



2025
ARTIST FELLOWSHIP CATALOG





Welcome to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts' inaugural Artist Fellowship Catalog! Our newest publication proudly showcases the Council's 2025 Individual Artist Fellows and uplifts their outstanding work as artists. The Fellowship is the cornerstone program in the Council's portfolio of grants and services for individual artists, helping them achieve their artistic goals and advance their careers. Since the program's origin in 1970, there have been several iterations of its structure and of the Council's investment. Today, the program is carried out collaboratively by the Council and our administrative partners at Mid Atlantic Arts. And we could not be more thrilled to note that featured throughout the pages of this dynamic catalog, is representation of the Council's most robust investment in the Fellowship program to date - **\$2 million directly to New Jersey artists.**

As we shine a spotlight on these **106 artists**, we celebrate their recognition as Fellows, and hope that you, the viewer, will not only get a sense of their deep creativity, but become curious to learn more about them. Artmaking is a unique reflection of the artists themselves, their experiences, perceptions, and lives. From the striking physicality and image making of choreography and photography to the richly diverse forms of craft and sculpture, each member of this cohort of seven artistic disciplines, harnesses their skill to indeed connect with the viewer, move imaginations, and inspire excellence.

To the artists presented here - as well as the tens of thousands of artists whose work has a profound impact on communities across New Jersey - we thank you.

Felicia Grant, Chair

Allison Tratner, Executive Director

Danielle Bursk, Director of Artist Services & Community Partnerships

Stephanie Nerbak, Artist Services Manager



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*FELLOWSHIP ARTIST NOT PICTURED



CHOREOGRAPHY

DANCE ALLOWS US TO
TOUCH THE DEEPEST OF OUR
EXPERIENCES AND THE WIDEST
OF OUR IMAGINATIONS.

AMINA KOLENC



Photo of work-in-progress made possible by Fellowship.
Photo credit: Rebecca Seow.
Dancers: Alyssia Farias, Anne Mohan, Syd Thiebaut

AMINA KOLENC

Amina Kolenc (she/her) earned her BFA in Dance from Montclair State University. She has performed in works by Camryn Stafford, Brice Mousset, Urban Bush Women, Stefanie Batten Bland, Michelle Manzanales, and Christian von Howard. In addition, Amina danced as a Bridge Fellow at The Indeterminacy Festival 2024 on Governor's Island, working collaboratively with Melanie Aceto. She also performs as a guest artist with Nacre Dance Group. In November 2023, Amina co-founded the dance festival, Modern Moves, which hosts performances in NJ and NYC. Her choreography has been featured at Arts on Site, Balance Arts Center, Green Space, The Williams Center, and The Craft NYC. As a creator, she believes that dance allows us to touch the deepest of our experiences and the widest of our imaginations. Her choreography embraces inspirations from across this spectrum. Amina Kolenc received a 2025 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

WEB: [AMINAKOLENC.WIXSITE.COM/DANCE](https://aminakolenc.wixsite.com/dance)
INSTAGRAM: [MIINA_AAA_K](https://www.instagram.com/miinaaa_k)

BOBBY MORGAN



Photo of Bobby Morgan

Bobby is a freelance choreographer, DJ, & student of life who is passionate about inspiring the collective through movement and sound. Having a background in many styles such as ballet, jazz, hip hop, house, voguing, modern, contemporary; one thing that is a main source of passion across all those different genres is his love for music as a universal language. Growing up being a part of concert, commercial, and underground dance worlds, one of Bobby's missions as a choreographer is to curate spaces for those that live somewhere in the middle of those three very different but still connected worlds. Although he was always inspired by a wide array of music coming from a musical family, his formal training didn't start until the age of 13 via a ballet scholarship at a local dance studio. Throughout his training, summers were spent at Complexions, Ballet Hispanico's Choreographer's Lab & performing at Jacob's Pillow, while also being on scholarship at commercial dance conventions (Monsters of HipHop, The Pulse, Intrigue, ASH). Bobby has trained under choreographers such as Dana Foglia, Kim Holmes, Desmond Richardson, Erica Sobol, Jon Ole Olstad, and many others amongst the concert, commercial, and underground street cultures. Through his work, Bobby ushers in the fusion/genre-bending era of choreography, focusing on movement as a healing modality as well, always reminding us of the importance of human connection, keeping the heart space alive, and remembering why we're here.

YOUTUBE: [BOBBYMORG34567](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC34567)
INSTAGRAM: [BOBBYDMORGAN](https://www.instagram.com/bobbydmorgan)

CAROLYN DORFMAN



Photo of Carolyn Dorfman

Carolyn Dorfman is the founding Artistic Director of Carolyn Dorfman Dance (CDD) and a nationally renowned choreographer known for creating powerful, human-centered dance. A child of Holocaust survivors, Dorfman's work honors her Jewish heritage while exploring universal themes of resilience, identity, and hope. Her dances are immersive, athletic, and emotionally compelling, often developed through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Celebrating over 40 years, CDD features ten diverse, stunning dancers performing works by Dorfman and guest choreographers. Touring nationally and internationally—from NYC to Bosnia—the company brings transformative performances and educational programs to theaters, universities, and communities. Central to their mission is DEPTH - Dance that Empowers People to be more Human. Dorfman holds degrees from the University of Michigan and NYU Tisch and is a master teacher and frequent guest artist at institutions worldwide.

WEB: CAROLYNDORFMAN.DANCE

INSTAGRAM: CDORFMANDANCE

DONNA SALGADO



Photo of Donna Salgado
Credit: James Jin

Donna Salgado's choreographic honors include being selected as a choreographer for the esteemed National Choreographers Initiative 2024 and being programmed by the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival for 3 seasons. Donna is the founder and directing artist of Continuum Contemporary/Ballet. Continuum aims to expand the role of creativity in ballet by engaging in processes that encompass experimentation, collaboration, new vocabularies, and design. Her commissions include the Columbia Ballet Collaborative, Counterpointe Festival for Women Choreographers, Latin Choreographers Festival, Newport Contemporary Ballet, Sierra Nevada Ballet, Princeton University Ballet, and the Harvard Ballet Company. She is a two-time recipient of creative residencies at the Sky Hill Farm Studio and has participated in a creative residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park. Continuum has been presented by Bryant Park, 92nd St. Y, Vermont State University, USDAN Performing Arts, and the Ballet on the Beach Dance Festival.

Donna holds an MFA in Dance Performance from SUNY Purchase and a BFA in Dance Performance from Towson University, and attended summer programs at ABT, CPYB, and Lines Ballet.

WEB: DONNASALGADO.COM

INSTAGRAM: CONTINUUMBALLET

DR. DEEPA MAHADEVAN

Dr. Deepa Mahadevan is a movement researcher with immersive training spanning two decades in India. She has been a professional Bharatanatyam dance practitioner for over 25 years and has given over 700 solo performances, has choreographed and been part of over 150 group ensemble works. Dr. Mahadevan is the founder and director of her dance school, Tiruchitrabalam, and the arts education non-profit, Matruseena, where critical research and movement inform each other to create meaningful work for young learners. She has been teaching Bharatanatyam dance to students from K-12 for over two decades. In addition to Bharatanatyam, she also performs Shilpanatanam and Odissi, and is trained in Kalaripayattu, a martial art from India. She is also trained in classical Indian music and practices Yoga. Dr. Mahadevan's research focuses on her experience as a dance educator of a traditional form in the North American socio-cultural context.

WEB: DEEPAMAHADDEVAN.COM
INSTAGRAM: DEEPAMAHADDEVAN



Photo taken at Montclair University during the Dance New Jersey festival.
Credit: Sharon Freer



Photo of Eriel Santagado

ERIEL SANTAGADO

Eriel Santagado is a dancer and choreographer currently based in Brussels, Belgium and New Jersey. Her work is centered on physical theater, where the body becomes both a storyteller and a conduit for emotional and physical expression. At the heart of her approach is a fascination with the interplay between absurdity, comedic shock, and moments of deep seriousness. Eriel, co-founder and co-director of *mignolo* dance, graduated from the Honors College at Rutgers University in 2019 with a major in evolutionary anthropology and a minor in dance. Her collaborative work with Charly under *mignolo* dance has been presented at a wide range of national and international dance and film festivals including Festival Opera Prima in Rovigo, Italy, Thessaloniki Fringe Festival, Altotest in Naples, Italy, KoDaFe, Making Moves Dance Festival, Triskelion's SummerFest, Peridance's APEX, Koresh's Come Together Dance Festival, Dance on the Lawn, Palm Springs International Dance Festival, Thomas Edison Film Festival, Garden State Film Festival, and InShadow Lisbon Screendance Festival.

WEB: MIGNOLO.ART/DANCE
INSTAGRAM: E.R.I.E.L

EVELYN TEJEDA



"0.4mm" EDANCO festival in the Dominican Republic
Photo Credit: Mika Pasco

Evelyn Tejeda, originally from the Dominican Republic, was a Semifinalist at Dominicana's Got Talent and is a founding member of the Contemporary Dance National Company of the Dominican Republic, directed by Marianela Boan. She received awards for her choreography *Imposible Explicar* at the Grand Prize of Dance Quisqueya and SoloCoreografico USA 2021. She has toured internationally, performing at FIDCDMX, UNION PDX, XVII Encuentro de Danza Ecuador, Bates Dance Festival, and EDANCO. She was invited by choreographer Maura Morales (Germany) and by David Milome (France), with whom she toured in 2022 across France, Luxembourg, and Martinique, including Festival d'Avignon. In 2023, she premiered 0.4mm, winning 1st prize at 10 Sentidos (Spain) and performing at Battery Dance Festival, North to Shore Festival, EDANCO, International Dance Festival New Orleans, West Dance Festival, DELTEBRE Dansa, Finalist at Burgos & NY Festival 2025. She was awarded a 2025 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and selected as a Hi-Arts Critical Breaks artist in NYC. She has performed alongside Farruko, AnuelAA, Thomaz, Greeicy, and Eddy Herrera at the Heat Latin Music Awards.

WEB: EVELYNTEJEDA.COM
INSTAGRAM: [EVELYNTEJEDA_](https://www.instagram.com/EVELYNTEJEDA_)

KIANA ROSA FISCHER

Kiana Rosa Fischer is a freelance choreographer, dancer, writer and filmmaker. She earned her BFA from Rutgers University and currently teaches Pilates and Dance at her alma mater. Kiana danced for Cleo Mack/Rock Dance Collective, Evelyn Wang/OcampoWang Dance, John Evans and Ani Javian. She has performed at festivals and venues such as APAP at CityCenter, SteelStacks' MusikFest, DANCE NOW at Joe's Pub, Bam Fisher, Dixon Place, KYL/D's Inhale Performance series, Teatro SEA, NY, NBPAC, NJPAC, Rutgers University, and internationally at the Taipei National Experimental Theater. In 2020, Kiana received the Jersey (New) Moves Fellowship from NJPAC, culminating in 2023 under the mentorship of Carolyn Dorfman. More recently, Kiana received a 2025 Fellowship for choreography from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and in 2024. As a filmmaker, Kiana's most recent dance film, "These Years" was recognized by Rutgers Today and EBTv.

INSTAGRAM: [KIANATHELLAMA_](https://www.instagram.com/KIANATHELLAMA_)



"Isha" group piece. Photo featuring Ciara Garay, Rebecca Pavelko, Annabelle Bowman and Kiana Rosa Fischer. Performed at Montclair University, May 2025. Photography by SMPhotos

Mamiko Usuda is a Japanese choreographer and dance artist based in Jersey City. She trained at Takeo Hirata Modern Dance Academy in Ibaraki, Japan, and earned her B.F.A. in Dance from Point Park University. Her first solo choreography won third place at the National Dance Competition of Japan and the Audience Award at Tokyo Dance Plan in 2019. With support from the NJ State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship, Mamiko produced her first evening-length show in Brooklyn in July 2025. That same month, she collaborated with painter Maiko Yoshizawa on a site-specific performance at Washington Park in Jersey City. Her recent works also include premieres at Dance Canvas in Atlanta, Smush Gallery in Jersey City, and Point Park University's Inside Outside project at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. As a performer, Mamiko has danced internationally with Metamorphosis Dance under Iratxe Ansa and Igor Bacovich, appeared in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Opening Ceremony choreographed by Kaiji Moriyama, and performed for Jiri Pokorny, Hiroyuki Umeda, Michiyaya Dance and Moving Forward Dance. Her work explores memory, embodiment, and quiet transformation, always seeking moments where deep emotion can be shared between the work and the audience.

