

Louisiana Rebellion of 1811 focus of talk

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During the discussion, “Art and Revolution,” artist Dread Scott, left, and historian Leon Waters, right, will explore the ways in which the 1811 Louisiana Rebellion involving hundreds of enslaved Africans has shaped the region. (Photos from the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South)

The 1811 Louisiana Rebellion involved hundreds of enslaved Africans who gathered in plantations along the Mississippi River in a march toward New Orleans with the hope of capturing the city and potentially changing the course of history. The New Orleans Center for the Gulf South and Antenna Gallery will host historian Leon Waters and performance artist Dread Scott for a discussion of the rebellion and its

historic and present significance to the region and larger national community.

“Art and Revolution: An evening with Dread Scott and Leon Waters” brings the two together for dialogue about the rebellion and how it has shaped their life’s work in propelling history forward.

“I’m passionate about revolution. This is a world where a tiny handful of people control the wealth and knowledge humanity as a whole has created,” said Scott. “We don’t have to live this way, and I make art as part of forging a radically different world.”

Scott’s upcoming artistic project, [Slave Rebellion Reenactment](#), will restage and reinterpret Louisiana’s Revolt of 1811.

“The re-enactment will animate a hidden history of people with an audacious plan to take up arms to fight for their emancipation,” said Scott.

Like Scott’s art, Waters’ work unearths the hidden markers that have covered significant historic events and people. The 1811 Rebellion aligned more than 500 African-descended people, from 50 distinct nations and languages, to fight U.S. troops for freedom. This is part of the nation’s “hidden history.”

Leon Waters, writer and founder of [Hidden History Tours](#), a publishing, research and touring company in New Orleans, marries education and social justice.

“For the complete emancipation of the African-American nation, the African-American nation must win the right to self-determination,” said Waters. “The defeat of the rule of the rich millionaires and billionaires, or the defeat of the dictatorship of the rich, is an absolute necessity to fulfill this noble goal.”

“Art and Revolution: An evening with Dread Scott and Leon Waters” takes place Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Freeman Auditorium in Woldenberg Art Center. A reception and book signing will follow in Woodward Way.

For more information, please contact the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South at 504-314-2854.

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