113

CONTENTS

What is Africa to me now? • Transition updates Countee Cullen's iconic question, examining the meening of the continent for members of African diasporas both old and new.

Introduction

by Bénédicte Ledent and Daria Tunca

II Negotiating Africa Now

Madhu Krishnan retraces how Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart helped inaugurate contemporary African literature as we know it, and examines the ways that contemporary African novelists are trying to smash the image of Africa as a monolith even as their works sometimes play into efforts to stereotype what Africa "means."

25 The Path Between Two Points

Narrating the story of Boubacar, a Malian immigrant in France, Julie Kleinman explores how French colonial fantasies of travel and adventure in Africa belie the fraught and perilous real-life "adventures" of Soninke men trying to eke out a living in the Hexagon.

44 An Afropean Travel Narrative

Johny Pitts questions what it means to have a "black body," and sets off with camera across Recession-turmoiled Europe in search of the elusive Afropean.

52 The Newly Black Americans

Engaging in close readings of fiction from a number of African-African American writers including Mengestu, Adichie, Oguine, and Cole—Louis Chude-Sokei considers how a new veave of African immigrants thinks about race and solidarity with extant black American culture.

72 Happiness - Fiction by Chika Unigwe 82 "Some Connection with the Place" Poet and novelist Jackie Kay is interviewed by Petra Tournay-Theodotou about her memoir, Red Dust Road, which tells of the adopted, biracial Briton's search for her Nigerian father and Scottish mother.

102 Islands

Falling through memory, Hilton Als juxtaposes a day spent with his intimate friend—a man he "loves like no other"—with arresting recollections of a childhood summer spent in Barbados, when sexual maturation sundered him from his brother.

110 We Eat Cold Eels and Think Distant Thoughts · Poetry

by Danielle Legros Georges

III Straddling Shifting Spheres

Kelly Baker Josephs chats with David Chariandy, author of Soucouyant, about the relationship between his scholarship and fiction. The two also discuss Chariandy's role in defining a Black Canadian literary canon.

128 Excerpt from Brother - Fiction by David Chariandy

136 Burial Ground · Poetry by Malika Booker

Considering Race and Crime -

Transition examines the social impacts of collective fear, from the L.A. Riots to the Zimmerman trial.

137 Legacies of Fear

Laurence Ralph and Kerry Chance explore how blacks are construed by the American legal system as inherently problematic—their mere presence in public space an indication of wrong-doing. The authors draw comparisons between the Rodney King beating and Traywon Martin's murder, and introduce the following essays.

146 Remembering SA-I-GU

In this interview, Ju Yon Kim invites Dai Sil Kim-Gibson to reflect on the impact of her 1992 film Sal-Ua, which provided a Korean American perspective on the L.A. Riots. The filmmaker goes on to discuss the notivations behind her decision to return to the subject years later in Wet Sand.

55 The Luminance of Guilt

Inviting the reader to consider a number of images depicting black suffering, Patricia Williams scrutinizes how black Americans, from Rodney King to Trayvon Martin, have consistently been falsely construed as the perpetrators—rather than the victims—of violence against themselves.

Cover: West African Souvenir Seller, Eiffel Tower, Paris. ©2013 Johny Pitts.