



Caribbean Review of Gender Studies

Special Issue 16 Gender Articulated: Visual Language and the Un/Seeable Self

Editor

Marsha Pearce

Visual Culture Scholar,
Independent Curator,
and Educator.

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[Cover art](#)

Courtesy
Melissa Alcena
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CRGS Special Issue 16

Gender Articulated: Visual Language and the Un/Seeable Self

About

This special issue of *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* focuses on visual modes as a critical means by which gender is lived, negotiated, organised, and resisted. It is particularly invested in constructions of everyday ways of seeing and unseeing. Attention to visual culture is not only about what is made visible to us. It also entails “the unseen, the unseeable, and the overlooked” (Mitchell 2002, 170). The issue, therefore, asks: What is out of sight, and hiding in plain sight in our constructions and deconstructions of gender, sex, and sexualities in the Caribbean? What is seen? What can't be seen? What is unseen in our personal experiences and individual, interior histories? What is un/seeable in our beliefs about ourselves as woman, man, non-binary and transgender folk?

The title of this issue is borrowed from the book *Gender Articulated: Language and the Socially Constructed Self* (1995), a project of sociolinguistics that explores connections between language and feminist theory. Expanding the analytical frame and the intersections of language and gender, this issue emphasises visual language as key to world-making, to configuring realities in which gender, sex, and sexualities are enacted. It centres Caribbean contexts in those realities. *Gender Articulated: Visual Language and the Un/Seeable Self* reflects on Caribbean visibility (historical and cultural formulations of vision) and Caribbean visual arts (creative expression), where the word “articulated” signals art communicated in its broad sense, and the linkages between gender and visual artistic practices; those linkages formed under certain conditions: social, cultural, political—connections that are “not...absolute and essential for all time” (Hall 1986, 53).

Gender Articulated: Visual Language and the Un/Seeable Self illuminates gender in the Caribbean not only as a constructed phenomenon but as that which appears and disappears, coming in and out of view in a tropical game of hide-and-seek. Gender is sensory; it is historically, socially and culturally (un)sighted. If “the visual is part of the sense experience of the Region which remains insufficiently translated or documented” (Mohammed 2009, 370), then this journal issue contributes to the effort of interpreting and recording our visual culture, with an awareness that our gendered selves are imag(in)ed too.

(Excerpt from the Editorial)

Read more: <https://sta.uwi.edu/crgs/index.asp>

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