

# F O L I O

2020 - 2021



**Front cover:** Installation view from  
"Agha/ Butt/Farhat Exhibition"  
in The Gallery at UTA

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# WELCOME TO FOLIO

The academic year 2020 - 2021 in the Art and Art History Department at the University of Texas at Arlington occurred during another challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw many changes nationally during Fall 2020 with our national election, but also in our Department as we delivered a hybrid teaching experience across many of our courses and areas of study. Social distancing and other pandemic protocols (wearing masks, reducing room capacities, etc.) were the order of the day. That semester remained a time of great uncertainty as we together with all around the world awaited information about vaccine development that might bring hope during this period of isolation, illness and grave losses.

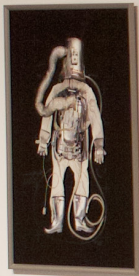
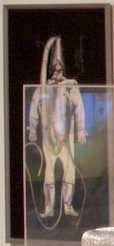
Spring 2021 began with the shocking scenes of January 6, 2021 erupting at Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The state of our union was itself gravely tested. Several days later we commenced our Spring classes, once more in hybrid fashion. As the February 2021 Texas Winter Storm brought more complications, and casualties, it was a further time of being physically apart when we most wanted to be back together. However, the UTA safety measures enabled our classes that were essential to be held in person to do so comparatively safely once the weather improved and power was restored. While we all learned to navigate the world of Zoom calls and remote teaching on Teams and Canvas during this unpredictable time, students, faculty, and staff continued to display the creativity, resilience, and dedication to meeting challenges with innovative solutions that we are known for and which we most prize.

Summer 2021 began with enormous hope that the vaccine rollout offered a possible reentry into public life as it once had been. However, COVID-19 variants and other complicating factors have meant that as I write this in early 2022, we continue in a new phase of the pandemic, still pursuing some hybrid / remote measures each semester to aid us into returning to campus safely once surges of infections lessen. Nonetheless, in spite of this situation of life during the continuing pandemic, whilst we mourn those who have lost their lives to this virus and its far-reaching effects, we continue to create and to hope.

It is my hope that as you read this FOLIO edition you will be moved by the energy, optimism, compassion, community-building, diversity and verve of the research and creative activity you will see displayed within these pages from our amazing students, alumni, and faculty. I know I am. And it is my great privilege to be part of this outstanding creative community at UTA. We look forward to all that is still to come and have courage that the spirit of empathy, imagination, and possibility continues to move us all forward together.



**Dr. August Jordan Davis**  
Department Chair - Art and Art History  
College of Liberal Art  
University of Texas at Arlington



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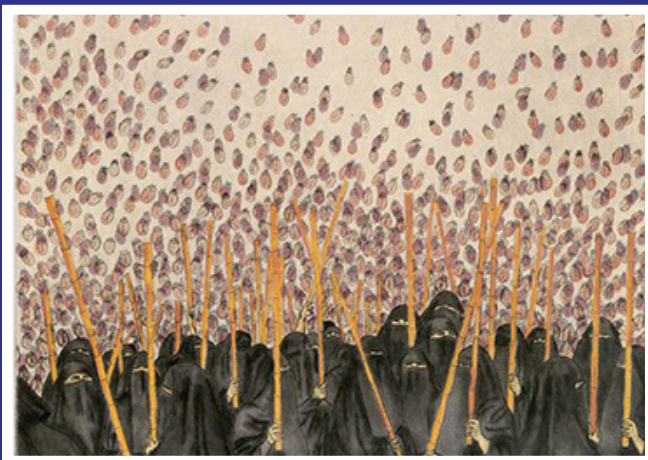
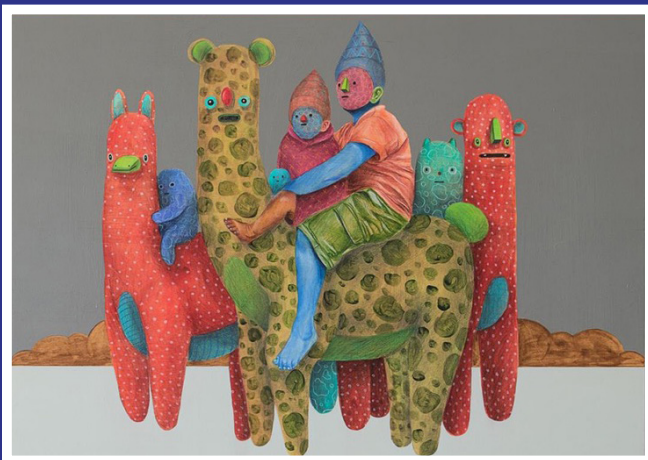
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# DEPARTMENT NEWS





Dr. Fletcher Coleman



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## Three New Assistant Professors Join Art & Art History Department

Three Art and Art History Department concentration areas - art history, painting, and design (packaging) - welcomed accomplished new faculty in fall semester 2020.

**Dr. Fletcher Coleman** is a specialist on the religious arts and art historiography of China, whose research spans the medieval through early modern periods. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2020. His current project examines the Buddhist stone carvings and antiquarian conventions utilized by scholars in the formation of East Asian art history as an academic discipline in the U.S. circa 1900-1955. Coleman's work has been published in journals such as *Ars Orientalis* and *Orientalisms*. Prior to arriving at UTA, Coleman was a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame. He also held doctoral fellowships from the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Studies, Kyoto, and the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou.

**Yana Payusova's** research interests are Interdisciplinary art, painting, sculpture, illustration, photography, digital practice, ceramics, graphic novels (narrative and sequential art). Professor Payusova received her M.F.A. in interdisciplinary media arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder and had been teaching at the University of Arizona before coming to UTA. Her paintings and sculptures blend the styles and symbols of Russian icons, folk art, graphic poster art, illustration, and comics, and reflect her cultural heritage and training in traditional Russian realism. Payusova exhibits both nationally and internationally, including recent venues at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Howard Yezerski Gallery (Boston), Galerie Caprice Horn (Berlin), Rubin Center for the Visual Arts (El Paso) and the Northern Clay Center (Minneapolis).

**Dr. Farzaneh Eftekhari** earned her Ph.D. in design in 2019 from North Carolina State University, after studying in 2016 at Harvard University, and receiving her MS in design from Arizona State University in 2013. At North Carolina State University she studied design thinking in cross-disciplines, specifically how design education can facilitate cross-disciplinary practices and support students' integrative learning skills. In her current research, she is exploring the type of skills, spaces and methods that design needs for integrated innovation. Branding strategy, human-centered design and design for behavior change are her other core areas of expertise.

Department Chair Dr. August Jordan Davis, commented, "We were so pleased to welcome our three new colleagues this year. Each has exceptional talents and knowledge that enhance the educational opportunities available to our art, art history, and design students. Their ability to join our department, teaching with grace and aplomb even while the university was in pandemic-related remote learning mode, was quite extraordinary. We thank them and look forward to a long and meaningful collaboration with each one of them."



# Dialogues in Art

In the 2020-21 academic year, The Department of Art & Art History inaugurated a series of interdisciplinary panel discussions called "Dialogues in Art" that will become an ongoing featured event of the department. The series includes short presentations by panelists and an ensuing dialogue between those scholars, artists, and students engaged with interdisciplinary research in the arts. In 2021, due to ongoing pandemic social distancing guidelines, the panel seminars were held virtually via TEAMS links.

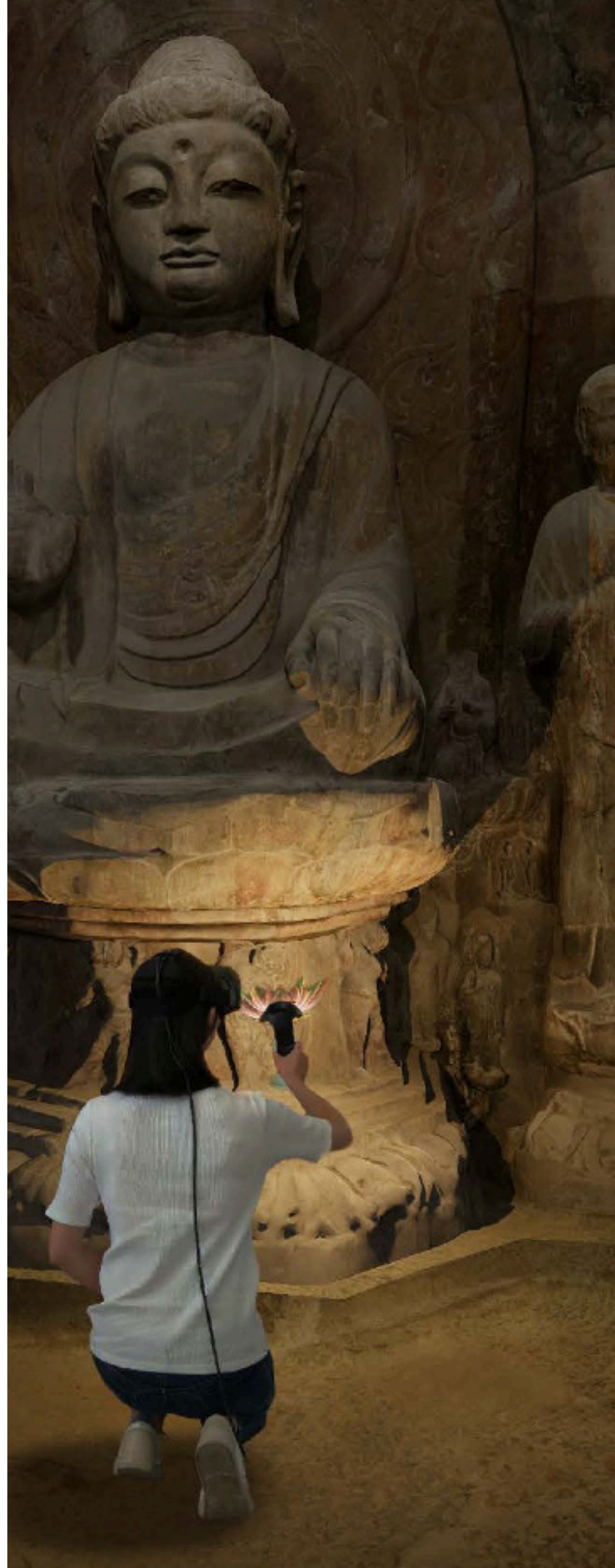
## ● Disability Art

The first panel took place on March 5, 2021, from 2-4 pm and focused on "Disability and Art." It was organized by Dr. Amanda Alexander and Dr. Mary Vaccaro. The panelists included artists whose work deals with disability - Holly Gray, Stephen Laphisophon, and Janet Morrow; and College of Liberal Arts Disability Studies Program staff - Dr. Sarah Rose, and Mikila Salazar; along with art historian Dr. Beth Wright who teaches an advanced special studies course on "Art and the Human Condition."

## ● Art, History, and Technology

The second Dialogue in Art was organized by Dr. Fletcher Coleman and Adjunct Assistant Professor Laura Post and focused on "Art, History, and Technology." It presented a group of artists, filmmakers, digital specialists, and art historians discussing how engaging with history informs their use of cutting-edge technologies in the arts and humanities. The panelists included: Changhee Chun, Yana Payusova, Laura Post, Kenton Rambsy, and Fletcher Coleman.

Upcoming Dialogues in Art panels planned for fall 2021 include discussions on "Art & Community" and "Transitional Design."



# The Gallery at UTA 2020 - 2021

The Gallery at UTA is recognized regionally and nationally for its exhibitions, lectures, artist residencies and publications. We were honored that *Art Guide Texas* noted that since our founding in 1985, “the Gallery at UTA has provided stimulating exhibitions of contemporary art...” Open six days a week during the academic year (Monday - Friday, 10 am – 5 pm and Saturday, 12 – 5 pm) the gallery occupies a 4,100-square foot exhibition space on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building. As a university facility, we promote education and outreach both within and outside the university. Regional community colleges, universities, high schools, and elementary schools schedule field trips to the facility each year – as a result, historically, although approximately 60 percent of gallery visitors are UTA students, nearly 40 percent of our visitors are non-UTA student attendees.

Our programming emphasizes representation of Texas artists and the cultural diversity of the state through curated exhibitions each academic year from late August through mid-May. In addition, Master of Fine Arts candidates display their thesis exhibitions each spring semester and a Bachelor of Fine Arts exhibition takes place at the end of each semester. This year to reach out to a wider audience who might be hesitant to visit in person because of the pandemic, we also produced 3-D virtual tours of each exhibition and YouTube videos of all artists’ talks that could be viewed online.

The 2020-21 gallery schedule began with an exhibition by *Hillerbrand+Magsamen* (Houston) and *Nic Nicosia* (Dallas) on view from September 8 through October 10. Utilizing a variety of mediums, from drawing and sculpture to photography and video, these artists share a cross disciplinary inventiveness in the creation of their works. According to curator Benito Huerta, “The idea of invention and reinvention, and of artists blurring the lines between subject and object, process and product were the unifying factors in bringing this exhibition together.”



by Nic Nicosia

The second fall semester show, *Carlos Donjuan/Arely Morales*, was open from October 19 - November 21. Utilizing paint as their primary medium, Dallas-based Donjuan and Nacogdoches-based Morales, who were both born in Mexico and moved to the U.S. as children, convey intensely personal narratives through their artwork. Donjuan explores societal perceptions of “aliens” in a playful, colorful manner, while Morales depicts the unseen humanity of members of the Latino immigrant community in monumental works.



by Hillerbrand+Magsamen



by Carlos Donjuan



by Arely Morales

The spring semester featured concurrent exhibitions on view from February 15 – April 3: a three-person show, *Anila Quayyum Agha, Ambreen Butt, and Simeen Farhat* along with *Bridges II: Bill Viola*.



Bridges: Bill Viola installation view

With *Bridges II: Bill Viola*, The Gallery at UTA continues an ongoing collaboration with the Art Bridges Foundation, a program that loans museum quality art to partner institutions throughout the country. This year internationally recognized video artist Bill Viola's seminal video installation "Moving Stillness, Mount Rainier" (1979) was selected for display. The room-sized piece incorporates a video reflecting off a large pool of water onto a suspended screen, along with sound recordings to reflect on both the strength and fragility of nature. (see article on page 34)

*Anila Quayyum Agha, Ambreen Butt and Simeen Farhat*, showcased three artists who were born in Pakistan but live and work in the U.S. Each is influenced by the art of the Islamic world, but taking inspiration from centuries-old cultural motifs, transforms those into works of dynamic contemporary personal expression.



by Anila Quayyum Agha

Gallery programming also included a *Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition* displaying hundreds of works by graduating cinematic art, intermedia studio art, and design seniors at the end of both the fall and spring semesters. The annual *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* featured the work of the eight graduate students who completed the MFA degree this year.

In addition, The Gallery at UTA hosted virtual gallery talks by exhibiting artists Stephan Hillerbrand and Mary Magsamen, Nic Nicosia, Carlos Donjuan, Arely Morales, Ambreen Butt, and Simeen Farhat, as well as a special talk by James Cohan of Cohan Galleries in New York who discussed the career and works of Bill Viola.



by Ambreen Butt



by Simeen Farhat



# Gallery West at the Studio Art Center

Gallery West's mission is to offer all UTA undergraduate art majors and MFA students an opportunity to exhibit and document their ideas, their various modes of studio/media creation, their responses to class projects, or as a space for performance/critiques.

Art Faculty are also invited to sponsor exhibitions, class presentations, individuals/ groups of exhibitors, and to request scheduled gallery usage for their students. Approximately 14 one-week exhibitions generally take place each semester.

This year because of social distancing guidelines and increased remote learning, fewer individual student exhibitions were scheduled than in a normal year. However, Gallery West adjusted and made sure the space was well used by opening the space up for special projects, photo documentation of work, critiques, performances and portfolio reviews. As a result, the calendar below reflects the diversity and range of events that took place this past academic year.

## Fall 2020 Calendar

9/21 – 9/25	Documentation Drawings/Collages
9/28 – 10/2	Documentation 3D Work
10/5 – 10/9	Documentation 2D
10/12 – 10/16	MFA Graduate Students
10/19 – 10/23	Jeremy Scidmore - Installation: "Agonisms"
10/26 – 10/30	Print Students – "UTA Prints"
11/2 – 11/6	Wild Pony Visiting Artist Collection
11/9 – 11/13	Documentation Glass
11/16 – 11/23	MFA Mid Program Review
11/23 – 11/25	Documentation 3D

## Spring 2021 Calendar

2/8 – 2/12	Documentation
2/22 – 2/26	Liz Markum – "Incendemus"
3/1 – 3/4	MFA Exhibit/Documentation
3/5	Graduate Committee Review
3/8 – 3/12	2D & 3D Documentation
3/22 – 3/26	Daniel Flores – "For the Love of Optics"
3/29 – 4/2	Clay Critiques & Documentation
4/5 – 4/9	Painting Portfolio Reviews
4/12 – 4/16	Printmaking Students – "UTA Prints"
4/21 – 4/23	MFA Mid Program Review
4/26 – 4/30	3D MFA Documentation
5/3 – 5/7	Barnett Foundation Photo Awards
5/10 – 5/14	Kiln Formed Glass & Documentation

The gallery is located in the Studio Arts Center at 810 S. Davis Drive and is open Monday through Friday from 10 am – 5 pm.

# Visual Resource Commons & Gallery

The Visual Resource Commons and Gallery (VRCG) supports the teaching and research mission of the Department of Art and Art History, providing faculty and student access to art related image collections in analog and digital format, art documentation videos, Department and Gallery archives, electronic artist resources, and department-specific software for individuals and class projects. The VRCG provides an environment conducive to research, class meetings, administrative meetings, and exhibition opportunities.

Exhibitions that took place Fall 2020 - Summer 2021 were:

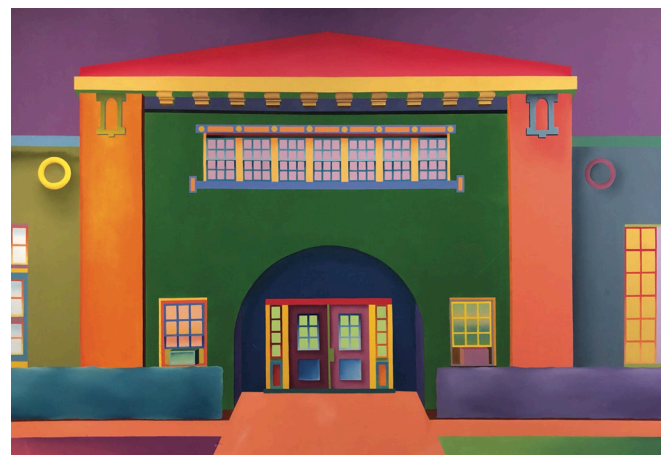
## *Through the Looking Glass: Transparent, Translucent, and Transforming*

This exhibition was held over from the previous spring semester, since the campus closure in March 2020 limited visitor opportunities to see the show. Open by appointment in the fall semester, the exhibition presented a selection of glass works donated by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass to the UTA Fine Art Collections. This work demonstrates how glass as a medium has changed through the decades and how broadly it can be adapted in its aesthetic qualities and appeal. Ranging from the 1980s to the present, many of the international artists included in the collection have pushed past the traditional mindset of glass as a transparent utilitarian object to offer the viewer a colorful exploration of their craft and its transformation.



## *Customs and Traditions: Visual Investigations into the Art and Artifacts of Africa*

This exhibition highlighted the art and artifacts of a diverse group of peoples across Africa, and the aesthetics and symbolism of their distinct cultures. Comprised of domestic goods, furniture, tools, and weapons, all objects that were on view tell a story of daily life and ancestral tradition. Ranging from the stealthy hunting weaponry of the Maasai lion hunters to the symbolically protective granary doors of the Dogon sculptors, each object holds significance in both its design and use. Open by appointment from March 1 – May 7, 2021.



## *Looking Backward, But Moving Forward*

From June 7 – September 3, 2021, the VRCG reopened five days a week from 10 am – 2 pm with a new exhibition highlighting the history of the Department of Art & Art History since its founding at UTA in 1938. From its role in the war effort in the 1940's to the present day, visitors had the opportunity to learn the story of the department's evolution by viewing vintage yearbooks, photographs, and historical documents from departmental archives and the Fine Art Collections. The development of teaching methods for art history since the early 20th century were also included through displays of magazines, various slide and video projection technologies, games, comic books and graphic novels used through the years.



## Glass Program Collaborates with SiNaCa Studios on Outdoor Glass Sale

2020 was challenging for everyone as the focus on safety and health amid the COVID-19 pandemic created some drastic scheduling changes. The Glass Program at UTA was particularly affected by the unanticipated cancellation of the annual spring glass sale when campus closed in March 2020. The program had previously hosted a spring art glass sale every year since the mid-1990s.

The sales had become enormously popular events, bringing in hundreds of visitors who came to experience glassblowing personally through live demonstrations, and to buy unique glass objects made in the University facility by students, alumni, faculty and visiting artists. Sale proceeds were divided between the student artists and the glass studio for equipment and material purchases, and to fund scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

The loss of revenue for both the program and the students was, naturally, problematic. However, an innovative solution was formulated as a collaborative effort this past fall semester. The UTA Glass Program, in partnership with SiNaCa Studios, put together and held a socially-distanced outdoor glass market from October 9-11, 2020. The sale took place at SiNaCa Studios in Fort Worth with the artists receiving 50% of the retail price for each item they sold throughout the three days. SiNaCa is a non-profit public glass facility which was started and is currently managed by UTA glass alumni.

# Glass Program Holds Holiday Sales and Fundraisers

Assistant Professor Justin Ginsberg, Art and Art History Department glass area coordinator announced the launching of three holiday fundraisers for the program. Over the past 20 years, the glass area has relied on its hugely popular annual public sales to generate funds to purchase raw materials, repair and maintain state-of-the-art equipment, as well as offer funding opportunities to the incredibly dedicated glass students. Since the COVID-necessitated cancellation of last spring's glass sale and on-campus holiday sales, the program has had to seek out and implement creative new ways to generate support.

## *SPARK Campaign*

In partnership with the University, the glass program initiated a SPARK campaign which created an online fundraising platform for supporters to give tax-deductible donations to ensure the continued success of the program.

## *Online Art Auction from November 24 – December 6, 2020*

For the first time in the glass program's history, an online art auction featuring glass artworks created by students, staff, faculty, and visiting artists was held. 50% of each sale went to the artist who created the work, and 50% of the sale went back into the Glass program's budget. The hand-selected works could be viewed and bid upon through the website [airaucioneer.com](http://airaucioneer.com) beginning on Tuesday November 24 at 8 a.m. and running until midnight on December 6.

## *In Person Glass and Craft Sale at The Lullaby Set on November 28 & 29, and December 5 & 6*

Finally, the glass program worked hard to produce works that would be perfect for holiday gifts. Ornaments, pumpkins, vases, and other design/ homeware were available for purchase at a local gallery collaborating with the program. This in-person sale followed all CDC, state, and city health guidelines. Registration was required to attend, only 8 individuals were allowed in the space every 30 minutes, and every attendee was required to wear a mask and sanitize hands before entering. The physical location of the sale was adjacent to the UTA campus at 1037 W. Abram Road in Arlington.

Assistant Professor Ginsberg expressed his appreciation for the community's ongoing patronage of the glass art program, saying, "Thank you again for all of your continued support. From all of our community here at UTAG, we wish you a safe, healthy, and happy holidays. We look forward to seeing and connecting with each and every one of you!"

# Annual Spring Glass Sale at Studio Art Center Is Back

The Department of Art & Art History's Annual Glass Art Sale was initiated on a loading dock behind the art building in the mid 1990's by founder David Keens to raise money to buy raw materials, equipment, tools, and provide scholarships. Over the past 25 years, the annual event has grown into a world-class showcase of glass created by students, faculty, and visiting artists.

Thanks to the extraordinary support of the glass sale by members of the civic and university communities, the facility and program has expanded into one of the premier academic glass art programs in the country. The studio facility continues to operate on a modest yearly academic budget, supplemented by the funds raised during this important one day a year sale. Sale funds are divided equally between the contributing student, and the glass studio. The studio's half is still used for all major equipment purchases, as well as buying raw materials to repair and build equipment. It also provides scholarships and research support to both undergraduate and graduate students.

For the first time since the campus shut-down in March 2020, the glass program was excited to be able to host a glass sale back in their own facilities at the Studio Art Center. Nearly two thousand works were available for purchase, ranging in price from \$5 paperweights to multi-thousand-dollar collector artworks. Taking place from May 13 -15, 2021, the in-person sale followed all CDC COVID safety guidelines, so attendees were asked to register in order to attend. 12 individuals were allowed within the space every 30 minutes, and every attendee was required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands before entering.

