

Empire Exhibition at Newcomb Art Museum

As New Orleans celebrates its tricentennial this year, the marketed feeling is one of positivity: a vibrant and unique city that is resilient and ever changing. While there is much to celebrate, it is important to understand the histories of the many people, cultures and institutions that have shaped the city over three centuries. To many, New Orleans as a place has been around long before 1718. How have individual or group perspectives and histories been overshadowed, silenced or eradicated in an attempt to create one unified history of New Orleans?

With this in mind, the artist duo Fallen Fruit has gathered over 400 objects from Tulane University's various collections, and assembled them in an immersive installation asking each viewer to come to their own conclusions regarding the story of New Orleans as it pertains to the effects of colonialism, slavery, trade and tourism. From their viewpoint, there is no right answer, not one perspective, but a myriad of possibilities and potential to understand the histories of this place, and to imagine its future.

Exercise: Thinking of these themes, "collect" objects and images that fit these criteria:

relates to **having** power

relates to **being powerless**

relates to fantasy

that is significant to you

appears to be false, fake, or not historically accurate