Oct. 15: Prof. Malcolm Mobutu Smith  
“Turbulent Vessels: Ceramics and Identity”  
In his ceramic work, Prof. Smith is drawn to the concept of the vessel as means of delivering many types of content, historical, socio-political, popular and aesthetic. This presentation will explore how Smith’s works pulls from his identity as person of color, an operator in the world of Hip Hop culture and as an educator in the academy of art education—hopefully teasing out interesting forms that hint at content and blur territories of influence.

Nov. 5: Prof. Jacinda Townsend  
“Historical Research and the Novel: A Conversation about Saint Monkey”  
How does one write about an era that was over before one was even born? Jacinda Townsend will talk about the layers of historical research that informed and drove her debut novel, Saint Monkey.

Nov. 19: Gabriel Peoples  
“People Hear What They See: Rumor and Branding in (Re)presentations of Black Men”  
This talk is taken from Gabriel Peoples' larger work, "Viral Bodies: Uncontrollable (Re)presentations of Black Masculinity in Popular Culture,” which argues that viral performances turn (Black) beings into "things" which reinscribe ill-ideological beliefs, while also generating paths of alterity where essentialized understandings of Black men are challenged and transgressed. This presentation, will specifically examine how select photos from Hank Willis Thomas' Band exhibition visualize popular rumors of Black bodies and transpose them into what he calls critical rumor—the viral performance of "other truth" that ties structures of power to their affects in everyday life.