WEB: MAMIKOUSUDA.COM
INSTAGRAM: MAMIKOUSUDA

MAMIKO USUDA



Duet from "The Body Remembers Lights"

MICHAEL VITALY SAZONOV



Photo of Michael Vitaly Sazonov
 Credit: Sam Nichols

Michael Vitaly Sazonov is a teaching artist, performer, and theatre maker who uses movement, music, and language to create spaces where participants can be themselves and discover joy through new perspectives. He currently teaches in English and Spanish with Dance for PD* (Mark Morris Dance Group), Dance for Parkinson's (American Repertory Ballet), and Broadway for Ataxia (Columbia University's Cerebellar Ataxia team). Michael has participated in the Creative Aging Learning Lab through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Immigrant Artist Mentorship Program: Social Practice through the New York Foundation for the Arts, deepening his commitment to work with older adults and socially engaged, performance-based documentary theater. His projects are developed through interviews, research, and collaborative script workshops with veterans, seniors, and people living with disabilities, amplifying stories that are often overlooked or misunderstood. His work frequently explores how technology and immersive theater can deepen audience connection. Michael leads Creative Movement workshops at ArtYard in Frenchtown, New Jersey, where he lives with his wife, Sam Nichols, and their young child.

WEB: MICHAELVITALY.COM
INSTAGRAM: REALITYANDTRUTH

RAMYA SHANKARAN



"Andalism"

Ramya Shankaran is a distinguished Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam artist, choreographer, and educator with over 30 years of experience. She began her dance training at age four under esteemed Gurus including Sunitha, Marie Stella of the Kalaikaveri School of Fine Arts, and Madhavi Chandrasekar. She later expanded her artistic practice through Mohiniyattam studies with Kalamandalam Guru Kumari Menon and received guidance from Professor C.V. Chandrasekar, Acharya Thiru Renjith Babu, Smt. Vijnana Vasudevan, and Dr. Neena Prasad. Ramya holds a Master's degree in Bharatanatyam and diplomas in Mohiniyattam and Yoga. Her honors include KALA VICHARANA from National Ethnic Arts Inc and Margazhi in San Francisco, and the Bharat Gaurav Samman (2019) from Sanskriti Bharath, New Delhi. A dedicated scholar, she published *Mapping of Spaces through Bharatanatyam Sequences* (2019), widely acclaimed by critics and artists. As founder and director of Adhyaathma LLC, Ramya is committed to mentoring young dancers and sustaining classical dance traditions.

WEB: RAMYASHANKARAN.COM
INSTAGRAM: [RAMYA_SHANKARAN](https://www.instagram.com/RAMYA_SHANKARAN)

REBECCA LAZIER

Rebecca Lazier, a 2024 Guggenheim Fellow, is a choreographer and educator known for daring experimentation and collaborative vision. She has created more than eighty works performed across six countries, bringing together artists from diverse disciplines to craft dances of explosive vitality. Her latest project, *Noli Timere*, is a large-scale aerial performance developed with visual artist Janet Echelman. Featuring a custom Echelman net sculpture, the work explores how humans navigate instability in a shifting world. Recently awarded a National Dance Project grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts and a New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowship, *Noli Timere* reflects Lazier's commitment to pushing artistic boundaries through collaboration. Past projects include *There Might Be Others*, created with composer Dan Trueman and commissioned by New York Live Arts; the work won a New York Performance "Bessie" Award and became a book of interdisciplinary scores. A film of her work *Coming Together/ Attica* was presented at the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Lazier is Professor of the Practice at Princeton University and a Juilliard graduate.

WEB: REBECCALAZIER.COM
INSTAGRAM: [NOLI_TIMERE_PERFORMANCE](https://www.instagram.com/NOLI_TIMERE_PERFORMANCE)



"Noli Timere", 2025 by Julie Lemberger.
Bright, multicolored net sculpture featuring 8 performers



Photo of Sarah Liebau

SARAH LIEBAU

Sarah Liebau is a queer artist based in New Jersey. Sarah has danced for Grant Jacoby & Dancers, the Friends Who Dance Collective, Athena Anthea, and Nathalie Jonas. Through their collaborations with other artists, Sarah has performed at Greenspace, the Asheville Fringe Festival, Subcircle, and Bread and Puppet Theater. As a performer, Sarah has been described as “a physical magician with a specialization in transformation and empathy with the natural world” (Tris McCall, Jersey City Times). In their own work, Sarah focuses on both dance film and live performance and has shown work with Battery Dance Festival, Artists After Hours, DanceNOW, and 7MPR, and has completed residencies with SMUSH Gallery and the Sable Project. Funded by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship, Sarah will be premiering a new live performance at Art House Productions in Jersey City, New Jersey. Sarah earned their BFA in dance and BS in environmental policy from Rutgers University.

WEB: [SARAH227LIEBAU.WIXSITE.COM/WEBSITE](https://sarah227liebau.wixsite.com/website)
INSTAGRAM: SARAHANNECHURCH

Sri Thina Subramaniam is an internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam and Odissi dancer, educator, and artistic leader whose work bridges classical Indian dance traditions with contemporary social themes. As Artistic Director of the Temple of Fine Arts and founder of Kala Collective, she leads initiatives that promote cultural education and expand access to Indian classical arts, particularly within underserved communities. Her choreography explores feminist narratives and social issues including identity, migration, and gender equity. Committed to community-centered performance, she has curated major cultural events such as the San Francisco West Wave Dance Festival and The Varnam Salon in New York. Her acclaimed work *And She Spoke* exemplifies her dedication to amplifying women’s voices through dance. Sri Thina has collaborated with choreographers including Mavin Khoo and Shobana Jeyasingh, and has performed at venues such as Lincoln Center, the Royal Opera House, and Buckingham Palace. She also serves on the Finance Committee of Dance New Jersey and has received numerous honors, including a DNJ Mini-Grant (2023), MAP Fund grant (2024), and the New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowship (2025).

WEB: [SRITHINA.COM](https://srithina.com)
INSTAGRAM: SRITHINADANCE

SRI THINA



“Bharatanatyam”



CRAFTS

ALLOWING MATERIALS TO
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN
THE CREATIVE PROCESS, MY
WORK EMBODIES BOTH THE
RESILIENCE OF NATURE AND THE
ARTIST'S INTUITIVE GUIDANCE.

HEECHAN KIM

ALEXANDER ROSENBERG

Alexander Rosenberg is an artist, educator, and writer based in Southern New Jersey. He holds an MS in Visual Studies from MIT and a BFA in glass from the Rhode Island School of Design. His practice centers on glass as a material, informed by interdisciplinary research that spans multiple media. Rosenberg pursues his work through residencies, teaching, performance, and exhibitions nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship (2025), the Christine and Stephen Proctor Fellowship (2023), the International Glass Prize (2012), an Awesome Foundation Grant (2019), the Sheldon Levin Memorial Residency at the Tacoma Museum of Glass, and a Windgate Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center. His residencies include The Arctic Circle, MacDowell, Wheaton Arts, Urban Glass, Pilchuck, and GlazenHuis (Belgium). His writing appears in *Glass Quarterly*, *The Glass Art Society Journal*, and *The Art Blog*. A Corning Fellow, Rosenberg appeared on Netflix's *Blown Away* (2018) and is currently Glass Studio Director at Wheaton Arts.

WEB: ALEXANDERROSENBERG.NET
INSTAGRAM: ROSENBERGALEXANDER



Vessel Prototype Dillon, MT. (in the darkest place) 2021- 2024



Monday Mourning! 2025, Fiber / Mixed Media, 36 x 31.5 x 2 in,
Hand stitched on eco dyed reclaimed fabric, embellished with
beads and silk flowers, lace border.

ANN VOLLUM

Ann Vollum, a fiber and mixed media artist, has exhibited extensively in New Jersey as well as internationally in South Korea. Her work has been exhibited at the Newark Museum of Art; New Jersey State Museum; Noyes Art Garage; Museum of Early Trades & Crafts; Art Fair 14C and The Painting Center. Vollum's artistic practice is an evocative blending of elements of personal history, cultural influences, and a commitment to sustainability. The use of repurposed materials adds layers of meaning to her work whilst the meditative nature of her process imbues Vollum's pieces with depth and introspection, inviting viewers to engage with the intricate details and narratives woven into each piece. Her incorporation of ambiguous, dark narratives adds an element of mystery and invites viewers to explore their emotions and interpretations. Vollum's childhood experiences in Africa, as well as travels in Pakistan and India, provide a rich tapestry of cultural iconography. Overall, her artistic practice is a testament to the power of creativity to transcend boundaries and evoke emotion.

WEB: ANNVOLLUM.COM
INSTAGRAM: ANNVOLLUM



CLIFFORD BLANCHARD

Blanchard's work is primarily made with stainless steel salvaged from the scrap metal yards in central and northern New Jersey. Cutting, welding, reshaping and joining these repurposed materials and objects is central to the creation of the work. Assembling such artifacts creates a precarious harmony between materials where balance and tension are at work creating either a sense of equilibrium or the suggestion of motion or growth. The work's content, which occupies the middle ground between the tangible and the abstract, touches on themes from nature and the human experience.

Ferra-Flora VII: Side Table
20.5" wide x 24" Tall
Stainless Steel and Glass
2025



HEECHAN KIM

Heechan Kim is a contemporary sculptor whose work explores the dynamic relationship between humans, materials, and nature. By blending traditional craftsmanship with innovative form-making, Kim creates dynamic sculptures that evoke organic shapes and natural forms. Allowing materials to actively participate in the creative process, his work embodies both the resilience of nature and the artist's intuitive guidance. His pieces challenge conventional boundaries between form and function, offering a profound exploration of materiality, structure, and the tension between intention and spontaneity. Kim's work invites viewers to engage with the evolving dialogue between the natural world and human intervention in contemporary art.

WEB: OBJECTXOBJECT.COM
INSTAGRAM: [HEECHAN_KIM_ART](https://www.instagram.com/HEECHAN_KIM_ART)

Ash, Copper wire
2023

Jarryd is a glass artist who uses hot glass to create both physical artworks and performative art through live glassblowing with a mobile glassblowing studio. His practice is rooted in experimentation, blending traditional techniques with nontraditional approaches to explore the full potential of hot glass. He is inspired by the unique material qualities of hot glass, especially its ability to capture movement. Jarryd's work extends beyond the physical objects he makes. He is the founder of Pezz Glassworks, a small business run with his partner where they focus on using their mobile glassblowing studio to share the art of glassblowing with others. They are passionate about community, creativity, and connection; values that are deeply embedded in the culture of glassblowing. Utilizing our mobile glass studio, they bring the art of glassblowing to schools, art centers, or any space with an audience eager to learn about glass or even try it for themselves! The art form is collaborative, often requiring teamwork, and they believe that the art of blowing glass can be just as powerful as any finished piece of glass art itself.

WEB: PEZZGLASSWORKS.COM
INSTAGRAM: [PEZZGLASSWORKS](https://www.instagram.com/pezzglassworks)

JARRYD PEZZILLO



Jarryd Pezzillo at work

JENNIFER CRUPI



Photo of Jennifer Crupi

Jennifer Crupi received her BFA from The Cooper Union School of Art and her MFA from SUNY, The College at New Paltz. She has been an exhibiting artist for the past 30 years and her work has been shown in over one-hundred national and international exhibitions, including exhibits at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C., Museum of Arts and Design, New York City, Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, The Jewelry Museum, Vicenza, Italy, the Museum for Applied Art, Frankfurt, Germany, and Museum Arnhem, Netherlands. Jennifer was the recipient of three New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowships and a Peter S. Reed Foundation Grant. Her work has been featured in numerous print publications including *Metalsmith Magazine*, *Vogue Italia*, *Taiwan Crafts*, and the books: *Craft for a Modern World*, *40 Under 40: Craft Futures*, *Humor in Craft*, among others. Jennifer is a Full Professor and Fine Arts Department Chair at Kean University, Union, NJ. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C., Center for Contemporary Art & Culture, OR and the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, NY.

