Professor Matthew Fox-Amato and Curator Dhyandra Lawson will discuss the exhibit Black American Portraits, which accompanies LACMA’s presentation of The Obama Portraits Tour. Spanning over two centuries from c. 1800 to the present day, this selection of approximately 150 works draws primarily from LACMA’s permanent collection and highlights emancipation and early studio photography, scenes from the Harlem Renaissance, portraits from the Civil Rights and Black Power eras, and multiculturalism of the 1990s. Black American Portraits chronicles the ways in which Black Americans have used portraiture to envision themselves in their own eyes. Countering a visual culture that often demonizes Blackness and fetishizes the spectacle of Black pain, these images center love, abundance, family, community, and exuberance.

In conjunction with this virtual event, the USC-LACMA History of Photography seminar will host a gallery visit at LACMA on Sunday, November 7 at 11am for a limited number of participants.

RSVP to vsri@usc.edu for more information or to be added to our Slack channel.