



series involves temporary, large-scale installations of revamped Times articles on the sides of buildings. Her murals have addressed topics including the death of Michael Brown, gender bias in sports reporting and the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. In these works, Bell presents the act of editing and reframing a media narrative as public art.

Howard Graham, associate director of academic programs for the Office of First-Year Experience, said that Claudia Rankine — author of the current KU Common Book, "Citizen: An American Lyric" — mentioned thematic connections between her writing and Bell's artwork during her visit to campus in September. Bell's work shares similarities with Rankine's efforts to interrogate racial bias in the media and honor the victims of racial injustice.

"Bell's installations connect themes in 'Citizen' to topics quite literally ripped from the headlines in the past year," Graham said.

During her visit, Bell will install examples of her "Counternarratives" on campus and engage with KU students in classes and small groups.

A sample "counternarrative" assignment developed by KU Libraries, the William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications and the Spencer Museum is available on the KU Common Book [website](#)<sup>4</sup> for instructors to adapt Bell's approach to media critique to their own curricular aims.

"Alexandra Bell's work and artistic practice connect to so many topics currently studied at KU," said Spencer Museum Curator Kate Meyer. "The broad coalition of partners co-sponsoring Bell's visit are a testament to the relevance that discussions of race, gender and the media have in our classrooms and beyond."

Bell's visit is sponsored by partners across campus: Office of First-Year Experience; Spencer Museum of Art; Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity; Department of African & African-American Studies; Department of American Studies; Department of Film & Media Studies; Department of Visual Art; the Hall Center for the Humanities; Kress Foundation Department of Art History; Office of Diversity & Equity; Office of Multicultural Affairs; University Honors Program; KU Libraries; the School of Journalism.

**Image:** Alexandra Bell, "Venus Williams," 2017. **Credit:** We Are Not Pilgrims via [www.alexandrabell.com](http://www.alexandrabell.com)<sup>5</sup>.

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### Links on this page:

1. <https://news.ku.edu/2018/02/22/artist-alexandra-bell-whose-work-addresses-racial-bias-news-visit-ku-march>
2. <https://firstyear.ku.edu/2017commonbook>
3. <https://spencerart.ku.edu/common-work-art>

4. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12hEKvJv6rHSC8lR8zsSonngf3fvYTVJYothMk5QbgeA/edit>

5. <http://www.alexandrabell.com/>

6. [kunews@ku.edu](mailto:kunews@ku.edu)

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