Dark Humor: Joyce J. Scott and Peter Williams
Center for the Arts Gallery, Towson University
February 10 – April 1, 2017
Opening Reception: Thursday, February 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Closed for Spring March 19-26, 2017
This exhibition was inspired by a recent show at the Delaware Art Museum entitled Dark Humor: African American Art from the University Museums, University of Delaware curated by Tiffany Barber. Barber explored the works of black artists who employ “satire, visual puns, farce, absurdity, kitsch, and the bizarre,” to “upend social and aesthetic conventions.” Both Scott and Williams were included in that exhibition; they continue to address issues of racism, violence and stereotypes in their art production.

Lecture by Tiffany Barber
Center for the Arts, Art Lecture Hall, 2032
Thursday, February 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Tiffany E. Barber is a scholar, curator, and writer of twentieth and twenty-first century visual art and performance with a focus on artists of the black diaspora living and working in the United States. She currently holds a Pre-Doctoral Residential Research Fellowship at The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia.

Hasani Claxton: Rise of the Afrotaku
Holtzman MFA Gallery
February 10, 2017—April 1, 2017
Reception, Thursday, February 9, 2017. 7:30—9:00 p.m.
Gallery Talk on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, Noon
Closed for Spring March 19-26, 2017
MFA candidate Hasani Claxton uses satire to examine popular (mis)conceptions of blackness in contemporary society. In his paintings and sculptures, he seeks out cultural intersectionalities between Blerds (Black Nerds) and Otaku (Japanese Nerds), combining the distinctive visual language of Anime and Manga with Western realism.

Dark Humor: The Film Series | Ethnic Notions
Art Lecture Hall, CA 2032
Saturday, February 11, 2017, 3 p.m.
Ethnic Notions is an Emmy-winning documentary that traces the deep-rooted stereotypes that have led to anti-black prejudice. Producer/Director: Marlon Riggs, Narrator: Esther Rolle. Discussion following the film led by Kalima Young, Lecturer, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Towson University. Film Series cosponsored by the Department of Electronic Media and Film.

Lecture by Joyce J. Scott
Center for the Arts, Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall
Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Joyce J. Scott lives and works in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a cross-disciplinary artist working in prints, textiles, sculpture and performance. Best known for her beadwork, her subjects are taken from the world around her, especially issues of race, politics, sexism and stereotypes. Her work is in the collections of many museums including the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Scott is the recent awardee of both the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, IL and the Mary Sawyers Imboden Baker Award, Baltimore, MD. She is represented by Goya Contemporary, Baltimore Maryland.

Dark Humor: The Film Series | Foxy Brown
Art Lecture Hall, CA 2032
Saturday, February 25, 2017, 3 p.m.
A classic 1974 film starring Pam Grier. A voluptuous black woman takes a job as a high-class prostitute in order to get revenge on the mobsters who murdered her boyfriend. Written and directed by Jack Hill. Discussion following the film led by Kalima Young, Lecturer, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Towson University. Film Series cosponsored by the Department of Electronic Media and Film.

Lecture by Peter Williams
Center for the Arts, Art Lecture Hall, 2032
Thursday, March 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Peter Williams is a painter with a distinguished career as an educator at both Wayne State University and the University of Delaware. His work, according to the artist, has always demonstrated an “awareness of the presence of blackness and its meaning in the contemporary world.” His recent series addresses several high-profile violent incidents of young black people with the police. The artist’s paintings are in the collections of the Whitney Museum
of Art and the Detroit institute of the Arts, among others. He is the recipient of several Joan Mitchell fellowships. Williams is represented by David and Schweitzer Contemporary in New York City and Paul Kotula Projects in Detroit.

**Dark Humor: The Film Series | I’m Gonna Git You Sucka**  
**Art Lecture Hall, CA 2032**  
**Saturday, March 4th at 3 p.m.**  
In this parody of blaxploitation movies, a black hero wannabe reunites former black heroes from the 70s to help him get revenge on Mr. Big. Written and directed by Keenen Ivory Wayans. Discussion following the film led by Kalima Young, Lecturer, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Towson University. Film Series cosponsored by the Department of Electronic Media and Film.

**Lecture by Nikki A. Greene**  
**Center for the Arts, Art Lecture Hall, 2032**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**  
Nikki A. Greene is an Assistant Professor of Art at Wellesley College. She is an art historian who examines African and African American identities, music, the body, and feminism in 20th century and contemporary art. She has investigated the significance of music in her research, jazz and funk in particular, in the work of artists such as Aaron Douglas, Moe Brooker, and the musicians Betty Davis and Sun Ra. Her book project, *Rhythms of Grease, Grime, Glass, and Glitter: The Body in Contemporary Black Art*, presents a new interpretation of the work of David Hammons, Renée Stout, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, and Radcliffe Bailey, and considers the intersection between the body, black identity, and the musical possibilities of the visual. Greene has a B.A., Wesleyan University and M.A., Ph.D. in art history from the University of Delaware.

**Family Art Day**  
**Where: Center for the Arts Atrium**  
**When: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
Drop-in for a day of interactive art activities, dance workshops and galleries tours all inspired by the current art exhibitions.

**Dark Humor: The Film Series | Bamboozled**  
**Art Lecture Hall, CA 2032**  
**Saturday, March 11th at 3 p.m.**  
A frustrated African-American TV writer proposes a blackface minstrel show in protest, but to his chagrin it becomes a hit. Written and directed by Spike Lee. Discussion following the film led by Kalima Young, Lecturer, Department of Electronic Media and Film, Towson University. Film Series cosponsored by the Department of Electronic Media and Film.

**Community Discussion**  
**Art Lecture Hall, CA 2032**  
**Monday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.**  
Community-based discussion related to the *Dark Humor* exhibition.

**Lecture by Mia Mask**  
**Center for the Arts, Art Lecture Hall, 2032**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**  
Mask is the author of *Divas on Screen: Black Women in American Film*, published by University of Illinois Press, *Contemporary Black American Cinema: Race, Gender and Sexuality at the Movies* published by Routledge and the co-editor of *Poiète Revisited: Reconsidering a Black Icon in the Obama Age*. Bloomsbury Publishing. Her cultural commentary can be heard on National Public Radio. She holds a PhD from New York University, and is Professor of Film on the Mary Riepma Ross ’32 Chair at Vassar College where she teaches African American cinema, documentary film history, seminars on special topics such as the horror film, and auteurs like Spike Lee. Cosponsored by the Department of Electronic Media and Film.

**Lecture by artist Zoë Charleton**  
**Center for the Arts, Art Lecture Hall, 2032**  
**Thursday, April 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**  
Charleton is interested in ideas of privilege and empowerment and the signifiers that illustrate those ideas. As a black woman of the 21st century, she explores identity through a political viewpoint that is informed not only by the Civil Rights movement, but also the writings of important critical theorists. She has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and at The Creative Alliance in Baltimore, MD. Her work has been included in national and international group exhibitions at museums and galleries, and she is a recipient of a Pollock-Krasner grant (2012) and Rubys grant (2014), and was a finalist for the 2015 Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize. Charleton is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Art at American University in Washington, DC.

All events are free and open to the public.  
**For more information contact Dr. Erin Lehman, elehman@towson.edu; 410-704-2333**

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