Today, artists such as Octavia Butler, Sun Ra, Samuel R. Delany, N.K. Jemisin, and Janelle Monae are household names who are representative of the aesthetic and philosophy known as Afrofuturism. But this was not always the case. Just 10 years ago Afrofuturism was discussed in academic journals, online platforms, and in cultural criticism, but it was not part of the popular zeitgeist. One aspect of the popularization process included the canonization of artists—like those previously mentioned—who were held up as exemplars of the term. But what of the other contributors to the field?

In the following discussions, we will mine Emory University’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library to talk about the history of Afrofuturism and analyze several texts that, though important, are often overlooked for their influence on the field and the discourses of which they are a part. These texts include, Streetlethal (1983) by Steven Barnes, Imaro (1981) by Charles Saunders, Minion: A Vampire Huntress Legend (2003), and Brotherman: Dictator of Discipline (1990) by Guy Sims and Dawud Anyabwile.

This seminar is presented by Rose Library’s Curator of African American Collections, Dr. Clinton R. Fluker. This seminar will meet via Zoom from 6-7:15pm on the following Monday evenings during the 2022 spring semester: May 9, 16, 23, & 30. This Zoom meeting is limited and must be reserved in advance. The Zoom link will be sent via email in advance of the first session date. Complimentary copies of Streetlethal, Imaro, Minion, and Brotherman will be available. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. For further information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at fchi@emory.edu.

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