out into the seemingly emptied world, moving to (and against) spectral instructions that offer her the chance to become liquid, become ocean, become, that is, everything. Those instructions, written and read by the writer Quinn Latimer, offer some salty pedagogical drift, equal parts lesson and poetry, political current and personal query, as they sequence loss, levity, desire, kinship, kelp beds, and some tantalizing blue drink.

The film was commissioned as part of the third and final voyage of

TBA21–Academy's *The Current II*

fellowship cycle *Spheric Ocean:*

Life For Beginners led by Chus Martínez.

NADIA HUGGINS

CIRCA NO FUTURE, 2014 – 2019

Single-channel video, color, sound, 3 minutes

Believing there to be a link between an under-explored aspect of Caribbean adolescent masculinity and the freedom of bodies in the ocean, Huggins set out to document boys' interaction with the sea. Created since 2014, these photographs capture manhood, snippets of vulnerability, and moments of abstraction, that often go unrecognized in the day-to-day. The Ocean itself takes on a personality – that of the embracing mother providing a safe space for being – which is both archetypal and poignant. The boys climb a large rock, proving their manhood through endurance, fearlessly jump, and become submerged in a moment of innocent unawareness. They emerge having proven themselves.

NADIA HUGGINS

CORAL AND ASH, 2015 – 2022

Single-channel video, color, sound, 16 mins 44 seconds

An exploration of the underwater environment before, during and after the April 2021 volcanic eruption on the mainland of Saint Vincent. The videos are a series of musings on geological and environmental transformations –particularly the formation of sand through volcanic deposits (black sand) and eroded bits of coral (white sand). My work attempts to create an archive of the relationships between the geological and ecological in the Caribbean.

CULINARY WORKSHOP

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025, 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

AN ANCESTRAL CULINARY FOUNDATION

LISA AND CHRIS BINNS,
STUSH IN THE BUSH

Culinary session designed by chefs Lisa and Chris Binns (STUSH in the BUSH) infused by the experience of the Cunha Cunha Pass Trail. Participants will be able to taste a variety of ingredients and small dishes inspired by the biodiversity of the Blue and John Crow Mountains and the legacy of the Maroon communities in the area.

ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025 2:30 pm – 3:20 pm

MONIQUE JOHNSON AND TESSA MARS,
MODERATED BY YINA JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

This conversation brings together perspectives from geodialectics, storytelling, and visual arts to reflect on Marronage as an experience that started in the mountains above sea level, but aimed at getting closer to those other mountains, adrift beneath the waves. What can the evolution of the mountains on the Caribbean tectonic plate tell us about the Ocean? What tools do we have to cultivate our relationship with the Ocean and its mountains?

ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025, 4:10 pm – 5:00 pm

ONEIKA RUSSELL AND O'NEIL
LAWRENCE, MODERATED BY YINA
JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

This conversation brings together two figures from the Jamaican art scene on the occasion of the 2024 Kingston Biennial: O'Neil Lawrence, Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Jamaica, and visual artist Oneika Russell. They will discuss Russell's commissioned work for the Biennial, which explores the relationship between tourism and the Ocean in the Jamaican context. Titled *Green X Gold* the Biennial will open on December 15, 2024.

READING AND LISTENING SESSION

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

ON STORYTELLING CONSTANT FUGUE

NOHORA ARRIETA FERNÁNDEZ
AND ANNIE PAUL

As the sun sets, writers Annie Paul and Nohora Arrieta Fernández will guide the audience on a journey through music and writing around the experience of Marronage and the creation of subjectivity and imaginaries, rooted in Caribbean literature, its diasporas, and beyond.

