

CENTRE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Derek C. Maus

The State University of New York College at Potsdam

Visiting Scholar, Centre for interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture,
Concordia University

Blackness and the Border: Comparing Contemporary African American and African Canadian Fiction in Terms of Racial Identity

Public Lecture

Thursday, November 22

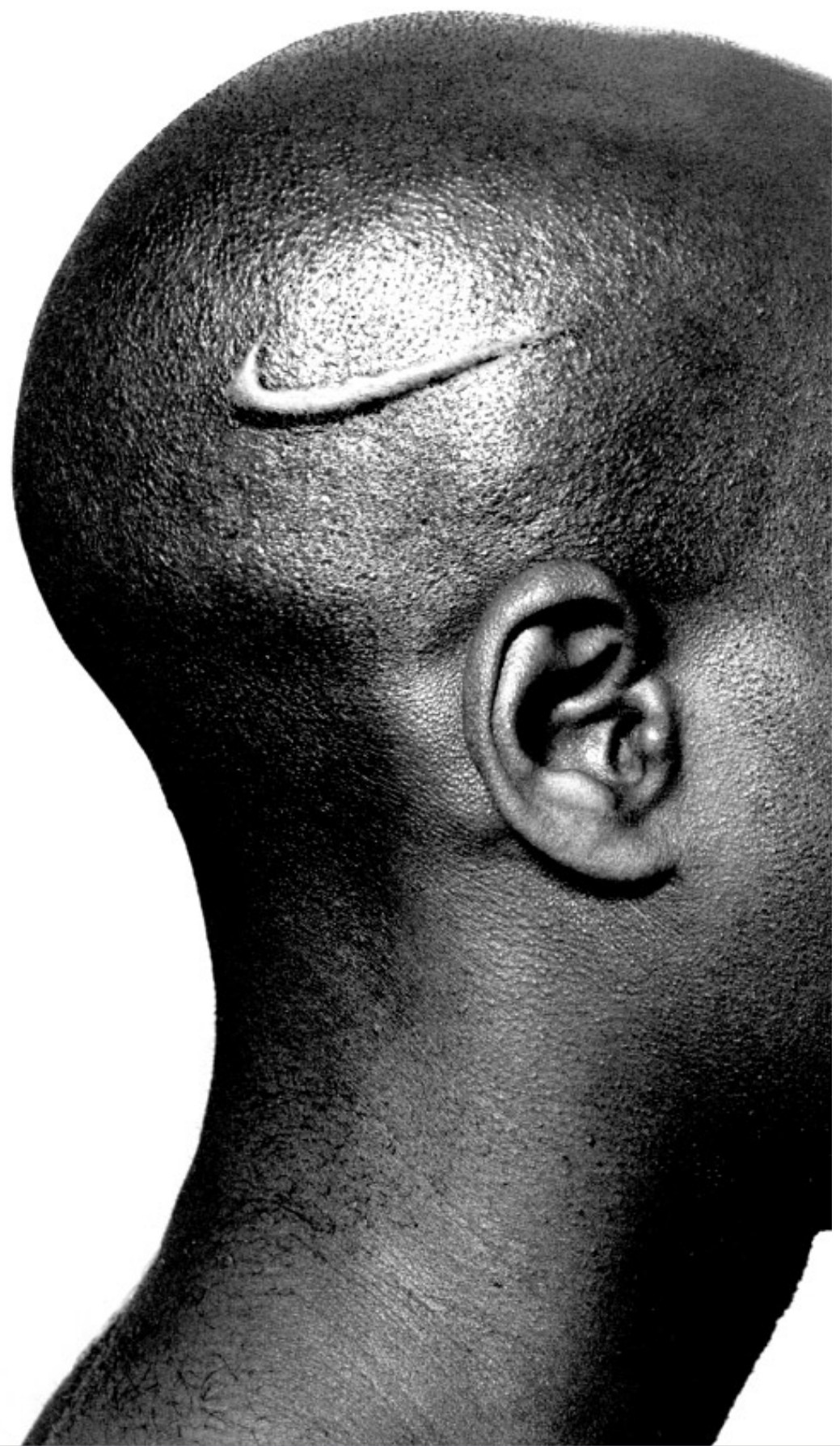
1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Room H-1120

Throughout the twentieth century, African American authors and scholars have been sharply divided by the question of whether black literary artists were bound by what James Baldwin called an “obligation of representation” in regard to their depictions of black life. Such debates continue to the present, albeit in different contexts and with somewhat different stakes. The articulation of such concepts as “post-black art,” “the post-soul aesthetic,” and the “New Black Aesthetic” have all rekindled this long-running polemic within a generation of artists and thinkers who came of age after the Civil Rights Movement.

Derek C. Maus is Professor of English and Communication at the State University of New York at Potsdam, where he teaches numerous courses on a wide variety of subjects in contemporary literature. He is the author of *Jesting in Earnest: Percival Everett and Menippean Satire* (South Carolina, 2019), *Understanding Colson Whitehead* (South Carolina, 2014), and *Unvarnishing Reality: Subversive Russian and American Cold War Satire* (South Carolina, 2011). He has also edited several scholarly collections, including *Conversations with Colson Whitehead* (Mississippi, 2019), *Post-Soul Satire: Black Identity after Civil Rights* (Mississippi, 2014; co-edited with James J. Donahue) and *Finding a Way Home: A Critical Assessment of Walter Mosley's Fiction* (Mississippi, 2008; co-edited with Owen E. Brady).

ADMISSION IS FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Hank Willis Thomas, Branded Head (2003)

portlandartmuseum.org/exhibitions/hank-willis-thomas

CISSC Happening
concordia.ca/cissc

Co-sponsors: Department of English
Department of Sociology and Anthropology