Reframing Home, Race, Art and Empire
A symposium inspired by the acquisition of Rebecca Solomon’s ‘A Young Teacher’ (1861) by Museum of the Home and Tate.

Call for Papers
A one-day symposium organised by the Centre for Studies of Home

Deadline for abstracts: 16 September 2024

November 7th 2024

Museum of the Home - 10am to 5pm
This symposium explores the issues of gender, race, domestic labour, intimacy and education through the landmark painting 'A Young Teacher' (1861) by Rebecca Solomon. The symposium is organised by the Centre for Studies of Home, a collaborative research partnership between Queen Mary University of London and the Museum of the Home.

The symposium aims to shed light on the life and work of Rebecca Solomon, believed to be the first Jewish woman to become a professional artist in England, as well as the model for the painting, Fanny Eaton, who was born in Jamaica. The symposium will also explore broader themes of colonialism, representation, and the experiences of people of colour in the 1800s.

This painting is of great importance to Museum of the Home as we redevelops our displays and collections to better represent themes of race, class, faith, and gender and their intersection in the home. It will be a key object in the Museum’s major redevelopment of our famous Rooms Through Time displays, due to open in July 2024.

Submit an abstract
We welcome proposals of no more than 250 words. This Call for Papers is open to academics and other researchers, artists, museum practitioners and those working in relevant industries.

We encourage interdisciplinary and intersectional applications and invite proposals for individual papers, panel discussion, interactive sessions, and multimedia presentations. Proposals for photo essays, short documentaries, poster presentations and other forms of presentation are also encouraged.

Please submit your abstracts and a short bio by 16 September 2024 to curatorial@museumofthehome.org.uk. Should you have any questions please get in touch via the same email address.
We welcome contributions on topics that include, but are not limited to:

The career and life of Rebecca Solomon

The career and life of Fanny Eaton

Histories of traveling ayahs

Colonial histories of home and art

Gender, race and paid domestic work

The migration of domestic workers

Narratives of care and care work

Depictions of interiors and decorative arts

Decolonising domestic experiences

Experiences of people of colour in the 1800s

Depictions of Black and South Asian women in contemporary and historical art

The Solomon family

Engaging audiences with art history

Centring communities in storytelling

**Keynote Speaker**

The keynote speaker for the symposium is Arunima Datta author of Waiting on Empire: A History of Indian Travelling Ayahs in Britain (Oxford University Press, 2023).
The symposium is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Ticket price £20 per person, £15 concessions. Book your place at the symposium here.

You can find out more about the history of the Museum buildings and transatlantic slavery here.

About the Centre for Studies of Home

The Centre for Studies of Home is an interdisciplinary research partnership between Queen Mary University of London and the Museum of the Home, combining expertise and exchanging knowledge across the two institutions since 2011.

We develop new research that deepens and diversifies understandings of home for public and academic audiences.

Our research is collaborative and cross-disciplinary, encompassing work on home both within and beyond the domestic sphere. Alongside everyday life, domestic architecture, and material culture, we are interested in broader ideas about home, dwelling and belonging.