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978-0-521-87213-3 - Modernism, the Visual, and Caribbean Literature

Mary Lou Emery

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LITERATURE

Vision is a recurring obsession in the work of twentieth-century Caribbean writers. This ambitious study offers a comprehensive analysis of the visual in authors from the Anglophone Caribbean as they intersect with mainstream modernism. While sound cultures have received more attention in studies of the black Atlantic, this is the first to analyze acts of seeing, inner vision, and reflections on visual art. Mary Lou Emery analyzes Caribbean art, theatre, and literature of the early twentieth century, including works by Edna Manley and Una Marson, then turns to George Lamming, C. L. R. James, Derek Walcott, Wilson Harris, and a younger generation including Jamaica Kincaid and David Dabydeen. She argues that their preoccupation with vision directly addresses philosophies of sensory perception developed at the height of the slave trade and emerges in conditions of diaspora continuing into the present. This study is an original and important contribution to transatlantic and postcolonial studies.

MARY LOU EMERY is Associate Professor of English at the University of Iowa where she teaches courses in Modernist, Caribbean, and Postcolonial Studies. She is the author of *Jean Rhys at "World's End": Novels of Colonial and Sexual Exile* (1990) as well as articles on other Caribbean writers and British modernists.

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[More information](#)

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*For Stephen and Claire*

## Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
1 Transfigurations	1
Modernity, slavery, and sight	3
Turner trans-figured: writings by Cliff, Dabydeen, and D'Aguiar	19
2 Exhibitions/modernisms 1900–1939	37
The look and location of “elsewhere”	40
Empire eyes: popular imperial modernism at Wembley	52
Edna Manley and Ronald Moody: transatlantic Caribbean modernism	66
3 Exile/Caribbean eyes 1928–1963	100
C. L. R. James and Una Marson: seeing through colonial imitation	102
Marson and James: black visionaries on stage	124
George Lamming and C. L. R. James: exile, cricket, and modern art	148
4 Ekphrasis/diasporic Caribbean imaginations 1960–2000	180
Derek Walcott and Wilson Harris: the poetics of painting	181
Jean Rhys, Jamaica Kincaid, and Michelle Cliff: refiguring “elsewhere”	209
Wilson Harris: the resurrected sensory body	221
Conclusion	235
Fragments of the beggar’s mask	235
<i>Notes</i>	244
<i>Bibliography</i>	270
<i>Index</i>	285

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Illustrations*

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1. William Hogarth, <i>A Harlot's Progress: Plate II</i> (1733),<br>etching, 13 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub> in. × 15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> in., University of California, Berkeley,<br>Art Museum. Purchase made possible through a gift from<br>Phoebe Apperson Hearst. 1998.2.2, photographed for<br>the UC Berkeley Art Museum by Benjamin Blackwell.                               | <i>page 5</i> |
| 2. Joseph Mallard William Turner, English, 1775–1851, <i>Slave<br/>Ship (Slavers Throwing Overboard the Dead and Dying,<br/>Typhoon Coming On)</i> (1840), oil on canvas, 90.8 cm × 122.6 cm<br>(35 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in. × 48 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in.), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Henry Lillie<br>Pierce Fund. 99.22, photograph © 2007, Museum of Fine<br>Arts, Boston. | 20            |
| 3. <i>The British Empire Exhibition, 1924, Official Guide</i> ,<br>British Library.  | 60            |
| 4. Edna Manley, <i>Beadseller</i> (1922), bronze (unique cast),<br>H. 16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in., National Gallery of Jamaica, courtesy The Edna<br>Manley Foundation, photograph Maria La Yacona.   | 70            |
| 5. Edna Manley, <i>Eve</i> (1929), wood (mahogany), H. 84 in.,<br>Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust, courtesy The Edna<br>Manley Foundation, photograph Maria La Yacona.   | 73            |
| 6. Edna Manley, <i>Negro Aroused</i> (1935), wood (mahogany),<br>H. 25 in., National Gallery of Jamaica, courtesy The Edna<br>Manley Foundation, photograph Maria La Yacona.   | 76            |
| 7. Aaron Douglas, <i>Into Bondage</i> (1936), oil on canvas,<br>60 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in. × 60 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in., Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington<br>DC. Museum purchase and partial gift from Thurlow<br>Evans Tibbs, Jr., The Evans-Tibbs Collection, 1996.9.   | 82            |
| 8. Ronald Moody, 1900–1984, <i>Johanaan</i> (1936), wood (elm),<br>© Tate, London 2006.  | 88            |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-87213-3 - Modernism, the Visual, and Caribbean Literature

Mary Lou Emery

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>List of illustrations</i>		ix
9.	Edna Manley, <i>Prophet</i> (1935), wood (mahogany) H. 30¼ in., National Gallery of Jamaica, courtesy The Edna Manley Foundation, photograph Maria La Yacona.	90
10.	Edna Manley, <i>Pocomania (Vision)</i> (1936), Hoptonwood Stone, H. 23½ in., Wallace Campbell Collection, Kingston, Jamaica, courtesy The Edna Manley Foundation, photograph Maria La Yacona.	91
11.	Cover, <i>Vendre</i> , No. 162 (May 1937), reprinted from <i>Paris 1937: Worlds on Exhibition</i> by James D. Herbert, © 1998, Cornell University, courtesy Cornell University Press.	157
12.	Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Venetian, 1696–1770, <i>Apelles Painting Campaspe before Alexander</i> (or, <i>Apelles Painting the Portrait of Campaspe</i> ) (c. 1725–26), oil on canvas, 57.4 cm × 73.7 cm, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Adaline Van Horne Bequest. 1945.929, photograph Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.	185
13.	Ana Mendieta, <i>Untitled (from the Silueta Series, 1978)</i> , © The Estate of Ana Mendieta Collection, courtesy Galerie Lelong, New York.	220

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978-0-521-87213-3 - Modernism, the Visual, and Caribbean Literature

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xi

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