PERFORMANCE

Alligator Head Foundation

January 11, 2025, 6:40 pm – 7:00 pm

WHAT I HIDE BY MY LANGUAGE MY BODY UTTERS, 2022

YEWANDE YOYO ODUNUBI

Dance performance, video, sound, 20 min

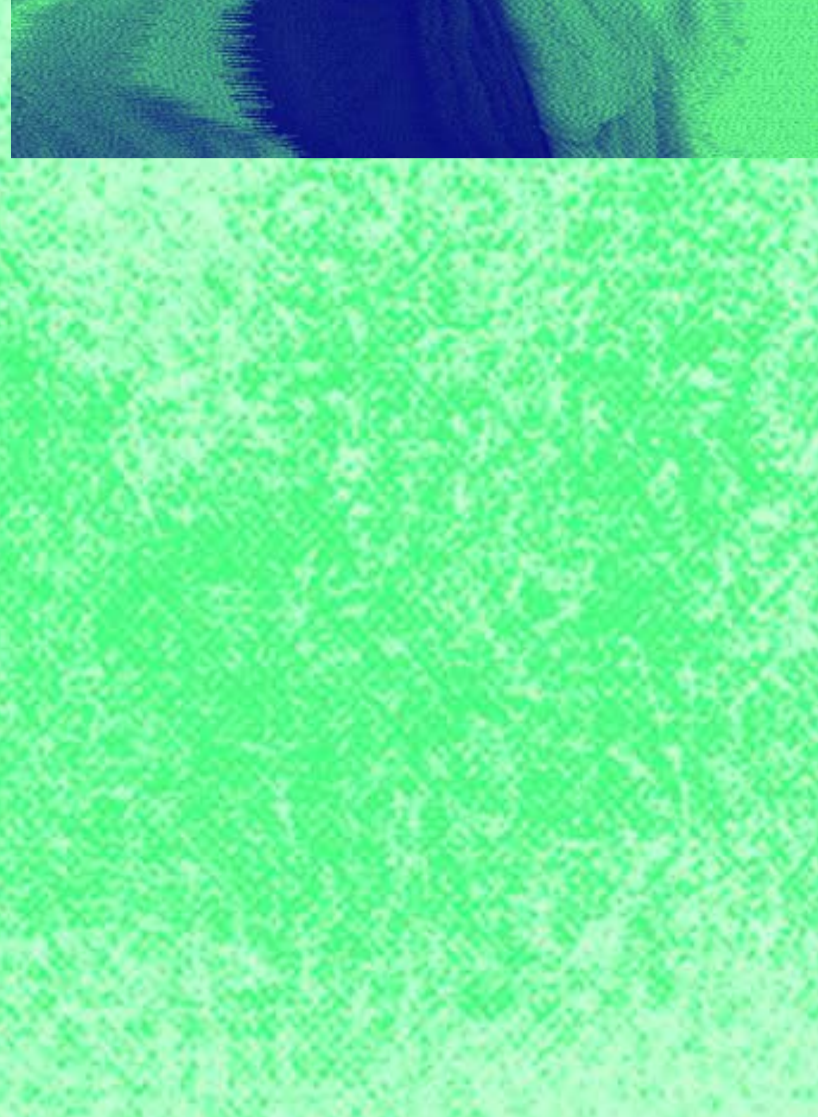
Contemplating what rhythms we, our bodies, are attuning to/tuning into, the performance draws on the rhythmic function of syncopation as an action disrupting the accepted order of things. Syncopation, polyrhythms and cross-rhythms-essential rhythmic features in African and b/Black diasporic musical lineages - connect to bodily intuition and melodic sensibilities.

PARTICIPANTS



TEMITOPE

AJOSE-CUTTING is a choreographer, dancer and movement director who staged works for the Royal Opera House, The Place, DanceXchange, RichMix, Dancebase and the Soho Joyce (New York), among others.



NOHORA ARRIETA

FERNÁNDEZ is a writer, researcher, scholar and an Assistant Professor of Afro-Latin American studies at UCLA, focused on researching the aesthetics and intellectual traditions of the African Diaspora in the Americas.



LISA AND CHRISTOPHER

BINNS run STUSH in the BUSH, a Farm-to-Table Dining Experience in the cool hills of St. Ann, Jamaica. Since 2014, Lisa and Chris have built a collaborative, rural community-anchored venture that has risen to the forefront of Jamaica's Ital plant-based movement through farming, cooking and product making.



NADIA HUGGINS

is a visual artist and researcher whose photography work merges documentary and conceptual practices, exploring belonging, identity, and memory through a contemporary approach focused on re-presenting Caribbean landscapes and the sea.



YINA JIMÉNEZ SURIEL

is a curator and researcher with a master's degree in visual studies. Her curatorial practice is nourished by transdisciplinary research on the construction of imagination, contemporary emancipatory processes and reconciliation with the constant movement. She is the Curatorial Fellow of TBA21–Academy's *The Current IV*.



MONIQUE JOHNSON

is an Earth scientist exploring the impacts of geological hazards in the Eastern Caribbean, including the barriers and capacities for disaster risk reduction in Caribbean Societies.



QUINN LATIMER

is a California-born poet, critic, and editor whose work often explores feminist economies of writing, reading, and moving-image production.



O'NEIL LAWRENCE

is an artist, curator, researcher and writer. He has worked at the National Gallery of Jamaica since 2008, most recently as Chief Curator. His research interests include race, gender and sexuality in Caribbean and African Diasporal art, memory, identity and hidden archives, and photography as a medium and a social vehicle.



MAURICE LEE

is the founder of Kromanti Experience, a cultural tour company focused on the history of the Maroon community and culture in Jamaica to bring people from the African diaspora closer to their heritage while reviving Black history in a way that extends beyond the narrative of slavery and the colonizer's lens.



