

HYPERALLERGIC

Lowery Stokes Sims and Chloë Bass Talk Empathy, Art, and Education

What does it mean to have empathy? How do we navigate difference? Can contemporary art contribute to our understanding of all this?

By Hrag Vartanian

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Lowery Stokes Sims and Chloë Bass during their conversation at Hyperallergic HQ (photo Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)

Last year, we invited artist, writer, and Queens College professor Chloë Bass to talk with curator, art historian, and museum veteran Lowery Stokes Sims to have a conversation of their choosing. It took me a year to publish this podcast, but I'm happy to say their words are more relevant today than ever, as the two art world figures discuss the imagined publics of contemporary art, public and private education, and the challenges of empathy and identity in art.

Bass is no stranger to Hyperallergic readers, and she's known for her deep engagement with art and writing coupled with a solid understanding of the way art functions in the world and the emotional sophistication needed to outline those parameters.

Then there's Lowery Stokes Sims, who has been a trailblazer throughout her career. She was on the education and curatorial staff of The Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1972 to 1999, during which time she specialized in modern and contemporary art. From 2000 to 2007, she was executive director and then president of The Studio Museum in Harlem, and served as Adjunct Curator for the Permanent Collection. Then from 2007 until 2015, she chief curator at New York's Museum of Arts and Design.

I think you'll agree that the following conversation offers useful insight into the worlds of two leading figures in New York's art community.

A special thanks to Brooklyn-based musician SunSon for providing the music to this episode. You can check out his website sunson.band and follow him on Facebook or Instagram.

This and more in the current episode of our weekly Art Movements podcast.

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