

# THE BELLINI COLLOQUIUM

## “The Invention of the Island: The Photosculptures of Thierry Fontaine”

Located outside of any historical local process and enclosed by the colonial gaze either in a touristic space or as a purely anthropological curiosity, the trope of the island takes its central place in this presentation as a new model of a fundamentally complex geography. This project proposes to rethink the island as an essential component of identity in the French-speaking Indian Ocean. Through the study of the photosculptures of the Reunionese artist Thierry Fontaine, this presentation proposes to decontinentalize Western discourse--and decolonize the gaze--on the island space as a way to return the island to the islanders, without separating the real from the imaginary. However, while Fontaine’s photosculptures sublimate the purely local and circumstantial tensions of insularity, they are, at the same time, metonymical manifestations of universal questions that torment our humanity.

A lecture by

**Dr. Magali Compan**

**French and Francophone Studies**

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