



# BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITION**

January 23, 2017 Brooklyn, NY—Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) celebrates Black History Month with public programs that highlight contemporary black art and literature. Speakers include Dr. Kellie Jones, author of *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art* and co-curator of “Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the 1960s,” (Brooklyn Museum in 2014), as well as Dr. Elizabeth Nunez, award-winning author of seven novels, including *Prospero's Daughter*, *Bruised Hibiscus*, and *Beyond the Limbo Silence*. Continuing BHS’s commitment to racial justice through the understanding and teaching of local history, these conversations are held in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition, *Brooklyn Abolitionists/In Pursuit of Freedom*.

### **Black Voices, Black Art: Upending Convention with Kellie Jones and Kimberly Drew**

Tue, Feb 7, 7 pm

\$10 / \$5 for Members

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Art historian, curator, and 2016 MacArthur Genius Award-winner Kellie Jones, has both rewritten and rectified the narrative of American art history by shepherding dozens of overlooked black artists into a canon that was narrowly white. With her single-minded focus on contemporary art of the African Diaspora, Jones has literally curated change. She discusses her career, activism, and vision for the future with trailblazing social media maven and blogger Kimberly Drew, a.k.a. @museummammy.

### **Fiction by Black Writers: Who Are the Readers?**

Tue, Feb 21, 6:30 pm

[Reserve Tickets>>](#)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Zadie Smith, Colson Whitehead, Yaa Gyasi...some of today’s biggest names in fiction are black writers, and yet a predominantly white publishing industry maintains the assumption that black literature lacks marketability. Join writer and distinguished academic Dr. Elizabeth Nunez for a panel discussion challenging this assumption, with Essence Magazine book editor Patrik Henry Bass, Vice President, Publisher, and Editor-in-Chief of Random House’s One World Chris Jackson, President of the Authors’ Guild Roxana Robinson, and editorial director at Akashic Books, Ibrahim Ahmad.

## **A Chamber Music Celebration of Black History Month**

Thu, Feb 23, 7:30 pm

BHS is pleased to partner on this special program with Groupmuse, the arts organization that brings classical musicians to living rooms for intimate listening parties. For Black History Month, join us in BHS's grand "living room" to hear works by African American composers and lyricists, including Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Maya Angelou. Enjoy performances by the violin, cello, and piano ensemble Warp Trio, percussionist Rick Martinez, as well as rap and spoken word artists. *Tickets available through Groupmuse.*

BHS's long-term exhibition, *Brooklyn Abolitionists/In Pursuit of Freedom*, explores the unsung heroes of Brooklyn's anti-slavery movement -- ordinary residents, black and white -- who shaped their neighborhoods, city and nation with a revolutionary vision of freedom and equality.

### **About Brooklyn Historical Society**

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post and opened in 1881, today's BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach.

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