The glass area was thrilled to be able to present this popular event again, and was extremely grateful to the community that came out to support the students and the program by purchasing something at this year's sale.



# Visiting Artist Talks



## ● CELENE AUBRY

Celene Aubry gave a virtual talk about her work and Nashville's famous Hatch Show Print on Thursday, November 12, 2020 as part of the annual Visiting Artist Program. Due to campus social distancing guidelines, Aubry presented her talk remotely via YouTube Live.

Aubry is an artist, and also the manager/ designer-printer at Hatch Show Print, an iconic letterpress print shop continuously operating since 1879 in Nashville, Tennessee. Hatch Show Print is an amalgam of working letterpress and design shop, tourist attraction, museum, and historical archive. A division of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum since 1992, the shop annually designs and prints over 600 jobs, and is host to over 100,000 visitors. While the business thrives as a letterpress poster and design shop, expanded programming includes a visiting artist program, a gallery showcasing print-centric art, and hands-on tours and workshops from the education space.

Aubry's personal work uses letterpress printing and photographic processes, specifically cyanotype and Van Dyke prints, sometimes combining the various media. She has taught letterpress printing at Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago, IL, and letterpress and relief printmaking workshops at colleges and other printing-history related organizations. She enjoys sharing the story of Hatch Show Print whenever invited to speak at conferences, colleges, or community gatherings.

The talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCB6om9gFA>





## ● Ambreen Butt

Artist Ambreen Butt, whose work was on display in The Gallery at UTA from February 15 through April 3, gave a gallery talk about her work on Wednesday, March 31. The talk was live streamed on YouTube Live and a recording can be viewed on the Art & Art History Department channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCb6om9gFA>

The artist, who was trained in traditional Indian and Persian miniature painting, creates painted and collaged works on paper and large-scale resin installations that reference the aesthetics of sacred geometries and Islamic ornamentation to ruminate on challenging 21st century moral questions. In her works she addresses themes such as contemporary global politics, female identity, and living as a Muslim in the United States. Often using text-based source materials that include the names of children who lost their lives to war, transcripts from terrorism trials, and quotations from news media, she says that her works do not offer answers, but exist as laborious meditations on humanity.

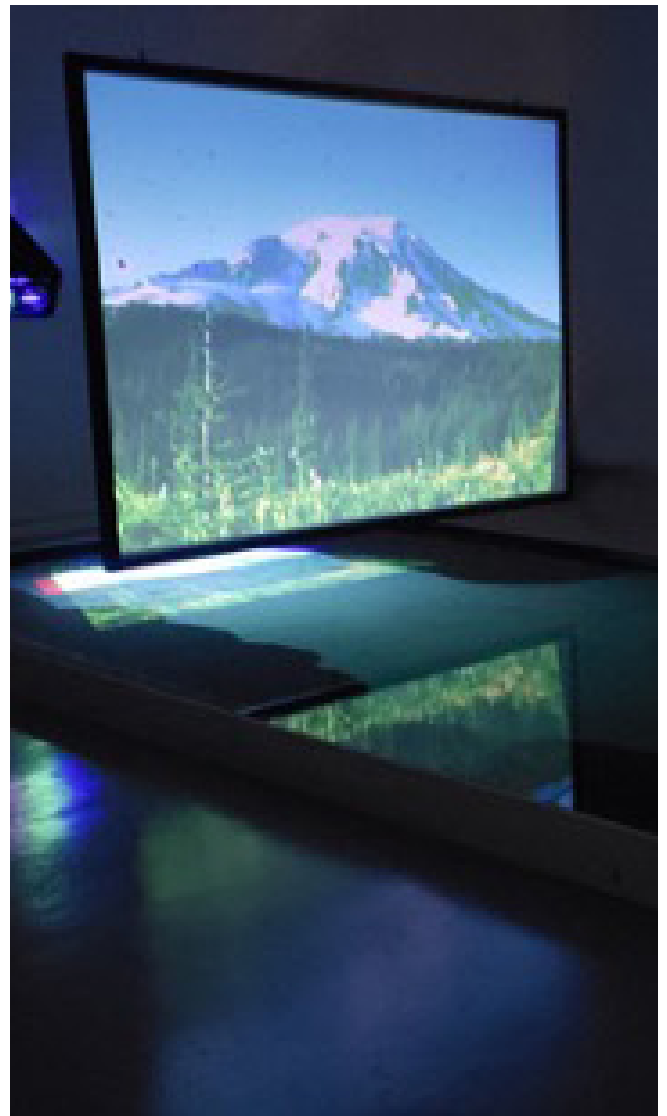
Ambreen Butt received her BFA from the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan and her MFA in painting from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. She has been featured in solo exhibitions at institutions throughout the United States and is the recipient of numerous awards and grants. Her work also has been collected by numerous public institutions including The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, DC, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, U.S. Art in Embassies, Islamabad, Pakistan, among others. She is represented by Gallery Wendi Norris in San Francisco.



## ● James Cohan

James Cohan, founder and director of James Cohan Galleries in New York City spoke on Tuesday, March 9, discussing the art of seminal video artist Bill Viola, as well as their long-term relationship as artist and gallerist. A recording of the talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCb6om9gFA>

The talk was planned to coincide with Bill Viola's work titled "Moving Stillness, Mount Rainier" (1979) on display from February 15 – April 3 in The Gallery at UTA. It was on loan from the Art Bridges Foundation, a program that arts patron and philanthropist Alice Walton created to loan museum-quality art to partner institutions throughout the country. The room-sized Viola piece was constructed on-site in a darkened, enclosed gallery space to create a more immersive viewer experience. It incorporates a video reflecting off a large pool of water onto a suspended screen, along with amplified sound recordings. The water surface is stirred with a paddle at set intervals throughout the day, disrupting the serene, reflected image. This contemplative work reflects on both the strength and fragility of nature over time.





## ● Carlos Donjuan

On October 22, exhibiting artist Carlos Donjuan, who had paintings and drawings on view in The Gallery at UTA from October 19 – November 21, spoke about his artistic practice in an hour-long Microsoft Teams 'Live Event.' In addition to discussing his work in the exhibition, as well as his collaborative mural art practice, Donjuan answered questions from the virtual audience through the online chat feature.

Carlos Donjuan received his MFA from UT San Antonio in 2009. Born in Mexico, he has lived in Dallas since 1985 and is currently an assistant professor and area coordinator of drawing at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he has taught since 2009. He is also the project manager for the Sour Grapes Art Collective based in Dallas. His work has been featured in 16 solo exhibitions and 121 group exhibitions in museums and galleries all over the world since earning his MFA. His art explores societal constructs and perceptions of illegal immigration. His work takes on the pejorative term "alien" and playfully appropriates its meaning with figures cloaked in colorful shapes and patterns. As he comments in his artist statement, "The masked hybrid characters of people and creatures allows the viewer to be comfortably confronted."

## ● Simeen Farhat

Artist Simeen Farhat, whose work was part of an exhibition in The Gallery at UTA, gave a gallery talk about her work on Thursday, February 25. The talk was live streamed on YouTube Live. A recording of the talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekroKHC-B6om9gFA>

Using text as the starting point, Farhat creates artworks that "explore the space where language emerges as shapes." Inspired by literary works in several languages, her brightly colored dimensional wall pieces and sculptural objects from cast urethane resin and acrylic engage the viewer "where thoughts meet the substance of sight, of line, of object."

Simeen Farhat received her MFA from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Her work has been collected and exhibited worldwide including solo exhibitions in England, India, Pakistan, Switzerland, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE. In the United States, she has shown extensively, including New York, Arizona, California, Illinois, Florida, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Texas. She participated in an exhibition at the 2015 Venice Biennale, "In the Eye of the Thunderstorm: Effervescent Practices from the Arab World" curated by Martina Corgnati. She has also participated in several artist residencies and been the recipient of numerous awards. She is represented by Cris Worley Fine Arts, Dallas.



## ● Hillerbrand+Magsamen

On October 8, exhibiting artists Hillerbrand+Magsamen, who had an exhibition in The Gallery at UTA from September 8 – October 10, gave a virtual presentation about their artistic practice. The talk was an hour-long presentation using the Microsoft Teams 'Live Event' platform. In addition to discussing work in the exhibition and their collaborative process, the artists answered questions from the virtual audience through the online chat feature.

As the collaborative artistic team of Hillerbrand+Magsamen, Stephan Hillerbrand and Mary Magsamen draw upon the Fluxus practice of incorporating humor, performance, video and everyday objects in order to have a conversation about family dynamics, suburban life and American consumer excess. They comment, "We are the photographers and the photographed, our home is the canvas, our actions are the content, and our family is the subject." By deconstructing their nuclear family through their work, discussions of consumerism and stereotypes lead to larger themes of race, class, and gender roles in contemporary American life.

Hillerbrand+Magsamen have presented their videos in international film and media festivals and have exhibited their cinematic based installations in the U.S., Germany, and the United Kingdom. They have received numerous grants and have participated in several residency programs throughout the United States including the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York, NY), Experimental Television Center (Oswego, NY), Elsewhere (Greensboro, NC), Santa Fe Art Institute (Santa Fe, NM). Their project HIGHER GROUND was a commission from the Houston Airport System and received 1st prize from juror Richard Link later in the CineSpace program at the Houston Cinema Arts Festival.

## ● Arely Morales

On November 11, artist Arely Morales gave a virtual presentation about her artwork and professional practice utilizing the Microsoft Teams Live Event format. Morales' talk was in conjunction with her exhibition of monumental paintings that were on view from October 19 - November 21 in the Gallery at UTA.

Arely Morales received her MFA in painting and drawing from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2017. She currently lives and works in Nacogdoches, Texas where she is an adjunct professor at Stephen F. Austin State University. Her work "focuses on issues of identity, humanity and invisibility of the Latino immigrant community in the United States." As an artist, she is inspired by the experience of moving to the United States from Mexico at the age of 14 and reflects that in her work: "Many times I felt displaced, invisible... I am interested in exploring these issues and the vulnerabilities that take place" within immigrant groups.

This talk and exhibition were co-sponsored by the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) and the University Crossroads Program.



## ● Francisco Moreno

On September 28, 2020, artist Francisco Moreno gave a talk about his work including a piece recently acquired by the Dallas Museum of Art for its permanent collection. That work, titled *Chapel*, (2016-2018) combines elements of painting, drawing and architecture to create what appears to be a full-scale chapel. At 13 feet by 12 feet by 19 feet, the arched plywood structure enables viewers to enter the space and be surrounded by Moreno's paintings that cover the entire interior. Due to campus social distancing guidelines, Moreno presented his talk remotely via Facebook Live Now.

Moreno's artwork combines art historical references with imagery reflecting the 21st century experience. The fusion reveals the immutability of societal and personal struggle that is particularly timely at this point in the world's history. In a recent article in the *Dallas Morning News*, he stated, "I feel that now more than ever we are full of doubt and uncertainty in how our lives will play out for years to come. When combined with contemporary content, these art historical allegories can communicate the stressful times in which we find ourselves."

Moreno was born in Mexico City in 1986 and immigrated to Arlington, Texas in 1992. An alumnus of the Art & Art History Department, he completed his Bachelor of Fine Art degree in 2010 at UTA, where he received the James S. Barnett Jr. Ideas in Art Scholarship. He earned a Master of Fine Art degree in 2012 from the Rhode Island School of Design, aided by the prestigious Presidential Scholar Tuition Award. In 2014, he received the Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Grant from the Dallas Museum of Art, and in 2016 he received an Artist Microgrant from the Nasher Sculpture Center to start production of his Chapel project. He currently lives and works in Dallas, and Mexico City.

## ● Nic Nicosia

Nic Nicosia, whose work exhibited was in The Gallery at UTA from September 8 – October 10, gave an hour-long presentation about his long and illustrious artistic career on September 23, 2020. The presentation was open to the university community and the public through the Microsoft Teams application.

Nicosia, who lives and works in Dallas, is recognized as a pioneer of the staged photograph movement that came into prominence in the early 1980's. He received a BS degree with a concentration in motion pictures, and his film education subsequently influenced the creation of his famous cinematic still images. Following a 1982 solo exhibition at Artists Space in New York, he was included in the 1983 *Whitney Biennial*, and the Guggenheim's 1983 *Exxon National Exhibition*. He has been included in several biennials including *Documenta IX* in 1992, and a second *Whitney Biennial* in 2000. In 1999 the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, launched a 20-year retrospective of Nicosia's work: *Nic Nicosia, Real Pictures 1979-1999*. A second major survey of his work was exhibited at CASA in Salamanca, Spain, in 2003. In addition, The University of Texas Press produced a major career retrospective, *Nic Nicosia*, released in October of 2012.

Museums that have collected Nicosia's work include: The Guggenheim Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum, The Los Angeles County Museum, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, The Dallas Museum of Art, and The Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Grants and awards include a 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship, a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation grant in 1984, Awards in the Visual Arts -AVA 11 in 1991, and The Tesuque Foundation, Artist Fellowship Grant in 1998.

## ● Fahamu Pecou

Interdisciplinary artist and scholar Dr. Fahamu Pecou participated in a visiting artist program-hosted discussion about his work on Monday, October 19, 2020. Dr. Pecou's artwork was exhibited at Conduit Gallery from October 17 – November 28, and the discussion was live streamed from the gallery.

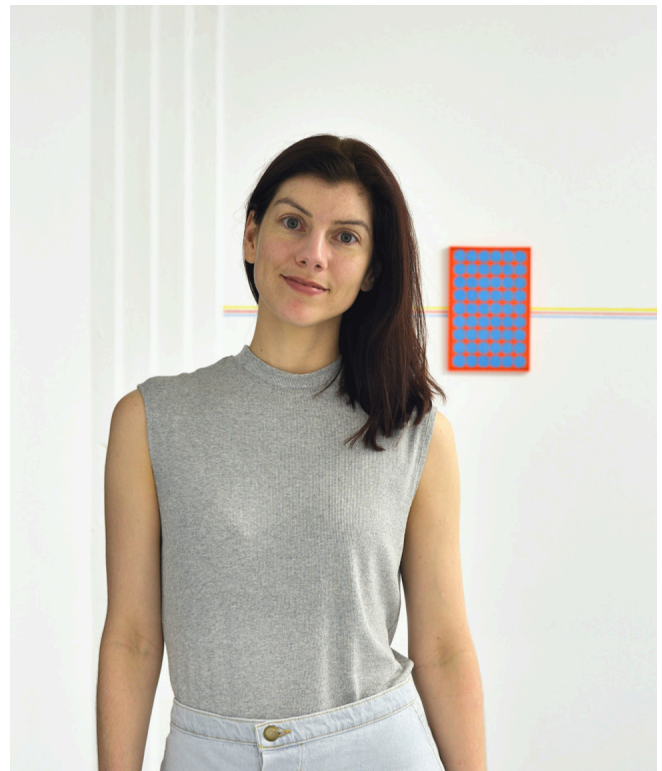
Pecou's works combine observations on hip-hop, fine art and popular culture. His paintings, performance art, and academic work address contemporary representations of Black men and how these images impact both the reading and performance of Black masculinity.

Dr. Pecou received his BFA at the Atlanta College of Art in 1997 and a Ph.D. from Emory University in 2018. He exhibits his art worldwide, in addition to giving lectures at colleges and universities throughout the United States. As an educator, Dr. Pecou has developed (ad)Vantage Point, a narrative-based arts curriculum focused on Black male youth. He is also the founding director of the African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta (ADAMA).

His artwork is featured in noted private and public national and international collections including: the Smithsonian National Museum of African American Art and Culture, Societe Generale (Paris), Nasher Museum at Duke University, The High Museum of Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Seattle Art Museum, and Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia.

In 2020, Dr. Pecou was a recipient of the South Arts Prize (GA). In 2017, he was the subject of a retrospective exhibition Miroirs de l'Homme in Paris, France. His work also appears in several films and television shows including Black-ish, The Chi, and Lifetime's The 10th Date. He is also a recipient of the 2016 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Award.

The talk can be seen on the department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCB6om9gFAdation>, Artist Fellowship Grant in 1998.



## ● Michelle Rawlings

Artist Michelle Rawlings gave a talk about her work on October 14, 2020 as part of the annual Visiting Artist Program. Rawlings presented her talk remotely via YouTube Live. The talk has been archived and can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCB6om9gFA>

Michelle Rawlings' practice draws upon the history of painting, and various image tropes investigating the ways in which female identity and adolescence are constructed, displayed, and framed within different visual contexts. Inspired by both a pre-internet experience of thumbing through magazines, and the now ubiquitous experience of scrolling through images, Rawlings plays with different genres of painting and appropriated imagery, resulting in what feels like a deeply personal exploration.

Born in Dallas, Rawlings currently lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is represented by And Now in Dallas and Paster Gallery in Warsaw, Poland. She has also exhibited at The Warehouse in Dallas, Night Gallery, Shane Campbell Gallery, Mlsako & Rosen, The Power Station in Dallas, the Dallas Contemporary, and the Goss Michael Foundation. She earned her MFA from The Rhode Island School of Design in 2012.



## ● Anthony Sonnenberg

A Visiting Artist Talk by artist Anthony Sonnenberg took place on March 22, 2021 on YouTube Live. A recording of the talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCb6om9gFA>

Anthony Sonnenberg currently lives and works in Fayetteville, Arkansas where he teaches at the University of Arkansas. He received his MFA in Sculpture from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2012. He has been an invited lecturer at institutions throughout the country including at Pilchuck Glass School, UT Austin, Maine College of Art, California State University, Long Beach and Pratt MWP College of Art and Design in NY. He also has participated in artist residencies throughout the country in California, Texas, New York, Michigan, Montana and Washington state. His art has been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions and can be found in several prestigious private and public collections, including the Crystal Bridges Museum.



## ● Erica Milsom

On February 17, 2021, award-winning writer and director Erica Milsom gave a talk on YouTube Live for the Visiting Artist Program

Erica Milsom is based in California and has been with Pixar Animation Studio since October 2002. She most recently directed several episodes of the documentary series "Inside Pixar" available on Disney+ beginning in November 2020. She has created hundreds of short pieces about the studios' filmmaking process, exploring topics ranging from Pixar's unique approach to character, world and story development, as well the extensive technical innovations made over the years. She has told the behind-the-scenes stories for every Pixar film since "Cars," including Academy Award®-winning "Ratatouille," "WALL•E," "Up," "Toy Story 3," "Inside Out," and "Coco." She recently completed work on the behind-the-scenes features for "Soul," released on Disney+ on December 25, 2020.

Milsom directed the Pixar SparkShorts film "Loop," which tells the story of two kids adrift on a lake searching for a way to connect. "Loop" premiered on Disney+ in January 2020 and was awarded "Best in Show" at the 2020 SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival. She also makes independent films, including her first fiction film "So Much Yellow" which hit the festival circuit in 2017, winning awards across the country; 2016's pilot "Diana and The Cake Boys" which won the notice of IFP and was included in their Screen Forward Lab and Film Week in New York City; and a 2015 feature documentary titled "Snow Day - Life, Death and Skiing", about a group of dedicated senior skiers.

The talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuS755hekreoKHCb6om9gFA>

# Cinematic Arts

## Cinematic Arts Program Hosts Drive-In Film Screening

The Art & Art History Department's Cinematic Arts Program hosted its second end-of-semester drive-in screening on Saturday, May 8 in a parking lot on the UTA campus. The showcase, which featured several genres of short films produced by talented UTA undergraduate and graduate students, was projected on a giant blow-up screen with sound broadcast over car radios. Approximately 60 films were shown during the three-hour screening. The event was also broadcast live on the Cinematic Arts YouTube channel.

In spring 2020, when the pandemic caused the abrupt campus-wide shut-down, the drive-in screening idea was implemented for the first time. Student film artists and their faculty mentors had to be inventive to ensure their films were seen, given they could no longer use the large indoor screening auditorium that is usually filled to capacity for this year-end event.

Responding to the limitations presented by the pandemic again this spring 2021, the program built on the success of last year's screening, and as Cinematic Arts Associate Professor Daniel Garcia stated, "...our community creativity and resourcefulness shined one more time. (It) is a community-wide celebration of the creativity and effort of our students. We gather in front of a large screen to listen to the voices of our filmmakers and to partake in each-other's process as we welcome friends, family, prospective students and the entire university community."

This year's drive-in screening was a joint effort organized by the student organization - FAM (Film Animation Mavericks), the graduate students, and the faculty of the Cinematic Arts Area.

A brief highlights clip can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/13804576/videos/532193718104500/>





## Faculty and Students Collaborate on Mural in SEIR Building

Art and Art History Assistant Professors Yana Payusova and Carlos Donjuan have been collaborating with art students to work on an ambitious mural project in the new Science and Engineering Research (SEIR) building during the 2020-21 academic year. The painted mural depicts seven 10-foot tall, masked faces that reference the current pandemic and artistically archive this moment in our history. The group worked on the project for two months in fall to complete phase one.

In addition to portraits by Professors Payusova and Donjuan, the works in phase one were created by graduate student Hallee Turner, and undergraduate students Leonor Ali, Tiara Francois, Cesar Garay and Maya Sultana.

A second stage of the project took place in spring semester in conjunction with Professor Donjuan's mural painting class. Phase 2 included work by students Utsav Adhikari, Alan Castro, Arturo Dominguez, Martha Especulta, Tiara Francois, Cesar Garay, Troy Jacobsen, Caroline King, Kennedy Kirby, Kelsey Myers, Ismael Orduna, Emma Orr, Reyna Ramirez, Michelle Torres, Duong Tran, and Jesus Trujillo.

For more information and to see images of the phase one mural in progress: <https://www.uta.edu/news/news-releases/2020/11/19/seir-mural>





# 2021

## GRAPHIC DESIGN SCHOOL RANKINGS



### VCD Design Program Nationally Ranked

The Design Program of the Art and Art History Department learned of new national rankings that reflect the hard work and dedication of its students and faculty, and the program's overall excellence.

The Design program has once again received very strong rankings within the state, region, and nation. *Animation Career Review* ranked UTA's program in the Top 50 public graphic design schools in the U.S.; in the Top 10 in the Southwest; and Top 10 in Texas. These rankings continue a long history of acknowledgements for the success of the popular undergraduate degree program.

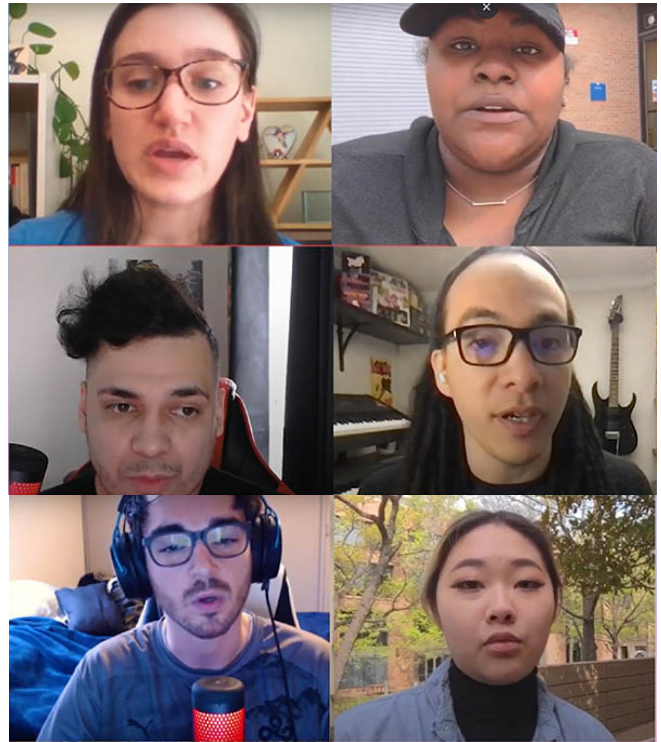
According to the publishers of the *2021 Graphic Design School Rankings*, rankings in the graphic design school category have been published since 2015. 710 colleges with programs from across the US were considered using a variety of criteria for this year's rankings. Those criteria include academic reputation; admission selectivity; depth and breadth of the program; value as it relates to tuition and indebtedness, and, for the first time this year, employment data.

