patient. poems


Poetry. African American Studies. Women's Studies. "Bettina Judd's phenomenal debut poetry collection, PATIENT., is about recovery in many senses: recovery of the subjectivity of several historical figures, through the recovery, reconstitution, and telling of their stories--among them Anarcha Westcott, Betsey Harris, Lucy Zimmerman, Joice Heth, Saartjie Baartman, and Henrietta Lacks, who were infamously 'patients' or subjects of inspection and 'plunder' by, among others, J. Marion Sims, the controversial gynecologist, and P.T. Barnum, showman and circus founder. Sims (and the speculum) and Barnum are the featured antagonists in many of these flawlessly empathetic poems, but an unnamed speaker who adds a contemporary voice to the lyric chorus implicates those in charge of her care during a present-day hospital stay at Johns Hopkins--suggesting the linkage of modern medical treatment to the traumas vulnerable Black women, enslaved and not, suffered at the hands of unethical scientists and physicians...

Status of Research or Work: Completed/published

Research Type: Publications
- Books

People Involved: Bettina Judd

Related Fields: African American
- Disability
- Gender
- Medicine
- Poetry and Poetics
- Violence and Trauma
- Women
- Women of Color

Department of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies
University of Washington
B110 Padelford Hall, Box 354345
Seattle, WA 98195

Phone: (206) 543-6900
Fax: (206) 685-9555
gwss@uw.edu

Source URL: https://gwss.washington.edu/research/publications/patient-poems