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Curator and Scholar Maurice Berger Wins \$400,000 NEH Grant

12.08.09

Dr. Maurice Berger, a scholar at the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture, has been awarded a grant worth \$400,000 to fund a website, book, and exhibition which examines the history of the fight for civil rights across America, according to *The Retriever*.

Berger, the project manager, curator, and author of *For All the World to See*, received the America's Historical and Cultural Organizations: Implementation Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Berger is currently the adjunct curator of UMBC's Fine Arts gallery.

The project has been organized in partnership with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC, and is due to be unveiled on May 12, 2010 at the International Center of Photography in New York. The project's book component, *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, was written by Berger and published by Yale University Press. The exhibition will be feature in a festival and public program at the New York Public Library later in 2010, and will then tour museums nationwide, culminating at a display at the UMBC Center for Visual Arts in fall 2012.

The work of Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, W.E.B. Du Bois, Roland Barthes, and the art historian Rosalind Krauss, Berger's mentor throughout his undergraduate and graduate studies, has been the main influence on his creativity. The inspiration for this work, however, lies a lot closer to home. "My father was a civil rights supporter before most whites even acknowledged the movement, so my initial inspiration comes from the dialogue that I had with my father in the 1960s as a young child," he says.



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