

# ART FORUM

# WED 2 AUG



## CARLOS RIVERA

### **Art and Decolonization in the Americas**

**Wed 2 August  
1 – 2pm  
Cell Block Theatre**

Image: *America can (We) be Born Again* (2014).  
Diógenes Ballester.

Please join us for a presentation by **Carlos Rivera Santana** who will give a talk that explores the cultural historical connections between colonialism, race and aesthetics from the beginnings of colonisation in the 16th century, and how this aesthetic discourse informed the anticolonial modern and contemporary art in the Americas. Specifically, we will see how an aesthetics of monstrosity informed racialized discourse directed at Indigenous peoples from the beginning of colonisation. Then, we will trace the decolonial and anti-racist messages in the Latin American muralist art movement with artists like Frida Khalo, Diego Rivera and Rufino Tamayo, the Neo-expressionist art of Jean Mitchel Basquiat and more contemporarily, First Nations artist Cara Romero and Afro-Puerto Rican artist Daniel Lind-Ramos.

**Carlos Rivera Santana** is an assistant professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of William & Mary and currently is also a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK), UTS at Sydney, Australia. Rivera Santana is a Latin American/Caribbean cultural studies scholar specializing in Indigenous studies, visual culture and decolonial theories. He is the author of the book, *Archaeology of Colonisation: From Aesthetics to Biopolitics* and is currently working on a second book with renowned artist Diógenes Ballester entitled *Puerto Rican Visual Arts and its Decolonial Diasporic Character: An Arteologist Approach*, signed with Centro Press—among other peer-review publications on decolonial aesthetics and interviews with other LatinX artists.



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