UT-Arlington's rankings were:

- Top 50 Nationally among Public Colleges (#33)
- Top 20 in the Southwest (#9)
- Top 10 in Texas (#6)

A complete list of all rankings can be found here. (<https://www.animationcareerreview.com/articles/2021-graphic-design-school-rankings>)

# Diversity & Inclusion Events



**Diversity, equity and inclusion are tenets that help guide the programming of events in the Department of Art and Art History. As Dr. Leah McCurdy, chair of the DEI Committee for the department stated:**

“We are a community of artists and scholars dedicated to the ideal that art is for everyone. In this collage of difference where we live, learn, and work, we strive to understand our fellows and sustain ourselves. We remember histories and heritages that impact our community. We build public experiences that expand understanding and inform. We offer support and resources to students, faculty, and staff to ensure that our diversity, equity, inclusion, and access grow.”

In 2020-2021, the following events that took place exemplify the Art & Art History Department’s ongoing effort to expand understanding and encourage inclusion.

# ANTI - ASIAN VIOLENCE

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

## Anti Racism Statements Voiced

## BLACK LIVES MATTER EXHIBITION

In spring 2021 in response to disturbing racist events occurring across the United States, the Art and Art History Department's DEI Committee prepared a statement on Anti-Asian Racism and Violence that was posted to the department website. It read as follows:

"The Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) of the Department of Art & Art History strongly condemns the rise in violence and harassment directed against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the United States. The recent murder of eight people, including six Asian American women, in Atlanta, Georgia, is only the latest example of a much longer history of violence and discrimination towards members of the AAPI community in America.

The DEI Committee also wishes to raise awareness about misinformation regarding violence between minority groups in the United States, including the myth that most violence perpetrated against AAPI people is carried out by African Americans. According to tracked data from 2020, ONLY 5% of all incidents can be attributed to African Americans, while 90% are attributable to white Americans (NPR 2021). These campaigns of misinformation are part of the nefarious legacy of structural racism and designed to divide our most vulnerable communities. African Americans have also long been the target of violence and prejudice in this country, and it is only through solidarity that we can work towards a better future.

The DEI Committee stands in support of the students, educators, community members, and leaders working to resist needless hateful acts against all people in this country, including the attack last week in Boulder, Colorado. We offer our deepest sympathies to those affected by these tragedies and remind everyone at UTA that it is our duty to make our campus, our communities, and the world at large safe and welcoming for all individuals."

In addition, Professor Daniel E. Garcia's Cinematic Arts students created a video of diverse students reading the anti-racism message, that was then posted to the department's YouTube to spread awareness even more. See the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMG8RvhOOWk>.

Thank you to Dr. Fletcher Coleman, Professor Garcia, and students Hans Aguilar Mejía, Ryan Bayron, Zacariah Cousineau, Aaron Díaz, Crystal García, Breanna Nguyen, Keiona Thompson, and Analiese White for their efforts to address and highlight this issue.

The Design Program organized and displayed *Black Lives Matter*, an alumni exhibition, that was available to view both virtually and in person at Gallery 295 in the Fine Arts Building from September 15 – December 1, 2020. Twenty-one former undergraduate and graduate students from the Design Program submitted works and written statements that expressed their feelings about racism and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Chair of the Art & Art History Department, Dr. August Jordan Davis wrote an introduction to the exhibition which stated:

"Art plays an important part in bearing witness to the best and worst in humanity and society. Art and design's testimony to the lives we lead and the lives that are thwarted can prove vital in changing attitudes and outlooks, often for the better. Design and art can prompt crucial change and can help us heal. It is important that we look to what we can do at this time in our capacity as creative thinkers and makers. The Department of Art and Art History has long been a closeknit community woven together by its commitment to inclusivity, compassion, creativity, learning and imaginative understanding. This is how groups create hope that things can be different, can become better."

To view the online exhibition, see:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/ada6edba-2d85-487e-9fba-1907c3b897c5>

by Oduanze Oguguo





# Exhibition Highlights Women of the A&AH Department

The sp/n gallery at the University of Texas Dallas presented *Women at Work*, an exhibition by women artists, designers, and art historians from the Department of Art & Art History at UTA. Organized by the department's Women's Advocacy Committee, the goal was to cultivate, promote, and support the work of female artists. The showcase was on view from February 12 through March 13, 2021 and included works in a wide variety of media by 29 women faculty members, students, and staff.

The exhibition was first planned for spring 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote. However, in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, it was postponed and first presented as an on-line exhibition on the Art & Art History Department's website in fall 2020. UTD offered their gallery space in spring 2021 as a venue to enable viewers to see the work in person.

The sp/n gallery statement about the show stated: "This vibrant community of women artists strives to have women's achievements recognized and to develop a more substantial presence in the art world. In celebration of Women's History Month, the exhibiting artists recognize, support, encourage and promote women's diverse contributions. They are aware of the gender inequalities that exist in the worlds of art and design and are dedicated to making a positive difference."

Exhibiting artists were Karley Adrion, Lucy Bartholomee, Emma Breslauer, Gladys Chow, August Davis, Farzaneh Eftekhari, Lisa Graham, Holly D. Gray, Christine Heimerman, Pauline Hudel-Smith, Carrie Iverson, Angela Kallus, Jessica Lee, Billi London-Gray, Leah McCurdy, Patty Newton, Kenda North, Carly Otto, Yana Payusova, Laura Post, Lindsay Roche, M. Kate H. Shark, Kacey Slone, Amy Stephens, Hallee Turner, Mary Vaccaro, Veronica Vaughan, Kendra Wiggins, and Shirley Zhang.

View the online version of the exhibition at:  
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/24f01227-da85-47a7-b26d-65c01072a54f>

## Luna Fest Film Festival

UTA's Women's & Gender Studies co-hosted with the Art & Art History Department a virtual screening of the annual LUNAFEST® film festival, on Saturday, September 26 with a Panel Discussion "LUNAFEST 2020 Panel of Women Film and Art Makers" on Sunday, September 27 via Zoom. LUNAFEST® is a series of short films by and about women.

The panel discussion was organized to allow film festival viewers to talk about the films with members of the UTA faculty. Two members of the Art & Art History Department's Cinematic Arts faculty were invited to participate as panelists.

Hosted by Dustin Harp, Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program and moderated by Detra Payne, Theatre Arts Assistant Professor of Instruction, the panel consisted of Shelly Brandon (Adjunct Professor in Cinematic Arts) and Patty Newton (Assistant Professor in Cinematic Arts) along with Amy Speier (Associate Professor, Sociology/ Anthropology Department).



# Cinematic Arts Program Announces DEI Film Competition

UTA students, faculty, and staff were invited to compete as individuals or teams in "Alphabet Soup: A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Film Competition" organized by the Film Festival class in spring semester 2021. The event kicked off with an online forum with invited guests speaking on the topic of Diversity and Inclusion, as well as a basic film production workshop that took place a week prior to the competition.

The theme of the film competition was diversity, equity, and inclusion, and a major element of judging was how well these thematic elements were integrated into the film. Production began on Friday, March 12 and filmmaker(s) had to finish the production within 48 hours and submit the final film file by Sunday morning, March 14. After the submission, a group of judges from the film world, and the diversity/inclusion world decided the winning films. Winners were then announced at the end of the online screening that Sunday evening. Samsung was a generous sponsor of the competition.

## Awards for best films dealing with DEI theme

- 1st prize (\$500 cash prize)
- 2nd prize (\$300 cash prize)
- 3rd prize (\$200 cash prize)
- Audience Award (certificate)
- New Media Award (Samsung Galaxy Note 20)

# Native American Heritage Month Event

In recognition of November being national Native American Heritage Month, The Department of Art and Art History's Diversity, Equity, + Inclusion Committee, the UTA Anthropology Club Land Acknowledgement Task Force the UTA Native American Students Association, UTA and the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, along with and the organized an event to honor native histories and contemporary identities. The event, titled "Honoring Native Americans: Native Histories and Identities of Arlington and North Texas," took place virtually through the Teams Live Event platform on November 30, 2020.

Representatives of the Native American Students Association and Native American Studies at UTA, Dr. Donna Akers, Dr. Les Riding-In, Michael Burgess, and Sampson Oliver-Edza Dewey, offered their perspectives on the local native past, Native American identities today, and the changes they envision for the future.

A recording of the event can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPSCif39Um4>



by Shayna Sutton

# "Grab the Mic" Virtual Celebration of African American History

A virtual open microphone night to celebrate African American Heritage and Black History Month took place on February 12, 2021. "Grab the Mic" was open to all UTA students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community to speak about experiences, art, and ideas for the future that relate to African American Heritage, Black History, and the Black community today.

Participants had 3 minutes to contribute in whatever ways they wished according to the following prompts:

- Share what has been impactful to you as a member of the Black community or an ally
- Share how the current moment of racial tension sparks a passion/motivation in you
- Share your ideas for what we need to do. What actions do you see moving forward?

Organized by the Art & Art History Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee along with three students, Shayna Sutton, Martha Especulta, and Kelly Gray, and art history alumna Mya Lewis, "Grab the Mic" featured guest speakers and UTA participants who gathered virtually on the Teams app to make their presentations. Special Guests were GREG ELLIS (Former Dallas Cowboys Player, Film Producer, and Community Activist) and BARBARA FELIZ (Award-Winning Artist, and San Antonio Ethnic Art Society Member). The public audience was invited to view the presentations on YouTube Live, hosted on the A&AH YouTube channel.



# Building Bridges Workshop

The Building Bridges project is a collaboration between the Aga Khan Council for the Central US, the University of Texas at Arlington Department of Art & Art History, the UTA College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs, and Maverick Film Productions. Co-coordinated by UTA faculty members Dr. Leah McCurdy, from the Art History program, and Dr. Douglas Klahr from the Architecture program, the project seeks to bring awareness to Muslim cultural heritage, concentrating on architecture, design, and urban life, to create connections within the UTA community.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture’s work in the Historic Cities Programme (AKHCP) and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA), both agencies of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture were highlighted in the seminars. (For more information see <https://leahmccurdy.wixsite.com/buildingbridges>)

Building Bridges started with a virtual workshop and short film development series that took place from May 17-28 on the topic of *Cities, Architecture, and Contemporary Life in Muslim Communities*. The workshops featured expert international panelists, including how they interface with Texas.

### Session topics included:

- Muslim civilizations and culture significance and why we should preserve historic cities and buildings.
- The impact of architectural conservation on global Muslim communities as well as local Texas communities.
- Contemporary architecture and urban spaces impact on local communities in Muslim communities around the world.
- The impact of contemporary architecture and urban spaces on local communities and in addressing needs in Texas and the US.

All workshop sessions were recorded and can be viewed on the A&AH YouTube channel at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9fD-x9Fr\\_MX0GzCrpdRZ9AeNwLbHD0Lk](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9fD-x9Fr_MX0GzCrpdRZ9AeNwLbHD0Lk)

AGA KHAN



BUILDING BRIDGES

At the culmination of the workshops, participants were given the opportunity to pitch thematic documentary short films relevant to the primary topics. Five short film pitches were selected for production funding assistance, including:

- Sofia Ali’s film that centers the theme of movement within important spaces such as parks and places of worship.
- Kelly Gray Bobino’s (UTA Master’s in Cinematic Arts Alumna) film will follow a young African American man living in Dallas, Texas, who has grown up as part of Mosque 48, the oldest mosque in Dallas and the largest congregation of Nation of Islam in the region.
- Nadeem Haji’s film will express recent feelings of isolation and the desire to find nearby green spaces in his local environs, Austin, Texas. He will interview professionals regarding landscape architecture and urban planning to consider the importance of urban green spaces.
- Neelam Hussain’s film focuses on the architectural concept of ‘form follows function’ with a twist. Neelam builds a triangular concept of form, function, and values to consider how architecture and space have underlying foundations in community values.
- Cyra Juma’s film focuses on her lifelong dream to become a conservation architect, working to restore and rehabilitate cities impacted by warfare.

With the help of the Department of Art and Art History’s Maverick Films staff, production took place during June-August 2021. Post-production will occur in September-October 2021 with the finished short films to be streamed on the YouTube channel, Ismaili TV in November 2021. A live in-person screening event is anticipated for spring 2022.

# CELEBRATION OF ISLAM THROUGH ART

GUEST CONVERSATIONS IN "ART + ISLAM" AND  
ARTIST TALKS WITH THE GALLERY AT UTA IN SPRING 2021



**WEDNESDAY, JAN 27, 6:00-7:00PM CST**

Dr. Zulfikar Hirji discusses pluralism and his current research in East Africa.



**WEDNESDAY, FEB 24, 9:00-10:00AM CST**

Dr. Alya Karame discusses calligraphy and research on Qur'anic manuscripts.



**THURSDAY, FEB 25, 12:30-1:30PM CST**

Simeen Farhat Gallery Talk on exhibition in The Gallery at UTA.



**WEDNESDAY, MAR 24, 4:30-5:30PM CST**

Tazeen Quayyum on miniature painting and her contemporary art practice.

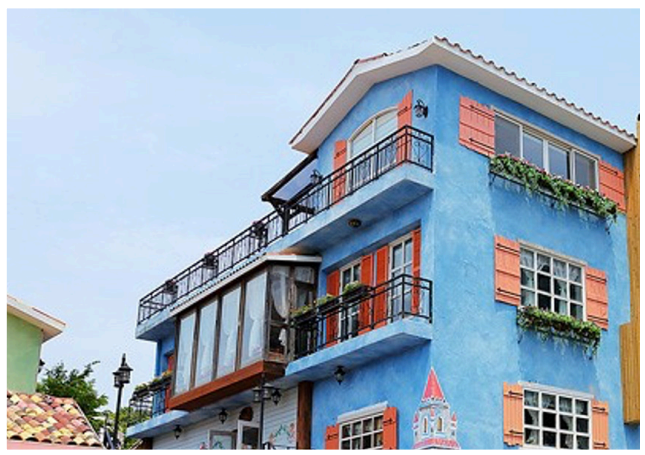


**WEDNESDAY, MAR 31, 12:30-1:30PM CST**

Ambreen Butt Gallery Talk on exhibition in The Gallery at UTA.

# INNOVATION & RESEARCH





## Art Bridges and The Gallery at UTA

Bill Viola's seminal video installation titled "Moving Stillness, Mount Rainier" (1979) was on view from February through April in The Gallery at UTA. The installation was made possible by an ongoing collaboration with the Art Bridges Foundation, a program that arts patron and philanthropist Alice Walton created to loan museum quality art to partner institutions throughout the country.

For the second year in a row, The Gallery at UTA has been allowed to borrow from the foundation's collection of works by world-renowned artists. Walton's vision for the foundation was to collaborate with museums and institutions of all sizes and in all regions of the country, to create and fund exhibitions and programs that might not otherwise be possible. "Our country's significant works of art should be available for all to see and enjoy," stated Walton. "Outstanding artworks are in museum vaults and private collections; let's make that art available to everyone, and provide a way to experience these cultural treasures." (artbridgesfoundation.org)

This year, internationally recognized artist Bill Viola's video work was selected by gallery director/curator Benito Huerta for display. The room-sized installation was constructed on-site in a darkened, enclosed gallery space to create a more immersive viewer experience. It incorporates a video reflecting off a large pool of water onto a suspended screen, along with amplified sound recordings. The water surface is stirred at intervals throughout the day, disrupting the serene, reflected image. This contemplative work reflects on both the strength and fragility of nature over time. Benito Huerta commented, "We were honored to be able to show the Bill Viola installation here in The Gallery at UTA. It is vitally important for art students to be able to experience internationally known artists' work in person. We are grateful to Art Bridges for allowing us the opportunity to bring this work here to Arlington." The Gallery at UTA looks forward to continuing a partnership with Art Bridges in the years to come; helping to accomplish both organizations' missions of making museum quality art more accessible to the university and surrounding community.



Bill Viola, Moving Stillness: Mount Rainier, 1979, color videotape playback with rear projection reflected off water surface of a pool onto a suspended screen, in a large, dark room, water disturbed by hand at intervals, and amplified stereo sound, dimensions variable. Art Bridges. Photo by Kira Perov.

## Collaboration with Computer Science Research Grant

The Art and Art History Department has been working on establishing interdisciplinary connections between the arts and other university departments for some time. Resulting ventures in research, teaching, and grant-funded projects combining art and technology have created opportunities for faculty and students alike.

Collaborations with the Department of Computer Science & Engineering have yielded several exciting results recently. In addition to collaborative classes being developed and offered - Introduction to Game Development and Mobile App Design classes working with Fundamentals of Software Engineering courses – a cross disciplinary research proposal recently has been awarded important University grant funding.

Dr. Farzaneh Eftekhari, Assistant Professor of Design in the Art and Art History Department and Dr. Cesar Torres, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and director of The Hybrid Atelier lab at UTA, have been awarded the 2021 Interdisciplinary Research Program (IRP) grant from UTA. The IRP grant is intended to advance interdisciplinary research to effectively compete for major extramural research grant funding on awarded topics. The IRP gives preference to proposals that span interdisciplinary work across groups that don't typically collaborate.

Using techniques from visual communications and computer science, Eftekhari and Torres will design a rapid prototyping tool for authoring chatbot interactions. This chatbot, called "LadderBot" will be used to train students in conducting interviews with multiple stakeholders. Laddering is a common method for interviewing that can help students explore the connection between the obvious physical characteristics of a product and the hidden values which reinforce a customer's decision or specific behavior. The chatbot tool will support the acquisition of interviewing skills and facilitate the user-centered perspective within the marketing research and design thinking process.

The IRP \$20,000 award will be used for conducting initial research on the topic and developing an interdisciplinary research proposal to an extramural funding source by the end of the award period.



# Maverick Film Productions

Maverick Film Productions, an initiative of the Cinematic Arts Program, completed its first full year of operations this past academic year. Opened right before the pandemic shut the campus down in March 2020, the group has been very active since re-opening for business in fall 2020.

Spearheaded by Professor Changhee Chun, Maverick Film Productions is a team comprised of UTA Cinematic Arts graduate students, faculty and undergraduate students. Located in Room 155A in the Fine Art Building, the group has a production office, a color-grading/editing room, and a visual effects room. They provide University departments, student organizations and individuals with low-cost video production service that assist with promoting UTA services and activities. They also provide total video production and postproduction service such as VFX, color grading, and DCP file production outside the UTA campus.

When proposing the new venture, the underlying concept was that the Department of Art & Art History is dedicated to ensuring that the educational process does not stop in the classroom. Maverick Film Productions was created to be an opportunity for students to gain more professional experience as a crew working on client-based film productions. As Professor Chun stated, "It's essential to provide the real-world experience to our film students and I believe MFP will be a great place where students can have that." This mission directly reflects UTA's Strategic Plan which calls for "providing unparalleled access and experiences to prepare an increasing number of engaged, innovative, entrepreneurial, and diverse students who are equipped for the workforce and lifelong education."

This past year, Maverick Film Productions was especially busy producing virtual artist talks on the YouTube Live and Teams Live Events platforms, and then producing archival videos for the department's YouTube channel. The Visiting Artist Committee and The Gallery at UTA commissioned this type of work, adding up to 17 live-streamed episodes produced. In addition, MVP created a 15-minute video for UTA's Center for Entrepreneurship & Economic Innovation, as well as four 2-minute videos for that same group during Global Entrepreneurship Week. They streamed a live performance for the UTA Marching Band and Bands of America. And finally, they live streamed 4 episodes of the Alphabet Soup: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Film Festival in the spring.



## Entrepreneurship in the Arts

Entrepreneurship in the Arts is a program developed and launched within the Art & Art History Department in 2012 by Assistant Professor of Practice Matt Clark. Its mission is to equip students with an entrepreneurial mindset so they can leverage their creative talents professionally.

Entrepreneurship in the Arts is a vital component of the fine arts curriculum and essential for our students who want to harness their creative skills for use in their future careers. The class covers the implementation of social media, personal branding strategies, systems for efficiency, value creation, idea generation, business plan development focusing on the marketing aspect, the importance of networking, and, perhaps most importantly, effective communication whether it be through written word, personal pitches, presentations, or insightful videos.

Since its inception, Entrepreneurship in the Arts has evolved beyond the classroom. It helps support and promote MavFilms and Wild Pony, entrepreneurial ventures within the department. It provides additional programming through workshops, lecture series, and pitch competitions.

In 2020, Professor Clark was also named faculty director at UTA's new Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Innovation where he created and launched curriculum that introduces over 5000 incoming freshman and transfer students to entrepreneurship and innovation.

# New Technology Purchase Made Possible by Grant Funding

The Art and Art History Department in collaboration with the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPPA) received generous grant funding to purchase augmented reality, virtual reality, and digital fabrication equipment to enhance emerging curricular needs.

The technology will be shared between the two, with Art and Art History housing the augmented and virtual reality equipment and workstations and CAPPA housing a CNC router.

Equipment purchased includes:

#### Virtual Reality:

A Cinematic 360/VR Camera, a 360-Degree Prism, Go Pro MAX Camera, Vuze XR Dual 3D VR180° and 2D 360° camera, Oculus Quest VR Headset, OptiPlex 7470 AIO Desktop Computer

#### Augmented Reality:

Microsoft HoloLens mixed reality headset, OptiPlex 7470 AIO Desktop Computer, 75" HDR 4K Smart TV

#### Digital Fabrication:

ShopSabre PRO408 CNC router and OptiPlex 7470 AIO Desktop Computer

A group of faculty area coordinators within the art and design programs of the Art and Art History Department will be organizing the new AR/VR lab in the Fine Arts Building. The plan is to have the technology available for multiple art and design areas to support updated curricula that utilizes the equipment. As a result, Art and Art History Department students will be able to gain hands-on experience to learn new tools and skillsets that will enhance their value to employers in emerging technology-based art and design fields.

# Design Texas

The Design Texas project is an opportunity to enhance the development and direction of visual communication in the state of Texas.

The concept is to provide advanced undergraduate students and faculty an opportunity to interact with various individuals throughout Texas on the development and completion of communication design problems. This group works with clients who need creative services to establish identity systems and information materials.

This year, the Design Texas group took on the project of redesigning the Art & Art History Department logo to make it more visually accessible for online screen readers. Students from the spring 2020 Design Texas course created and presented initial logo ideas for the Department under the direction of Adjunct Assistant Professor Steven James and Associate Professor Ben Dolezal. From that process, three student logos were selected as finalists for consideration by the full-time faculty and the department chair. Professor Ben Dolezal also contributed three logo designs for the department that were considered as finalists. Of the six logos presented, one of Ben Dolezal's logos was selected by faculty vote to be the new logo for the department. The project was completed in spring 2021 with the new logo being implemented in summer 2021.

**Art & Art History**  
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# Our Campus – Our Museum Initiative

The University of Texas at Arlington Fine Art Collections (UTA FACs) mission is to form a professional system for documenting, presenting, and ensuring the stewardship of the varied forms of art and artifacts on campus.

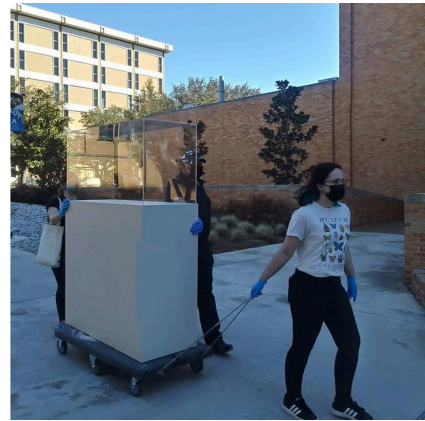
One innovative application of the collections' mission is a project titled, *Our Campus – Our Museum*. In the absence of a free-standing university museum to house the numerous collections being cared for by the Department of Art and Art History, the inventive idea to place various items on display at various sites was initiated.

The goal is to integrate inspiring displays of artistic works into buildings and locations across campus. Each installation is chosen with the research of that area in mind and to generate thought and discussion. The exhibitions sited this past year have been very popular with the students and have not only challenged them visually, but also inspired research papers, projects, and enhanced curricula via intra-campus departmental collaboration.

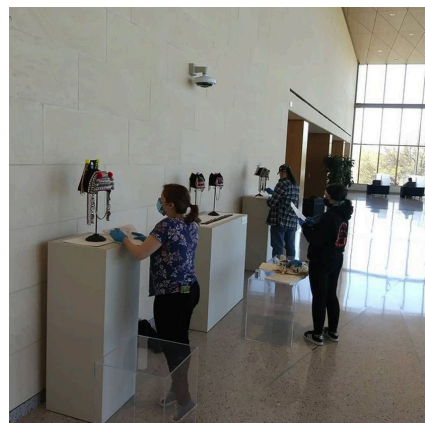
These satellite exhibitions are co-curated, planned, and installed by art & art history students and those participating in collections internships. Students apply hands-on training and interactive skillsets that are highly desired by some of the region's finest art-oriented organizations.