WEB: JENNIFERCRUPI.COM

KIMBERLY CAMP



"Hatshepsut's Horse", Stoneware, polymer fibers, suede cloth, cowry shells, wooden beads, 22" h x 28" l, 2023

Kimberly Camp's dolls and paintings have appeared in more than 100 solo and group exhibitions, including the American Craft Museum, Smithsonian Renwick Gallery, and Kimberly Camp: Cross River: Parallel Worlds, a 40-year retrospective at the Hunterdon Museum of Art highlighting her dollmaking practice. Her traveling exhibitions include Craftery Gallery's Spirit of the Cloth, Arlington Art Center's Touch: Beyond the Visual, and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center's Uncommon Beauty in Common Objects, which featured her work Twilight on the catalog cover. Camp has led workshops at the Perkins Center for the Arts, Baltimore Museum of Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Longwood Gardens, and the Renwick Gallery. Her work has been featured in Essence, The New York Times, National Geographic World, Smithsonian, and other publications, as well as CBS and PBS documentaries. Her honors include NEA Fellowships, an American Craft Council Award of Excellence, and a 2026 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Heritage Fellowship.

WEB: GALERIEMARIE.NET
LINKEDIN: [BIT.LY/456B557](https://bit.ly/456B557)

LISA NAPLES

Lisa's work has been represented across the US in juried exhibitions over a span of 40 years. She has exhibited at The Smithsonian and The Phila. Museum of Art Craft Shows. She has lectured and given workshops in much of the US. Her work is published in numerous books. She received an MFA from The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (Halifax, NS, Canada) in 1988. Lisa now operates a robust teaching studio, Lisa Naples Clay Studio, in the heart of Frenchtown, NJ. In 2025 she received a NJ State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship. Also in 2025, Weywot Films will release a documentary on Lisa and her process making the work for Grounded In Gold: her solo show at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, PA. (May 24-Nov. 23, 2025). In 2014, Ceramic Arts Network released two, feature length videos on her work/process. She was awarded the 2012 Ceramics Prize at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show. In 2010 she won "Best of Philly" and also was featured in the book: "Masters Earthenware". Several times between 2010-2024, she won the sculpture prize at Phillips Mill Art Show in Bucks County, PA. In 2005, she was awarded an NCECA residency in Australia which fundamentally changed her studio life.

WEB: LISANAPLES.COM
INSTAGRAM: [LISANAPLESCERAMICS](https://www.instagram.com/LISANAPLESCERAMICS)



Lisa Naples peeking through a sculpture in process for her 2025 solo at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, PA

MARC CARMEN

Carmen explores themes of wholeness and symmetry in his glasswork, while employing a clean, modern aesthetic. Each piece begins as molten glass, colored and shaped using Venetian glass blowing techniques. After cooling, the works are then further refined through a series of cutting, grinding, and polishing processes. Carmen works without the help of an assistant, an anomaly in the art of glassblowing. After a career in construction, Carmen utilized his engineering experience to design and construct custom furnaces and studio equipment to suit his unique style of solo glassmaking. Carmen studied glassblowing at the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina, the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, and Urbanglass in Brooklyn, New York.

WEB: MARCCARMEN.COM

INSTAGRAM: [MARC_CARMEN_GLASS](https://www.instagram.com/MARC_CARMEN_GLASS)



"Lens with Black Thread Reticello and White Center"



Photo of Marilyn Keating

MARILYN KEATING

Marilyn creates sculptures and dimensional murals by combining materials not typically seen together—mosaic with copper, ceramics with ferro cement. Her practice centers on the challenge of making disparate elements work in harmony, transforming unlikely partnerships into cohesive forms. The resulting works reflect the spectrum of her engagement with her environment, expressing everything from playful observations to more somber reflections.

WEB: MARILYNKEATING.NET

MEAGAN WOODS



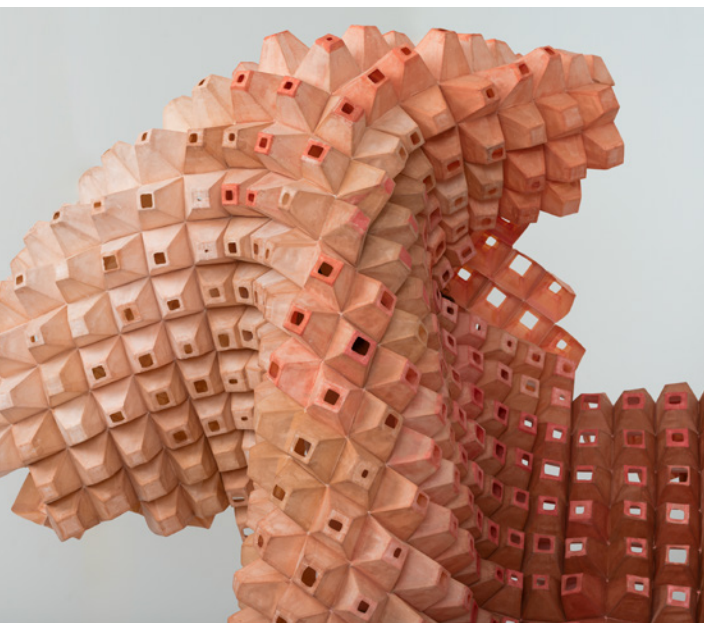
"Grain". Costume design and choreography by Meagan Woods. Wearables sewn with recycled elastic, plastic tablecloths, and zip ties, and filled with colored sand that is seen and heard during the performance. PC: Lisa Hibbert

Everything Meagan makes, even work that seems still, is about movement. Her projects often sit at the intersection between costume design and dance. She is a choreographer/performer and creator of garments that are about moving bodies and shifting environments. As a costume designer, she sews garments that participate in choreography, where costumes act like malleable sculptures, moving with and on the body. She cares about the agency and autonomy of diverse material forms - how can wearable designs lead to curious disturbances for a body's pathway? Much like dance is an expression of change over time, she is interested in a craft practice that reflects evolution, even dissolution, in manners that are dynamic and fragile. As a researcher for Moving Matter: Organic Encounters, Meagan work with artists and thinkers who consider raw earth materials as generative and generous sites of creativity. She is drawn to materials that are full of instability and unpredictability, that inspire adaptive methods of making. These practices of moving and stitching in close collaboration with the materials at hand connects her to our collective capacity to find more sustainable and joyous ways of being with other ephemeral matters of the world.

WEB: MEAGANWOODS.COM

INSTAGRAM: MEAGANAWOODS

MILCAH BASSEL



Continua: Blanket (Refuge), detail, 2024, collective wearable: cast handmade paper (abaca fiber, pigment), 75 x 150 x 3 inches

Milcah Bassel is a transdisciplinary artist raised in Israel and based in Jersey City, NJ. Her experiential practice integrates material and non-material approaches to explore the body's relationship to form and emptiness, combining handmade processes with installation and performance that evolve through participant engagement. Her work has been exhibited and performed at institutions including the Rubin Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Newark Museum, Zimmerli Art Museum, Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking, PS122 Gallery, William Paterson University, and Project for Empty Space, as well as art fairs such as PULSE, EAB (NY), Untitled, and Select (FL). Bassel has received awards and residencies from the Center for Book Arts, Bronx Museum AIM Fellowship, Haystack, ArtYard, ACRE, Brodsky Center, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Guttenberg Arts, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Her work is held in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Watson Library collection and featured in Radical Paper. She teaches at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

WEB: MILCAHBASSEL.COM

INSTAGRAM: MILCAHBASSEL

MOLLIE MURPHY

Mollie Murphy received an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University and a BA in English Literature from George Mason University. Solo and group exhibition venues include Mixed Greens Gallery, NYC; The Arts Council of Princeton, NJ; the Soap Factory, Minneapolis, MN; CollectiCo Gallery, NYC; Galapagos Artspace, Brooklyn, NY; City Without Walls, Newark, NJ; The Jersey City Museum, Jersey City, NJ; Phoenix Gallery, NYC; apexart, NYC; and 301 Gallery, Beverly, MA. She has been awarded residencies at Cowhouse Studios in Wexford, Ireland, Vermont Studio Center, Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts, Kansas City Art Institute, Atlantic Center for the Arts, the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts (Windgate Fellowship for Innovation in Crafts) and Sciences and the American Academy of Rome. She recently received a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Mollie lives and works in Princeton, NJ.

WEB: MOLLIEMURPHY.COM
INSTAGRAM: [MOLLIEPICTURES](https://www.instagram.com/molliepictures)



Artist at her Hambidge Residency in Rabun Gap, Ga. Surrounded by textile works in progress as well as fiber works made from collected grasses and twigs. Photo Credit: Amanda Greene



Porcelain teapot made by Sarah Mae Caudill

SARAH MAE CAUDILL

Sarah Mae Caudill is a ceramic artist specializing in decorated functional pottery. Originally from Ohio, Sarah earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Bowling Green State University in 2017. From 2023 to 2025, she apprenticed with studio potter Taylor Sijan, an experience that deepened her technical skills and understanding of studio practice. During this time, she also taught ceramics courses at Wooten Clayworks, further refining her approach through instruction and community engagement. Currently, Sarah is focused on expanding her ceramic practice through experimentation and exploration, pushing the boundaries of form, surface, and function in her personal work.

WEB: SARAHMAECERAMICS.COM
INSTAGRAM: [SARAHMAECERAMICS](https://www.instagram.com/sarahmaeceramics)

VALERIE H U H N



Fingerprint Pinned Racing Shoes

Valerie Huhn works in a variety of media from drawing and textile to sculpture, and site-specific installation. Her work has been shown throughout the United States and internationally. She has received numerous awards for her work. Residencies include time as an Artist in Residence at Arts Council of Princeton, NJ, Long Beach Island, NJ, Aspen, CO, chashama in New York City and a residency at Aferro Studios in Newark, NJ. Her work is included in the former Bell Telephone Building in Newark, The Fortune Society, and private collections. In 2022, she received a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist finalist award, and a Fellowship in 2025. Valerie holds degrees in graphic design, photography and fine arts from Parsons, New School and San Francisco Art Institute. Valerie lives and works in Flemington, NJ. Her work is represented by Ivy Brown Gallery.

WEB: VALERIEHUHN.COM

INSTAGRAM: [VALERIE.HUHN_](https://www.instagram.com/VALERIE.HUHN_)



I WISH TO REMIND
LISTENERS THAT IN
THE "PLATO"-NIC
IDEA OF CLASSICAL
EDUCATION, MATH
AND MUSIC WERE
ONE, AND MUSIC
HAD JUST AS
IMPORTANT A PLACE
IN SOCIETY AS LAW
OR SCIENCE.

MICHAEL ROSIN

MUSIC COMPOSITION



Photo of Adam Rudolph
Credit: C. Daniel Dawson

A D A M R U D O L P H

Hailed as a “pioneer in world music” (NY Times) for the past five decades composer and percussionist Adam Rudolph has performed extensively throughout North & South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has released over 60 recordings as a leader and co-leader, featuring his compositions and percussion work. Rudolph composes for his ensembles Sunrise Quartet Moving Pictures Octet, Hu Vibrational, and Go: Organic Orchestra, a 30-piece group for which he has developed an original music notation and conducting system. He has taught and conducted hundreds of musicians worldwide in his Go: Organic Orchestra concept. Rudolph is known as one of the early innovators of what is now called “World Music.” In 1978 he co-founded, with Foday Musa Suso, the Mandingo Griot Society, one of the first groups to combine African and American music, and in 1988 he recorded the first fusion of American and Moroccan Gnawa music with sintir player Hassan Hakmoun.

WEB: METARECORDS.COM

FACEBOOK: [FB.COM/ADAMRUDOLPHMUSIC](https://www.facebook.com/ADAMRUDOLPHMUSIC)

A L L I S O N L O G G I N S - H U L L



Photo of Allison Loggins-Hull
Credit: Rafael Rios

Celebrated as a musical “powerhouse” (The Washington Post), Allison Loggins-Hull is a composer, flutist, and producer whose work spans symphonic, chamber, electronic, and film music.

Her orchestral writing is distinguished by sonic effects drawn from contemporary production techniques, creating a kaleidoscopic sound rooted in Black American music. Her compositions often explore community, culture, and lived experience, resulting in evocative works that reflect on Black stories and history. Several projects engage with Afrofuturism, imagining liberated futures through the lens of Black culture.

Her versatility extends beyond the concert stage. She has performed with major pop artists including Lizzo and Frank Ocean, contributed flute to numerous blockbuster film scores, and composed the soundtrack to Bring Them Back, an award-winning documentary executive-produced by Debbie Allen about dancer Maurice Hines.

With a voice that bridges genres and traditions, Loggins-Hull continues to expand the possibilities of contemporary music.

