

Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design
Graduate Seminar Series

September 3, 2021

12:30 - 1:30 pm

HEB T01 and Via [Zoom](#)

**Curator's Conversation,
TEXTURES: the History and Art
of Black Hair**

Dr. Tameka Ellington



TEXTURES synthesizes research in history, fashion, art, and visual culture to reassess the “hair story” of peoples of African descent. Long a fraught topic for African Americans and others in the diaspora, Black hair is here addressed by artists, barbers, and activists in both its historical perceptions and its ramifications for self and society today. Combs, products, and implements from the collection of hair pioneer Willie Morrow are paired here with masterworks from artists including James Van Der Zee, Sonya Clark, Lorna Simpson, Mary Sibande and Zanele Muholi. Exploring topics such as the preferential treatment of straight hair, the social hierarchies of skin, and the power and politics of display, TEXTURES is a landmark exploration of Black hair and its important, complicated place in the history of African American life and culture. The exhibition is organized by the KSU Museum with co-curators, Joseph L. Underwood, assistant professor of art history at KSU and Tameka Ellington, associate professor at the School of Fashion at KSU.



Dr. Tameka Ellington will discuss the conceptualization of TEXTURES and the cultural significance of the three themes of the exhibition: community and memory, hair politics and Black joy.

This seminar is co-sponsored by Professor Tasha Lewis's Stephen H. Weiss fellowship, the Central New York Humanities Corridor from an award by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Department of Fiber Science & Apparel Design, the Department of History, The Public History Initiative and the Cornell Fashion + Textile Collection. This talk is part of the "Fashion & Social Justice" lecture series, which is hosted by the "Decolonizing Fashion Studies: Rethinking Curriculum, Collections, and Creative Practice" Central NY Humanities Corridor working group.

FIBER SCIENCE & APPAREL DESIGN
College of Human Ecology

