

Cynthia Hawkins, Ph.D.

Biography

Dr. Cynthia Hawkins is an abstract painter and scholar whose research encompasses race, identity, early African American art history, and theory. She has presented lectures based on her dissertation research *African American Agency and the Art Object 1868 – 1917*. Additional presentations include Dox Thrash, Robert Blackburn, Genre Scenes in the Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection. Recent catalog essays include: “Extending the Notion of Activism in the Collection of Wes and Missy Cochran’s African American Works on Paper” for the exhibition: *Colliding with History: African American Works on Paper from the Collection of Wes and Missy Cochran*, The Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery at Georgia State University (September 2021); “Historicizing African American Abstraction, Printmaking, and Activism in 1960s and 1970s New York City” for the upcoming Virginia Museum of Fine Art’s exhibition *Ben Wigfall and Communication Village* (2022/23). She received a Ph.D. from University at Buffalo, an MA in Museum Studies from Seton Hall University, and an MFA from Maryland Institute, College of Art. Cynthia Hawkins is currently serving as interim assistant director of collections at Kenkeleba House Museum, and lives in Rochester, New York with her partner and his dog.