Cheryl Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Practice and Collections Specialist who spearheads this project is especially proud of her students' efforts during the pandemic and how driven they were to see the initiative continue and succeed. She has noted how working on this project sets our students up for future successes too. Many recent graduates are now working at some of the region's finest art-oriented organizations and museums, while others have gone on to higher level education within their field of choice on fully funded fellowships.

“By pioneering the use of our campus as a museum setting, we have a chance to promote the vision that seeing works of art on campus not only enhances the beauty and aesthetics of our environment, but also serves to inspire the minds and hearts of past, current, and future generations of students.”



UTA Fine Art Collections interns assisted in the annual change-over of the satellite exhibitions currently in the SEIR Building, the West Commons, and the Center for African American Studies. They began by cleaning display areas and prepping the vitrines for placement.



Interns Stephanie Coria, Darryl Ward, and Laura Wimmer prepared traditional costumery from the Akha people of Thailand for display in the SEIR Building.



The *Perfect Bacon Cheeseburger* by Glass Artist John Miller is one of the most popular artworks on display and returned to the West Commons after the winter break.

# CINEMATIC ARTS

## New Minors in the Arts Approved

Two new minors from course offerings in the Art & Art History Department were developed and approved by the Provost's office this academic year.

A minor in Commercial Film Production and a minor in Glass both became available for the first time as options for the UTA student body. Both programs require a total of 18 credit hours taken from a list of approved courses in the discipline. After completing four required courses, students choose two upper-level elective courses depending on their individual interests and goals.

### Minor in Glass:

The minor in Glass allows students the opportunity to explore the sculptural, conceptual, and functional aesthetics of glass as an artistic media. A variety of traditional, contemporary, and experimental glass working techniques are examined and utilized in the challenging course of work. The program is fine art-based; the tools that are learned are applicable to a range of studio practices.



### Commercial Film Production:

The minor in Commercial Film Production prepares students with an excellent foundation in commercial film production. This includes gaining technical skills in digital video production, concept development, and the application of the aesthetic abilities needed by those who want to work in the commercial film industry. This minor pairs well with other disciplines requiring video production for entertainment, promotion, and training.



## Mobile Filmmaking Curriculum Developed with Samsung Support

The Cinematic Arts Program in the Department of Art & Art History has a rich history of innovative storytelling, as well as a commitment to staying abreast of technological innovations in the field.

As cell phone video camera functions have continued to advance, the Cinematic Arts faculty have concluded that the Samsung cell phone is "a game-changer in the media industry." With that in mind, they have proposed a partnership with Samsung to use their mobile devices to teach the fundamentals of cinematic storytelling and have revised and developed two new courses, Cinema Production 1 and Mobile Storytelling, to utilize this technology.

The Cinematic Arts Program established a successful introductory sponsorship relationship with Samsung in the 2020-2021. At that time, Samsung provided equipment and prizes for "Alphabet Soup," a film festival focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion themes that was organized by the Cinematic Arts Program students and faculty. (see story on p.29 ) The program hopes to build on that relationship with expanded and continuing support from Samsung that is currently being negotiated.

Both Cinematic Arts students and Samsung stand to benefit from the relationship. Students would be provided with the latest technology for experimentation and skill development, as well as being taught the important lesson that creativity is more important than traditional expensive film equipment in producing high quality work. Samsung would be provided with a curriculum that can be shared internationally. The Cinematic Arts faculty already has plans to make a special presentation at the University Film and Video Association (UFVA) conference next year to demonstrate the curriculum and show the work produced by students and faculty using Samsung Galaxy phones.

Exciting developments continue to come from the Cinematic Arts area. As Morgan Woodward Distinguished Professor in Film and Cinematic Arts Program Coordinator Changhee Chun states in his Proposal for Mobile Filmmaking at UTA, "We hope this partnership will open new and significant possibilities as we educate and transform our culture through innovation."

# Wild Pony Graphic Studio

The Printmaking Area and Wild Pony Graphic Studio (WPGS) bring students, faculty, artists, and designers together to collaborate in the creation of innovative prints and book works in a wide range of traditional and nontraditional print media and techniques.

At its essence, WPGS seeks to provide research/creative and entrepreneurial experiences to students through printmaking, design, marketing, and selling of creative goods and services. WPGS engages students in the language and strategies of contemporary art while fostering an educational experience that both promotes and challenges traditional printmaking. WPGS provides students with a completely interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial experience. They work closely with faculty in collaborating to manage project budgets, handle and archive works, and produce public relations and promotional campaigns.

The UTA printmaking studio and WPGS offer students, artists, and designers the ability to work in a variety of scale and media by facilitating access to a wide range of technologies, including 2 letterpresses (Vandercook and Chandler & Price,) six etching presses, one silkscreen printing vacuum press, traditional and non-traditional relief printing, one papermaking Hollander beater, bookbinding tools, a darkroom with UV exposing unit, a computer room with large format digital printers, scanner, and vinyl cutter, two lithographic presses, and more.

Special Projects in 2020-2021 included two exhibitions at GalleryWest: an exhibition of printmaking students' works, and a Wild Pony Visiting Artist Collection exhibition (both also available on Instagram @wildponygraphicstudio), collaboration with the Visual Resource Collections in beginning to catalogue a donation of close to 1000 prints from the Goodstein-Palmeri Print Collection, running a competition to create the Art & Art History Department's annual tee shirt design and printing the winning design on over 250 shirts, and hosting a print run of 4 edition of 10 prints each by visiting artist Matt Clark.



# Certificate Program in eSports

Working in collaboration with multiple departments in the College of Liberal Arts, the Art & Art History Department is pleased to announce the development of a newly designed interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate in eSports.

The certificate brings together the fields of graphic design, gaming, communication, and cultural production to provide a comprehensive understanding of eSports and the on-line gaming industry.

The certificate is comprised of courses that support the gaming industry including video games, communications, music industry technology, graphic design, and digital imaging. It will include one required course: HIST 3303 (History of Video Games) within a total of 12 credit hours chosen from a suggested list of courses, plus other relevant special topics courses with the approval of the advisor. To make the certificate truly cross disciplinary, students may only take two courses from a single department to count toward the certificate, although more than two courses in a department may count toward a student's major or minor.

Some of the suggested courses students can chose from include:

**ART 4392** Game Creation  
**ART 3392** History and Aesthetics of the Video Image  
**ART 4364** Mobile App Design

**COMM 3300** Communication Technology  
**COMM 3303** Communication Graphics

**MUSI 3320** Music and Technology in Game Audio  
**MUSI 3394** Digital Music Technology

**SOCI 1310** Introduction to Popular Culture  
**SOC 3341** Sociology of Sport  
**SOCI 3380** Science and Technology in Society

**ECON 4331** Seminar: Economics of Video Games

As well as more courses in Disability Studies, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Theatre Arts.

Associate Professor Joshua Wilson, who has been teaching Game Development since 2013, is the contact person within the Art & Art History Department. In addition to Game Design and Development, he also teaches App Design, and Packaging Design courses. His 2015 Master of Fine Arts degree was awarded for his thesis work in gaming, simulations, and interactive scenes. Professor Wilson's skillset includes concept art, branding, 3D modeling, texturing, UX/UI, programming, sound FX and special FX.



## Study Abroad Programs

**Study Abroad opportunities have long been an important part of the Art and Art History Department's efforts to provide transformative experiences for our art and design students.**

Going back as far as 1999 in Florence, Italy, students have had the option to take part in amazing immersive global experiences through study abroad. For example, students visited Japan in spring 2018, Italy in summer 2018, Cuba in Wintersession 2018-2019, and South Korea in summer 2019. Because of the pandemic, international travel was curtailed in summer 2020 and an exciting new planned trip to Peru had to be cancelled at that time.

Fortunately, in summer 2021, Study Abroad was once again an option for Art and Art History students. A South Korea program took place in July 2021 as the first step back to the flourishing Study Abroad Program the department has always offered. The department looks forward to revisiting previous study abroad sites again in the near future and developing new exciting and educational cultural exchanges to an even wider array of international sites in the future.

### South Korea in Summer 2021

Professor Changhee Chun, head of the Cinematic Arts program at UTA, offered UTA Art and Art History students the opportunity to participate in a summer cultural exchange program in South Korea. Chun has taught in this international summer program for almost twenty years and UTA undergraduate students participated for the first time in 2018.

Chun offered two four-week courses this year: one titled "Cross Cultural Documentary Research and Production in Korea" and the other "Seminar: Media Industry in Korea." Both were offered in coordination with Hanyang University in Seoul.

The seminar course included guest lectures by industry professionals including a film director, a TV producer, and movie actors to discuss their work experiences in the media industry in Korea. Screenings along with the guest lectures were geared toward providing familiarity with the broad range of media production in Korea, connecting to larger questions of culture production and artistic expression.

Professor Chun's research course covered the practice of nonfiction filmmaking and the skills needed in the pre-production, production, and post-production aspects of making a documentary. The ethical, creative, and collaborative relationship between filmmakers and subjects from other cultures were important aspects of this course.

([www.hanyangsummer.com/seoul](http://www.hanyangsummer.com/seoul))

Professor Chun has expressed his conviction that the study abroad experience, particularly in a country where people speak a different language, is immensely important for students. In addition to teaching technical skills, he stated his objective is: "...by challenging my students to collaborate internationally, I hope to encourage our future filmmakers to be internationally sensitive and perceptive of the world in which we live."



# Professional Conversations in the Arts Series

The Art & Art History Department, in collaboration with the Dean's Office and other departments within the College of Liberal Arts, developed the inaugural "Professional Conversation in the Arts" event that took place on July 28, 2021.

The virtual panel discussion included invited arts leaders from throughout the DFW Metroplex to address how 2020 and its challenges shaped the way they are moving forward in delivering programming and growing audiences across Fine and Performing Arts venues. Titled "Launching Out of the Pandemic," the seminar took place from 2-4 pm via Zoom and included speakers:



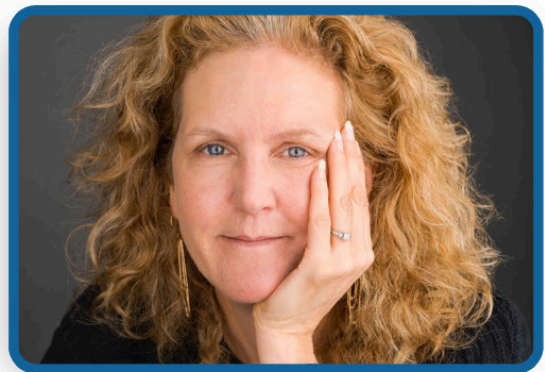
Teresa Coleman Wash, Exec. Artistic Director, Bishop Arts Theatre Center



Jeremy Strick, Director, Nasher Sculpture Center



Keith Cerny, President and CEO, Fort Worth Symphony

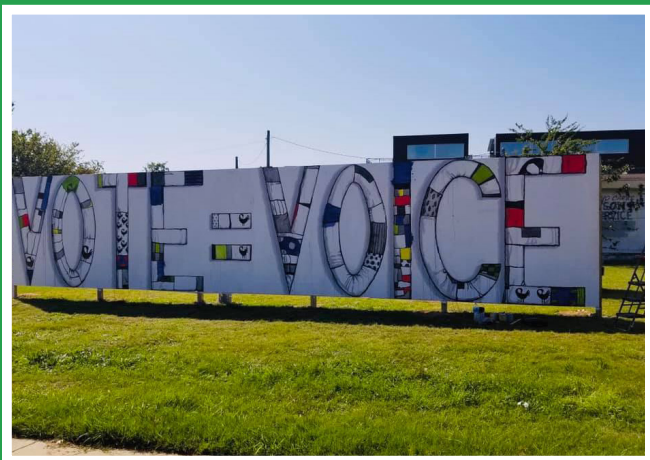


Anne Bothwell, Vice President for the Arts, KERA



Kathleen Culebro, Artistic Director of Amphibian Stage

# FACULTY NEWS



# Sedrick Huckaby

## Solo Exhibition in Los Angeles

Associate Professor Sedrick Huckaby was the featured artist in an exhibition titled "Estuary" at Philip Martin Gallery in Los Angeles, California from March 26 – May 14, 2021.

In an excerpt from an essay he wrote, Huckaby states that the exhibition deals with issues of "... death in the black community, diversity in the African-American family and the continuation/continuity of life. I deal with Black mortality through paintings and sculptures of figures wearing memorial T-shirts - clothing usually worn during a funeral or wake. Some of these figures have quilts in the background speaking to their connection to a spiritual African-American heritage. I try to deal with family diversity by creating individual images of family members and creatively bundling them together. A sense of difference among the groups is taken one step further by grouping various types of traditional works together in un-traditional ways. Distinct variations of materials are used to express other types of differences. These groupings allow the viewer to think about people from different spaces, places, times and even different dimensions coming together and having a dialogue. Although these are thought to be impossible, I like to think that the past, present and future can all converge in the estuaries of life."

For more information and to see images from the exhibition see: <https://philipmartingallery.com/exhibitions/108-sedrick-huckaby-estuary/works/>

## Exhibition at Blanton Museum of Art

*Contemporary Projects, Sedrick Huckaby opened on May 29 to be on view through December 5, 2021 at UT Austin's Blanton Museum of Art.*

The exhibition features Associate Professor Huckaby's large-scale portraits of people in his community that he paints from life. According to the museum's statement, "The artist prefers to engage directly with his sitters, acknowledging the intensity that results from collaborating with live models and people with whom he has a close personal connection."

Huckaby states, "The art that I am most often occupied with is about the themes, people and places of my hometown. I found that I could address the issues of global importance through dealing with the same issues within my local community."

For more information on the Blanton show see: <https://blantonmuseum.org/rotation/sedrick-huckaby/>

For more information on Sedrick Huckaby and to see images of his work visit his website: <https://huckabystudios.com/work/sedrick/>



# Two Group Exhibitions

Sedrick Huckaby's work was included in two recent exhibitions: one at Bridge Projects in Los Angeles from April 9 – June 26 and the other at the Amon Carter Museum of Art in Fort Worth, Texas from April 24 – August 22, 2021.

*Otherwise/Revival* is a group exhibition at Bridge Projects in L.A. that explores the Black Pentecostal movement and its impact on contemporary artists. According to a statement by the curators, "Sculptures, paintings, video, and performances celebrate the significance of music, praise, breath, and community. Exhibited artists reflect on their traditions, heritages, passions, and talents to cultivate a space where art thrives and expresses a unifying language for all." (<https://www.bridgeprojects.com/exhibitions/otherwise-revival>)

The second exhibition, *Expanding Vision: Six Decades of Works on Paper* was on view from April 24-August 22 at the Amon Carter Museum of Art Mezzanine. To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the museum, the exhibition showcased a selection of the over 8,000 works on paper in the collection spanning the 18th to the 21st centuries. According to the museum's exhibition statement, "Bringing together an eclectic mix of styles and time periods, An Expanding Vision illustrates how the works on paper collection has helped the Carter tell a more expansive and inclusive story of American art." (<https://www.cartermuseum.org/exhibitions/expanding-vision-six-decades-works-paper>)



## Vote=Voice Mural Project in Fort Worth

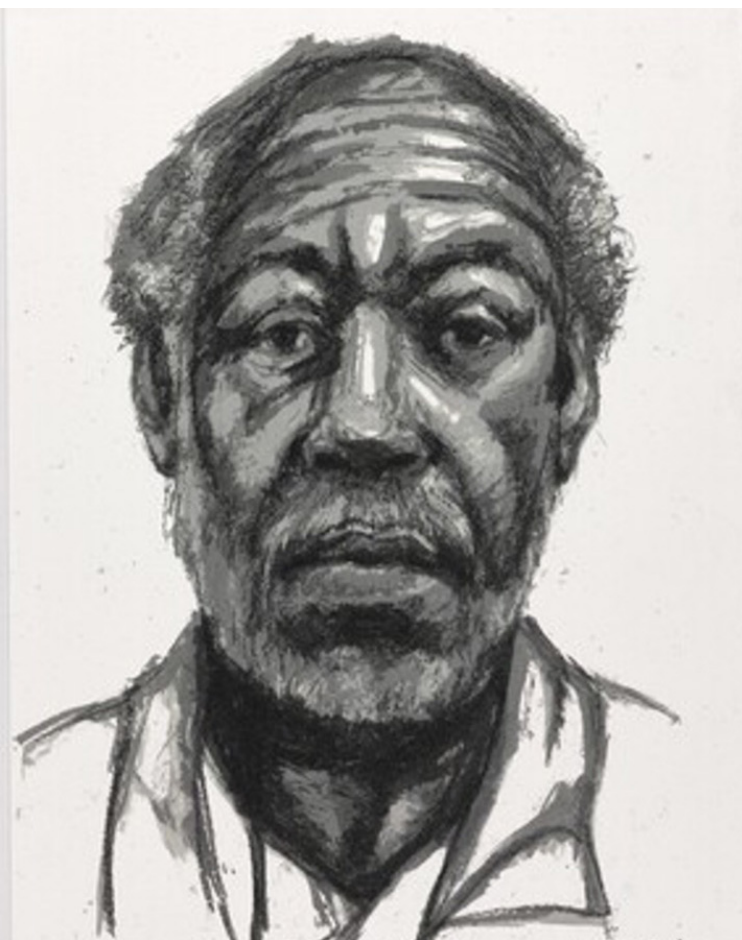
Associate Professor Sedrick Huckaby and his wife, artist Letitia Huckaby, partnered with Delia deVer, another Fort Worth artist, to form **Vote=Voice**, a collaboration between artists, community leaders, and volunteers. Their mission was to create large scale murals in marginalized communities in Fort Worth to encourage voter registration.

As Huckaby says in the group's mission statement, "We believe that a person's vote equals their voice, and we want to help all voices be heard – in the 2020 election, and beyond."

In the planning stages since August, the murals were installed at various sites in October 2020. Once installed, the community was invited to become a part of the project by signing the murals.

Fort Worth mural sites included: 5301 East Berry, (mural by Sedrick Huckaby); the corner of Evans and Rosedale in the Historic South Side, (mural by Sedrick Huckaby); 3600 Horne St. in the Como community, (mural by artists Sara Heitt and Erika Meredith); and at the Democratic Party Headquarters at 3130 Plumwood St, (mural by artist Charles Gray). In addition, a wall projection of art by Charles Gray visible nightly from October 9 – November 3 at the Fort Worth Community Art Center, and a mural painted at 2512 Sylvan in Dallas by another UTA art faculty member, Carlos Donjuan and the Sour Grapes Art Collective also were part of the project.

To learn more about the project and to see images: [www.facebook.com/voteequalsvoice](http://www.facebook.com/voteequalsvoice)





## College of Liberal Arts Faculty Awards

On September 15, 2020, The College of Liberal Arts hosted a virtual reception and awards ceremony which included several Art & Art History award winners. The department faculty members honored and the awards they received at the event were:

- Benito Huerta** - Distinguished Record of Faculty Research or Creative Activity
- Darryl Lauster** – Outstanding Research or Creative Activity
- Sedrick Huckaby** – Faculty Development Leave
- Justin Ginsberg** – Wright Accolade Award
- Lisa Graham** – Wright Accolade Award
- Benito Huerta** – Wright Accolade Award
- Patty Newton** – Wright Accolade Award
- Bart Weiss** – Wright Accolade Award
- Lisa Graham** - Outstanding Tenured Faculty Teacher Award

## Donjuan and Ortiz in LatinX Houston Museum Exhibition

From November 14, 2020 through January 30, 2021, The Houston Museum of African American Culture (HMAAC) hosted a virtual exhibition titled *LatinX Museum of Art in Houston?* Curated by Professor Benito Huerta, it can be viewed on the HMAAC website <https://hmaac.org/latinx>. Two art faculty from the Department of Art & Art History, Associate Professors Carlos Donjuan and Andrew Ortiz, were invited to participate as artists.

The exhibition artists were selected by Huerta in response to the question HMAAC posed: what might it look like if a LatinX Museum existed in Houston? Originally planned as an on-site exhibition at the museum, because of the pandemic it was reimaged as a virtual showcase. Exhibition artists, representing diverse media and presenting a wide spectrum of ideas, included Jesse Amado, Richard Armendariz, Debra Barrera, Margarita Cabrera, Carlos Donjuan, Gaspar Enriquez, John Hernandez, Cesar Augusto Martinez, Gabriel Martinez, Diana Molina, Delilah Montoya, Arely Morales, Celia Alvarez Munoz, Andrew Ortiz, Giovanni Valderas, and Vincent Valdez.

According to curator Benito Huerta, "The diversity of ideas and media testifies to the wide range of work being created in contemporary art. The work in the exhibition needs no explanation; as a matter of fact, the artists' statements along with the works speak eloquently for themselves. They do not need an interpreter -- what they need are viewers and a context to engage in a conversation with the work."



# Three Professors Featured in Dallas Art Exhibition

Kirk Hopper Fine Art, a gallery in Dallas, TX, hosted an exhibition of works by a selection of its represented artists from April 10 - May 15.

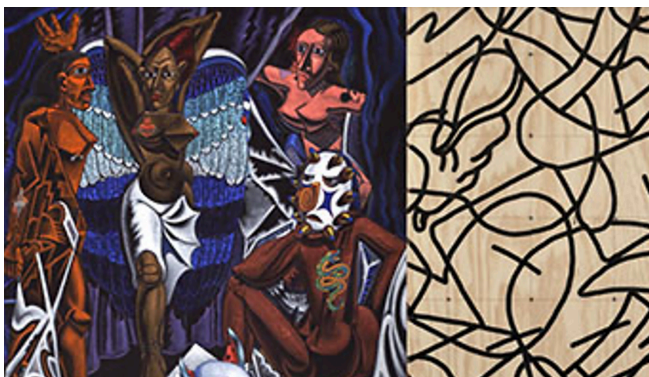
Art and Art History Department faculty members, Carlos Donjuan, Bryan Florentin, and Benito Huerta were featured in the exhibition. An opening reception with the artists took place from 6-8 pm on Dallas Gallery Day, April 17 in the Main Gallery.



by Carlos Donjuan



by Bryan Florentin



by Benito Huerta

# Changhee Chun Offers Summer Study Abroad Courses in South Korea

Professor Changhee Chun, head of the Cinematic Arts program at UTA, offered UTA Art and Art History students the opportunity to participate in a summer cultural exchange program in South Korea. Chun has taught in this international summer program for almost twenty years and UTA undergraduate students participated for the first time in 2018.

Chun offered two four-week courses this year: one titled "Cross Cultural Documentary Research and Production in Korea" and the other "Seminar: Media Industry in Korea." Both were offered in coordination with Hanyang University in Seoul.

Professor Chun has expressed his conviction that that the study abroad experience, particularly in a country where people speak a different language, is immensely important for students. In addition to teaching technical skills, he stated his objective is: "...by challenging my students to collaborate internationally, I hope to encourage our future filmmakers to be internationally sensitive and perceptive of the world in which we live."

# Matt Clark Gives Virtual Talk for Kimbell Art Museum

Assistant Professor of Practice, Matt Clark was invited to participate in the Kimbell Art Museum's long-running program, *The Artist's Eye*, on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

The series invites artists, architects and museum staff to contextualize older art from the museum's collections within the framework of their own contemporary artistic ideas. Moderated by Jennifer Casler Price, the Kimbell's curator of Asian, African and Ancient American Art, Clark reflected on works in the collection in relationship to his own artwork. He is known for his abstracted landscapes that use repetitive marks and patterns to evoke memories of places he has visited. According to the Kimbell his topic was "works that have inspired him since his youth..." The talk was presented virtually as a Zoom webinar.

Matt Clark who heads the entrepreneurship program in the Art and Art History Department, received his MFA in painting from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He lived in Los Angeles, Santa Fe, and London before returning to Texas and joining the faculty of the Art & Art History Department at UTA.

# Cheryl Mitchell Presents Gates Foundation/Educause Program Results

UTA was one of three universities selected to participate in a program titled "Learning Labs: Preparing Faculty for Hybrid and Online Teaching." A small group of UTA faculty selected by their Colleges/Schools attended this Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation program in fall 2020. Facilitated by the Center for Research on Teaching and Learning Excellence, the program curriculum introduced effective online teaching practices, tools, and activities. Cheryl Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Practice from the Art and Art History Department was one of the UTA team selected to take part in this timely program.

On March 24, members of the faculty team from various UTA departments across campus presented the results of their experiences in an online seminar – "Engaging with Students: Lessons from the Gates Foundation Learning Lab." In addition to Professor Mitchell, other faculty presenters were Professor Marty Harvey, Professor Jesus Carrasco, Professor Kaci O'Donnell, and Dr. Ritu Khanduri. They discussed their personal strategies teaching online courses and how they utilized the important concepts in the Learning Lab curriculum including communication for diverse student learners, building relationships, student engagement and peer collaboration.

