Jeanette Favrot Peterson
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Peterson’s teaching is focused on the visual culture of Precolumbian and colonial Latin America, but her interests in theories of vision, visuality, and color perception inspired a co-edited volume, Seeing Across Cultures: Visuality in the Early Modern Period, (Ashgate, 2012) in which she has a chapter on the Black Christs in the Americas. This year University of Texas published Visualizing Guadalupe: From Black Madonna to Queen of the Americas, a book that follows the trajectory of several devotions to the Virgin of Guadalupe, from the 12th-century Spanish Black Madonna in Extremadura, and her devotions in Bolivia and the well-known Virgin of Guadalupe. Currently she is working on a new Spanish edition of her 1993 book on the sixteenth-century murals of Malinalco as well as a study of the “three texts” in Bernardino de Sahagún’s Florentine Codex.

Lecture: The symbolic and racial implications of darkness: Guadalupe from Spain to the Americas

The peripatetic Virgin of Guadalupe is an object of devotion in Extremadura, Spain, that was transferred overseas in the sixteenth century to South America and, in a new manifestation, appeared in New Spain (Mexico). This talk traces the symbolic and racial implications of the shift from the Spanish Black Madonna to the dark-skinned Marian effigies in the Americas. Their materiality (in color, gems and cloth) will also be a focus, raising provocative questions about the conundrum of distinguishing representation and presence, idol and icon, in images that are intended to simulate, but not participate in, the holy.

Free and open to the public. For information, please call: (714) 997-6729