

**NCSA 2022 President's Award**  
**Wendy Castenell**  
**Assistant Professor of Art History, University of Alabama**

I am so pleased to give the 2022 Nineteenth-Century Studies Association President's Award today to an individual who has herself given so much time and energy to our Association. This person has been a member of NCSA for years, has attended conferences and chaired panels, has served on the Travel Awards Committee, and is in her second term as a member of the Board of Directors. She took on the intensive and critical service role of co-forming and co-leading our Diversity and Inclusion Committee, launched in 2020. I am delighted to recognize the hard work of Wendy Castenell, Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama.

Wendy received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2012 and taught at Alabama State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Massachusetts before joining the faculty at the University of Alabama in 2015. Wendy is an accomplished and very active scholar, and her work on African American art reaches a range of audiences within and beyond the academy. Her book, *Creole Identity in the Art of the American South: Louisiana from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction*, is forthcoming. In addition to this project, Wendy has published in the journal *Panorama* and other venues and has curated exhibitions. She has presented her research in a range of venues and has also co-presented and co-curated exhibitions with students. She is the recipient of the Tyson Scholars Think Tank Fellowship and the Newberry Library Short-Term Fellowship. Recently she was involved with an exhibit at the Paul R. Jones Museum, an exhibition bringing together artworks from the museum's collection and those from Tuscaloosa's Central Elementary School fifth graders. As this range of activities and engagements demonstrates, Wendy is a major voice in nineteenth-century art history, and she is also helping to define public humanities engagement.

Wendy has been an invaluable member of NCSA over the past many years, and her work on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in particular has been vitally important for our Association. She helped launch the Committee by creating its charge and scope and by developing a call for participants in 2020. This call resulted in a vibrant influx of new NCSA members, many of whom joined the Association specifically to participate in the group. The Committee has met multiple times over the past year and a half and, under Wendy's leadership, organized and led three roundtables at the 2021 conference. The group also helped locate one of the 2021 conference keynote speakers, and has developed both a travel award and article prize, both aimed recognizing and supporting the work of scholars of color. The Committee is working with our journal, *Nineteenth Century Studies*, to develop a special issue on race and racism in the nineteenth century. All of this has been possible because of Wendy's dedication to NCSA and her vision for the future of our organization.

Over the years, Wendy has demonstrated time and again her commitment to NCSA and she has been a model of intellectual engagement and scholarly service. Her dedication benefits all of us as members of NCSA, and it is my pleasure to recognize her contributions today with the NCSA President's Award.

**Susan E. Cook**  
**NCSA President**