Professor Mitchell summarized her experience: "I enjoyed the process of the Educause Learning Lab last semester and getting to meet not only faculty from other locations in the US, but also making stronger connections with a few faculty here at UTA."

She went on to state, "Overall, I have found that the Educause platform could be another excellent resource for faculty, both those looking for colleague connections and those who are looking to adapt their curriculum and overcome the challenges of online teaching."



# Patty Newton Leads All-Female Crew On Film Shoot

Cinematic Arts Assistant Professor of Practice Patty Newton spent summer 2021 working on her latest project, a proof of concept film for a planned feature titled *Rescued*.

The film is about a woman at a major crossroads in her life, and investigates how people make choices and what challenges lie in the path. When completed, Newton intends to publish it and raise money to shoot the feature length version which she states, "will be a first for our campus and UTA A+AH Cinematic Arts – a feature film by a woman Director."

On May 19, Professor Newton led an all-female crew to Monahans Sand Hills State Park in West Texas for filming on location. Her crew included current or recently graduated UTA Cinematic Arts undergraduate and graduate students: Tarniesha Floyd - current UTA undergraduate, Samantha (Sam) Rankin – 2020 alumna, Hien Dinh - 3rd year MFA student, and Sierra Clark, also a current graduate student. Of the crew, Newton commented "It was an incredible crew and I couldn't be happier to have worked with each of these talented filmmakers. We all had a shorthand that each understood. Whenever someone needed something, one of us was there to help without being asked...There was an incredible amount of respect among everyone for what we each brought to the shoot."

Newton is a filmmaker who works in fiction and documentary as a writer/producer/director. "City Hearts" - her short documentary about a group of ex-offenders whose lives are transformed by art - was awarded funding by the NEA. She was the recipient of the 2001 Cine Golden Eagle award for producing the award-winning short "A Window That Opens." Her short film "Pursuit" was also award-winning, spending two years on the international festival circuit after a successful domestic run. She served as the president of Women in Film, Dallas in 2016.

To view some of Newton's original films, see [vimeo.com/pattynewton](https://vimeo.com/pattynewton)







## Dr. Fletcher Coleman East Asian Art Historical Research

Dr. Fletcher Coleman, Assistant Professor of Art History, has recently been involved in a series of collaborative events related to his ongoing research on the establishment of East Asian art history as an academic discipline in the United States.

In June 2021, Coleman was invited to present at an international symposium on the history of exhibiting Asian art hosted by the University of Chicago. The three-day event, "Exhibiting East Asian Art in the West," offered presentations from scholars and curators ranging from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Royal Ontario Museum to Duke University and Xi'an Jiaotong University. Coleman's presentation, "Early American Encounters with Chinese Sculpture: Exhibiting Monumental Ink Rubbings From Longmen," is available on the symposium website (<https://caea.lib.uchicago.edu/eeaaaw/>) alongside recordings from all participants. His presentation will be featured as a chapter in a forthcoming edited volume to be published by the University of Chicago Press.

Dr. Coleman has also spent the past two years working with curators and conservators at the Cleveland Museum of Art on a special rotation of Chinese ink rubbings. The exhibit, titled "From Caves to Tombs: Chinese Pictorial Rubbings from Stone Reliefs" (<https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/from-caves-to-tombs>), is centered on two large-scale rubbings of Buddhist sculpture that Coleman rediscovered in the Cleveland Museum's deep storage during his research. Following Coleman's first visit to view the rubbings, Clarissa von Spee, the chair of Asian Art and curator of Chinese Art at the Cleveland Museum, began a two-year conservation project with Yi-Hsia Hsiao, associate curator of Chinese painting, to conserve, stabilize, and exhibit the ink rubbings. The works, which have not been seen by the public in over 100 years, were on display from June 11 through November 14, 2021.

Dr. Coleman's recent research on the historiography of conserving, exhibiting, and studying Asian art in the U.S. can also be found in *Ars Orientalis*, the research journal of the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art, as well as *Orientalisms*, an Asian art journal for museums and collectors.

For more information on Dr. Coleman see page 8.

## Ben Dolezal Logo Designs Published

Two logos created by Associate Professor Ben Dolezal were selected for publication in *LogoLounge Book 12*.

*LogoLounge* is the definitive logo resource for graphic designers, creative directors, and brand managers. 43,000 logos from 61 countries were submitted for publication and only 3,000 were selected for inclusion in the book. The book was published in December 2020 by Bill Gardner and Emily Potts, who stated on the *LogoLounge* website: "Everyday designers are inspired and inspire others through *LogoLounge*. As a result, we also get to showcase top identity design from around the world through the *LogoLounge* book series, where a preeminent panel of jurors chose logos to represent the best of the best."



## Stephen Lapthisophon Co-Curates DALLAS BIENNIAL Exhibition

The DALLAS BIENNIAL presented "DB20" on October 24 through November 21, 2020 at the artist-run project space PRP in Dallas, TX. The exhibition was co-curated by Art & Art History Department faculty member Stephen Lapthisophon.

"DB20" featured works by artists Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Pope.L, Dorothea Lange, Tala Madani, and Keith Walsh. According to a statement from the curators, the exhibition included works dealing with "disenfranchisement, human rights and activism through the lens of historical cultural revolution, artistic production and the act of resistance."

Senior Lecturer Stephen Lapthisophon, who has been a member of the Art and Art History Department at UTA since 2008, is a respected artist and educator working in the field of conceptual art, critical theory, and disability studies. He was an instructor and mentor to his "DB20" exhibition co-curators, Jesse Morgan Barnett and Michael Mazurek, both alumni of the MFA Intermedia art program at UTA, who co-founded the Dallas Biennial in 2012.

For more information see [dallasbiennial.org](http://dallasbiennial.org)

# Carlos Donjuan

## Receives Dallas Museum of Art Travel Grant

On May 24, the Dallas Museum of Art announced the 2021 recipients of its annual awards to artists. Assistant Professor and Drawing Area Coordinator Carlos Donjuan was selected to receive the Otis and Velma Davis Dozier Travel Grant.

According to the DMA, the grant recognizes exceptional talent in professional artists who wish to expand their artistic horizons through domestic or foreign travel. It is awarded to professional artists at least 30 years of age who reside in Texas and are chosen from a competitive pool of applicants. The guest curator for the 2021 prizes was Dr. Leigh Arnold, Associate Curator at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas. Donjuan is one of three artists selected for this honor in 2021.

Professor Donjuan was also the subject of a two-person exhibition this past fall in The Gallery at UTA from October 19 – November 21. See The Gallery at UTA website for more information. ([www.uta.edu/gallery](http://www.uta.edu/gallery))



## Paints Mural for Facebook

Art & Art History Department Assistant Professor Carlos Donjuan was asked to create a mural for the offices of Facebook in northern California in summer 2021. His painting, “The Lost Boys” joined works by a diverse group of artists from across the country who have created art installations for Facebook offices as part of their Open Art project.

Carlos Donjuan was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and arrived in Dallas with his family in the summer of 1985. His paintings and murals often reference his cultural background and his childhood feelings of being the “other.” As a child, hearing the term ‘illegal alien’ conjured up images of strange space aliens. Later, he used this association to turn the derogatory term into positive visual imagery. His paintings, which have been exhibited at major museums and galleries all over the world, often feature brightly colored backgrounds and masked individuals surrounded by surreal characters and landscapes.

In addition to his studio practice, Professor Donjuan has been painting murals for nearly 20 years. As a member of the Dallas-based collective Sour Grapes, which includes his two younger brothers and some childhood friends, he has also hosted workshops and mentored at-risk youths. As his website bio states: “This is a way for Donjuan to give back to the community ... He has always had a strong love for his neighborhood because it one of the main driving forces behind his work.”

For more information about Carlos Donjuan and to see images of his work, visit <http://www.carlosdonjuan.com>

To read an article about the Facebook project, see [https://www.uta.edu/news/news-releases/2021/09/17/facebook-mural-donjuan?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=MavWire\\_2021-09-20&utm\\_campaign=MavWire](https://www.uta.edu/news/news-releases/2021/09/17/facebook-mural-donjuan?utm_medium=email&utm_source=MavWire_2021-09-20&utm_campaign=MavWire)

# Bryan Florentin

## Solo Exhibition at TAMU

Assistant Professor Bryan Florentin was featured in a solo exhibition at The Wright Gallery in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M in College Station, TX from March 22 - May 20, 2021.

The exhibition titled "Something Tangible" showcased Florentin's work that, as he explains, "deals with the relationship between the photograph as image, the photograph as object, and the material reality that it often mimics. Other recent work explores the way in which some of the same materials and objects I photograph take on different qualities when presented as installations or sculptures rather than photographs." (excerpt from artist statement in exhibition catalog)

Professor Florentin is the head of the Photography Program in the Art & Art History Department at UTA, and a visual artist who is represented by Kirk Hopper Fine Art in Dallas.



## Exhibited in Three National Exhibitions

Bryan Florentin had his artwork selected for several juried and invitational exhibitions throughout the country this past spring and summer.

His work was shown at the *9th Annual Combined Caucus Exhibition* at the Society for Photographic Education conference. This juried exhibition took place both virtually and as a physical exhibition at Dateline Gallery as part of Denver, Colorado's Month of Photography. The exhibition was on view from March 19 – April 10, 2021. It featured work from the SPE Multicultural, LGBTQ and Women's Caucuses, and as the juror, Endia Beal stated, "the photographs submitted for this exhibition reflect the pulse of our contemporary culture." <https://www.speexhibition.com/>

From April 2-23, Florentin's work was featured again as The Allegany Arts Council hosted its annual *National Photography Competition and Exhibition*. The competition was founded in 2015 and has grown to reach nearly 1000 nationwide entries from 41 states. It started as a regional photography showcase but is now "a nationally-recognized show" that "serves as a model for other organizations seeking to develop programs of their own." <https://www.alleganyartscouncil.org/anpce/>

Finally, from August 6-29, Axis Gallery in Sacramento, California hosted its *16th National Juried Exhibition*. Professor Florentin was one of the artists selected to exhibit his work in this all-media show. As juror Faith J. McKinnie commented on the mid-pandemic times we are living through and the selected work that reflects those times: "the work presented in this exhibition insists that we reflect and reimagine. Through figuration, abstraction, sculpture, and film, you will find yourself between these moments of the past and the future, where our presence is required." <http://axisgallery.org/home/exhibitions/axis-16th-national-juried-exhibitionjuror-faith-j-mckinnie/>





# Benito Huerta

## Art League Houston Webinar

Professor Benito Huerta, Director of The Gallery at UTA, was asked by Art League Houston to conduct a virtual interview/conversation with artist Celia Alvarez Munoz on March 27, 2021.

Art League Houston is one of the oldest and most respected community art organizations in Texas, founded in 1948. The Zoom webinar was livestreamed to the public and was also archived on the ALH YouTube channel. Munoz, the Art League Houston 2020 Lifetime Achievement in Visual Arts Award recipient was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the institution through April 24. Professor Huerta, an artist and curator, is a long-time friend of Munoz's and organized a solo show and catalogue of her work for The Gallery at UTA that travelled throughout Texas in 2002. In the webinar they discussed Celia's long career and artistic practice from the 1980's through the present within the framework of a slide presentation Huerta prepared to guide the discussion. View the talk at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWp\\_QRlsp5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWp_QRlsp5w)

## Virtual Talk on Latinx Exhibition for Houston Museum

Professor Benito Huerta gave a Zoom presentation on December 12, 2020 discussing an exhibition he curated for the Houston Museum of African American Culture.

The talk titled "Curating Latinx Museum in Houston?" discussed the importance of having a museum dedicated to showcasing the art of the Latinx community in Houston. It was held in conjunction with "Latinx Museum in Houston? A Core Sample Gallery" on view from November 14, 2020 – January 30, 2021 as a virtual exhibition on the HMAAC website. Huerta commented about the artists and their work in the exhibition: "The diversity of ideas and media testifies to the wide range of work being created in contemporary art. The work in the exhibition needs no explanation; as a matter of fact... the works speak eloquently for themselves. They do not need an interpreter -- what they need are viewers and a context to engage in a conversation with the work." Associate Professor Carlos Donjuan and Andrew Ortiz were included in the exhibition along with fourteen other Latinx artists selected by Huerta.



## Two Exhibitions Showcasing LatinX Art

Benito Huerta's work was included this year in two important group exhibitions dealing with elements of cultural identity.

*LatinXAmerican* was a group exhibition featuring nearly 40 Latinx artists from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico on view at the DePaul Art Museum at DePaul University in Chicago, IL from January 7 - August 15, 2021. According to a museum statement, the show "assesses the presence and absence of Latinx artists in DePaul Art Museum's collection and reflects efforts to build in this area as part of a multi-year initiative to increase the visibility of Latinx artists and voices in museums, working towards equity and lasting transformation."

The second exhibition, titled *Icons and Symbols of the Borderland*, was on view at the Carlsbad Museum and Art Center in Carlsbad, New Mexico from May through September 2021. This is the latest iteration of the show which has travelled to sites throughout Texas: beginning in 2016 at the UTEP Centennial Museum in El Paso and then travelling to the Mexic-Arte in Austin; the Centro de Artes in San Antonio in 2017; the Brownsville Museum of Art and UTRGV Rusteberg Gallery in Brownsville in 2018; and the Amarillo Museum of Art in Amarillo in late 2018. A book also titled *Icons and Symbols of the Borderland*, written by the exhibition curator Diana Molina, was published in summer 2020 and included Professor Huerta's work.

For more information and to view installation images from the various *Icons and Symbols* venues, see the website. (<https://www.juntosart.org/exhibitions>)

For more on *LatinXAmerican*, visit the DePaul Museum website. (<https://resources.depaul.edu/art-museum/exhibitions/latinx-american/Pages/default.aspx>)

## "Texas Talks Art"

Professor Benito Huerta participated in a conversation with Arlington artist Celia Munoz as part of the weekly virtual art talk series, "Texas Talks Art."

Taking place on July 20, the webinar was free and open to the public and recorded for the organization's archives for online viewing also.

According to its website:

"Texas Talks Art is a multi-institutional initiative intended to both introduce the work of artists across the state of Texas to a wider audience and to foster collaboration between local non-profit arts organizations. Taking the form of virtual 30-minute lunchtime talks, the series features 50 Texas artists and artist collectives in conversation with 50 Texas curators beginning in January 2021 and continuing throughout the year.

Texas Talks Art is built on a belief in the need to work collectively to support the remarkable and diverse community of artists living and working in Texas." (<https://texastalksart.org/about>)





## Carrie Iverson Awarded Grant

Adjunct Assistant Professor Carrie Iverson was awarded a Covid-19 Emergency Grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York, NY.

The FCA grant is for artists who lost an opportunity to make work or had an exhibit canceled because of the pandemic. According to the application parameters, the Foundation's goal is to "focus its support on artists making work of a contemporary, experimental nature." (<https://www.foundationforcontemporaryarts.org/grants/emergency-grants-covid-19-fund>). Iverson, who explores the intersection between printmaking and glass, had been selected for an Art Group Creative Fellowship at Canberra Glassworks that was originally scheduled to take place in May through June 2020. The Glassworks, located in Australia's capital city, is a professional artists space dedicated to contemporary glass, art, craft and design. The Art Group Creative Fellows are provided with a dedicated studio space, accommodation, a cash stipend of AUD\$10,000 and free access to the facilities and equipment. Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fellowship in Australia had to be postponed.

To learn more visit [www.carrieiversonstudio.com](http://www.carrieiversonstudio.com)

## Laura Post Arlington Library Residency

Adjunct Assistant Professor Laura Post had an exhibition of her works at the Arlington Public Library Downtown Branch in spring 2021. As an artist-in-residence, she also hosted a series of workshops at the library over spring break—three in person and one virtual.

On March 13 she led a "Papermaking and Pulp Paintings" workshop. On March 15 the subject was printing patterns with participant-created and carved rubber stamps. March 20, she demonstrated a variety of book making techniques such as stab-binding. Finally, on March 24, she led a virtual workshop on making instant books that require no sewing or cutting such as: Accordion, Twisted Accordion, Snake, and Blizzard Books.

Laura Post earned her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design in Printmaking and has been teaching printmaking courses for the Art and Art History Department since fall 2020. Visit her website for more information and to see images of her work. [www.laurapost.com](http://www.laurapost.com)

## Andrew Ortiz in in San Diego Exhibition

Associate Professor Andrew Ortiz had work selected for inclusion in a juried group show in San Diego, California. The Studio Door Gallery in the Hillcrest area of San Diego hosted its 7th annual iteration of the exhibition, *The Crow Show*, from April 3 – 24, 2021. The gallery also published a catalog and presented an online version of the exhibition on their website.

Juried by Andrew Utt, Executive Director of Lux Art Institute (soon to be the Institute of Contemporary Art) the exhibition featured 80 international works from artists across the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Germany. The gallery stated: "Having taken on mythological importance, crows appear in all parts of the world. In folklore, they may foreshadow tragedy or usher in good news. The reality is a highly intelligent bird capable of social interactions. In recent years, the crow has become a muse to many artists. This annual visual art exhibition seeks to represent the many faces of the crow in reality and fantasy."

Professor Ortiz who has taught digital imaging at UTA since 1997, submitted work from a series of allegorical portraits of birds titled *Blackbird Speaking*, which explored the concept of communication difficulties. As Ortiz stated in his artist statement, "Juxtaposing various crows and ravens against symbols like locks, fences and steel walls illustrates the frustration of trying, but not being able to communicate."

# Darryl Lauster in New Orleans Exhibition

Professor Darryl Lauster was featured in a group exhibition titled "Make America What America Must Become: An Exhibition of Gulf South Artists" from September 18 through January 24, 2021.

The exhibition took place at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) New Orleans and was curated by George Scheer, CAC Executive Director, Katrina Neumann, Director, Private Collection, and Curatorial Consultant Toccarra A. H. Thomas, Director of the Joan Mitchell Center who together selected the artists for the CAC's seventh annual open call exhibition.

As a prelude to the November elections, the show focused on artists from the Gulf Coast states whose artwork reflects and comments on the political landscape of 2020 America.

As the Contemporary Arts Center website stated,

"Together, artists from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Bulbancha examine how power is made manifest in culture, politics, economics, and ecology. Their works speak urgently to the current political paradigm and reflect broadly on the conjuring and churning of the American fever dream." (<https://cacno.org/opencall2020>)

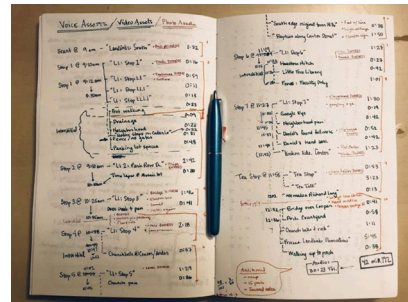
Lauster is an intermedia artist, and writer, as well as coordinator of the graduate program and associate chair for the Department of Art and Art History at UTA.



# Billi London Gray Participates in Multiple Summer 2021 Art Events

Art & Art History Department faculty member Billi London Gray had a very busy summer! The pandemic shutdowns of 2020 led to several postponements of invitational events that were able to finally take place in summer 2021. Two artist residencies and an international exhibition were the result for the industrious artist and adjunct art professor.

First, London Gray was an artist-in-residence at The Residency Project in Silverton, CO, from June 11-25. TRP is an art organization based in Pasadena, CA that invited her and three other artists to do an inaugural session at their site in Colorado. The artists all proposed work focused on land use, so according to London Gray, there was a lot of synergy and common ground. During the residency, she reports that she made drawings, created 'sound walks,' mocked up a photo book, and shot video of performers listening to rocks, trees, rivers, and trash with stethoscopes, as well as doing a lot of exploring, hiking, and stargazing. For more information see <https://www.theresidencyproject.org/summer-2021> and <https://www.theresidencyproject.org/1303>



Next, she was invited to participate in an exhibition titled "Landlinks" at Three Storeys Gallery, in the United Kingdom as part of the Ground Works exhibition series. Curated by Kel Portman and Lizzi Walton, this event, which was also postponed from last year, took place in Nailsworth from June 17-27. Three Storeys Gallery's website states that the project invited artists and writers whose inspiration and concern is for the landscape and environment "to examine our collective response to landscape and place, how we react to exterior spaces and the impact of our changing environment." <https://www.threestoreys.co.uk/whatson/articles/earthbound-exhibition-thy88>

To read more about London Gray's project and view her video essay, see <http://groundworks.org.uk/wp/landlinks/b-london-gray-landlinks/>

Finally, as an invited fellow at Mildred's Lane, "an uncategorizable artist site in PA" she participated in "Order of the Third Bird: Attention Lab" along with other Art & Art History Department faculty members Katerina Verguelis and Yana Payusova, who also attended as fellows. The session took place from August 2 - 9 and was co-led by UTA Glass Area Coordinator Justin Ginsberg along with Anna Riley who organized it to be "part guerrilla seminar and part meditative/kinetic practicum." <http://www.mildredslane.com/sessions-2021>

# Yana Payusova



## Artist Residency in Denmark

In July 2021, Assistant Professor Yana Payusova was invited to be an Artist-in-Residence at the Guldagergaard – International Ceramic Research Center in Denmark.

Guldagergaard is an international artist-in-residence center for professional artists, one of eight ceramic centers in the world where international artists apply for a residency. The center's purpose is to promote ceramic as an art form. For more information, see <https://ceramic.dk/>

Professor Payusova joined the Art and Art History Department faculty in 2020 and is the area coordinator in the painting program. For more information on Professor Payusova, see story on page 8.



## Wins First Place in National Competition

Assistant Professor Yana Payusova has been awarded first-place honors in a national clay competition in Crockett, California.

Payusova's paintings and sculptures blend the styles and symbols of Russian icons, folk art, graphic poster art, illustration, and comics, and reflect her cultural heritage and training in traditional Russian realism.

The "Epperson National Clay Competition" was open to artists from throughout the country and resulted in an exhibition running from November 13, 2020 – January 17, 2021 at the Epperson Gallery of Ceramic Arts. The gallery hosted the competition to "showcase the best Contemporary Ceramic Art being made in the United States." The juror was Dr. Scott A. Shields, who received his PhD in art history from the University of Kansas and is the associate director and chief curator at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, California.

To see more of Professor Payusova's work, see her website at <https://www.payusova.com>





## Benjamin Terry Solo Exhibition in Dallas

Benjamin Terry, a senior lecturer in painting with the Department of Art & Art History, was featured in a solo exhibition at Galleri Urbane in Dallas from May 22 – June 26, 2021. The exhibition titled *Bits and Bobs* followed a successful virtual presentation of the work in 2020.

According to a statement by Galleri Urbane, “In this body of work, the artist relaxes the strong narrative approach that has driven his past installations in favor of a more formal investigation of his work. Terry takes a decidedly intuitive approach to his newest paintings to further hone an aesthetic that obscures the boundary between guileless impulse and refined sophistication.”

The exhibition was the subject of a glowing review in the online arts magazine, *Glasstire* posted on June 15. In his review, “The Slicker Side of Punk”, writer Michael Frank Blair comments: “Ben Terry’s painted wooden wall objects hide their intelligence behind a feigned crudeness. They look great in photos with their Lisa Frank pinks and teals, mac-n-cheese yellows, and Astro-turf greens, playing on an ‘80s cartoon confetti vibe but freshened up for a 2021 palette. Their real smarts, however, are harder to photograph and harder still to describe. Instead, they’re accessed by time spent peeking and poking around the unpredictable arrangement of formal elements. The work, on view at Gallery Urbane in Dallas, pivots on carefully planned silliness and deceptively poor craft, and this balance of thoughtful and careless gives them an edge. Like punk rock, but slicker and savvier.”

Read the full review at [www.glasstire.com](http://www.glasstire.com)



It took me 40 hours to illustrate the line in this poster. The same illustration is typical work in the United States. The Covid-19 Pandemic caused 20,000,000 Americans to lose their jobs between mid-March and May 8 of 2020. Much of this hardship could have been avoided with more caution and a collective sense of other people.

## Tore Terrasi in International Poster Exhibition

Associate Professor Tore Terrasi’s typographic poster design was recently awarded a spot in the *Creative Crisis 2020 Poster Competition*.

Only 10 poster designs were selected from an international pool of candidates and each poster was shown at a special exhibition at the Gartenbaukino as part of the Forward Festival in Vienna, Austria from October 8-9, 2020. The exhibition then traveled to the Babylon Cinema House and Gallery at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz in Berlin, Germany in May of 2021.

