

CAA 2020, Chicago February 12-15.

Accepted panel seeking paper proposals (deadline July 23 to [trout@gwu.edu](mailto:trout@gwu.edu)):

EMERGING SUBJECTS:

PORTRAIT AND TYPE IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAS

<https://caa.confex.com/caa/2020/webprogrampreliminary/Session5000.html>

Scholars exploring the “slave portrait” in early modern Europe and colonial America reveal it to be more paradox than oxymoron, occupying vexed territory shaped not only by convention and stereotype, but also idiosyncratic interactions among artists, sitters, and audiences. This panel extends that inquiry into the nineteenth century Americas. The explosion of print culture and genre painting brought many marginalized groups into the visual arts for the first time, but also promulgated a suite of tropes delimiting the depiction of race, gender, class, religion, and sexuality. Could socially and politically vulnerable individuals break through those representational constraints and emerge as pictorial subjects in their own right? We seek papers exploring this question along the spectrum from portrait to type, a broad cultural space where the idiosyncratic and the generic blur. How could portraitists’ use of conventions to empower or undermine the signaling of individual sitters’ subjectivity? How did artists, illustrators, and publishers exploit portraiture’s realistic gestures to produce stereotypes authenticating social prejudice? Could image makers instead work through or against generic types to invoke the subjectivity of real persons? When and how did subjects actively participate in this process, revealing an awareness of how they might be perceived as individuals or as representatives of a group? In what ways did they respond to finished works, whether commissioned by themselves or others? We welcome case studies pursuing these questions in nineteenth-century paintings, prints, drawings, illustrations, photographs, sculptures, or material culture objects produced or circulating in North, Central, South America, or the Caribbean.

Fields of Study:

Canada

Caribbean

Latin America

Mexico

North America

Email paper proposals to:

Phillip Troutman, The George Washington University - [trout@gwu.edu](mailto:trout@gwu.edu)

Deadline: July 23

Phillip Troutman

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