WEB: ALLISONLOGGINS.COM

INSTAGRAM: [ALOGGINSHULL](https://www.instagram.com/ALOGGINSHULL)

Christopher Cerrone is internationally acclaimed for compositions characterized by a subtle handling of timbre and resonance, a deep literary fluency, and a flair for multimedia collaborations. He holds degrees from Yale and the Manhattan School of Music and joined the composition faculty at Mannes School of Music at The New School in 2021. He lives in Jersey City with his wife and their young son.

Recent works include *In a Grove*, an opera co-produced by LA Opera and Pittsburgh Opera that made its New York debut at the PROTOTYPE Festival in 2025, where *The New York Times* praised his “coolly caressing music, with its eerie haze of electronic and acoustic textures”; *Beaufort Scales*, an oratorio commissioned by Lorelei Ensemble; *Don’t Look Down*, his latest album featuring Sandbox Percussion; *Breaks and Breaks*, a violin concerto for Jennifer Koh and the Detroit Symphony; and *The Insects Became Magnetic* for the LA Philharmonic. His first opera, *Invisible Cities*, was a 2014 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

Cerrone is a triple-GRAMMY nominee, with nominations for *The Pieces that Fall to Earth*, *The Arching Path*, and *Beaufort Scales*. He won the Samuel Barber Rome Prize and was a resident at the Laurenz Haus Foundation in Basel, Switzerland.

WEB: CHRISTOPHERCERRONE.COM
INSTAGRAM: [CHRISCERRONE](https://www.instagram.com/CHRISCERRONE)

CHRISTOPHER CERRONE



"In a Grove" (2021)

DAN NEVILLE



Dan Neville - Marimba de Chonta, Central Park NY

Dan Neville is an award-winning vibraphonist, composer, arranger, and educator whose work bridges jazz, Latin jazz, and the folkloric traditions of Colombia's Pacific Coast. His music draws inspiration from patterns in nature, blending intricate harmonies, polyrhythms, and improvisation to create a sound both rooted in tradition and forward-looking in scope.

Neville has performed throughout Europe and Latin America, appearing at major festivals and on NBC's *Today Show*. He is a recipient of multiple honors, including first place in the jazz category of the 2025 Springfest International Vibraphone Competition. His production and arranging work on Xiomara Torres' *La Voz del Mar* (Patois Records) held the #1 spot on RMR's Latin Jazz charts for 14 weeks.

A graduate of the California Jazz Conservatory and William Paterson University, Neville studied with masters including Dann Zinn, John Santos, Pete McGuinness, and Bill Charlap. His current projects include his ensemble *Corazón de Chonta* (fusing Colombian Pacific Coast music with jazz), the Dan Neville Nonet, and the Dan Neville Big Band.

WEB: DANVIBES.COM
INSTAGRAM: [_DANVIBES_](https://www.instagram.com/_DANVIBES_)

DOUGLAS FARRAND

Douglas Farrand is a composer and musician based in Newark, NJ. He has 12 years of practice working collaboratively with different creative groups in contexts including experimental music, popular education, and the application of sound and listening practices to pedagogy and community organizing.

Douglas works in Orange, NJ as the Music City Co-Director with the University of Orange, a people's free school, and as Managing Director of the HUUB, a community campus. Previously he founded and directed Sonic Explorations, a free music education program for young people in Orange's east ward, where between 2013 and 2019 he developed curricula combining Deep Listening and Restoration Urbanism for elementary school students.

Douglas is a founding member of LCollective, a Brooklyn-based experimental music collective, alongside Teodora Stepančić, Assaf Gidron

WEB: DOUGLASFARRAND.COM
INSTAGRAM: DOUGLAS_FARRAND



Trumpet & Cassette Tapes during performance

DR. ANTHONY D.J. BRANKER



Photo of Dr. Anthony D.J. Branker

Dr. Anthony D.J. Branker is a composer, conductor, and an Origin Records recording artist who was named in Down Beat magazine's 62nd & 63rd Annual Critics Poll as a "Rising Star Composer" with eleven releases in his musically rich discography. He is the recipient of both a 2024 Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Grant funded through the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and a 2025 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship in Music Composition. Branker has received commissions, served as a visiting composer, and has had his music performed in more than 13 different countries.

Dr. Branker is an adjunct professor in jazz studies at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts. Previously, he taught at Princeton University for 27 years, where he held an endowed chair in jazz studies and was founding director of the program in jazz studies until his retirement in 2016. He has also served as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar at the Estonian Academy of Music & Theatre in Tallinn and was a faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music, Hunter College-CUNY, and chair of the department of music at Ursinus College.

WEB: ANTHONYBRANKER.COM
INSTAGRAM: ABRANKER

George Brandon is a musician, anthropologist and integrative sound and music practitioner, a multidisciplinary cultural worker straddling the domains of art, science and spirituality. What he knows about music has been mainly experiential in character, gained verbally, by direct contact and experience, observation, self-study, study on his own, and participation in a wide array of musical activities over the course of a lifetime, all of which has affected his development as a trombonist and composer. He has a Ph.D in anthropology from Rutgers University and has taught medical anthropology and Black Studies for more than thirty years at the University of Maryland and the City University of New York. He was certified as an integrative sound and music practitioner by the New York Open Center's Sound and Music Institute in June 2015 and, in 2016, went on to obtain a Level 1 certification in the therapeutic use of Himalayan singing bowls from the International Academy of Sound Healing (Satya Brat.) George's integrative sound and music practice focuses on chanting; composition, performance, and improvisation; facilitating sound meditations; the healing power of storytelling; and the therapeutic use of Himalayan singing bowls, all within a framework rooted in Asian, African, and African diasporic cultures.

WEB: [REVERBNATION.COM/GEORGEBRANDON](https://reverbNation.com/georgebrandon)
SOUNDCLOUD: [SOUNDCLOUD/GEORGEBRANDON](https://soundcloud.com/georgebrandon)

GEORGE BRANDON



Photo of George Brandon



Photo of Gilad Cohen

GILAD COHEN

Gilad Cohen is a composer, performer, and theorist working across concert music, rock, and theatre. His work has been commissioned by Chamber Music America, the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Concert Artists Guild, and ASCAP, and performed by ensembles including the Nash Ensemble of London, Decoda, Israeli Chamber Project, Brentano Quartet, PUBLIQuartet, Exponential Ensemble, and musicians from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Budapest Festival Orchestra. His recordings appear on Albany Records, Naxos/Delos, and Navona Records. Cohen has received the Barlow Prize, the Israeli Prime Minister Award for Composers, and top prizes in international competitions across the US, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. During the 2024-25 season, his music was presented in over 50 concerts across nine countries. An Associate Professor of Music at Ramapo College of New Jersey, he holds a PhD in composition from Princeton University. His scholarship on Pink Floyd includes books, journal articles, lectures, and the first academic conference devoted to the band, produced at Princeton in 2014.

WEB: [GILADCOHEN.COM](https://giladcohen.com)
INSTAGRAM: [GILADCOHENCOMPOSER](https://www.instagram.com/giladcohencomposer)

MATTHEW HALPER

Matthew Halper has performed at major venues including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. He received a Whitaker Reading Prize from the American Composers Orchestra, and his String Quartet was premiered by principal members of the National Symphony Orchestra. His Concerto for Flute (Albany Records, TROY821) was praised by American Record Guide as "ambitious... lyrically dramatic, majestic, and broadly American in flavor." Other notable performances include his Trio at the National Theater and Concert Hall in Taipei and Memento Mori by the New Jersey Guitar Orchestra at the Long Island Guitar Festival. Halper served as Composer-in-Residence with the New Jersey Youth Symphony (2013-14), where his Prelude and Fugue for Orchestra was performed at Union County PAC. He has lectured widely and presented work at CMS, CBDNA, NACUSA, and NFA conferences, as well as at Brown University, Juilliard, and MIT. He has received multiple ASCAP awards and NJ State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowships (2000, 2006, 2025). Dr. Halper is Professor of Music at Kean University.

WEB: MATTHEWHALPER.COM



Photo of Matthew Halper, composer/performer/educator



Michael Rosin at the piano.
Picture taken by the engineer / producer, Sergei Kvitko,
at his studio in Lansing, Michigan

MICHAEL ROSIN

Michael Rosin is a composer and keyboardist. In early 2025, he was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship in Music Composition from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He is utilizing the grant to fund his first album of chamber music. Recorded the first week of August, the LP will be released later this year. Rosin was also awarded the Duino Prize in Music Composition for his piano quartet *Spira mirabilis* in June 2022. Rosin's orchestral work *Stellarium* has been selected twice for performance, one from an international call for scores, with concerts held in the Lincoln Center area. He has received commissions and written for ensembles around Europe and North America. He lives with his wife on the southern shores of New Jersey.

His philosophy is that music is just as much a science as it is an art. He is profoundly inspired by astronomy, balance, symmetry, and the natural order of the universe, once defined as *Musica universalis* (the "Music of the Spheres"). He wishes to remind listeners that in the "Plato"-nic idea of classical education, math and music were one, and music had just as important a place in society as law or science.

WEB: MICHAELROSIN.COM
INSTAGRAM: [MICHAELCROSIN](https://www.instagram.com/MICHAELCROSIN)

PATRICIO MOLINA



Photo of Patricio Molina

Named a "Gifted Artist" By the New York Times, Dr. Patricio Molina has gained a reputation as a composer, pianist, and educator. He regularly appears on stages such as Carnegie Hall and OPERA America. Dr. Molina is a Yamaha Artist. The New Jersey Youth Symphony, White Snake Projects, and Ulysses Quartet are among many who have recognized his talents with commissioned works. Inspiration for his compositions include his Chilean-Syrian heritage, and his experience as an immigrant. His accomplishments in the field of arts education were recognized by the New Jersey Education Association with their prestigious Award for Excellence. He earned the first double doctorate in the history of Rutgers University. He founded the Pan-Global Music Initiative (501c3). Patricio is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Universidad Católica Nordestana (DR). Patricio was awarded a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Dr. Molina serves as Senior Director of Faculty and Creative Practice at NJPAC.

WEB: PATRICIOFMOLINA.COM

INSTAGRAM: [PATRICIO.MOLINA.COMPOSER](https://www.instagram.com/PATRICIO.MOLINA.COMPOSER)

QUIS CHANDLA

A proven wordsmith Quis is a force to be reckoned with in the hip hop scene, and his incredible back catalog is a testament to his talent and versatility as an artist. From his debut album "The Knotts Tape" to his most recent release "The Soul Needs Healing II", Quis has consistently delivered meaningful and impactful music that addresses important social issues while still being relatable and enjoyable to listen to. One of the standout tracks from his previous collaborative EP "The Soul Needs Healing" produced exclusively by The Hitsystem explores themes of perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity, featuring the fan favorite track "King" which encourages listeners to never give up despite the obstacles they may face. His ability to seamlessly blend meaningful and socially conscious lyrics with catchy beats and memorable hooks has earned him a loyal fan base and critical acclaim. With his unique combination of lyrical prowess and social consciousness, Quis Chandla is poised to make a big impact in the hip hop scene with his next release.

WEB: FORTHECREATIVES.CO/QUIS

INSTAGRAM: [QUISCHANDLA](https://www.instagram.com/QUISCHANDLA)



Photo of Quis Chandla



Photo of Rudresh Mahanthappa

RUDRESH MAHANTHAPPA

Alto saxophonist, composer and educator Rudresh Mahanthappa is widely known as one of the premier voices in jazz of the 21st century. He has over a 15 albums to his credit, including the acclaimed *Bird Calls*, which topped many critics' best-of-year lists for 2015 and was hailed by *PopMatters* as "complex, rhythmically vital, free in spirit while still criss-crossed with mutating structures." His most recent release, *Hero Trio*, was considered to be one of the best jazz albums of 2020 by critics and fans alike. Rudresh has been named alto saxophonist of the year for nine of the last thirteen years running in *Downbeat Magazine's* International Critics' Polls (2011-2013, 2015-2018, 2020-1), and for five consecutive years by the Jazz Journalists' Association (2009-2013) and again in 2016. He won alto saxophonist of the year in the 2015-2018 & 2020 *JazzTimes Magazine* Critics' Polls and was named the *Village Voice's* "Best Jazz Artist" in 2015. He has also received the Guggenheim Fellowship and the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, among other honors, and is currently Director of Jazz at Princeton University.