Originally from the Boston area, Associate Professor Terrasi is an intermedia artist and designer who is the Foundations Program Coordinator for the Department of Art and Art History. After earning BFA degrees in Visual Design and English, he received his MFA in Visual Design from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth in 2005.

To see more of Professor Terrasi’s work, see his website at <https://www.toretterasi.com>

# Bart Weiss



## Collaborates on Newly Released Mobile Storytelling Project

Art and Art History Associate Professor Bart Weiss has collaborated with Dallas-based poet and SMU creative writing center director, Greg Brownderville to create and release *Fire Bones*, a multisensory digital project designed for mobile-device audiences.

Weiss, an award-winning filmmaker and co-founder/artistic director of the Dallas Video Fest, teamed up with writer Brownderville in 2015 when Brownderville was looking for a videographer to film his story ideas. The project quickly became a complete artistic collaboration in which the two teamed up to create the fantastical serial tale based in a fictional town in Arkansas and taking off from there. Presented as a fictional story in ten chapters, *Fire Bones* was released in spring 2021 and can be seen at the project website. (<https://firebones.org>)

Melding together styles and mediums – from digital to handmade, fantasy to documentary, with podcasts, videos, text, still images and music – Weiss and Brownderville have created a storytelling framework that is new and unique. As Weiss commented in an article in the *Dallas Morning News*, “The mood on set was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced, and I think you can see that in the finished product...When it can feel like there’s a sameness to every day, this is something different than anything you’ll see on Netflix.”

([https://www.dallasnews.com/arts-entertainment/visual-arts/2021/04/27/fire-bones-melds-audio-video-text-and-more-in-a-show-for-the-smart-phone-age/?fbclid=IwAR0LyQJO\\_rOt6ZC0fDbJRw5\\_GPN5eAbUr8-TV5-FQPYVLIcn-b\\_aWxVq-zE](https://www.dallasnews.com/arts-entertainment/visual-arts/2021/04/27/fire-bones-melds-audio-video-text-and-more-in-a-show-for-the-smart-phone-age/?fbclid=IwAR0LyQJO_rOt6ZC0fDbJRw5_GPN5eAbUr8-TV5-FQPYVLIcn-b_aWxVq-zE))

## Writes Article for Student Filmmakers Magazine

Cinematic Arts Associate Professor Bart Weiss had a new article published in September on *Student Filmmakers Magazine* online.

The story titled “How to Podcast During Covid Times” could be accessed at <https://www.studentfilmmakers.com/filmmakers-podcasting-during-covid-times/>

Weiss is an award-winning filmmaker, educator, director/founder of the Dallas VideoFest, and producer of “Frame of Mind” on KERA TV. He was president of AIVF and a video columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, and *United Features Syndicate*. He received his MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University.



## Justin Ginsberg Co-Leads Artist Residency Workshop

Assistant Professor and Glass Program Coordinator Justin Ginsberg, in collaboration with Anna Riley, created and conducted an artist residency titled *Order of the Third Bird: Attention Lab* at Mildred's Lane in rural northeastern Pennsylvania this past summer. Describing the leaders of workshops there, the residency website states, "Cultural producers are contributing over the years by lecturing, performing, fire making, creating events --daily life at Mildred's Lane. These creative practitioners are in support of curriculums for new and emergent practices for the 21st-century."

For a week in early August 2021, Ginsberg and Riley led a group of artist residents in what they describe as "part guerrilla seminar and part meditative/kinetic practicum." The workshop 's aim was to develop and test "durational practices of attention" and included visits by special guests including artists/activist Sal Randolph, writer/historian D. Graham Burnett and philosopher/write Leonard Nalencz.

For more information see <http://www.mildredslane.com/>



## Daniel Garcia Film Festival Successes

"*Prodigium University*" a pilot screenplay for an original TV series written by Cinematic Arts Assistant Professor Daniel García with UTA Alumna Lydia Davis continued to be accepted and receive qualifications at film festivals and screenwriting competitions throughout the United States in 2020-21.

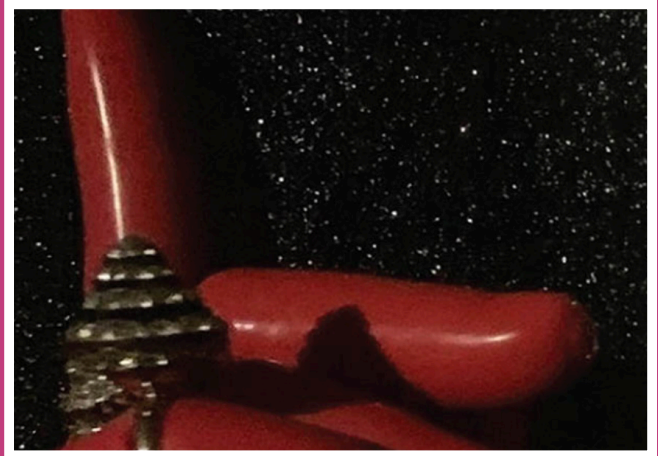
The 40-minute pilot received the following laurels this past year:

- Oregon Short Film Festival – July 2020 – Finalist
- Austin Revolution Film Festival – July 2020 - Official Selection
- Rhode Island International Film Festival – July 2020 – Semi-Finalist
- Orlando Film Festival – September 2020 - Official Selection
- Screenplay Festival – October 2020 - Semi-Finalist
- Pasadena International Film Festival – August 2021 - Official Selection

In addition, his 8-minute short film titled "Todo por los 15 Mil" (All for the 15 thousand) has also begun to garner attention which continues into the 2021-22 academic year:

- Louisiana LGBT+ Film Festival - July 2021 – Semi-Finalist
- Lavsyn Film Festival – August 2021 - Official Selection
- Fabulous Independent Film Festival – Sept 2021 - Official Selection
- Reel Affirmations International Film Festival – Sept 2021 - Official Selection

# ALUMNI NEWS



# Ashley Whitt Leads Relocation of Iconic Gallery 500X

When the need to relocate 500X, the historic art-scene staple, from its long-time home in the Deep Ellum area of Dallas, UTA photography alumna, Ashley Whitt was up to the challenge. After 41 years at 500 Exposition Avenue, in summer 2020 the gallery moved to a new location at 516 Fabrication Street in West Dallas. As Professor Emerita Kenda North commented, "What Ashley accomplished was heroic."

Now in its 42nd season, 500X is the oldest artist-run gallery space in Texas and Ashley has been president for the past 3 years. As Ashley explained, "500X is run by artists who volunteer their time and money to keep the space going. 500X has been passed down through generations of artists. One of my mentors, Susan Kae Grant, was the President of 500X in the 1980s. I am proud to be part of this cohort of artists and to continue the legacy of 500X! For many alumni, 500X has served as an entry point into the art world and have subsequently become prominent artists in the Metroplex and elsewhere including Vincent Falsetta, Otis Jones, Nic Nicosia, Frances Bagley, Tom Orr, Frank X. Tolbert, Randall Garrett and Paul Booker to name a few. "

When asked about the trials of relocating, Ashley noted that moving during a pandemic and downsizing 40+ years of accumulated gallery 'stuff' were the top challenges. But the group's efforts paid off: "We spent every weekend of the summer working on the new space. A lot of time and hard work went into making the new gallery what we envisioned. We are thrilled with how it turned out! "

Ashley and 500X plan to continue to provide opportunities for artists in the DFW community in the new location, especially artists of color and artists who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. As she says, "We want to provide a safe space for artists in our community to show their works."

The Art and Art History Department celebrates the efforts and achievements of alumni like Ashley. As Professor Emerita North stated, "Ashley Whitt was an outstanding member of the UTA A+AH Photography community. She and her now husband, Ross Faircloth, brought creative energy and leadership to our program. We were proud to see them both go on to get their MFA degree from TWU and now be engaged in the broader North Texas arts community."



## Cor Fahringer Performance Video as Coriander Spice

Documentation of a performance piece by MFA program alumnus Cor Fahringer (MFA, 2017) was displayed as a looping video on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building throughout the spring 2021 semester.

Cor Fahringer, or Coriander Spice, is a Brooklyn, New York-based drag artist whose performance pokes fun at notions of beauty, "questioning what makes something attractive or sexual."

Titled, 'I Will Always Love You' by Coriander Spice, the 3-minute performance raises questions of identity and self by removing some identifiable facial features from the performer. This erasure of visual information allows the viewer to overcome preconceived notions and reimagine the performer as a new character.

The presentation was sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Committee and the Museum Studies program of the Art & Art History Department.



# Dane Walters Wins Prestigious Award

Film/Video alumnus, Dane Walters who received his BFA degree in 2008, won the national Edward R. Murrow Award honoring outstanding achievements in broadcast and digital journalism. According to the RTDNA website, "The Radio Television Digital News Association has been honoring outstanding achievements in electronic journalism with the Edward R. Murrow Awards since 1971. Award recipients demonstrate the spirit of excellence that Murrow set as a standard for the profession of electronic journalism." ([www.rtdna.org](http://www.rtdna.org))

Walters is a video producer/editor for North Texas PBS channel KERA. He produces work for KERA TV, KERA News, Art&Seek, and KXT. His award-winning video, "Art&Seek Spotlight: Jordan Matthis – Visual Time-Lapse Artist" had previously been awarded on the regional level, his third regional win in the Excellence in Video in Large Market Radio Stations category. This is his first national trophy and it's a huge accomplishment and accolade. As Walters stated, "It is such an honor to be recognized nationally for my work with one of the most prestigious awards in broadcasting."

Dane Walters' video spotlights the work of a professional time-lapse photographer who "spends hours to plan and craft a few seconds of beautiful video.... to condense the mundane movements of people, clouds, stars and waves into glowing jewel of light and shadow." (<https://artandseek.org/profiles/time-lapsed2/>) He was inspired to tell the story of Jordan Matthis because of Walters own love for creating time-lapse videos. According to Walters, "Telling Jordan's story in this video not only showcased his stunning work, but was also a way of sharing both of our love and appreciation for the technique with viewers (and listeners of KERA 90.1 FM.)"

Walters expressed his appreciation for the education he received in UTA's Art and Art History Department and in particular, from Cinematic Arts faculty member Bart Weiss. He credits not only "the dedication, inspiration, and education taking place at UTA" but also Weiss' help in getting him an internship at KERA as a student. "Bart put in a call during my last semester and helped me get an internship at KERA. This was in 2008, right at the beginning of the recession, and for myself and many of my peers, our outlook after graduation looked uncertain. The value of that internship, and KERA's decision to hire me on afterwards, even during uncertain financial times has forever impacted my life. I'm eternally grateful for the opportunities I've been afforded and encourage students to seek out and take advantage of internship opportunities. Even if you don't land a job at the same organization where you intern, the life experience and connections you will make are invaluable."



# Dena Nguyen Goes Viral

Dena Nguyen, a graduate of the Design Program of the Art and Art History Department has had her design work go viral.

While still a student at UTA, Dena created a digital illustration that she posted that was the start of something big. The image was a portrait of an Asian woman with the caption – We Are Not A Virus. According to Pauline Hudel Smith, one of Dena's professors in the Design program, "Dena's work condemned the actions of people who attacked others simply for their race. After she published her first piece, people started messaging her and asking to create a similar type of illustration featuring an African American saying that they're not a threat." This led to a series of colorful, surreal illustrations made to draw attention to race and gender issues which she titled *This is America*. The post was seen and shared on various social media platforms, which led to it going viral – seen by millions across Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and Facebook.

On her website Dena commented about the series, stating "The visual concept encourages people to embody, empathize and respect others with different cultural perspectives and lifestyles." Her work is a testament to the ongoing artistic and conceptual creativity of the design students; the program's faculty are justifiably proud of alumna Dena Nguyen.

For more information on Dena Nguyen and to view images of her work, see her website: [denanguyen.com](http://denanguyen.com)

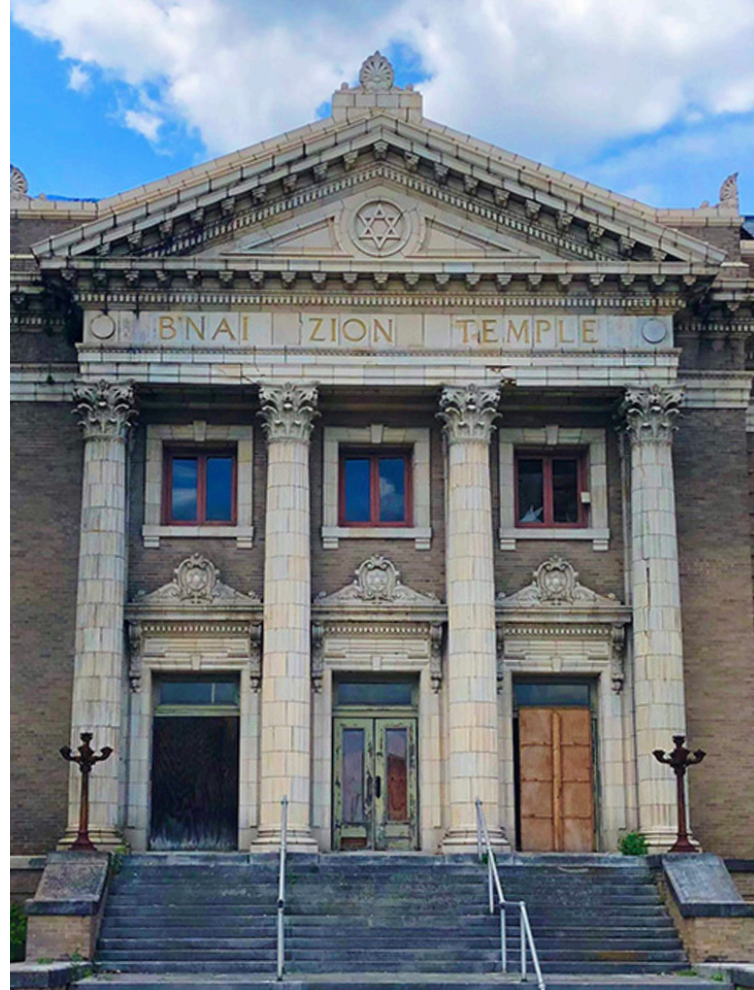
# Francisco Moreno

Francisco Moreno, a 2010 graduate of the BFA Program was invited to give a talk by the Visiting Artist Committee of the Art and Art History Department in fall 2020.

Francisco, who is rapidly making a name for himself in the art world, spoke about his recent work, including a piece recently acquired by the Dallas Museum of Art for its permanent collection. See page 19 for more details. A recording of his talk can be viewed on the department's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJhiRrUd91Q>

Moreno was born in Mexico City in 1986 and immigrated to Arlington, Texas in 1992. After completing his Bachelor of Fine Art degree, he earned a Master of Fine Art degree in 2012 from the Rhode Island School of Design. He has received several awards and honors since graduating from UTA. He currently lives and works in Dallas, and Mexico City.

To learn more and see examples of Moreno's art, visit his website: [www.franciscomoreno.net](http://www.franciscomoreno.net)



## Eric Hess Works to Preserve Historic Building

MFA program alumnus Eric Hess (MFA, 2018) is the founder and director of the Sanctuary Glass Studio and Sanctuary Arts School in Shreveport, Louisiana. He recently reported that he has an exciting and challenging new project: working to save a deteriorating historic building in Shreveport.

A recent article about the grassroots project reported that Hess has been working to acquire the building and restore it for some time. The article quotes Hess stating, "I am from New Orleans... Saving historic buildings is huge there. I was kind of situated into loving older buildings and architecture and preserving history. I started coming back and forth to Shreveport about 29 years ago... I thought, 'Why isn't this building being restored?' It's an amazing structure. One of the top three in the city."

To read more about Eric's efforts to save the building to create an art school and community center, read the full article or see the Sanctuary Arts website. (<https://theforumnews.com/article-4278-saving-an-architectural-treasure.html> or <https://sanctuaryartsschool.org>)



# Cinematic Arts Program Alumni Receive Film Grants

Lizette Barrera and Christian Vasquez, both graduates of the Department of Art and Art History Cinematic Arts program, were awarded two out of three 2020 Austin Film Society/North Texas Pioneer Film Fund Grants for Feature Films.

The AFS worked with Sailor Bear, the Dallas Producers Association and the Oak Cliff Film Festival to fund three debut feature projects by north-Texas based directors through the North Texas Pioneer Film Fund. Lizette Barrera was awarded for her film titled "Chicle" in the narrative feature in development category. Christian Vasquez received a grant for "A Reckoning: Stories for Racial Healing with Dr. Njoki Mcelroy" in the Documentary Feature in Production category.



## John Miranda Exhibition in Dallas

John Miranda, a Painting program alumnus who graduated from UTA in 2016, had a solo exhibition of his work shown at Cluely Projects in West Dallas. *Movidas: New Work*, was on view from May 21 – June 26, 2021, and featured paintings, encaustic on paper works, and sculpture. In his work, Miranda uses symbols to explore cultural identity and memories from his childhood, contrasting the desert landscape of Del Rio, Texas where he grew up with his life in the urban DFW area.

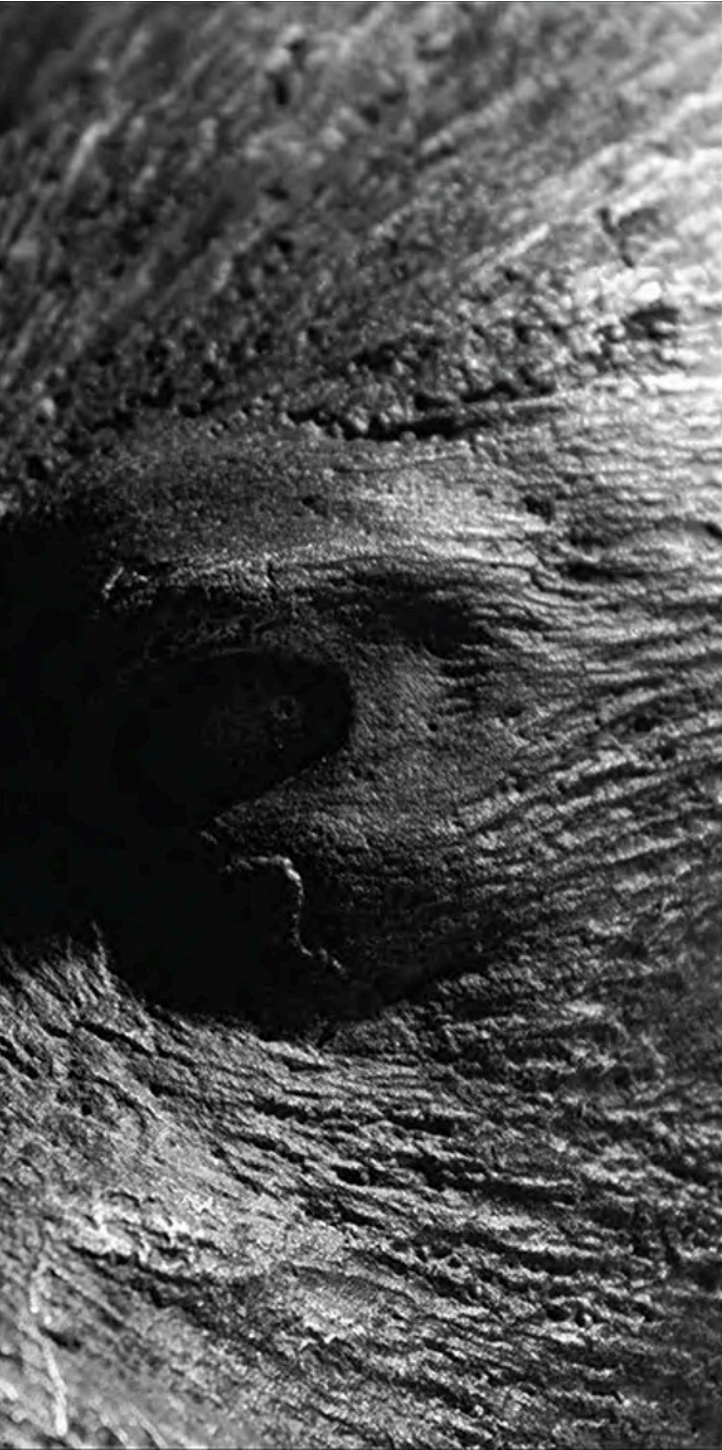
A review of the exhibition that appeared in the *Dallas Morning News* on June 14 praised Miranda's work, stating, "Upon seeing the cohesion and fully realized nature of Miranda's multimedia artworks in "Movidas: New Work," viewers may be surprised that this is his first show." (See full review at <https://www.dallasnews.com/arts-entertainment/visual-arts/2021/06/14/artist-john-mirandas-first-exhibition-blends-the-disparate-worlds-of-south-texas-and-dallas/>)

Cluely Projects on Sylvan Avenue in West Dallas is a satellite location of Erin Cluely Gallery, a respected Dallas contemporary art venue. Its mission is to act as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship. ([cluelyprojects.com](http://cluelyprojects.com))

# Liz Markum Show "Ignis Inventionem"

Alumna, Liz Markum (BFA 2021) had a solo exhibition at the University of North Texas CoLab in Denton on view from June 11 - July 3, 2021.

Markum was a Photography program student who graduated in spring 2021. She was accepted into UNT's MFA program which she began in the fall 2021.



## Mya Lewis Interns at National Museum of African American History and Culture

After working with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Mya Lewis recently began a new internship with the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Lewis, a 2020 Art History program alumna, worked with curator Joanna Hyppolite to prepare and implement the "Making African America: A Virtual Symposium on Immigration and the Changing Dynamics of Blackness". The symposium featured scholars, journalists, activists, filmmakers and writers discussing "how immigrations has shaped and is continuing to reshape what it means to be black in the United States."

The events were open to the public starting March 5, 2021 through March 20, 2021 and can be seen on the website at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/making-african-america>.

# Design Alumni Showcased in Black Lives Matter Exhibition

The Design Program showcased 21 former undergraduate and graduate design students in *Black Lives Matter*, an exhibition that invited diverse members of the design alumni to express their feelings about racism.

The exhibition was available to view both virtually and in Gallery 295 in the Fine Arts Building. Participating artists were:

Crystal Cobb  
Odunze Oguguo  
Malcolm Wilson  
Desiree Gibbs  
Tino Izuora  
Gabrielle Hughes  
Angelica Hicks  
Josh McCullough  
Anisha Garrett  
Kabbakeh (Holland) Bangura  
Diamond Thompson  
Lekan Mabayoje  
Quintel Veasy  
Zuma Attah  
Chukwuemeka U.E Okere  
Tre'mone White  
Jazmine Watson  
Yohance Starks  
Tolu Ajayi  
Anais Harvey  
Jazmine Price

The Design faculty who organized the exhibition expressed their pride in the efforts of the design alumni and pleasure at being able to present their work in this dual format.

The exhibition was on view in Gallery 295 from September 15 – December 1, 2020 and could also be viewed online through the Art & Art History Department website. <https://www.uta.edu/art/news-events/news/black-lives-matter-exhibition>

For more, see story on page 27.



## Two Alumni Join Faculty Member to Curate Dallas Biennial

The *Dallas Biennial*, curated by alumni Michael Mazurek and Jesse Morgan Barnett along with Senior Lecturer Stephen Laphisophon, announced the opening of "DB20" on October 24 running through November 21, 2020. The exhibition was on view at the artist-run project space PRP at 508 Fabrication Street in Dallas, TX.

"DB20" featured a selection of works by artists Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Pope.L, Dorothea Lange, Tala Madani, and Keith Walsh. According to the curators, "DB20 (examined) issues surrounding disenfranchisement, human rights and activism through the lens of historical cultural revolution, artistic production and the act of resistance."

Jesse Morgan Barnett and Michael Mazurek are both graduates of the MFA intermedia art program who have gone on to successful careers in the art world post-graduation. They, along with undergraduate art alumnus C.J. Davis, founded the *Dallas Biennial* in 2012 with the stated mission "to examine what are often seen as the dominant centers of artistic production and display. This includes curatorial practice, exhibition models and education. Each biennial aims to investigate and reflect on emerging developments in contemporary art, set within a shifting context."

For more information see [dallasbiennial.org](http://dallasbiennial.org)

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS





## Julia Baar Article Published on UTA Libraries Special Collections Blog

Undergraduate art history major Julia Baar had an article published on the UTA Libraries Special Collections blog, *The Compass Rose* on April 8, 2021. The article titled “From Fairy Tale Villages to Coffee; How Europeans Depict Egypt Over Time” discussed how the European vision of Egypt has influenced and been influenced by cartographers throughout history.

