THE FLESH OF THE MATTER: A HORTENSE SPILLERS SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 18, 2016 ~ 4:30pm
KEYNOTE LECTURE by Hortense Spillers
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor in English (Vanderbilt U.)
“Shades of Intimacy: What the Eighteenth Century Teaches Us”
Klarman Hall Auditorium

Saturday, March 19, 2016 ~ 10:00am-6:30pm
SYMPOSIUM PANELS
Africana Studies & Research Center, Multipurpose Room (310 Triphammer Road)

10:00-11:30 Adding Flesh to the Bare Life
Alex Weheleye (Northwestern U), “Black Life: Inhabitations of the Flesh”
Respondents, Margo Crawford and C. Riley Snorton (Cornell U)

1:00-2:30 Flesh and Fluidity
Amber Musser (Washington U in St. Louis), “The Hydraulics of Flesh”
Kai Green (Northwestern), “Saying ‘yes’ to the Bulldagger within: A Black Lesbian Trans* inheritance”
Margo Crawford (Cornell), “This Flesh that We Might Call Diaspora”

3:00-4:30 Theorizing from Within: If Hortense Spillers Was Your Mother…
Rizvana Bradley (Emory U), “Some Notes on Flesh, Abstraction, and Form”
Rebecca Wanzo (Washington U in St. Louis), “All the Things you could be by now if Hortense Spillers was Your Mother”
La Marr Jurelle Bruce (U of Maryland), “All the Things You Are”

5:00-6:30 “What you going to do…[now]?”
Sarah Haley (UCLA), “Materialized Scene(s): Paradox, Prison, and Protection”

Hortense Spillers is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor in English at Vanderbilt University, where she has been on faculty since 2006. She is the editor (along with Marjorie Pryse) of Conjuring: Black Women, Fiction, and Literary Tradition (1983) and Comparative American Identities: Race, Sex, and Nationality in the Modern Text (1991). She published a collection of essays, Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture (2003), which spans the breadth of her professional interests in African American culture and history. She is currently working on two big projects — the idea of black culture, and women and early Republican formations — and three smaller and related ones — Faulkner’s Thomas Sutpen (from Absalom, Absalom!) and the DuBoisian “double consciousness”; “statelessness” and the early modern black subject; and Wright, Baldwin, and Ellison at mid-century. All of these projects are at various stages of writing.