TESSA MARS is a Haitian visual artist who explores gender, landscape, migration, and spirituality in relation to Haitian history. Working primarily in painting and papier mâché, she takes distance from colonial narratives to reconnect to a Haitian perspective of the world and embrace other forms of collective belonging.



ALEX MOORE-MINOTT is a native Windward Maroon and a dedicated advocate for the land and water rights of indigenous peoples in Jamaica. He holds a BSc in International Relations from the University of the West Indies. As an initiated Priest of the ancient Myal religion, an agriculturalist, and a cultural and Maroon rights activist, he is also the leader of the internationally recognized West Indian Tribal Society.



ANNIE PAUL is editor-in-chief of the online magazine of Caribbean writing, PREE (preelit.com), and was the 2023 Lakes Writer-in-Residence at Smith College (Massachusetts). A founding editor of the journal Small Axe, she has been published in various international journals and magazines.



ONEIKA RUSSELL is a visual artist working in various media, with a focus on video, textiles and print-based work. She currently lectures at the Caribbean School of Architecture, UTECH, Jamaica and the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts and runs the art initiative Tide Rising Art Projects.



INA VANDEBROEK is an ethnobotanist interested in the intersection of traditional knowledge systems and Caribbean biodiversity. She is Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal Economic Botany and has published scholarly articles, as well as community guidebooks in Jamaica and Bolivia.



JASON WEST is a family farmer from Portland Parish, Jamaica, with deep roots in the family farming traditions of the John Crow Mountains. He has collaborated extensively with Ina Vandebroek on ethnobotanical research, advocating for greater recognition of Caribbean traditional plant knowledge.



YEWANDE YOYO ODUNUBI is an artist, researcher and cultural producer whose practice revolves around the inquiry: "What does the body need to dream?". Inspired by freestyle/improvisation as choreographic and pedagogical methodologies, she is interested in how we see, read, shape and practis/ce ourselves.

ABOUT THE CURRENT

TBA21–Academy's curatorial fellowship program *The Current* cultivates transdisciplinary practices and the exchange of ideas around the Ocean and its understanding. The program aims to form strong connections to local networks, map contemporary issues concerning watery worlds, and weave them into an interdisciplinary conversation, embracing the spheres of science, conservation, policy, and education.

ABOUT ALLIGATOR HEAD FOUNDATION

Alligator Head Foundation is a Jamaican-based project focusing on the intersection of science, art, and community. It is dedicated to supporting cultural production and commissioning projects that raise ecological, economic, and social issues to the general public and the local community.

ABOUT TBA21

TBA21 Thyssen–Bornemisza Art Contemporary is a leading international art and advocacy foundation.

TBA21–Academy is the foundation's research arm, fostering a deeper relationship with the Ocean and wider ecologies by working as an incubator for transdisciplinary inquiry, artistic production, and environmental advocacy.

The Current IV Convening #2

otras montañas, las que andan sueltas bajo el agua

[other mountains, adrift beneath the waves]

... para contar transformaciones oceánicas

[...telling of oceanic transformations]

Yina Jiménez Suriel (2023 – 2025)

JANUARY 10 – 11 2025

Alligator Head Foundation

Port Antonio, East Portland, Jamaica

All the activities on January 11 are free of charge and open to the public.

Commissioned and produced by TBA21–Academy

With the collaboration of Alligator Head Foundation

Curator: Yina Jiménez Suriel

TBA21–Academy Head of Program: María Montero Sierra

The Current IV Program Coordinator: Elisa Cuesta

Production Assistant: Jameila Cato

AV: Nesal

Cunha Cunha Pass Trail Tour Operators: Trekkers Jamaica

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TBA21 Communications: Cristina Álvarez, Adriana Lerena,

Leticia Vilamea, Victoria de Gracia,

Barbora Horská, Katarina Rakušček

TBA21 International press: Scott & Co

ALLIGATOR HEAD FOUNDATION

General Manager: Nicole Myers

Operations Officer: Machel Donegan

Scientific Officer: Bethany Dean

Field Officer: Francine Cousins

Field Assistant: Kymani Burke

Wardens: Floyd Thompson, Calrick Kettle, Dwight Bailey,

Weston Panton, Andrew Lewis

Custodian: Diane Harris

Gatemen: Keith Phang and Rollin Skyers

TBA21

Founder and Chairwoman: Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza

Directors: Rosa Ferré and Markus Reymann

Artistic director: Daniela Zyman

Head of exhibitions: Marina Avia Estrada

Chief of the financial and legal office: Angela Costantino

Director of public affairs & advocacy: Nicolas Gharbi

Executive coordinator: Eva Gonzalo

Managing director Ocean Space: David Hrankovic

Head of communications: Assunta Jimenez-Ontiveros Diego

Director of digital & innovation: Petra Linhartová

Head of collection: Simone Sentall

Director of development & advancement: Marco Zappalorto

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