

The Courtauld

Press Release

19 May 2021

THE COURTAULD APPOINTS PROFESSOR DOROTHY PRICE AND INDIE A. CHOUDHURY TO ROLES IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART, WITH A SPECIALISM IN BLACK STUDIES AND CRITICAL RACE ART HISTORY

After an extensive international recruitment process, The Courtauld has appointed Professor Dorothy Price and Indie A. Choudhury to two new permanent faculty roles in the field of Modern and Contemporary Art and Visual Culture, with specialisms in critical race, Black studies, the arts of Africa and its global diasporas.

The new posts build on The Courtauld's work to develop and enrich its curriculum, research and public engagement. They follow on from appointments in the fields of Islamic Middle Eastern, West Asian and East Asian Arts, and the creation of the Centre for American Art – and come at a time when The Courtauld BA degree is undergoing significant updates to ensure it better reflects art history as a global discipline.

"These roles will have a transformative impact on The Courtauld's areas of teaching and research," said Professor Deborah Swallow, Märit Rausing Director at The Courtauld. "We were delighted to have attracted an impressive international field of applicants for these posts and are thrilled to have made appointments of the calibre and reputation of Dorothy Price and Indie A. Choudhury. Their expertise is wide-ranging but their complementary focus on post-war Black British Art in particular will give The Courtauld real depth in this important field. I would like to thank The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, whose generous grant has enabled us to invest in these posts."

Dorothy Price will join The Courtauld in September 2021 from the University of Bristol, where she is Professorial research lead for the Transnational Modernisms Research Cluster, and a founder member and inaugural Director of the Centre for Black Humanities, an interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to researching the histories, art and thought of people of African descent. Her work has a particular emphasis on modernism in Germany and post-war art in Britain and demonstrates how critical race expands readings of the visual.

Dorothy Price is also Editor of *Art History*, the journal of the Association for Art History, and is currently working on several publications, including *Art History and its Methods*, *Framing the Critical Decade: After the Black Arts Movement* and two special issues of *Art History*. *Rethinking British Art: Black Artists and Modernism* is co-edited with artist and Britain's next Venice Biennale representative, Professor Sonia Boyce RA OBE. The

volume arises from Boyce's critically important AHRC-funded *Black Artists and Modernism* project and promises to be a landmark publication in the field.

Price has collaborated widely with international, national and regional museums and galleries, working with Spike Island, Arnolfini Arts Bristol, Tate Britain and Lowry Salford. She founded the Tate/Paul Mellon Centre's British Art Network subgroup on Black British Art and is lead curator for the Royal Academy of Arts' forthcoming exhibition, *Making the Modern*. She brings with her to The Courtauld a British Academy funded postdoctoral research fellow working on contemporary art and the Black Anthropocene and an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral awardee in partnership with Tate Britain working on the influence of the Harlem Renaissance on British art and artists during the 1920s and 1930s.

Indie A. Choudhury will join The Courtauld in January 2022 as a Lecturer. She is a recipient of a 2020-21 Doctoral Research Fellowship at the Yale Center for British Art, where she is completing her PhD thesis from Stanford - entitled *The Solace of Color: Frank Bowling's White Paintings, 1962-2016* - and working on various curatorial and research projects including as lead curator for their forthcoming exhibition on Hew Locke. Her work has also been supported by a range of Stanford Fellowships and Awards including the Stanford Research Institute of the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Indie A. Choudhury received her BA from the University of Cambridge and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Cultural Management from the University of London. She has extensive museum and gallery experience in a number of curatorial, research, and education roles. From 2003 to 2011, she held professional roles in the UK museum and gallery sector including the Institute of International Visual Arts (Iniva), the National Maritime Museum, and Tate. Her research and teaching interests have an interdisciplinary remit focusing upon postwar art and literary cultures within the Black Atlantic, particularly histories and theories of resistance, time and metaphysics, poetics-poethics, abstraction, and subjectivity. She has published in *NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art* and *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art* and has forthcoming publications on Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin, and Clementine Hunter and Toni Morrison.

Driven by their own research expertise, both Dorothy and Indie will develop and teach undergraduate and postgraduate-level courses in their respective fields of study at The Courtauld. They will also supervise research students, further expanding The Courtauld's robust research programme as part of its continuing efforts to decentre and decolonise the art history curriculum, and contribute to the wider understanding of these vital areas of study.

The two faculty appointments have been made possible by a generous grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, who are longstanding supporters of The Courtauld.

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THE COURTAULD

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About The Courtauld

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, as an internationally-renowned centre for the teaching, and research of art history and a major public gallery. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in the 1930s, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, the renowned collection and inspiring exhibitions at its gallery, and engaging and accessible activities, education and events.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, sharing these works with the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces, such as Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* and Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. It also showcases an internationally renowned collection of works from the Renaissance through to the present day. The Courtauld Gallery is set to reopen in late 2021, following a major transformation.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital artforms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, Curating and the Conservation of Easel and Wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works; accessible and expert short courses; events bringing art history research to new audiences; innovative school, family and community programmes; or taking a formal qualification. Our ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit.

The Courtauld's permanent home in historic Somerset House – London's working arts centre - is currently closed for a major programme of renovation, the first stage of which will be complete in late 2021 when the Courtauld Gallery will re-open. Our students and academic staff are currently based at Vernon Square near King's Cross.

The Courtauld is a registered charity and relies on generous philanthropic support to achieve its mission of advancing the understanding of the visual arts of the past and present across the world, through advanced research, innovative teaching, inspiring exhibitions, programmes and collections.