Baar conducted her research at the Special Collection and produced this essay based on her findings as an Honor’s Project in Dr. Leah McCurdy’s art history course, “Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Art.” You can read the essay with associated maps and illustrations that Baar studied at <https://libraries.uta.edu/news-events/blog/fairy-tale-villages-coffee-how-europeans-depict-egypt-over-time-comment-1187>



## Afia Azeemuddin Wins Annual Packaging Design Scholarship

The 2021 winner of the Annual Joe Harris Packaging Scholarship was announced in March by the Design program faculty of the Art and Art History Department. The \$2,500 scholarship was awarded to Afia Azeemuddin. Afia is an undergraduate senior majoring in Design who became interested in packaging because she noticed how much the demand for good packaging had grown with the increased volume of online shopping. Afia stated that “packaging must be unique to truly appeal to customers and capture their interest.”

The Joe Harris Scholarship is a \$2,500 award presented annually to one student in the Visual Communication Design area who exhibits outstanding work in packaging design. To apply, students submit an application form with a brief essay and a digital portfolio that demonstrates excellence and the potential for success in packaging design. The scholarship recipient is determined by a committee who reviews each candidate based on academic performance, financial need, a statement of purpose and the presentation of exceptional packaging and design work.

# Ari Brielle



## Dallas Museum of Art Award

The Dallas Museum of Art has announced its 2021 Awards to Artists and Ari Brielle, a graduate student in the MFA Intermedia Studio Program, received an Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund Award. The guest curator for the 2021 prizes was Dr. Leigh Arnold, Associate Curator at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas. In speaking to *Glasstire*, an online arts magazine about the award, Ari said, "I'm just super grateful, not only to be recognized by the DMA but also to be supported in this way."

According to the DMA's announcement of the awards, the Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund was created in 1980 to recognize exceptional talent and potential in young visual artists who show a commitment to continuing their artistic endeavors. Selected proposals include support for travel, supplies, equipment, and residencies, among other artistic activities. "We are honored that for over 40 years Awards to Artists has been supporting exceptional artists in our community at pivotal moments in their practice and career," says Dr. Vivian Li, the DMA's Lupe Murchison Curator of Contemporary Art. "We are thrilled to continue our support of dynamic artists exploring new directions in their art around central themes, including the environment, race, gender, and the effects of the pandemic." (<https://dma.org/press-release/dallas-museum-art-presents-its-2021-awards-artists>)

## Exhibits at 500X Gallery in Dallas

Ari Brielle, a graduate student in the intermedia M.F.A. program of the Department of Art and Art History recently exhibited as part of 500X Gallery's first physical show in their new gallery space.

The exhibition titled *Vivrant Thang* featured the work of 12 Black artists including Jeremy Biggers, Ari Brielle, Ciara Elle Bryant, Xxavier Carter, LaShonda Cooks, Danielle Demetria, Jer'Lisa Devezin, Elizabeth Hill, David Jeremiah, Jas Mardis, Jamilia Mendez, and Desiree Vaniecia. According to a 500X statement, "Vivrant Thang is an ode to Q-Tip as well as the sample from the original Love Unlimited Orchestra song "I Wanna Stay." Q-Tip defines Vivrant Thang as a take on the French word 'vivant' which means living. He is quoted as saying 'So it's... like a feeling, just like a breath of fresh air, kind of, like, spunky. Poppin', zest, and all that there.'"

According to the curator, *Vivrant Thang* was an opportunity for the artists to be "surrounded by kindred souls while providing a space where the viewer could see multiple facets of Black artwork." Part of the show's intent was to demonstrate that "viewing a collection of works by Black artists can change how Black artwork is viewed."

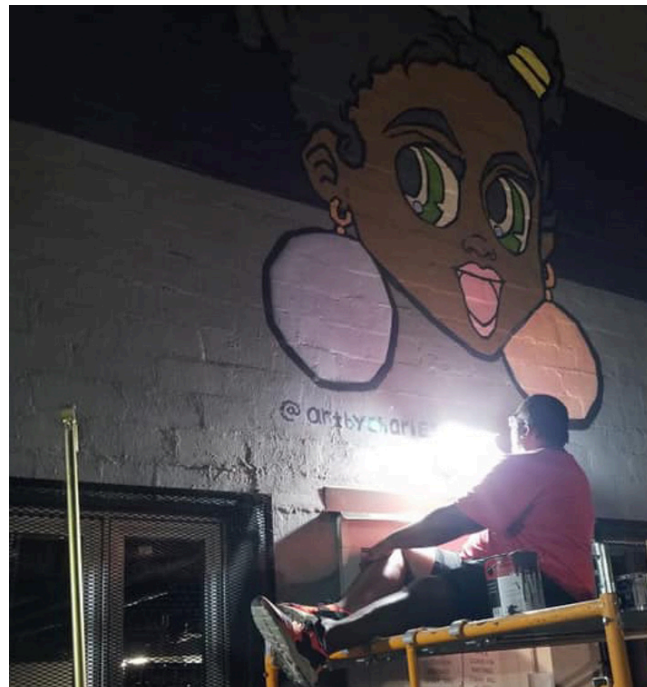
The exhibition was on view by appointment from August 15 - September 6, 2020. Images from the exhibition were also available to view at [www.500x.org](http://www.500x.org).

# Allyson Frizzell Libraries' Special Collections Blog

Allyson Frizzell, an undergraduate art history student, had an article published on the UTA Libraries Special Collections blog, *The Compass Rose* on April 29, 2021. *The Compass Rose* blog is posted regularly by Stephanie Luke to raise awareness of Special Collections' resources and to encourage their use. Allyson's article, titled "Paper Predicaments and Preservation," discusses the importance of ongoing efforts in art and archival conservation by Special Collections at the UTA Libraries.

Dr. Leah McCurdy in announcing the news, reported that she and Allyson have been working in an independent study focused on Allyson's plans to pursue a career in art conservation. Dr. McCurdy stated, "Allyson has been conducting virtual interviews of local, national, and international art conservators to discover more about the field. In addition, Allyson has been undertaking conservation projects at Special Collections this semester to build her skills! To conclude her independent study, Allyson wrote a public-facing article about preservation at SPCO as part of the *Compass Rose* Blog series. Further, Allyson is preparing a video to share with future students interested in art conservation careers!"

<https://libraries.uta.edu/news-events/blog/perspectives-preservation>



## Charles Gray Paints Vote=Voice Mural in Fort Worth

Undergraduate student and artist Charles Gray participated in a community activism project in Fort Worth in fall 2020.

Called "Vote=Voice" the project was organized by faculty member Associate Professor Sedrick Huckaby and his wife, artist Letitia Huckaby along with partner Delia deVer, another Fort Worth artist. The mission was to create large scale murals in marginalized communities in Fort Worth to encourage voter registration. Charles was selected to paint a mural at the Tarrant County Democratic Office at 3130 Plumwood St. in Fort Worth for the "Vote=Voice" initiative leading up to the November elections. He completed his mural on September 26, 2020. According to Charles, "Vote=Voice was an initiative to get people in disenfranchised neighborhoods to feel comfortable coming out to vote. My goal in the project involved designing a mural that culturally related to the people in the community with the message of voting."

The project was featured on local NBC television station in a story broadcast on November 3. See video here. (<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/politics/decision-2020/murals-pushing-to-get-out-and-vote-appear-across-tarrant-county/2471729/?fbclid=IwAR1xmbOGwxaalN5i367MCU3WnrFNbxU5aDpLYOXHol8hPfvv2p9e7m61b8Q>)

To learn more about the project and to see images: [www.voteequalsvoice.org](http://www.voteequalsvoice.org) or [www.facebook.com/voteequalsvoice](https://www.facebook.com/voteequalsvoice)





# Successes for BFA Student Jimi Kabela

Jimi Kabela, a spring 2021 BFA painting graduate from the Department of Art and Art History at UTA, has been accepted to the prestigious Pratt Institute in New York for graduate school in fall 2021.

Yana Payusova, Assistant Professor of Art and Painting Area Coordinator expressed her thoughts about Kabela's acceptance to graduate school: "It's been wonderful to witness Jimi's evolution as a painter. He is in the painting studio nearly every day continuously pushing himself, working on several pieces simultaneously, experimenting. Although I will miss our conversations, I am thrilled that Jimi will continue his creative exploration at Pratt. I am looking forward to seeing how New York will impact his studio practice and artistic direction."

In addition, Kabela was the featured artist in an exhibition titled "Patterns: Peace in Chaos" at the Rockport Center for the Arts in Rockport Texas from April 9 – May 9, 2021. He describes his current work in his artist statement for the Rockport show, stating, "I am a byproduct of both African and American cultural and societal influences. My primary influence is the African clothing that is worn by the men and women in the Congo and its potential for exuberant expression. Throughout the creative process, I am reconnecting to my roots, depicting the positive rhythms and energies of the Congolese people while muting out the chaos of the outside world."

([www.rockportartcenter.com/jimikabela](http://www.rockportartcenter.com/jimikabela))



## THE GEMINI LETTERS



Madison  
Klophaus

## Madison Klophaus Publishes Debut Novel

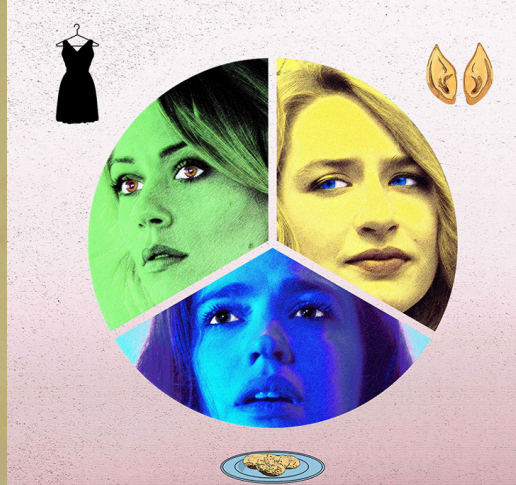
Drawing major Madison Klophaus had her debut novel published in fall 2020. *The Gemini Letters*, the first book in a planned trilogy, came out on September 16 and is available through Amazon, Google Books, Apple Books, Barnes and Noble, and other booksellers.

The story is about a dystopian future where a strict class system jeopardizes the two main characters' attempts at "restoring humanity back into society."

Madison stated, "I started writing this book, the first in a trilogy, during my first semester at UTA in Spring of 2017. You could almost always find me at one of the Starbucks cafés on campus with my nose in my laptop. As an art major, I often marry my book with my artwork, which in turn helps me grow in my writing."



Tati the Great  
A Kelly Bobino Film



## MFA Students' Films Recognized Nationally

Good news about MFA students in the Cinematic Arts graduate program has been shared by Cinematic Arts Area Coordinator, Changhee Chun. Professor Chun reported that two students receiving their MFA degrees in May 2021 have received national recognition for their work at film festivals throughout the country.

- **"Tati the Great"** – MFA Thesis film by Kelly Gray Bobino was an Official Selection of the Charlotte Black Film Festival 2021
- **"Dissociation"** – MFA Thesis film by Travis Patten was nominated for Best Horror Short, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Director at the Los Angeles Indie Shorts Fest 2021
- **"Jackalby"** - MFA Thesis film by Travis Patten was recognized as: Winner, Best Student Drama Short and Best Student Director at Indie-X Film Awards 2021  
Winner, Best Student Short at Los Angeles Silver Mask Live Festival 2021  
Official Selection of the New York City International Reel Film Festival 2021  
Official Selection of the Venice Shorts Film Awards 2021

Congratulations to both students!

## Students Crew for Film Shoot

Three current students and one former Cinematic Arts student collaborated on a film production with faculty member Patty Newton in summer 2021. Graduate students, Hien Dinh and Sierra Clark; undergraduate student, Tarniesha Floyd; and alumna, Samantha (Sam) Rankin formed the film crew for Newton's project titled "Rescued."

Newton knew where to look when assembling a crew to shoot her most recent film project. When asked, "How did you pick your film crew?" Professor Newton responded, "We have an incredible amount of talented filmmakers in our UTA A+AH Cinematic Arts program. Impressed by each crew member's past films I knew they were all good team-players which is the number one quality you look for in building a film crew."

Sam Rankin, who acted as Director of Photography commented, "I am excited to not only put the gorgeous footage in my cinematography reel, but also will 100% be listing this set down on my resume because of how impressed I am with how we handled the tight travel, the elements, ... the need to be flexible with the schedule and the locations moment to moment throughout the day to be sure we got everything we needed the safest and most efficient way.

Professor Newton in summing up the experience stated, "It was an incredible crew and I couldn't be happier to have worked with each of these talented filmmakers."

# Two Students Intern at Arlington Museum of Art

Two students were featured in the Arlington Museum of Art October 2020 Newsletter. Emily Berkes and Shelby Carson worked at the museum as interns in conjunction with the Art and Art History Department's Museum Studies program in fall 2020.



**Emily Berkes** is a senior art history major and anthropology minor. According to the newsletter she looks forward to a post-COVID-19 future that includes graduate school and being able to visit more museums. Her work at the Arlington Museum included documenting the donation of a private collection of art: assessing and doing condition reports on the work, photo-documentation, research on each work's history, as well as adding the items to the museum's digital database.



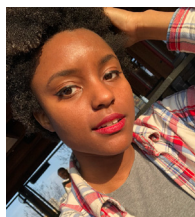
**Shelby Carson** is a visual communication design senior with a minor in art history. The newsletter cites her favorite artist as Michelangelo because of his multifaceted artistic practice. She assisted the museum with marketing designs and online programming for current and upcoming travelling exhibitions. She also worked on shipping/receiving of artworks in connection with their travelling exhibition program and aided in grant writing.

Assistant Professor of Practice Cheryl Mitchell, who is the coordinator of the Museum Studies program commented: "These types of internships were created to support the need for direct, hands-on training and the requirement of workplace experience for most museum-field career paths before graduation. We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Arlington Museum of Art through our Museum Studies program and look forward to working with them over future semesters."

# Fine Art Collections Interns for Spring 2021

The University of Texas at Arlington Fine Art Collections' (UTA FACs) program places student interns in various professional settings to learn best practices for art collections' care and sustainment, including art handling, curatorial concepts, exhibition and installation design, data management and inventory processes, and more. Students work directly with art industry professionals, while engaging in direct, hands-on training that will assist them in gaining entry-level art career employment after graduation or to successfully apply to graduate studies.

The seven spring 2021 interns are:



**Yasmine Barnes**, an art history senior with a minor in theatre arts



**Shelby Carson**, a design major with a minor in art history



**Stephanie Coria**, a transfer student studying sculpture with a minor in art history



**Natalie Idom**, a senior history major with a minor in military history



**Starr Robinson**, a senior communication technology major with an art minor



**Darryl Ward**, a senior in art history with a minor in art studies



**Laura Wimmer**, an art history major with a art studies minor



Film Still from "Unapologetically Me" by Faheem Rashid

# Art History Student Union Hosts Annual Symposium

On Friday, April 23 from 4 – 6 pm, the Art History Student Union (AHSU) presented its annual symposium as a Zoom Live Event. The theme of the symposium this year was "How Does Art and Art History Embrace Discussion of Inclusivity?"

Opening remarks were made by AHSU President Jacklyn Haefner, followed by eight presentations, and closing remarks by AHSU Vice President Julia Baar.

Presentations by current undergraduate and graduate students and alumni included:

- **Emily Berkes:** Research and experience of questioning museum ownership of objects, especially of indigenous groups
- **Kelly Gray-Bobino:** MFA thesis film entitled "Tati the Great"
- **Alumni presenter Nolan Bishop:** Book project on the color properties of glass
- **Alumni presenter Alyssa Myers:** Experience in the master's program at the Royal College of Art and Victoria and Albert Museum in London
- **Paula Currie:** Research on gendered depictions in Maria de Medici's large-scale commission from Rubens
- **Shayna Sutton:** Sculptural series on historic women of Africa and their representation
- **Alumni presenter Jennifer Yuhas:** Experience in the master's program at TCU and research on women artists of the Renaissance
- **Alumni presenter Mason Lahue:** Experience in the MFA program at SCAD and teaching at UTA

Awards were given to:

- **Shayna Sutton** – 1st Prize for presentation about art practice
- **Paula Currie** – 1st Prize for presentation about art historical research
- **Kelly Gray** - Honorable mention for presentation about art practice
- **Emily Berkes** - Honorable mention for presentation about art historical research

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Film Competition Winners

The Cinematic Arts Program announced the winners of the inaugural "Alphabet Soup" Film Competition which took place from March 12-14, 2021. The 48 hour race to create and submit a short film that explored the theme of diversity, equity and inclusion was open to students, faculty and staff. Samsung was a generous sponsor of the competition.

The award winners included undergraduate students, graduate students and one staff member.

Third Prize (\$200 Scholarship with award certificate)  
"In a Man's World" by Sierra Clark (graduate student)

Second Prize (\$300 Scholarship with award certificate)  
"Fitting into the Puzzle" by Sebastian Leal (undergraduate student)

First Prize (\$500 Scholarship with award certificate)  
"Secrete" by Isaiah Navarro (undergraduate student)

Audience Award (Samsung Bud Lives with award certificate)  
"Stage 6" by Samantha Rankin (staff)

New Media Award (Samsung Galaxy NOTE 20 with award certificate)  
"Unapologetically Me" by Faheem Rashid (undergraduate student)

In addition, the following students won Samsung Bud Lives:  
Hien Dinh and Miranda Stella Alfaro

The winning films can be seen at <https://youtu.be/20bvW0dmNGo>

## 2021 SPRING SYMPOSIUM



# OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARDS

## Fall 2020

### Drawing

Ava Parker (BA)  
Adam Zachary Garcia (BFA)

### Painting

Jimi Kabela (BFA)

### Design

Lydia Davis (BFA)  
Chantelle Trujillo (BFA)  
Dan Pham (BFA)  
Daylee Mitchell (BFA)

### Cinematic Arts

Kevin Nail (BFA)

### Art Education

Nestor Ayala (BFA)

### Clay

Allison Manning (BA)

### Glass

Oscar Gonzales (BFA)

### Master of Materials

Lenor Ali

### Fort Worth Art Dealers Association

Nolan Bishop

## Spring 2021

### Art History

Emily Berkes (BA)

### Drawing

Madison Klophaus (BFA)

### Painting

Daniel Flores (BFA)

### Design

Mersing Nguyen (BA)  
Vanessa Jefferson (BFA)

### Photography

Miguel "Mike" Lopez (BFA)

### Cinematic Arts

Elijah Cruz Barron (BA)  
Analiese White (BFA)

### Art Education

Chayla Cairnes (BFA)

### Clay

Jacob Steed (BFA)

### Glass

Luke Meyer (BFA)

### Sculpture

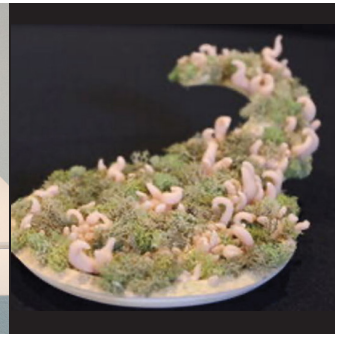
Liz Markum (BFA)



by Michelle Torres



by Liz Markum



by Marcy Davis



by Amy Stephens



by YouKyoung Lee

## Students Featured in TASA Exhibition

The Texas Association of Schools of Art (TASA) recently announced the students included in the "Artovation 2021" exhibition.

TASA invited students from member organizations throughout the state to submit entries, and the juror, John Spriggins, selected the winners to be displayed on the TASA website online exhibition. Spriggins is the General Manager of the South Dallas Cultural Center and prior to arriving at SDCC, he served as the Gallery Director for Richland College. Selections were made from submissions by students from over thirty colleges and universities throughout the state of Texas.

UTA undergraduates included were:

**Marcy Davis**  
**Liz Markum**  
**Shayna Sutton**  
**Michelle Torres**

UTA graduate students included were:

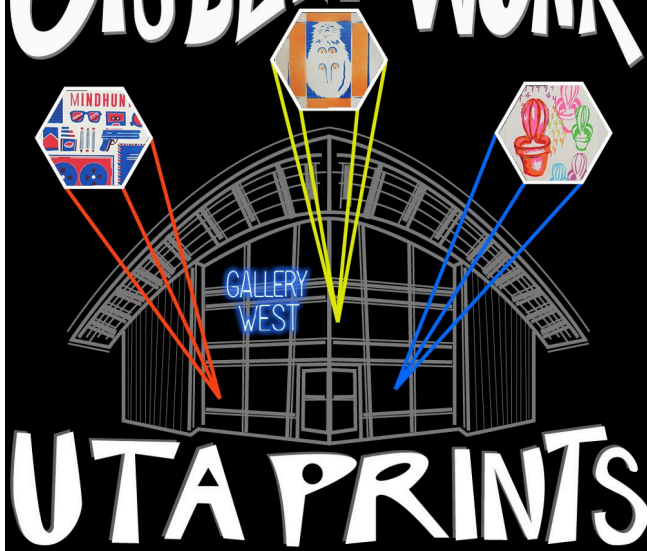
**YouKyoung Lee**  
**Amy Stephens**

To see the online exhibition, visit the TASA website at <https://www.tasart.org/artovation-student-show>



by Shayna Sutton

# STUDENT WORK



by Kerstin Schoen

## Barnett Foundation Photo Awards

The Barnett Foundation Photography Award winners were announced in April 2021. Congratulations to undergraduate photography students Summer Hall, Kerstin Schoen, and Mike Lopez.

The Barnett Foundation Photography Award is a competition held each spring semester awarding a cash prize to three undergraduate photography students. The awards are based on portfolios representing cohesive bodies of work. Outside jurors, generally representing the academic community and/or the gallery or museum community, are invited to select the award recipients each year. The awardees this year were chosen by juror Jess T. Dugan who is the Henry L. and Natalie E. Freund Teaching Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

In addition to the cash prize, the award includes an exhibition of the works that took place in Gallery West at the Studio Arts Center from May 3-7, 2021. A virtual award ceremony was held via Zoom on May 5.

## Printmaking Students Exhibit

Hosted by the Art and Art History Department's Gallery West and Wild Pony Studio, an exhibition followed by a virtual showcase of print works by current students took place in fall 2020. The exhibition titled "UTA Print" was displayed in Gallery West and also posted on the Printmaking Program Instagram page @wildponyeditions

Artists featured in the exhibition were:

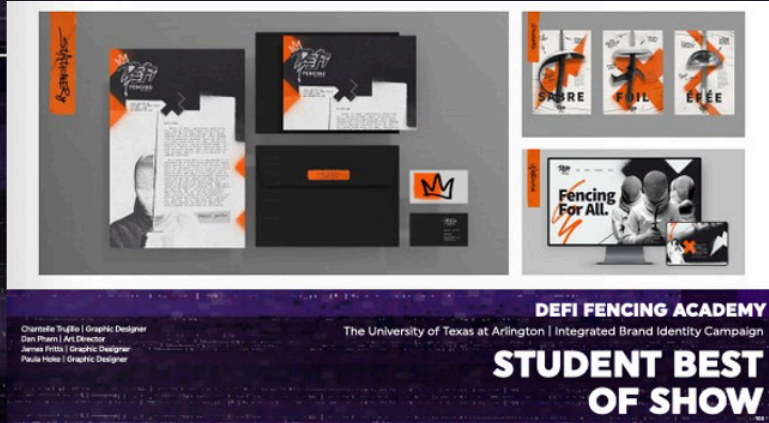
Zoey Berman, Gabriela Cardenas, Rebeca Compean, Hanna Cortesi, Adriana Esquivel, Kristen Ferguson, Tiara Francois, Bailey Gallegos, Marizela Garza, Cynthia Ibarra, Brayden Itz, Dalia Juarez, Jorge Martinez, Maclovio Morales, Alejandrina Muñoz, Luis Muñoz, Zyndi Namuhmuh, Ana Ponce, and Noelle Van Vleet.



by Summer Hall

by Mike Lopez

# STUDENT BEST OF SHOW



Charlette Trujillo | Graphic Designer  
Dan Pham | Art Director  
James Fritts | Graphic Designer  
Paula Hoke | Graphic Designer

**DEFI FENCING ACADEMY**  
The University of Texas at Arlington | Integrated Brand Identity Campaign

## STUDENT BEST OF SHOW

## VCD Students Win ADDY Awards

The Design Program reported that twenty-seven design students from the Department of Art & Art History won American Advertising Awards.

The American Advertising Awards, also known as the ADDYs, is the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition that recognizes and rewards works in advertising art.

