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## Haiti: Step Back, Leap Forward

Rocky Cotard

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### **Description of Project**

Throughout this presentation, I will speak on how having seen a visual display of my culture enabled me to enter the art world with a renewed sense of vigor. I will give a brief history of Haiti and its difficulties, but with a strong focus on its power and triumphs. I will be speaking on my current project, *Step Back Leap Forward*, where I collaborate with Haitian artists and youth communities in Haiti to create imagery that supports and positively promotes our culture.

*Step Back Leap Forward* seeks to lift the veil for art colleges so that they can come to realize that art that is in stasis does not support growth. Art must interact with different cultures and place itself fearlessly in misrepresented environments to expand the minds of those who see it. To move forward we must step back, widening our view beyond the Eurocentric ideologies towards more unheard voices, and create something globally informed.

### **Intended Audience**

Those interested in Haiti, the Caribbean, Latin America, all the Americas, global studies, Black studies, African diasporic studies, intercultural relations, the arts, expressive therapies, Black visual art—and, the entire Lesley Community.

### **Format**

Interactive talk, with projection of images

Visual display of the work created during collaborative project in Haiti

### **Speaker**

- Rocky Cotard, Illustration major, Fine arts minor, LUCAD