

# Call for Proposals

for an edited Volume

## Race and Representation in Mormon Art

Conceptions of race have been central to Mormon theology and social practice since the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. While the field of Mormon studies has seen an efflorescence of scholarship on race in historical and contemporary Mormonism, scholars have only begun to engage with the place of race within Mormon visual culture. Latter-day Saints constructed and expressed complex religious discourses of race through visual representations, creating images as a means of understanding Mormonism's fraught and shifting understanding of human difference.

Numerous avenues for potential research remain underexplored. How were Mormon views on race and lineage expressed through images? How did Mormon artists envision Lamanites in the contexts of Western colonization or the Indian Student Placement Program? How did images promote or challenge Mormonism's shifting theological understanding of the place of people of African descent, before, during, or after the "priesthood ban"? How are diverse global Mormon members using images to work toward self-determination in a church with an overwhelmingly white leadership? How have Black and Indigenous Mormons of color fashioned self-representations that challenge racist perspectives? How should we address problematic historical artworks and monuments in working to overturn legacies of white supremacy?

With these questions as potential starting points, we invite proposals that address the intersections of race, representation, and Mormon art and visual culture from a wide range of perspectives, that treat all branches of the Mormon Restoration and any period in Mormon history, and that consider a broad range of visual media.

Proposals should include a 500-word description, thumbnails of relevant artwork, and the author's cv. Submissions should be sent to both of the editors, no later than **November 1, 2021**. Those who are invited to develop essays for the volume will be notified no later than December 1, 2021, and will be asked to submit full manuscripts (8,000-10,000 words) by June 1, 2022. This volume will be published with an academic press.

Editors:

**Heather Belnap** is an Associate Professor of Art History and Coordinator of European Studies at Brigham Young University. Current Mormon Studies projects include a monograph on Minerva Teichert for the *Introduction to Mormon Thought* series and a retrospective exhibition of LDS art for the Center for Latter-day Saint Arts. She is the co-author, with Corry Cropper and Daryl Lee, of the forthcoming book *Marianne Meets the Mormons: Representations of Mormonism in 19th-century France* (Illinois, 2022).  
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