- You Kyoung Lee - Tropinoche - Silver
- Courtney Thompson - Lethal Alchemy - Silver
- Audrey Dao - Warby Parker 2020 Annual Report - Bronze
- Mersing Nguyen - Herman Miller Annual Report - Silver
- Averie Wilson - Personal Expression in Type Campaign - Bronze
- Abigail Server - Rope and Railing Podcast Zine - Bronze
- Chantelle Trujillo - Thrwd Travel Magazine - Silver
- Nina Son - Moby Dick Zine - Silver
- Dan Pham and Daniel Portillo - Heart - Deep Ellum Publication - Gold
- Audrey Dao - Paper or Plastic - Gold
- Michaela Wright - We the people alphabet poster - Silver
- Nina Son - Typography Exhibition - Silver
- Nijal Munankarmi - My Chemical Romance Website - Bronze
- Hanna Cortesi - Aurora Website - Silver

In addition, special honors were awarded to:

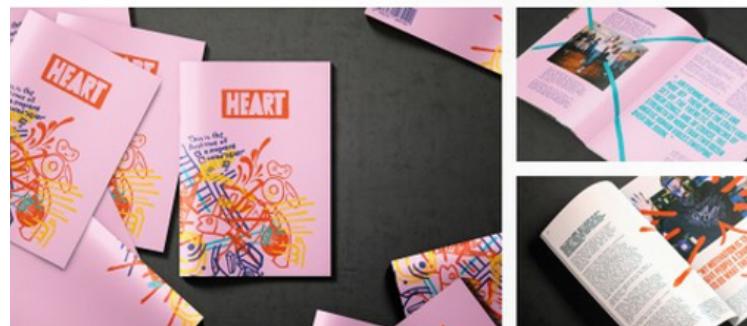
- Chantelle Trujillo - Defi Fencing Academy - Student Best of Show
- Paula Hoke - Uncommon Objects Website - Student Best of Web
- Dan Pham - Heart - Deep Ellum Publication - Student Best of Print

Congratulations to the winners on their outstanding achievements!

See all the winning work at:  
<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/764326953/>



- Nijal Munankarmi - My Chemical Romance Website - Bronze
- Hanna Cortesi - Aurora Website - Silver
- Paula Hoke - Uncommon Objects Website - Gold
- Lauren Trujillo - Qube Decor Mobile App - Bronze
- Wenceslao Escobedo III - G295 - Personal Expressions in Type - Silver
- Briana Jackson - Aphaea - Gold
- Averie Wilson - Delirium Eatery & Bar - Gold
- Chantelle Trujillo, Dan Pham, James Fritts, Paula Hoke - Defi Fencing Academy - Gold
- Nijal Munankarmi - Bake Free - Bronze
- Lydia Davis - Hunt & Gather Logo - Bronze
- Lydia Davis - Gentle Cowboy Logo - Bronze
- Braidon Clemence - Braidon and Brain Case Media - Silver







## Design Students in 2021 National Show

The National Student Show and Conference, held virtually this year from March 29- April 3, accepted twelve UTA Art & Art History Department design students' entries for its 17th annual show. The show was judged by a group of professionals from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise.

The event is an annual event consisting of a professionally juried show and a week-long conference in Dallas, Texas with the stated mission of helping undergraduates become successful creative professionals.

The Design Program faculty was justifiably proud when announcing this honor, saying "Congratulations to all these students on their achievements!"

**Mersing Nguyen** - Herman Miller Annual Report  
**Audrey Dao** - Paper or Plastic Publication  
**Giorgi Woolford** - The Strand Bookstore Logo  
**Briana Jackson** - Jamaica Gates Letterhead package  
**Giorgi Woolford** - Strand Bookstore Stationery package  
**Michaela Wright** - We the People ABC poster  
**Maria Tran** - Ice Cream Nation  
**Briana Jackson, Adrian Benitez, Lauren Trujillo** - Aphaea  
**Dan Pham, Chantelle Trujillo, James Fritts, and Paula Hoke** - Defi Fencing  
**Giorgi Woolford** - The Strand Bookstore Rebrand  
**Courtney Thompson** - Lethal Alchemy packaging  
**Chantelle Trujillo** - Senior portfolio - Third place award

See the National Student Show online at:  
<https://nationalstudentshow.exposure.co/nssc172021-accepted-student-work>

## Students and Alumni Featured on "Frame of Mind"

Several films by UTA Art and Art History Department students and alumni were screened on "Frame of Mind" on channel 13 KERA during fall 2020.

Produced by Associate Professor Bart Weiss, the series began broadcasting for its 28th season on September 24 and aired weekly at 10:30 p.m. through November 26.

The program featured independent film and video from Texas filmmakers and UTA student films selected this year included:

New Hope, Texas by Shelly Brandon (MFA student)  
Choices by Jonathan Moffitt (BFA student)  
Covid Nurse by Faheem Rashid (BFA student)  
Somniloquy by Erin Spence (BFA student).

Alumni films featured include:

Mosier Valley: The Town Forth Worth Forgot by Danny DeLoach  
Coup d'etat Math by Sai Selvarajan  
Come by Lizette Barrera.



# Package Design Students Win at National Competition

Two student teams from UTA Art and Art History placed in the top three of the 2021 AICC national packaging design competition this summer. The competition is hosted by the Association of Independent Corrugated Converters and honors the best student designs in three categories as judged by a panel of packaging and display industry professionals from around the world.

The prize-winning student teams were:

### Third Place Team

Project Name: Restore Emporium  
 Members: Brooke Selby, Afia Azeemuddin, Dai Vuong, Tien Tran  
 Faculty Advisor: Shaban Al-Refai  
 Prize: \$200

### Second Place Team:

Project Name: Southern Market  
 Members: Glennith Tran, Maria Tran, Odalys Carranza, Karina Oviedo  
 Faculty Advisor: Farzaneh Eftekhari  
 Prize: \$250

This year's structural and graphic challenge was to create a Quarantine Survival Kit corrugated shipper. The AICC description stated:

"Due to the challenges that students continued to face in 2021 because of Covid-19, AICC modified our competition. Students had to create and design a "Quarantine Survival Kit," a self-shipper box that would be sent to a friend, relative, etc, during a quarantine. Structurally, the task was to build a box that could safely ship (1) 10.75oz can of soup, (1) sleeve of crackers, (1) 12oz bag of coffee, and (1) 8oz hand sanitizer. Graphically, teams needed to design the exterior and interior of the box, including creating their own company and logo, and give the customer a "wow" factor when unboxing."

According to Farzaneh Eftekhari, assistant professor in the design program and faculty advisor to the second-place team, The Department of Art and Art History's packaging design area is rapidly growing. She believes that students growing competency in packaging will well-serve the local packaging industries in Dallas-Fort Worth. She commented, "The new market is embracing design for different factors such as understanding the consumer .... Our students become expert in packaging, branding and product design fields who can then take an important role in cross-disciplinary collaboration and support the start-ups and entrepreneurial activity at UTA."

For more information see [aiccbbox.org](http://aiccbbox.org)

# Students and Alumni Selected for Juried Show at 500X Gallery

Several UTA art students and alumni were featured in an exhibition at 500X Gallery in Dallas.

Titled "Expo 2020," the work for the juried show was selected by artists Sedrick and Letitia Huckaby. Past and present students Charles Gray, Valerie Van Over, Madeline Ortega, Hallee Turner, Kacey Slone, Jessi Jones, and Enrique Nevarez were among the 28 artists chosen to exhibit their work.

The exhibition took place from October 10 – November 1, 2020 and also was available on the gallery website as a virtual exhibition: <http://www.500x.org/expo-2020-virtual-exhibition>



## Students Excel in Adobe Creative Jam Competition

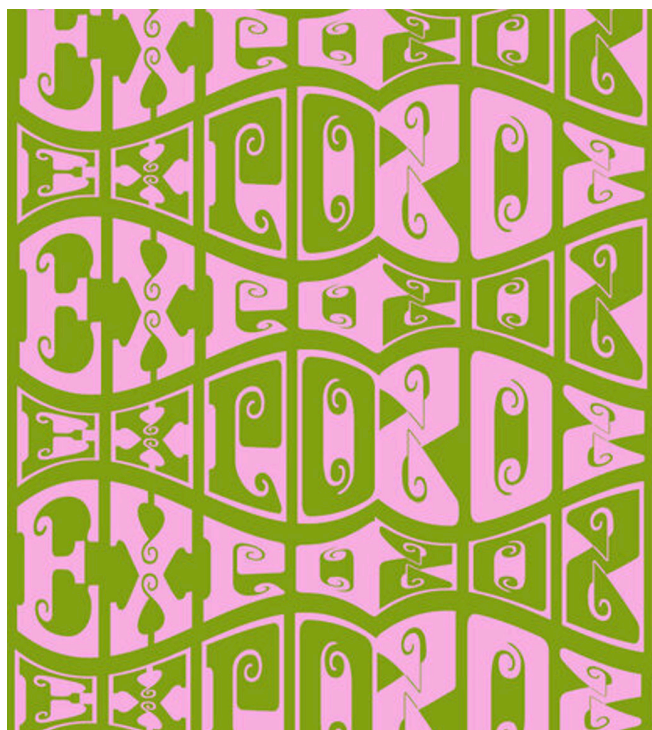
Adobe Creative Jam is a virtual series of tournaments where teams compete on a project that puts their Adobe Creative Cloud software skills to the test. This year, several Design Program student teams competed in a "University of Texas + Adobe Creative Jam" with 82 teams representing four UT schools: UT Dallas, UT San Antonio, UT Rio Grande Valley, and UT Arlington.

The competition focused on the theme "Smart Cities" and the teams were tasked with creating a mobile app based on the theme using Adobe XD software. According to Design Program Senior Lecturer Mason Lahue, "This Adobe Jam was an intense one! Our students had one weekend to crank out a genius app prototype using Adobe XD and their design intellect."

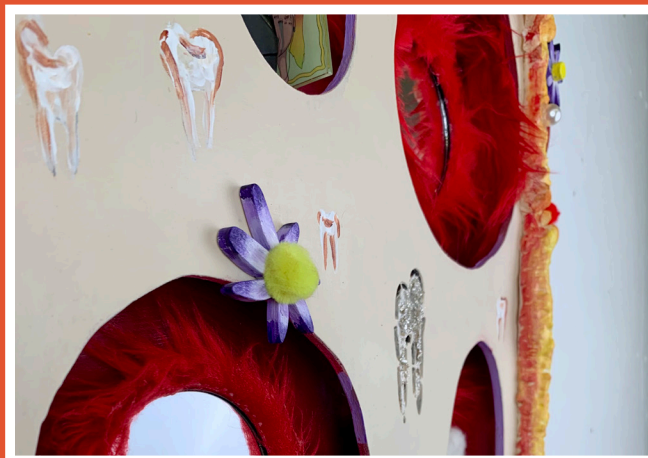
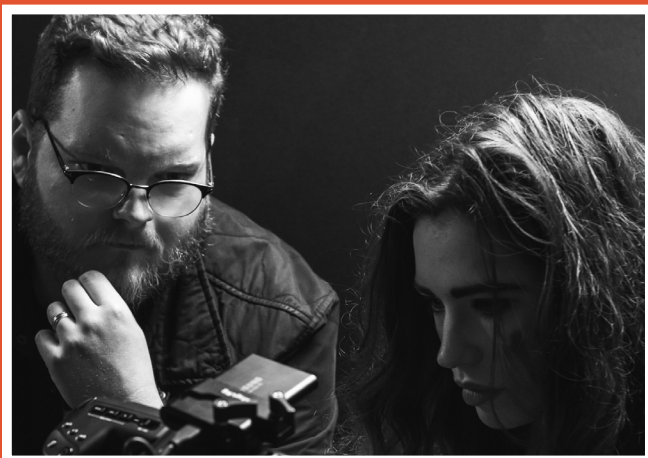
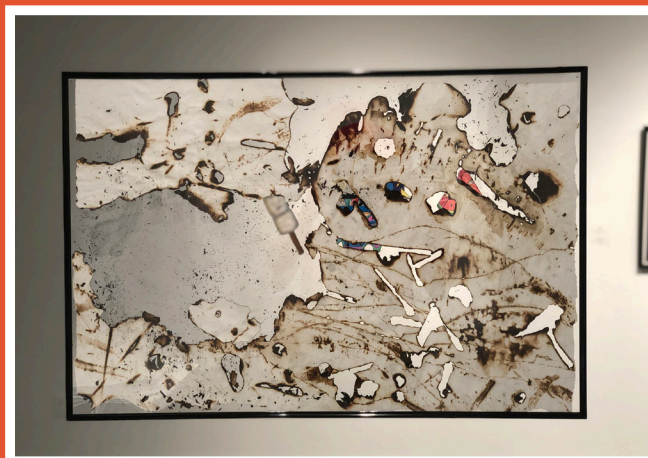
Two UTA teams made it to the Top 10 Finalists out of the original 82 teams. The two UT Arlington teams were Atelier Moderne (Lauren Trujillo and Adrian Benitez) with their app SafeKit, and Team B&Z (Bailey Gallegos and Zyndi Namuhmuh) presenting their app, SafeCrowd. On Friday, November 13, the finalists presented their projects in a Facebook live event to decide the Top 3 prize winners. Selected by a panel of creative-industry judges, Team Atelier Moderne was thrilled to win the third-place award in the highly competitive event.

The Department of Art and Art History is proud of all the students who competed, the two teams who made it to the finals, and especially Atelier Moderne for winning one of the top prizes. Congratulations to the students and their faculty mentors.

See a video of the University of Texas Jam: Presentations & Awards here. (<https://www.facebook.com/adobcreativejam/>)



# PROGRAMS



# Undergraduate Studies

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Studio Art is a four year program that offers the opportunity for concentrated study in Clay, Drawing, Cinematic Arts, Glass, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, or Design. The B.F.A. in Arts is formulated for students who desire a more in-depth concentration in one studio area.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Art Education (Certification) allows students to explore a variety of media while acquiring the certification required to teach art in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade in the Texas Public School System.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Art is a four year program that includes a built in minor program, and balances advanced studio classes with an academic course of exploration in any minor program offered by the University. The B.A. also offers the opportunity for concentrated study in Clay, Drawing, Cinematic Arts, Glass, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Design.

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in the Art History is a four-year program which guides students through the historical study of art and professional art history methodologies, and also requires a minor program of study to accompany advanced Art History coursework.

## DESIGN

As technology opens more avenues for communication, the design process is becoming increasingly more complex, demanding stronger and more thoughtful visual solutions from designers. It is the intention of the Design faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington to educate our students effectively and creatively by providing them with a solid framework for communicating ideas visually to an international community.

## PACKAGING

Students enrolled in Packaging Design courses in the Design area are introduced to a curriculum that focuses on packaging structure design, materials, performance, testing and sustainability. The curriculum is integrated within the new corrugated Prototype Design and CAD Production Lab (CORRPRO) at UTA. The lab, which was made possible through a partnership with the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation (ICPF), provides students with the structural design software, materials, and a computer-aided design table to produce significant packaging solutions for use in the marketplace.

## GAMING DESIGN

The Game Development program at UTA focuses on user-centered design, using the philosophy of rapid prototyping to quickly define the difference between user design and user experience. Students learn the complexity of game production and how to effectively translate ideas catered to a specific target audience. These courses utilize innovative digital media to immerse participants in a rewarding experience.

## ANIMATION

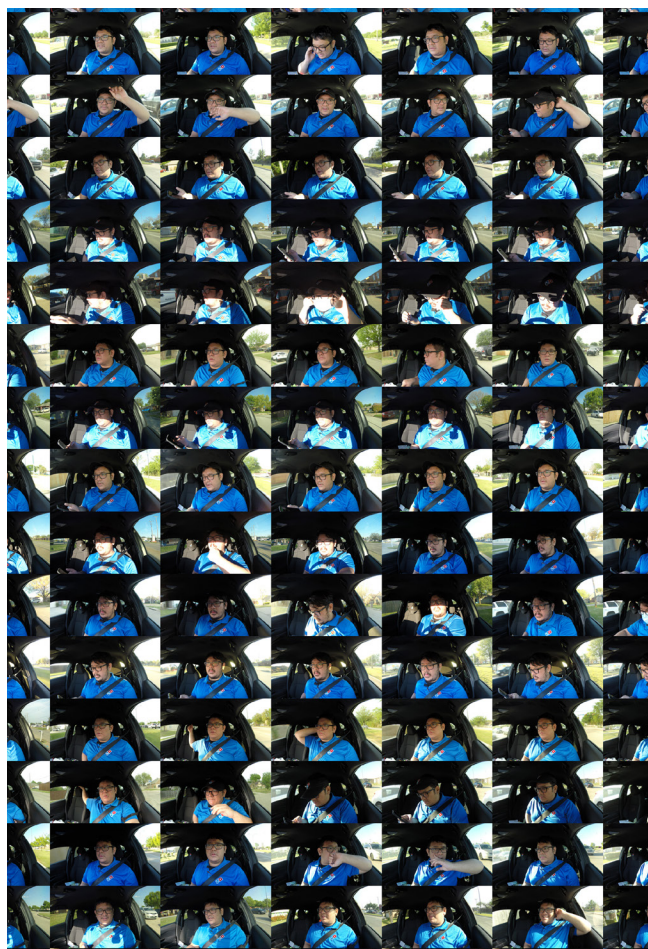
The Animation track within the Cinematic Arts program prepares animators and gamers to compete successfully in a high-stakes marketplace upon graduation. Our foundation course in storytelling (Screenwriting) paves the way for working in 2-D Animation, 3-D Animation, Motion Graphics, as well as Stop Motion. Research, practice and application inspire a useful and mature approach to the industry.

## CINEMATIC ARTS

The Art and Art History Department at UTA has an excellent reputation for grooming young filmmakers, preparing them for the creative challenges and emotional rigors of the motion picture industry. Success by graduates has not come by luck or chance, but is the result of the deliberate execution of a well-designed, three-tiered program consisting of an introductory level of foundations, an intermediate level to hone technical skills, and an advanced level to produce high quality portfolio work.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography program at UTA, established in 1971, prepares students to be professionals in their field. The study of photography can be applied in a range of professions, including commercial studio work, photo editing in publications, working with photography collections in museums, and teaching at the high school and college level. The curriculum is carefully designed to prepare students to enter a career or a graduate program with a strong portfolio and the needed technical skills.





by Zack Story

## SCULPTURE

The Sculpture program offers courses that explore a wide range of processes and techniques including: woodworking and fabrication (table saw, radial saw, 2 band saws, scroll saw, planer, jointer, drill press); clay modeling, molding and casting in plaster and plastics; metal fabrication with electric arc, MIG, and TIG welding, oxy/acetylene welding, cutting and plasma cutting. A recently installed foundry includes a Speedy Melt furnace, gantry crane and wax burnout kiln, facilitating aluminum and lost wax bronze casting.

## CLAY

Ceramic classes emphasize clay as an expressive medium while offering a concise study of three dimensional art. Traditional and contemporary methods of construction, manipulation, and imagery are explored with an emphasis on seeking integration of form, design, color, and concept. The history of ceramic arts is seen as a rich resource from which the students can test precedents and expand their own aesthetic vocabulary.

## PRINTMAKING

The Printmaking program at UTA emphasizes the importance of exploring ideas through the printmaking process while investigating the significance of the graphic aesthetic. Students are encouraged to explore ideas relevant to contemporary theory and the role of the artist in society. The focus of courses is on the inventive and conceptual use of print media underscoring critical and contemporary issues in art.



by Ismael A. Orduna



## PAINTING

The Painting program at UTA focuses on competencies in drawing/rendering, use of traditional oil painting materials and techniques, sound painting processes, and safety concerns with references and acknowledgements to art history. There is an emphasis placed on the ability to evaluate the formal aspects of a painting during studio working time and in critique where students are encouraged to actively participate in articulating their thoughts and ideas.

## GLASS

The program in Glass allows students the opportunity to explore the sculptural, conceptual, and functional aesthetics of glass as an artistic medium. A variety of traditional, contemporary, and experimental glass working techniques are examined and utilized in the challenging course work. The attitude and aesthetic of the artist/craftsman and his/her relationship to materials, concepts, and function is used as a resource for the creation and discussion of work.

## ART HISTORY

This rigorous program of study provides strong academic preparation for further study at the graduate level, as well as for work in museums or other professional organizations in the visual arts. A degree in art history involves training in research and analysis, critical and creative thinking, and verbal and visual skills that are useful in any professional field.



by Ismael A. Orduna





by Zack Story

## ART EDUCATION

The Department of Art and Art History, in cooperation with the School of Education at the University of Texas at Arlington, offers a Bachelor of Fine Art (B.F.A) in Art with Teacher Certification for grades K-12. The suggested plan of study comprises a series of lectures and media activities dealing with current issues in the teaching of art concepts and media manipulation, as well as the history and development of art.

## COLLECTION PROJECTS

Students have a variety of ways to work with our Collections Specialist to create exhibitions and displays on campus and in the UTA Fine Arts Collections Gallery housed in the Visual Resource Commons (VRC) in the Fine Arts Building. The focus is on key professional categories of activities used within the fine art museum system, including administration and leadership, collections fundraising, interpretation of thematic ideals, and security and sustainability.

## DRAWING

Exploring techniques for representing images two- dimensionally begins with training one's eye to discern an object in a different way. Studying planes, contours, and perspective to accurately represent an object on a flat surface, drawing requires both visual and conceptual skills. As such, a complex awareness of expressive means in drawing is essential to communicating a personal vision through imagery. It is this visual expression that must be developed in order to see, think, respond, and in the end, create.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Entrepreneurship in the Arts is a program within the Art and Art History Department developed and launched in 2012. Its mission is to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit through the development of an individualized foundation, knowledge base, and skill-set that will help students navigate their careers. The program is unique in its approach as it equips students with an entrepreneurial mindset that will give them an edge in their creative pursuits.

## INTERNSHIP

Many of our students participate in our internship program. Students have interned with world-renowned museums, galleries, film studios, design firms, Fortune 500 companies, philanthropic foundations, hospitals, churches and with individual artists. We have maintained a broad network of participants through direct interaction and involvement throughout the internship process. We continue to expand these contacts through active networking within the art and design worlds.



by Liz Markum

# Master of Fine Arts Program

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) is a professional degree in the practice of art. The program of study is designed to guide and encourage students in the development of their skills, the definition of their goals and the recognition of their responsibilities as artists. The educational objective is to provide training that will make it possible for each student in the program to achieve professional excellence.

Our program experience places an emphasis on theory, research and critical thinking, and an awareness of the function of art and design in the world today. The M.F.A degree is unique in that it is the artist's terminal degree. The M.F.A. requires the College Art Association's suggested 60 credit hours, and typically, a three-year commitment of time.

The M.F.A. program provides a demanding educational environment appropriate for strongly motivated students. Artists, designers, and filmmakers are chosen for the program on the basis of work that demonstrates artistic individuality and promise. The program invites and encourages non-traditional and traditional art experiences and supports interdisciplinary projects in the student's final thesis research presentation. The M.F.A. program offers opportunities to further the candidate's practice through one of four pathways in: Cinematic Arts, Glass, Intermedia, and Design.

## DESIGN

The Master of Fine Arts in Design challenges students to integrate design theory, philosophy, practice and pedagogy. Graduates of the program are equipped to contribute to the evolution of visual communication as a design profession. Professional organizations such as the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) and the International Council of Graphic Design Association (Icograda) support the growth of individual designers and the evolution of the discipline.

Film still from "All the Symptoms" by Lindsay Roche



## CINEMATIC ARTS

The Master of Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts is a 60-credit hour program emphasizing producing and directing for film and video. The program offers opportunities to further refine direction (narrative, experimental, installation, and documentary works) in collaboration with faculty mentors and thesis committees. MFA candidates are required to complete a studio or screenplay thesis portfolio. For this project, students are encouraged to explore the featured film form, substantial documentary or significant experimental artworks based upon film and digital media.





by Lindsay Roche

## GLASS

The Master of Fine Arts in Glass allows students to explore the sculptural, conceptual, and functional aesthetics of glass as an artistic media in order to create a body of work directed by a personal concept or project. A variety of traditional, contemporary, and experimental glass-working techniques are examined and utilized in ambitious research into and creation of conceptually significant work.

## INTERMEDIA STUDIO

The Master of Fine Arts in Studio Intermedia integrates a broad range of technical, conceptual and aesthetic practices. It is an approach to art that advocates the crossing of borders, the blending of disciplinary frameworks and the development of shared languages. The program demands a deviation from conventional usage of both techniques and practices in favor of a collaborating environment and connections between media, studio art, technology and critical analysis.



by Karley Adrion



by Hallee Turner



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