

Weinstein Author Series Explores Resistance with *Surviving Southampton*

Historian Vanessa M. Holden's upcoming book sheds new light on the places and people surrounding America's most famous rebellion against slavery.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 7, 2021 (Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia's **2021 Carole Weinstein Author Series** (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein) continues with a free virtual talk by historian Vanessa M. Holden on June 10 at 6:00 PM. Her book *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community* reimagines the iconic event.

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia. **Free and open to the public**, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

For more information about registering for events, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813 or dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov.

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Place: Online | Free | Registration required: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

Dr. Vanessa M. Holden

Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community

Vanessa M. Holden is an assistant professor of history and African American and Africana studies at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Holden's most recent book, *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community* (University of Illinois Press), explores the contributions that African American women and children, free and enslaved, made to the Southampton Rebellion of 1831, also called Nat Turner's Rebellion. Dr. Holden's work and writing has been published in *Slavery and Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Studies*, *Perspectives on History*, *Process: A Blog for American History*, and *The Rumpus*. She also blogs for *Black Perspectives* and *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*. In

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addition to her work on enslaved women and slave rebellion, Dr. Holden also co-organizes the Queering Slavery Working Group (#QSWG) with Jessica Marie Johnson (Johns Hopkins University). Her second project, *Forming Intimacies: Queer Kinship and Resistance in the Antebellum American Atlantic*, will focus on same-gender loving individuals and American slavery. Dr. Holden also serves as a faculty adviser or consultant on a number of public history and digital humanities projects including *Freedom on the Move* (a digital archive of ads seeking fugitives from slavery); *Black Horsemen of the Kentucky Turf* (an exhibition chronicling the intersecting histories of African Americans and the horse industry in Kentucky); and a grant project aimed at bringing a driving tour and museum to Southampton County, Virginia, that interprets the Southampton Rebellion. Dr. Holden is deeply committed to diversity, inclusion, and equity work and is the 2019–2020 recipient of the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion Award. Find her on Twitter @drvholden.

About *Surviving Southampton: African American Women and Resistance in Nat Turner's Community*

The 1831 Southampton Rebellion led by Nat Turner involved an entire community. Dr. Vanessa M. Holden rediscovers the women and children, free and enslaved, who lived in Southampton County before, during, and after the revolt. Mapping the region's multilayered human geography, she draws a fuller picture of the inhabitants, revealing not only their interactions with physical locations but also their social relationships in space and time. Her analysis recasts the Southampton Rebellion as one event that reveals the continuum of practices that sustained resistance and survival among local Black people. Dr. Holden follows how African Americans continued those practices through the rebellion's immediate aftermath and into the future, showing how Black women and communities raised children who remembered and heeded the lessons absorbed during the calamitous events of 1831. A bold challenge to traditional accounts, *Surviving Southampton* sheds new light on the places and people surrounding America's most famous rebellion against slavery.

STILL TO COME IN 2021 | To Register: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

September 14, 2021 (In Person/Virtual as pandemic restrictions allow) – KAREN L. COX

No Common Ground: Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice

November 17, 2021 (In Person/Virtual as pandemic restrictions allow) – ALEXIS COE

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington

Link to January 28 media release about the entire 2021 Weinstein Author Series:

<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/news/press/Weinstein-Author-Series-at-the-LVA.pdf>

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About the Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest agencies of Virginia government, founded in 1823 to preserve and provide access to the state's incomparable printed and manuscript holdings. Its collection, which has grown steadily through the years, is the most comprehensive resource in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture, and government with over 129 million items in the collections. The Library also engages the public through in-person and virtual events, education programs, and online resources that reach nearly 4 million individuals each year throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

May 7, 2021