



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

---

## CONNECTICUT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Sheehan, Associate Vice President for Marketing, Media and Communications

Telephone: 860.231.5297

Email: [lsheehan@usj.edu](mailto:lsheehan@usj.edu)

## THE ART GALLERY AT UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH PRESENTS PHOTOGRAPHER LEWIS WATTS AND HISTORIAN ERIC PORTER ON MUSIC AND CULTURE IN NEW ORLEANS

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (April 9, 2014) – The Art Gallery at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will present the 2014 Vincenza Uccello Fine Arts Lecture featuring noted photographer **Lewis Watts** and jazz historian **Eric Porter** discussing their book ***New Orleans Suite: Music and Culture in Transition*** on **Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.** The lecture will take place in the Crystal Room, Mercy Hall, on the University's main campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. A reception and book signing will follow. This event is free of charge and open to the public.

*New Orleans Suite* (University of California Press, 2013) is a collection of photographs and essays by University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) professors Lewis Watts (Art) and Eric Porter (History, American Studies). Taking their title from Duke Ellington's musical tribute to New Orleans, the authors arranged their book "like a jam session" in which photographs and essays inform and build on one another but remain distinct pieces. A solid contribution to the post-Katrina discussion of New Orleans, it maps recent social and cultural transitions to the city, its region, and its residents, offering productive insight into a place in flux.

Lewis Watts' photographs have been exhibited internationally and are found in the collections of major museums nationally. He coauthored *Harlem of the West, The San Francisco Fillmore Jazz Era* (Chronicle Books, 2006). Eric Porter is the author of *What Is This Thing Called Jazz?* (University of California Press, 2002), winner of a 2003 American Book Award.

Supported by the Art Gallery's Vincenza Uccello Lecture Fund, named for the Gallery's first Director, this lecture is presented in collaboration with The Amistad Center for Art & Culture at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. It has been arranged in conjunction with the Art Gallery's current exhibition, *I Write Your Name: the Amistad Center @ USJ, Part 1*, on view through June 15.

###

*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford,*

*Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue ♦ West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 ♦ Tel: 860-231-5204 ♦ Fax: 860-231-5882