WEB: RUDRESHM.COM
INSTAGRAM: [RUDRESHKM](https://www.instagram.com/RUDRESHKM)

RUFUS REID

Rufus Reid, a sixty-year veteran, is one of a handful of true Renaissance figures in the arts as a widely respected bassist, composer, and jazz educator.

As a composer, Reid has written for strings, chamber ensembles, solo bass, jazz ensembles of varying sizes, and symphony orchestras. He received the prestigious 2008 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for composition and two MacDowell Colony Grants for composition, among others. His 2014, release, *Quiet Pride - The Elizabeth Catlett Project*, received two Grammy Award nominations, for "Best Large Jazz Ensemble" and "Best Instrumental Composition."

In August 2024, his was commissioned to compose a string orchestra work featuring clarinet, *The Niagara Movement Suite*, which was premiered by the Appalachian Chamber Ensemble. His book *The Evolving Bassist* (Myriad Limited, 1974) remains the industry standard for double bass methodology. Rufus Reid continues to be the Evolving Bassist.

WEB: RUFUSREID.COM
FACEBOOK: [FB.COM/RUFUSREID](https://www.facebook.com/RUFUSREID)



Rufus Reid 2024 CD cover/Sunnyside Records

SANDHYA ANAND



Photo of Sandhya Anand, with violin

Sandhya Anand is a South Asian Classical musician. She is a passionate violinist and voice artist who has been a torchbearer of the tradition. She is also a Music Pedagogue who aspires to share the traditional Music in an innovative way. She is a distinguished scholar with Post Graduate degrees in Music and Classical language Sanskrit.

Sandhya has over 4000 concert performances to her credit. She frequently collaborates with artists of repute from different genres to bring forth her creative ideas to the limelight while trying to learn about other cultures. She has composed music for many musical and dance productions. She conducts workshops and gives lecture demonstrations on various topics on Indian Music. She is an invited speaker at many renowned organizations.

Sandhya is the founder of the Samskratasangitam School of Music where she trains aspiring students on the fundamentals and intricate nuances in addition to instilling in them love and appreciation for Music. The school's methodology prepares students to give full-fledged concerts and teaches them to handle the art with care and humility.

WEB: SANDHYAANAND.COM
INSTAGRAM: SANDHYAANAND101

VIVI HU

Vivi Hu is an award-winning singer-songwriter dedicated to Chinese American musical fusion. Hu creates a unique sound by using traditional Chinese instruments with a blend of influences from jazz, R&B, soul, and Mandarin pop. In her lyrics, she tells relatable, hopeful stories of her experience of immigrating to the US from China, struggling with identity, and her path as an artist. Her mission is to create songs for the Asian American community that are uplifting and soothing.

Hu's vocal and performance styles connect traditional and popular music to evoke dynamic rhythms reminiscent of renowned Mandarin pop and American R&B and soul artists such as Jay Chow, Brandy, and Sade Adu. To date, she has lent her talents to several high-profile performances and festivals in both China and the United States including Real Live in Xiamen, the Summer Music Festival in Shanghai, and Dust and Dawn Club in Beijing, as well as the United Nations Headquarters, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Flushing Town Hall, Museum of Chinese in America, Queens Library, and the City University of New York Gospel Festival, among many others.

WEB: VIVIHUMUSIC.COM
INSTAGRAM: VIVIHUMUSIC



Photo of Vivi Hu



PHOTOGRAPHY

EXPLORING DIMINISHING
HISTORIES, MY PHOTOGRAPHS
AIM TO RECONCILE THE
PAST TO CONFRONT
THE CONDITIONS AND
COMPLEXITIES SURROUNDING
IDENTITY AND PLACE.

CHRISTOPHER LÓPEZ

ARTHUR BRUSO

Arthur Brusco is a gay visual artist, curator, and arts writer. He received his MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. His art has been exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, the New Jersey State Museum Trenton, the Rice Gallery at Albany Institute of History and Art, LaMamma LaGalleria in New York, The Deenan Hull Gallery at Hudson County Community College and many other venues. He currently is co-Director of Curious Matter, a non-profit project space. He is also the author of: *A Slant of Shadow*, essays on art; *So Far Away No One Will Notice*, a memoir; six other photography monographs, and numerous essays on art. Brusco is the recipient of a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship in photography. He lives in the New York metropolitan area with his spouse.

WEB: ARTHURBRUSO.COM

INSTAGRAM: ARTHURBRUSO



Title: Bus Stop Series - No. 6 - Yellow - 14" w x 11" h - Image captured with 35mm analog camera on color film, scanned color negative, digital scan retouched and edited in Photoshop, digital print on archival paper.



The Boat, 10" x 10", irradiated film and digital photo, 2023

BELINDA HAIKES

Belinda Haikes is a conceptually driven interdisciplinary artist and creator whose practice engages metaphors of Americana and our sense of place through technological connections. Her lens was crafted through her immigration to the deep south during high school from Canada after her family immigrated to Canada when she was a toddler from South Africa. She received her Ph.D. from Virginia Commonwealth University with a scholarly and artistic dissertation that looked at how intimacy is formed in the work of art through technology. Written works by Haikes have been published in *Hz* journal and *Media N Online Journal*. She is passionate about making images that engage with the idea of America, technology, and landscape. Her creative work has been included in exhibitions and screenings at the Ackland Museum (Chapel Hill, NC), the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, The NMC 10 traveling exhibition, and *Lightworks* (Grimsby, UK), and a recent solo show at The CICA Museum (Gimpo, South Korea). She has been awarded residencies at Hamridge and Design INquiry, and her awards include an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She currently resides in the placeless space of suburban central New Jersey, where she contemplates what it means to be American.

WEB: BELINDAHAIKES.MEDIA

CATHERINE THURSTON

Catherine was born and raised in Hudson County, New Jersey, on August 19, 1992. She received her BFA from New Jersey City University with a concentration in painting and drawing, while also exploring interdisciplinary practices such as photography, 3D sculpture, and ceramics. She recently completed her MFA in Visual Arts at William Paterson University, where she received the 2023-2024 Graduate Award for Creative Excellence in the Visual Arts Department. Her work explores political and societal shifts that shape human existence, often reflecting personal experiences and challenges.

Catherine has contributed creatively to various organizations. She worked with City Arts Inc. in New York, partnering with public schools to lead community mural projects, serving as the lead artist. On weekends, she volunteers at La Finca NJ, a horse ranch, where she works as a horse wrangler and photographer. This environment continues to inspire her creative work through hands-on experience with animals and nature.

WEB: CATHERINETHURSTON.COM
INSTAGRAM: CATHERINET.ART



Catherine Thurston at her Exhibition

CHRISTOPHER LÓPEZ



Mother of Four, from series *The Fires: Hoboken's History of Gentrification & Arson for Profit*, 2022. Arsenio Vega holds a photograph of his sister Ana Mercado-Vega at his home in Newark, NJ.

Christopher López (b.1984), a Puerto Rican Lens-Based Artist, Educator, and Public Historian was born in The Bronx and raised between New York and New Jersey. To date, many of his works have been based on historical figures and events on the islands of Puerto Rico. Often exploring diminishing histories, his photographs aim to reconcile the past to confront the conditions and complexities surrounding identity and place existing within Puerto Rican people in our present day. Christopher has been awarded fellowships at The Laundromat Project and The Diaspora Solidarities Lab with support from The Mellon Foundation. His recent work, *The Fires*, explores the history of gentrification and arson in Hoboken, New Jersey. The work utilizes the appropriation of archive, portraiture, and oral history to create a new living archive born from shared community knowledge. The project has received awards from The New Jersey Council for the Humanities and the New Jersey Historical Commission. Christopher has served on numerous panels and has lectured at Cornell University, Princeton University, and The Columbia School of Journalism among others. His artworks are in the public collections of El Museo Del Barrio, The World Trade Center Memorial Museum, and The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.

WEB: CHRISLOPEZ.INFO
INSTAGRAM: BXCLOPEZ



For The Birds, NYC 2023

DON STANDING

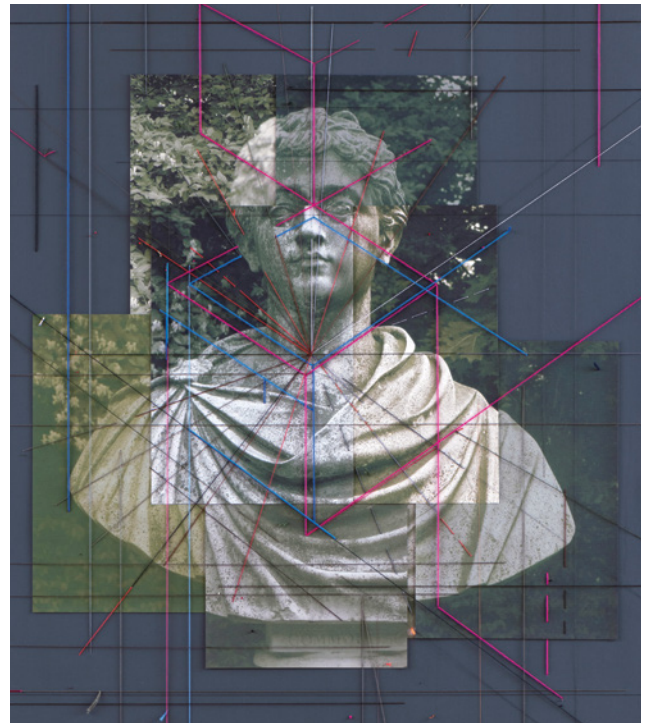
Don Standing is a Photographer and Educator living in Summit. Don has been teaching Photography at Summit High School for 21 years. He has also worked as a photo journalist, editor, agent and curator. His work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Fortune*, *Newsweek* and *New Jersey Monthly*. His images are also part of a permanent exhibition at the 9/11 Memorial Museum and he was a 2007 recipient of a Dodge Foundation Fellowship.

INSTAGRAM: DONSTANDINGART

FARSAD LABBAUF

Farsad Labbauf is a multidisciplinary Iranian-born artist based in Jersey City, New Jersey. Shortly after immigrating to United States in 1979, he enrolled in Rhode Island School of Design where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in addition to Industrial Design. His work is inspired in part by theories in quantum physics, Monistic belief systems, and a sustained engagement with metaphysical inquiry. Alongside his paintings and collages, Labbauf has been exploring these ideas through an ongoing photo series begun in the early 2000s. Labbauf's practice has been recognized internationally, with participation in more than sixty group exhibitions worldwide, including the Saatchi Gallery in London and the Ex Aurum Museum in Pescara, Italy. He has presented solo exhibitions in New York, Boston, Amsterdam, Tehran, and at the Esfahan Museum of Contemporary Art. His works are represented in prominent public and private collections including the Newark Museum of Art, the Salsali Museum and Afkhami Collections in Dubai, Saatchi Gallery in London, Carsten de Boer Art Collection in Amsterdam, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Esfahan. Labbauf is the recipient of a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

WEB: LABBAUF.COM
INSTAGRAM: LABBAUF



Commodus, Giclée print, embroidery floss, yarn, thread, acrylic / Sewn on painted canvas - 48 x 40 in.

IVAN AMATO

Ivan Amato is an award-winning science and technology writer, editor and communicator. His work has appeared in many venues, among them *Time*, *Fortune*, *Washington Post*, *Technology Review*, *Discover*, *Quanta*, *Nautilus*, *Knowable*, *IEEE Spectrum* and *Scientific American*. He has been a staff writer and editor for *Science News*, *Science* and *C&E News*; a founder of science cafes on both coasts; and a writer of books about the invention of new materials throughout history, science imagery and the history of technology. He is the creator of the ongoing *Voices from DARPA* podcast, a chronicle of innovation at the storied Defense Advanced Research Agency. He is a producer for the performance-based *Climate Parables* series, which envisions solutions to our climate crisis. Currently, he is splitting his time on a book about a Cold War spy-satellite program, the performance-based *Climate Parables* series, and his crystal photomicrography work that vogues the beauty to be found on microscopic scales.

WEB: IVANAMATO.COM

INSTAGRAM: [IVANAMATO61](https://www.instagram.com/IVANAMATO61)



Alanine and glutamine, a pair of amino acids recrystallized onto a glass slide from a vodka solution. The area depicted here would fit on a hot pepper flake.

