



## Queering Post-Black Art: Artists Transforming African-American Identity after Civil Rights (International Library of Modern and Contemporary Art)

By Derek Conrad Murray

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What impact do sexual politics and queer identities have on the understanding of 'blackness' as a set of visual, cultural and intellectual concerns? In *Queering Post-Black Art*, Derek Conrad Murray argues that the rise of female, gay and lesbian artists as legitimate African-American creative voices is essential to the development of black art. He considers iconic works by artists including Glenn Ligon, Kehinde Wiley, Mickalene Thomas and Kalup Linzy, which question whether it is possible for blackness to evade its ideologically over-determined cultural legibility. In their own unique, often satirical way, a new generation of contemporary African American artists represent the ever-evolving sexual and gender politics that have come to define the highly controversial notion of 'post-black' art. First coined in 2001, the term 'post-black' resonated because it articulated the frustrations of young African-American artists around notions of identity and belonging that they perceived to be stifling, reductive and exclusionary. Since then, these artists have begun to conceive an idea of blackness that is beyond marginalization and sexual discrimination.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

'In *Queering Post-Black Art*, Murray takes on the project of art history itself, its creation of arbitrary value that lauds certain efforts and excludes others. Murray parses out and takes on discourses that are key to understandings of art history, African-American art, and Contemporary art. He is unafraid of speaking truth to power.' (Cherise Smith, Associate Professor of Art History: African-American and African Diaspora Art 2015-11-10)

"Murray's book gives a language and a shape to that experience, both for black artists seeking to identify and stretch the limits placed on them and for art audiences of all backgrounds and races who want to better appreciate their work."

(Mary Mann, LA Review of Books 2017-01-22)

#### About the Author

Derek Conrad Murray is Associate Professor of History of Art and Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is one of the foremost experts on the subject of contemporary African-American art. He completed a Ph.D. in the Department of History of Art, Cornell University in 2005.

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