

LA VAUGHN BELLE | VISUAL ARTIST

LECTURES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING



La Vaughn Belle makes visible the unremembered. She is a visual artist working in a variety of disciplines that include: video, performance, painting, installation, writing and public intervention projects. She explores the material culture of coloniality and her art presents countervisualities and narratives. Borrowing elements from history and archeology Belle creates narratives that challenge colonial hierarchies and invisibility. She has exhibited in the Caribbean, the USA and Europe in institutions such as the Museo del Barrio (NY), Casa de las Americas (Cuba), the Museum of the African Diaspora (CA) and Kunsthall Charlottenburg (DK) and recently finished a solo exhibition at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle.

Her artwork has been featured in a wide range of media including: the NY Times, Politiken, VICE, The Guardian, Time magazine, Caribbean Beat, Essence, the BBC and Le Monde. Her work with colonial era pottery led to a commission with the renowned brand of porcelain products, the Royal Copenhagen.

She is the co-creator of *I Am Queen Mary*, the artist-led groundbreaking monument that confronted the Danish colonial amnesia while commemorating the legacies of resistance of the African people who were brought to the former Danish West Indies. She holds an MFA from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba and an MA and a BA from Columbia University in NY. She was the 2018-2020 fellow at the Social Justice Institute at the Barnard Research Center for Women. As one of the four founding members of the Virgin Islands Studies Collective (VISCO) she does collaborative research and decolonial archival work from a Black feminist perspective. Her studio is based in the Virgin Islands.



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For the past two decades Belle has developed an extensive body of work in several media and she is available to speak about it. Using her work as a subject, Belle's lectures address coloniality as expressed through material culture, infrastructures and archives. In her lectures she gives thought-provoking and poetic descriptions of the narratives inscribed in spaces and objects. She is uniquely positioned to discuss a decolonial art practice, counterarchive production, Danish colonialism in the context of the former Danish West Indies, American colonialism in the context of the U.S. Virgin Islands, ancestral queendom in the Virgin Islands, monuments and memory work around slavery.



"Never before has a sculpture like this been erected on Danish soil. Now, Denmark is offered a sculpture that addresses the past. But it is also an artwork for the future." -Henrik Holm, Senior Research Curator, Denmark's National Gallery of Art

"The monument *I Am Queen Mary* forces the Danish public to realize they no longer have the stage of history to themselves, while its reception shows that colonial memory remains a battleground" - Michael K. Wilson & Mathias Danbolt, *Kunstkrønikk*

"Beyond the sheer visual appeal of Belle's work, the numerous historical and sociopolitical references position her firmly at the forefront of decolonial aesthetics." -Selene Wendt, *Beyond the Door of No Return: Confronting Hidden Colonial Histories Through Contemporary Art*



LA VAUGHN BELLE | FEATURED IN

The New York Times

ESSENCE

VICE

The Guardian

BBC
RADIO

Caribbean Beat

THE St. Thomas
Source
US VIRGIN ISLANDS

FACE
LYCE
AFRICA

Bustle

NOW
THIS

TIME

DAILY NEWS
A Public First-winning newspaper

The Washington Post

POLITIKEN

Smithsonian
MAGAZINE

RECENT LECTURES & PANELS

Aarhus University, Denmark
American Scandinavian Society, USA
Bard College, USA
Barnard College, USA
Cornell University, USA
Free University of Berlin, Germany
Gustavus Adolphus College, USA
Kunsthal Charlottenburg, Denmark
Lunds University, Sweden
National Nordic Museum, USA
National Gallery of Denmark
New York University, USA
Linköping University, Sweden

Pace University, USA
Roskilde University, Denmark
Royal Library, Denmark
Schomburg Center, USA
Spelman College, USA
Stanford University, USA
Tulane University, USA
University of College London, UK
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
University of Riverside, USA
University of the West Indies, Trinidad
University of the Virgin Islands, VI
Wagner University, USA

Given the range of themes her work and life address, many schools find that several departments are interested in the topics she engages and are willing to collaborate to bring her to their institution. In the past this has included: Art, Art History, Heritage Studies, Africana studies, Caribbean Studies, Scandinavian Studies and Archeology.

Presentations can vary in length from 30 to 90 minutes plus Q&A. 60 minutes plus questions is ideal. Belle is also available to speak on panels with other artists or scholars.

For more information about her
work www.lavaughnbelle.com

To schedule Belle for a lecture
lavaughnbelle@gmail.com