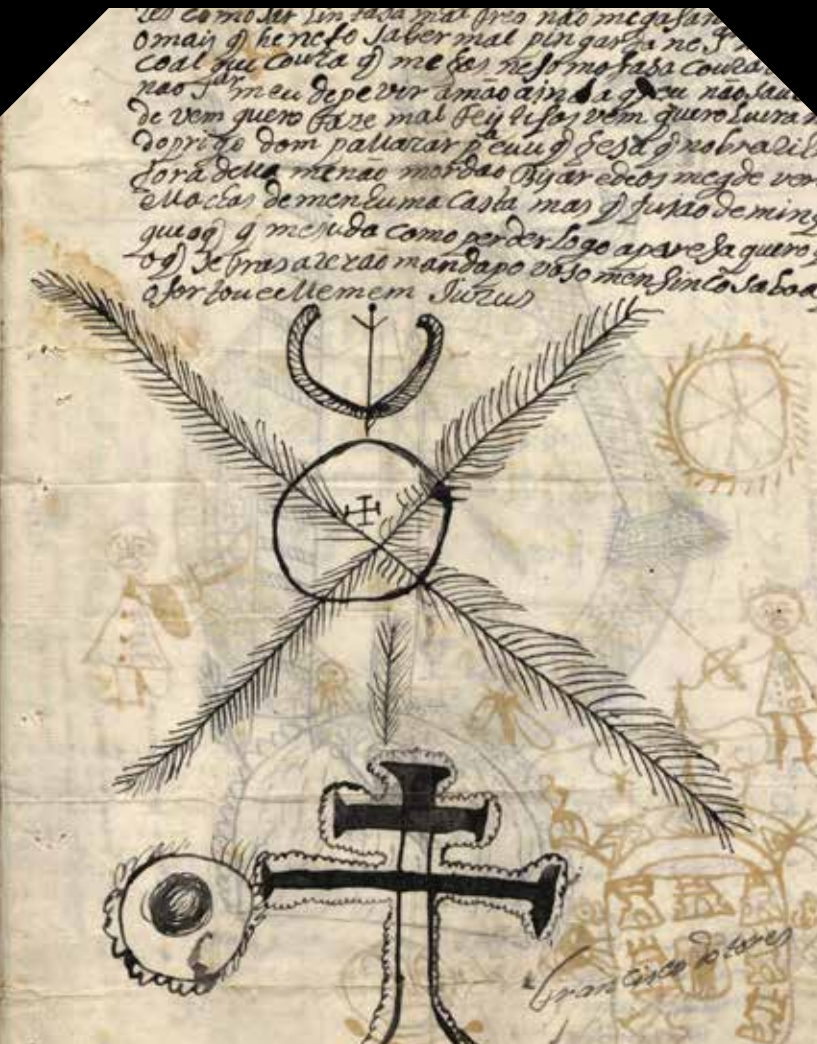


**Thursday, March 28, 2024**  
**4:30-6pm, Mitchell Hall 195**  
**Friends of Art History Lecture**

**Matthew Rarey**  
Associate Professor of African and  
Black Atlantic Art History  
Oberlin College and Conservatory



# Insignificant Things in the Archives of Atlantic Slavery



What forms of visual evidence can, and should, one use to materialize and memorialize the history of Atlantic slavery? In this talk, Matthew Rarey argues that this question, far from being a contemporary ethical challenge, was of critical importance to Africans and Indigenous people swept up in the Atlantic traffic of ideas and lives in the early eighteenth century. Critically analyzing a series of surreptitious and visually benign objects contained or referenced in colonial archives in Brazil and Portugal, Rarey suggests that mapping the visual culture of Atlantic slavery ethically requires engaging objects produced as challenges to, and archives of, their makers' experiences of displacement and diaspora.

**Co-sponsors:**  
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