



THIS IS RESEARCH

The State of Blackness: From Production to Presentation

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The State of Blackness: From Production to Presentation website was originally developed to document the proceedings of a conference of the same name organized by Andrea Fatona in 2014. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the two-day event brought together artists, curators and academics to examine the histories, current status and future state of Black Diasporic artistic practice and representation in Canada. Since the conference, the website has expanded to include spin-off projects: a forum at the 2015 Venice Biennale to build transnational networks for Black Canadian visual artists, curators, and critics; a 2017 collaboration with artist-run non-profit video art distributor Vtape to compile data on Black Canadian video production; and YGBI (Young Gifted and Black, Italy) a 2020 research residency based in Florence, Italy that focused on the challenges and possibilities experienced by emerging Black artists in Italy. The website includes resources such as essential reading about Black Canadian cultural production, Canadian Black-owned bookstores, plus links to accompanying YouTube and Facebook channels. The website serves to rectify the absence of Black cultural production from “official records”— art critics’ reviews, art archives and other aspects of representation.

Photo by Anique Jordan.

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