

Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium (CHiPS) 2013
Conversations IX: Grounding Aesthetics

November 11 - 13, 2013

Hosted by the Department of History and Philosophy, The University of the West Indies,
Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

The broad theme for the ninth Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium (CHiPS) will be issues related to aesthetics. Most of the philosophical reflection under the heading 'aesthetics', especially within mainstream Western philosophy, presents itself as an esoteric engagement with a very limited number of masterpieces in a very limited variety of genres/forms. While not wishing to exclude the usual suspects, it is thought that what is of concern to aesthetics is of fundamental concern to all; it shapes our understandings of self and others in countless ways and deserves integration into much of our present-day social and political thinking.

To that end, the symposium aims to provoke discussion of the perhaps overly-narrow boundaries of aesthetics' concern as it is generally conceived: what might be learnt from examining the ways different cultures view the role of aesthetic categories and activities, how distinctively aesthetic categories shape our thinking in other areas, and other such concerns. It is hoped that in keeping with the spirit of such conversations, thinkers operating in and across different cultural and philosophical traditions as well as other disciplines that share a boundary with philosophy, will be brought together. In addition to regular paper presentations, suggestions for workshops, demonstrations and other relevant activities are also welcome.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Nkiru Nzegwu, Professor of Africana Studies and Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture at Binghamton University, USA. An accomplished painter, her academic areas of expertise include African aesthetics, African philosophy, African feminist issues and multicultural studies in art. She is the founder of the Africa Knowledge Project, which publishes five peer-reviewed journals and hosts three databases. Dr. Nzegwu is also the editor of *JENda: A Journal of Culture and African Women Studies* and co-editor of *West African Review*.

In an effort to ensure well-prepared, quality presentations, abstracts (300-500 words) are due by **August 26, 2013**. Participants whose abstracts are accepted by the vetting committee will then be required to submit their completed papers via email as an attachment in Open or LibreOffice, Microsoft Word, or WordPerfect by the firm deadline of **October 14, 2013**. These papers will then be posted on-line for other participants to consult prior to the conference with the intention that time at the Symposium can be devoted much more to discussion than to exposition of the written papers. Papers from the earlier symposia can be accessed from <http://cavehill.uwi.edu/fhe/histphil/chips.aspx>.

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