JUAN C. GIRALDO PENAGOS

Juan C. Giraldo is a photographer born in Manizales, Colombia and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, where he currently lives. He received his MFA in 2015 from Columbia College and his BFA in 2009 from William Paterson University. Awards include a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship, Ma's House, Tusen Takk Foundation AiR, The Hopper Prize, The Center for Photography at Woodstock A-I-R Program, Photolucida: Critical Mass Top 50, Dwight D. Follett Fellowship Full Tuition Award from Columbia College Chicago. Exhibitions include: *A Separate Shining: Selections from the Tusen Takk Foundation Collection*, Dennon Museum Center Traverse City, MI, *Cross Cultural Perspectives*, The Newark Museum of Art, curated by Adrienne Wheeler and Atteqa Ali, *Imágenes Sin Palabras: Images Without Words*, Newark Public Library, Curated by Cesar Melgar, *Of Late; A Letter to Paterson*, Common Ground, Traverse City, MI, Curated by Jessica Kooiman Parker, *Nice To Meet Pratt MWP Utica, NY*, Curated by Sarah Smith, *Que Prosiga (That It May Go On)*, ChaShaMa, NY, NY Curated by Diana Guerra & Aro Grace, *Obsessions*, Tête Gallery, Berlin, Germany, Curated by Bénédicte Blondeau, *Interior Life*, Filter Photo, Curated by Strange Fire Collective, *Respiration(s) Now*, ARC Gallery Curated by Angela Davis Fegan, Chicago, IL. As an immigrant and a photographer invested in the communities that form the United States but have their origins elsewhere, Giraldo's work attempts to address the mythologies that surround the American Dream.

WEB: JUANC GIRALDO.COM

INSTAGRAM: [J.C.GIRALDO](https://www.instagram.com/J.C.GIRALDO)



"Jorge E. Penagos", 4 panels, family photo reproductions (damaged by a flood) mounted on dibond, and silk 2025

LOURENSO RAMAUTAR

Born in Guyana in 1975, Lourenso Ramautar moved to NYC at age 12. A graduate of Parsons School of Design, he began his career as a product photographer for Macy's, jewelry photographer at Goldmark Studio, and fashion photographer for e-fashion Solutions, where he shot for major brands including Lacoste, DKNY, Playboy, Rocawear, and many more.

Lourenso launched Out of New York Studio in 2010, enabling him to pursue his own creative vision. He has worked with an impressive list of clients including Reebok, Citi Trends, Basic Resources, Ashley Stewart and countless others. His commercial work has been displayed at Target, Walmart, Costco and BJ's.

In 2023 Lourenso created *Gallery 201* to showcase the works of local artists and bring community together. Lourenso is the proud recipient of a 2025 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship. His latest project will document Burning Man 2025 via a book and gallery show.

WEB: LOURENSO.COM

INSTAGRAM: DON_LOURENSO



Photo of Lourenso Ramautar

WENDEL A. WHITE



Silhouette of Black Woman, 1820 - 1830. Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT. 2023

Wendel A. White is a photographer whose work examines the intersections of history, memory, and the African American experience. Over four decades, his projects—including *Schools for the Colored*, *Manifest: Thirteen Colonies*, and *Red Summer*—have documented the landscapes, artifacts, and communities that embody the legacy of segregation, resilience, and cultural identity. His photographs, often described as visual reliquaries, bridge the material traces of the past with urgent contemporary dialogues on race and justice.

White's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, with recent solo exhibitions at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, the Rena Bransten Gallery in San Francisco, and the SFO Museum. His art is represented in major public collections, including the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

A recipient of numerous awards, White has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography from Harvard, and multiple New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowships. He is also the author of *Schools for the Colored* (2022) and *Manifest: Thirteen Colonies* (2024). White currently serves as Distinguished Professor of Art at Stockton University, where he has taught since 1986.

WEB: WENDELWHITE.COM

INSTAGRAM: WENDEL.WHITE

PLAYWRITING & SCREENWRITING



HUMOR HELPS US MAKE SENSE OF
THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND THAT
LAUGHTER SUPPORTS INCLUSION.

JOE BRONZI

ANDREW R. HEINZE



Photo of Andrew R. Heinze

Formerly a professor of American History, Andrew R. Heinze is the award-winning author of *Jews and the American Soul* (*Publishers' Weekly* choice: "Best Books of 2004"). He left a tenured position in academia in 2006 to take up a new career as a novelist but found himself instead drawn to playwriting. Andrew's plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Austin, Dallas, Miami, Denver, Tucson, Albuquerque and regionally. His full-length plays include: *The Bliss Option*; *The Rimsky-Fogelman*; *Leonardo's Virgin*; *Shylock the First*; *Great Roles for Old Actresses*; *The Invention of the Living Room*; *Hamilton* (a tragedy about Alexander Hamilton and his son); *Please Lock Me Away*; *Moses*; *The Author*; and *Armed and Ready, or: The Spouse Protocols*. Andrew's work has won honors in more than eighty playwriting competitions nationally and internationally. He belongs to the Dramatists Guild of America and PEN America, and serves as Resident Dramaturg of the American Renaissance Theater Company (NYC). Andrew holds degrees from Amherst College (B.A. Magna Cum Laude) and the University of California, Berkeley (M.A., Ph.D.).

WEB: ANDREWHEINZE.COM

LINKEDIN: [/IN/ANDREW-HEINZE-A2050821](https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrew-heinze-a2050821)

BARBARA BLUMENTHAL-EHRLICH



Photo of Barbara Blumenthal-Ehrlich

Joint commission funded by a 2024 NEA Grant to the Del E. Webb Center (AZ) for work produced at Vivid Stage (NJ). A 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship recipient in playwriting from the NJ State Council on the Arts. A founding member of NJ's Swan Dive Theatre Collective, devoted to advancing the work of Women+ artists. Produced off-Broadway, internationally, and nationwide in Seattle, Boston, Chicago, San Antonio, San Francisco, L.A., and more. Work developed in NYC at Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage, Rattlestick, Roundabout, Urban Stages; regionally at The Kennedy Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Geva, Victory Gardens, Palm Beach Dramaworks. Winner: Beverly Hills Theatre Guild Julie Harris Playwriting Award, the Israel Baran Award, and a runner up at the Sundance Playwriting Lab, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, the Heideman Award and Princess Grace Fellowship. Other honors: nominated for Edmonton's Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and honorable mention, The Kilroy list. Plays and monologues published by Smith & Kraus and Applause. Has collaborated with directors Sam Pinkerton, Mark Brokaw, Adrienne Campbell Holt, and Sandy Shinner.

WEB: BARBARABLUMENTHALEHRLICH.COM



Photo of Bill Mesce, Jr.

BILL MESCE, JR.

Bill Mesce, Jr. is an award-winning author and playwright, an occasional screenwriter, and adjunct instructor at several New Jersey higher education institutions.

FACEBOOK: [FB.COM/BILL.MESCE.7](https://www.facebook.com/bill.mesce.7)

CHISA HUTCHINSON



Chisa Hutchinson Headshot (Selfie - 2025)

CHISA HUTCHINSON (B.A. Vassar College; M.F.A. NYU-Tisch) is a playwright and screenwriter whose work includes *She Like Girls*, *Sex on Sunday*, *Somebody's Daughter*, *Surely Goodness and Mercy*, *The Wedding Gift*, *Whitelisted*, *The Bleeding Class*, *Redeemed*, *Amerikin*, and *Dead & Breathing*. Her plays have been presented by the Contemporary American Theater Festival, National Black Theatre, Delaware REP, Passage Theater, NJPAC, Writers Theatre of New Jersey, Salt Lake Acting Company, Second Stage Theater, Keen Company, Audible, Alley Theatre, 59E59 Theaters, and Arch 468 in London.

She has been a Humanitas Fellow, Dramatists Guild Fellow, Lark Fellow, resident at Second Stage Theater and New Dramatists, a New York Neo-Futurist, and a staff writer for Blue Man Group. Her awards include a GLAAD Award, a Lilly, two New York Innovative Theatre Awards, a Helen Merrill, and the Lanford Wilson Award.

Chisa recently premiered the Starz series *Three Women*, is in pre-production on an indie feature, and in post-production on her directorial debut short, *BAD DAD*. Her feature *THE SUBJECT* is available on VOD. She teaches Creative Writing at the University of Delaware.

WEB: [CHISAHUTCHINSON.COM](https://www.chisahutchinson.com)
INSTAGRAM: CHISABH

Deborah Brevoort is an award-winning author of plays, musicals, and operas. She is best known for *The Women of Lockerbie*, produced internationally, and *My Lord, What a Night*, headed to New Jersey's George Street Playhouse this season. *Blue Moon Over Memphis*, her Noh drama about Elvis, was produced in 2024-25 in Japan's traditional Noh theatres. In 2023, Brevoort received the Campbell Opera Librettist Prize from Opera America. Her opera librettos, commissioned and produced by leading U.S. companies, include *The Knock* (with Aleksandra Vrebalov), *Murasaki's Moon* (with Michi Wiancko), *Quamino's Map* (with Errollyn Wallen), *Embedded* (with Patrick Soluri), and *Steal a Pencil for Me* (with Gerald Cohen), among others. She is a three-time winner of Fort Worth Opera's Frontiers Competition and a two-time recipient of the Frederick Loewe Award in musical theatre. Her plays include *The Poetry of Pizza*, *The Blue-Sky Boys*, *The Comfort Team*, *The Drolls*, and *The Velvet Weapon*, and are published by Applause Books, Samuel French, DPS, No Passport Press, and Methuen.

WEB: DEBORAHBREVOORT.COM
FACEBOOK: [FB.COM/DEBORAH.BREVOORT](https://www.facebook.com/DEBORAH.BREVOORT)

DEBORAH BREVOORT



Photo of Deborah Brevoort

GABRIELLE WAGNER MANN



Photo of Gabrielle Wagner Mann

Gabrielle Wagner Mann is a playwright/screenwriter/performer with an MFA in Play/Screenwriting from Point Park University and BA in Theatre from Smith College. Her pilot *ALL IN* that garnered her this fellowship has placed in both Austin Film Festival and ScreenCraft competitions. This fall, her play *LIFE IS WHAT HAPPENS...* premieres at the Foothills Arts NY. Her musical *iWISH* has been produced by New Musicals Inc. UC Irvine, and Studio C Hollywood, and is also published by NMI. Her play *POT ODDS*, has been workshopped with PlayGround Experiment (NYC), Theatre Project (NJ), Transformation Theatre (in DC) and Playwrights Roundtable (FL) and ran at the 2022 SheNYC Theatre Festival winning Best Director; it's also licensed with SheNYCarts. Other plays and musicals have been produced all across the US at Brooklyn College, Luna Stage, Chatham Playhouse, Summit Playhouse, Somerset College, KY, and more. Her musical, *CITY OF LIGHT*, was presented at Stephen Schwartz' ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop, was a 2018 NAMT finalist and won Best Musical and Best Ensemble at the 2017 SheNYC Theatre Festival (directed by Tony winner Cady Huffman.) *CITY OF LIGHT* also headlined at NYC's 54 Below and then was produced for the TMMTheatre Show as a "radio play" (on iTunes).

WEB: GABRIELLEWAGNER.COM
INSTAGRAM: [GABIWAGNERMANN](https://www.instagram.com/GABIWAGNERMANN)

JAMES CHRISTY



"Andalism"

James Christy is an award-winning playwright, novelist and filmmaker. He's written a wildly eclectic group of plays ranging from a story of a German-Jewish soldier in WWI (*A GREAT WAR*, nominated for Best New Play by the Barrymore Awards in 2016), a broad two-hand comedy about why people have kids (*THE FOREVER QUESTION*, winner B-Street Comedy festival in 2018) and a play about parents going through the Kafka-esque process of handling an autism diagnosis (*LOVE AND COMMUNICATION*, winner Barrymore Award, 2012, now a feature film). His short story *THE BOY* won the Virginia Woolf Short Story Prize in May 2025. His debut novel *THE REAL STORY* won first prize for best novel excerpt from the Seven Hills Literary Contest. He won a NJ State Council on the Arts Fellowship for playwrighting in 2025. In a past life he was an actor with a featured part in the film *DEAD POETS SOCIETY* (yes, he stood on his desk).

WEB: JAMESCHRISTYJR.COM

INSTAGRAM: [JCHRISTY1515](https://www.instagram.com/JCHRISTY1515)

JASMINE PATRICE WHITE



Jasmine holding a script

Jasmine emerged as a suburban baddie from the hood of Paterson, NJ, shaped by years of therapy and the dramatic lessons of Black Church in a Pentecostal pew. After mastering plot twists, she came out as a lesbian to her devout Southern Boomer parents, who grew into dynamic characters themselves, learning to love her in new ways.

