

To Our Community:

We stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and with our BIPOC faculty, staff, students, and friends, and with all who have experienced racism and other forms of injustice. We are grieving, and angered by the systemic racism that has resulted in the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. We also recognize that these are only the most recent instances in a long history of injustice against BIPOC communities.

We are inspired by the massive popular resistance to racism and anti-black violence, which we believe has the potential to transform our society. The Department of the History of Art and Architecture unwaveringly supports movements for racial justice around the world and we hold ourselves accountable to address the urgent demands being issued through protests and community-led actions. We recognize that to stand in solidarity with this movement is to commit to do the work of reflecting its aims of justice and equity within the academic community. We must continue to support and empower diverse perspectives. We must platform voices of resistance and amplify their work through our curricula and programming. And we will continue to engage in active and persistent dialogue and self-critique. We remain committed to manifesting the transformative change we hope to see in the world as educators and historians.

Finally, we acknowledge and embrace our department's distinctive responsibility to both learn from and to assist our students in examining and interrogating modes of representation, production, and elements of material culture that condition and shape conceptions of race, and contribute to cultures of white dominance while authorizing the marginalization and exclusion of communities of color.

Signed,

The faculty of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture