

# empathy, intimacy, & ethics *in American art*

**June 5-6, 2018**

**John-F.-Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies  
Room 340, Lansstraße 7-9, Berlin-Dahlem**

Do we feel ourselves by looking at objects? This two-day international symposium in Berlin returns to the late nineteenth-century German proposal that empathy (*die Einfühlung*) constitutes a way to understand aesthetic response. Considering the relationships of visual perception, bodily touch, and emotional reaction, symposium speakers will offer new narratives and counter-narratives of empathy and intimacy that foreground the differences of power, race, ethnicity, and gender that mark the complex history of American art.

## **Keynote Speakers:**

**Saidiya Hartman** (Columbia University)  
**Hortense Spillers** (Vanderbilt University)

## **Including talks by:**

**Larne Abse Gogarty** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)  
**Caroline A. Jones** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Max Planck Institute)  
**Lauren Kroiz** (University of California, Berkeley, Terra Foundation Visiting Professor, FU)  
**Katharina Oguntoye** (Founder, Joliba Interkulturelles Netzwerk in Berlin e.V.)  
**Leigh Raiford** (University of California, Berkeley)  
**Heike Raphael-Hernandez** (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)

*Further info:* [www.terraamericanart.org/events/](http://www.terraamericanart.org/events/)