She earned a B.A. in Television, Radio, and Film from Syracuse University and sharpened her skills as a Junior Development Executive at Lifetime TV, contributing to projects like *Married at First Sight*, *Surviving R. Kelly*, *Surviving Epstein*, and *Mahalia*.

Her digital series *Hotline*, about a transgender attorney working at a suicide hotline, streams on RevoltTV, Amazon Prime, and OTV. Her drama *#Stressed* follows a plus-sized influencer blackmailed as a scammer. She also secured a \$1.85M grant to produce original content amplifying underrepresented voices.

Through her brand, The Script Doctor, Jasmine builds toolkits, learning materials, and workshops to help emerging writers own their stories and enter the industry with confidence.

WEB: THESCRIPTDOCTOR.ORG

INSTAGRAM: [YOURSCRIPTDOCTOR](https://www.instagram.com/YOURSCRIPTDOCTOR)

JOE BRONZI

Joe is an award-winning screenwriter who has won 9 Festivals/Contests outright and placed in dozens of others. He was a Top-Ten Finalist in 2023's Big Break Screenplay contest and a 2025 NJ Individual Artist Fellowship award winner. A professional stand-up comedian for over 25 years, Joe's done warm-up comedy and late-night appearances for television. He has a Dry Bar Comedy Special and his latest album "Milking Almonds" is currently playing on Sirius XM Radio. Joe's silly science fiction novel "In the Shadow of the Dark Star" is currently represented for publication by Buchwald. As an artist, Joe believes humor allows us to make sense of the incomprehensible, and that laughing at insanity helps you stay sane. More importantly, Joe believes laughter supports inclusion. He feels it's crucial to include the LGBTQ+ community in works of fiction, and that true inclusion means utilizing resonant LGBTQ+ characters without remarking on their inclusion. Joe is the proud parent of a special needs transgender daughter and a gay daughter. His work reflects the deeply held belief that granting diverse characters the freedom to adventure, to love, and to make us laugh can ultimately help free us all.

LINKEDIN: /IN/JOE-BRONZI-B192454B
FACEBOOK: FB.COM/JOEBRONZI



Photo of Joe Bronzi
Credit: Haley Sklans



Photo of P.C. Verrone

P.C. VERRONE

P.C. Verrone is a playwright, author, and educator whose work draws from his Afro-Native heritage, queer community, and fascination with underrepresented histories. His plays include *Crocodile Day*, an Indigenous re-imagining of Peter Pan published by Playscripts; *Bad Medicine*, a Native horror play produced in theaters nationwide; and *The Forester*, an exploration of Black forester Carroll B. Williams, Jr., commissioned by the Ensemble Studio Theater/Sloan Project. His work has been developed with AlterTheater, The Blank, Center Theater Group, Custom Made Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, National New Play Network, Native Voices, Primary Stages, and Urbanite Theatre. His fiction and poetry have appeared in *FIYAH Magazine*, *PodCastle*, and *Nightmare Magazine*. He received the Otherwise Award and the Bridport Prize in Flash Fiction, and won the inaugural Black Creatives Revisions Workshop hosted by We Need Diverse Books and Penguin Random House. He holds a BA from Harvard University and an MFA from Rutgers University-Newark. His debut novel *Rabbit, Fox, Tar* is forthcoming in 2026.

WEB: PCVERRONE.COM
INSTAGRAM: PAT.THE.CARROLL



P O E T R Y

ACCOUNTABILITY IS A
FORM OF STORYTELLING,
AND HEALING IS AN
INHERENTLY CREATIVE ACT.

MICAELA CAMACHO-TENREIRO

CAREY SALERNO

Carey Salerno is the author of three books of poetry, *Tributary*, *Shelter*, and the forthcoming *The Hungriest Stars* (October 2025). Recipient of a 2025 Pushcart Prize, her poems have appeared widely in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Harvard Review*, and elsewhere. She serves as the Executive Director and Publisher of Alice James Books.

WEB: CAREYSALERNO.COM
INSTAGRAM: CAREYLINNAE



Photo of Carey Salerno
Credit: Marc A. Hoeksema

CORTNEY LAMAR CHARLESTON

Cortney Lamar Charleston is the author of three full-length poetry collections: *Telepathologies* (Saturnalia Books, 2017), selected by D.A. Powell for the 2016 Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize; *Doppelgangbanger* (Haymarket Books, 2021), named a best book of 2021 by the New York Public Library, *Chicago Reader*, and *The Boston Globe*; and *It's Important I Remember* (Curbstone Books/Northwestern University Press, 2026). He was awarded a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, and he has also received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Conversation Literary Festival, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Winner of a Pushcart Prize, his poems have appeared in *POETRY*, *The Nation*, *The Atlantic*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Kenyon Review* and many other publications. Charleston is originally from the Chicago suburbs and now resides in Jersey City.

WEB: CORTNEYLAMARCHARLESTON.COM
INSTAGRAM: BARDSBESIDEBARS



Photo of Cortney Lamar Charleston

DAVID FLOYD

David Floyd is the author of *The Sudden Architecture of the Dark* (CustomWords/WordTech, 2006), which was a finalist for the A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize. His poems and essays have appeared in *APR*, *Apricity Press*, *Dos Passos Review*, and *Washington Square*, among other journals and anthologies. He last taught at Radford University in Virginia, and was the faculty advisor for Women's Basketball Club at RU. Recently, his second full-length manuscript of poems *What Light Cannot Repair* was runner-up for the ninth annual 2023 Nicholas A. Schaffner Award for Music in Literature. As Russell Edson once said, "pure poetry is silence."



Photo of David Floyd
Credit: Joshua Gyovai



Photo of David Livewell

DAVID LIVEWELL

David Livewell grew up in the Kensington section of North Philadelphia. He works as an editor in Philadelphia and has taught poetry courses at La Salle University. His last book won the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize (*Shackamaxon*, Truman State University Press). His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Yale Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Hopkins Review*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Southwest Review*, and online at *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, and Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry*. His new book of poems will appear from Paul Dry Books in summer 2026.

GRISSEL Y. ACOSTA

Dr. Grisel Y. Acosta (she/they) is a full professor at the City University of New York (CUNY)-BCC. Their poetry collection, *Things to Pack on the Way to Everywhere*, was a 2020 finalist for the Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize (Get Fresh Books, 2021). Her latest book, *Wild*, is forthcoming in 2026 from FlowerSong Press. She is the editor of *Latina Outsiders Remaking Latina Identity* (Routledge, 2019), Creative Writing Editor at *Chicana/Latina Studies Journal*, and a Poetry Editor at *Women's Studies Quarterly* (WSQ). Selected work appears in *Poetry Magazine*, *Poem-A-Day*, *The Baffler*, *Best American Poetry*, *Split This Rock*, *Paterson Review*, *Acentos Review*, *Inkwell Journal*, and *The Hopkins Review*. They are a recipient of grants and residencies from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Sundress Academy for the Arts, and Arts, Letters & Numbers, and are a Dodge Foundation Poet, Macondo Fellow, and VONA Fellow.

INSTAGRAM: GRISSEL_Y_ACOSTA



Grisel Y. Acosta smiling in front of the George Washington Bridge at sunset



Photo of Isabella Desendi

ISABELLA DESENDI

Isabella DeSendi is a Latina poet and educator whose work has been published in *POETRY*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Poetry Northwest*, and others. Her debut poetry collection titled "Someone Else's Hunger" will be published by Four Way Books on September 15, 2025. Her chapbook "Through the New Body" won the Poetry Society of America's Chapbook Fellowship and was published in 2020. Recently, she has been named a 2025 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellow in Poetry, a finalist for the Ruth Lilly Fellowship, and was included in the 2024 Best New Poets anthology, among other awards. Isabella has attended Bread Loaf Writers' Workshop, the Storyknife Writers' Residency in Alaska, and holds an MFA from Columbia University. She currently lives in Hoboken, New Jersey.

WEB: ISABELLADESENDI.COM
INSTAGRAM: BELLAMDESENDI

JOANNE MONTE

Joanne Monte, a native New Jersey, is a poet, novelist, essayist, and editor. She is the author of "The Blue Light of Dawn," which received The Bordighera Poetry Prize, sponsored by The Sonia Raiziss-Giop Charitable Foundation, and published by Bordighera Press in 2013. Many of her poems have appeared in literary journals such as Poet Lore, The Washington Square Review, The Red Cedar Review, ellipsis... literature and art, Thimble Magazine, and Poetry Super Highway, among others. In addition to a Pushcart Prize nomination, she has received numerous awards, among them Sixfold Poetry Prize, the Princemere Poetry Award, Palette Poetry Award, and The Jack Grapes Poetry Award. She has read her poetry at many venues, most notably the Calandra Institute and Poets House in New York City.

FACEBOOK: [BIT.LY/JOANNEMONTE](https://bit.ly/joannemonte)



Photo of Joanne Monte

JOE DAVID CESARE

Joe David Cesare is a recipient of a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts. He earned his MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers University-Newark, where he also taught creative writing. A native of Minnesota, he now resides in Hoboken and is currently working on his first book.



Photo of Joe David Cesare



Photo of José Olivarez

JOSÉ OLIVAREZ

José Olivarez is the son of Mexican immigrants, and the author of two collections of poems, including, most recently, *Promises of Gold*—which was long listed for the 2023 National Book Awards. His debut book of poems, *Citizen Illegal*, was a finalist for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award and a winner of the 2018 Chicago Review of Books Poetry Prize. Along with Felicia Rose Chavez and Willie Perdomo, he co-edited the poetry anthology, *The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 4: LatINEXT*. Alongside Antonio Salazar, he published the hybrid book, *Por Siempre* in 2023. José Olivarez received a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship award from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and was named the 21st Century Award Recipient by the Chicago Public Library Foundation. He lives in Jersey City, NJ.

WEB: JOSEOLIVAREZ.COM
INSTAGRAM: _JOSEOLIVAREZ

KAREN ELIZABETH BISHOP

Karen Elizabeth Bishop is a UK/US poet, translator, essayist, and scholar. Her poetry collection *the deering hour* was published by Ornithopter Press in 2021; her collection *Silff*, written in Spanish and translated into English, is forthcoming in bilingual edition; and she is currently finishing a third collection in English, *Fold, Song*. She has completed *Notes on Lyric Risk*, a book-length lyric essay that brings together poetic theory, philosophy, art criticism, and memoir to explore what we risk by speaking in lyric, and what lyric risks in betting on the human. Recent creative work appears in *Tahoma Literary Review*, *The Lincoln Review*, *Lana Turner*, *Bennington Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *New Poetry Scotland*, and *Modern Poetry in Translation*.

Bishop is co-founder of the public humanities initiative The Elegy Project, which publishes and distributes elegies in public spaces globally. She is associate professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature at Rutgers University and founding director of the Rutgers Translation Studies Initiative. She divides her time between New Jersey and Sevilla, Spain.

WEB: KEBISHOP.ORG
BLUESKY: KEBISHOP.BSKY.SOCIAL



Photo of Karen Elizabeth Bishop

LESLIEANN HOBAYAN

Leslieann Hobayan is a Filipina-American poet, essayist, activist, and host of *Spiritual Grit*, a podcast at the intersection of spirituality and activism. She is the author of the chapbook, *Divorce Papers: A Slow Burn* (Finishing Line Press, 2023) and her poetry manuscript, *Jeepney Girl: An Archipelago*, was a finalist for the 2024 Trio House Press Open. Nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a 2018 Best of the Net, her work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Aster(ix) Journal*, *The Grief Diaries*, *The Lantern Review*, *The Mom Egg Review*, *The World I Leave You: Asian American Poets on Faith and Spirit*, and elsewhere. She was awarded a 2025 NJ State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship in poetry, along with fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and artist grants from Community of Writers and the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers Conference. She teaches creative writing at Rutgers University. She is also a spiritual guide for women of color.

WEB: LESLIEANNHOBAYAN.COM
INSTAGRAM: [LESLIEANNHOBAYAN](https://www.instagram.com/LESLIEANNHOBAYAN)



Photo of Leslieann Hobayan

MARIE GRAY WISE



Photo of Marie Gray Wise, author of *Anna and Her Daughters*

Marie is a retired English teacher and have lived most of my life in South Jersey, except for an adventure in San Francisco, where she found her husband and brought him East. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from The College of New Jersey and she is deeply grateful for the wonderful teachers in her field, especially her creative writing professor, Frederick Kiley.

She did not publish for many years, but has always written poetry and fiction, building a large cache of work—some improved and published, some that will never be. Even this unseen work has great value, a private library of wonders and mistakes. These pieces hold stories whose endings she now understands and sometimes allows her to trace the causes and effects of existence.

Marie's first chapbook, *Anna and Her Daughters*, was published in 2024. Her work has appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *I-70 Review*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Main Street Rag*, *English Journal*, and locally in *U.S.1 Worksheets* and *The Paterson Literary Review*.

WEB: MARIEGRAYWISE.COM

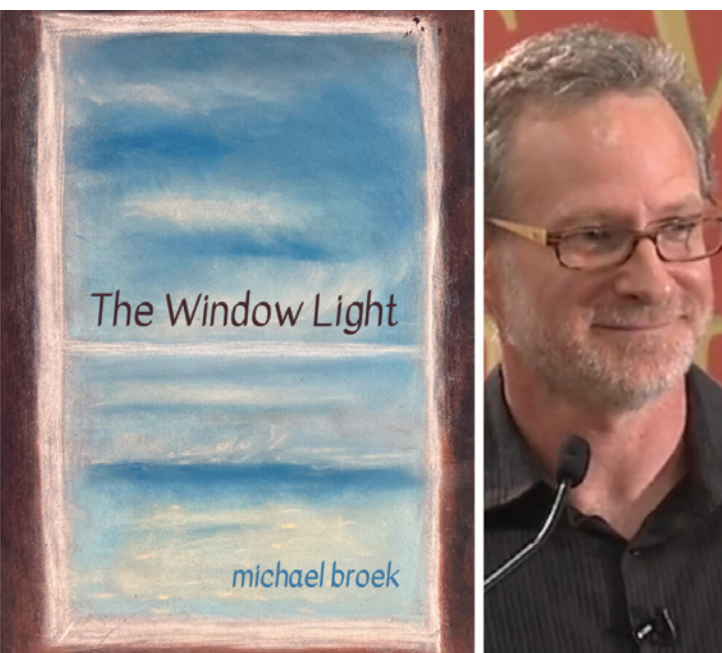
Micaela Camacho-Tenreiro is a Venezuelan-American poet, dancer, and troublemaker. A 2025 CantoMundo fellow and Best of the Net nominee, their work has been published in *American Poetry Review*, *La Revista Bilingüe*, and elsewhere; featured by Brooklyn Poets and ONLY POEMS, and commissioned by the Center for Brooklyn History and the Feminist Bird Club of Jersey City. Her background in restorative justice has taught her that accountability is a form of storytelling, and that healing is an inherently creative act. As such, they strive to balance honesty and generosity in their artistic experiments, twirling at the border between what is and what could be. Micaela serves as a bilingual facilitator at the oral history organization, StoryCorps, LGBTQ+ Coordinator at Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled, and teaching artist at ARTS By the People. She is at work on two poetry collections, *Seabound* and *Lavender Hymn*, and her Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts has supported various creative projects and adventures in recent months.

INSTAGRAM: TENDER.MISCHIEF

MICAELA CAMACHO TENREIRO



Micaela Camacho-Tenreiro at the interdisciplinary reading series, *The Parlor*. Photo by Sharon Attia.



"The Window Light"

MICHAEL BROEK

Michael Broek is the author of *Refuge/es*, winner of the Kinereth Gensler Award for poetry, from Alice James Books, and three chapbooks—*The Logic of Yoo*, from Beloit Poetry Journal, *The Amputation Artist*, from ELJ Publications, and *The Window Light*, from Finishing Line Press. His poetry and have appeared widely in places such as *The American Poetry Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *Blackbird*, *Fourteen Hills*, and others. He has received fellowships to the MacDowell Colony and the Marble House Project, as well as a scholarship to the Bread Loaf Writers Conference

NATASHA RAO

Natasha Rao is the author of *Latitude*, which was selected by Ada Limón as the winner of the 2021 APR/Honickman First Book Prize. The recipient of a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, she has also received fellowships from Bread Loaf, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Vermont Studio Center, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has received additional support from the Community of Writers, the Hambidge Center, and the VCCA. Her work appears in *The Nation*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Yale Review*, and elsewhere. She holds a BA from Brown University and an MFA from NYU, where she was a Goldwater Fellow. She is currently Co-Editor of *American Chordata* and teaches poetry at Drew University.

WEB: NATASHA-RAO.COM
INSTAGRAM: NATRAO



Photo of Natasha Rao

NICOLE COOLEY

Nicole Cooley grew up in New Orleans and is the author of eight books, including most recently *MOTHER WATER ASH* (LSU Press 2024) and the forthcoming *TRASH* (Alice James Books 2027). She teaches in the MFA program in creative writing and literary translation at Queens College, City University of New York.

WEB: NICOLECOOLEY.COM
INSTAGRAM: NICOLERUTHC



Photo of Nicole Cooley



R.G. Evans performing at the North East (MD) Yacht Club

R . G . E V A N S

R.G. Evans is the author of *Overtipping the Ferryman*, *The Holy Both*, and *Imagine Sisyphus Happy*. His work has appeared in *Rattle*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Philadelphia Stories*, and *Weird Tales*, among other publications. His collections of original songs, *Sweet Old Life* and *Kid Yesterday Calling Tomorrow Man*, are available on most streaming platforms. Evans teaches creative writing at Rowan University.

WEB: RGEVANSWRITER.COM

FACEBOOK: [FB.COM/RG.EVANS.3](https://www.facebook.com/RG.EVANS.3)

Y A M I N I P A T H A K

Yamini Pathak's debut poetry collection *Her Mouth a Palace of Lamps* (Milk & Cake Press) is forthcoming in October 2025. She is the author of poetry chapbooks *Atlas of Lost Places* (Milk & Cake Press, 2020) and *Breath Fire Water Song* (Ghost City Press, 2021). Yamini holds an MFA in poetry from Antioch University and serves as an editor with Bull City Press. Her poems appear in *West Branch*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Sierra*, and elsewhere. The recipient of an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, her work has been supported by Vermont Studio Center, Tin House, Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, and VONA. She has been nominated for Best New Poets and has been a finalist for Frontier Poetry's Global Poetry Prize (South Asia)

INSTAGRAM: [YPATHAKPOET](https://www.instagram.com/YPATHAKPOET)



Photo of Yamini Pathak



SCULPTURE

I AIM TO ENCOURAGE VIEWERS TO SLOW DOWN, SENSE THE “CADENCE OF LIGHT,” CONTEMPLATE LIGHT AND COLOR, AND REFLECT ON THE RHYTHMS WITHIN THEIR OWN LIVES WHILE EXPERIENCING IMPERMANENCE TOGETHER.

SUNIL GARG

DIANA JEAN PUGLISI



Pinned Absence, Velvet Contorted
Velvet, polyfil, thread, wax, copper, acrylic, wood, steel, and various studio remnants and scraps, 20.5 x 6.25 x 6in., 2025

Diana Jean Puglisi is an artist and educator based in Rutherford, NJ. She creates sculptures through textile techniques, casting, and experimental processes, layering personal and collective histories with references to the female body and traditions of women's work passed down through generations. Puglisi earned her MFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design and her BFA from William Paterson University. She received Individual Artist Fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts in 2017 and 2025. Her residencies include Vermont Studio Center, Big Red & Shiny, and Gallery 263. Puglisi's work has been exhibited nationally at spaces such as Gloria's Project Space (NY), Wavelength Space (TN), SOIL Gallery (WA), Bridgette Mayer Gallery (PA), Ria x Gallery (NJ), University of Arizona's Joseph Gross Gallery (AZ), subSamson (MA), and Kathryn Schultz Gallery (MA). She has appeared in flat files at Deanna Evans Projects and Collar Works, and has been featured by Art Uncovered Podcast, All Visual Boston, and The Drawing Center's blog The Bottom Line.

WEB: DIANAPUGLISI.COM
INSTAGRAM: [DIANAJPUGLISI](https://www.instagram.com/dianajpuglisi)



Rope Series, 2024, Hand-painted Porcelain

JAMIE LEHRHOFF LEVINE

At the center of Jamie's artistic practice and process are the themes of fragility and vulnerability. She uses these themes to reference the body and bodies, scientific thought and mystical belief, the natural world and the built environment as well as societal roles and individual identities. She is interested in contemporary concerns that inform and challenge how we navigate, neglect and nurture ourselves, one another and the spaces and places we inhabit. She also uses personal and family narratives from my own experience: as a mother of four, as a wife of over 40 years, as an older sister to two siblings, as a daughter whose mother died of cancer way too young.

While Jamie conducts research for all of my series, she is also inspired by materials and their manipulation: She is constantly trying new methods and learning new techniques, her latest works in porcelain continue to evolve as her skills and knowledge expands.

WEB: JAMIELEVINE.NET
INSTAGRAM: [JAMIELEHRHOFFLEVINE](https://www.instagram.com/jamielehrhofflevine)

JIM TOIA

Jim Toia makes work around the world when possible, but his primary and secondary studios are in Northwestern New Jersey and Key West, Florida, respectively. He sought the hills and valleys of NJ as both refuge from the metropolitan area and for its proximity to a major center of contemporary art. In Key West, he spends time peering into the Straits of Florida searching out life below.

He has been teaching in Lafayette College's art department for 20 years and is the Executive Director of the Karl Stirner Arts Trail in Easton, Pennsylvania, where he curates and manages the public art park in collaboration with the city of Easton. He is represented by the Kim Foster Gallery in Chelsea, NY (kimfostergallery.com) and received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in NY. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, and the Far East.

WEB: JIMTOIA.COM
INSTAGRAM: JIMTOIA



Crypto X, paper mold with digital prints, 2022. 10' x 9' x 6', Joshua Tree, CA.

JUDI TAVILL



Judi Tavill sitting with sculptures 2023

Judi Tavill (b.1968, Baltimore, MD) is a Rumson, NJ-based sculptor and visual artist who shifted to fine art following careers in fashion design and studio ceramics. She earned her BFA from Washington University (1990) and later completed a Post-Baccalaureate at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth (2021).

Tavill creates biomorphic sculptures and drawings that investigate interconnectedness through the interplay of line and form. Using fired clay, mixed media, and graphite, she constructs curving, assembled structures and renders intertwined networks that blur dimensional boundaries. Inspired by resilient natural systems, her works range from immersive to intimate, evoking forms that feel both organic and unfamiliar. Her improvisational process emphasizes responsiveness, revealing continual states of connection and prompting reflection on the complex entanglements shaping our world.

Tavill's work has been shown at the Morris Museum, Montclair Art Museum, and New Jersey State Museum, and is held in the Flint Institute of Arts Museum collection. She has presented solo exhibitions in New York, Ohio, and New Jersey.

WEB: JUDITAVILL.COM
INSTAGRAM: JUDITAVILLART

KEELY MCCOOL

Keely McCool was raised in Oregon. At a very young age she began creating new forms by breaking apart her toys and creating new things out of them. This was the beginning of her creative process and zest for more. As she got older, she wanted to be closer to the New York Scene. At the age of 20 she moved to Montclair, New Jersey. She received a BA in Fine Arts with a concentration in Sculpture at Montclair State University. During that time, she received the International Sculpture Center Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award, followed by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture in 2003. McCool has shown her work in museums, universities, and galleries in the NY metropolitan area and internationally, and is in several private collections.

INSTAGRAM: KEELYMCCOOL17



Surrounded by my work, highlighting "Emerge" sculpture



Title: Circle Year: 2024 Medium: Wood Size: 33 x 33 x 11 inches

MAYUMI SARAI

Mayumi Sarai is a sculptor who has been working with wood. The materials she uses are often broken tree branches and discarded wood that she gathers locally. She combines traditional hand carving techniques and abstract form construction to indicate the presence of life in both human and the natural world. Mayumi Sarai was born in Aichi, Japan and moved to New York City in 1991, she continued her education at the New York Studio School after she had graduated from Nihon University Collage of Art in Tokyo. Her exhibitions include New Jersey State Museum, Lohin Geduld Gallery, University of Maine Museum of Art. Sarai has received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship award among others. Currently she lives and works in Bayonne, NJ and Colchester, NY.

WEB: MAYUMISARAI.NET

SAM HOROWITZ



In a Grove (2021)

Sam Horowitz is a futurist, mad scientist, and Assistant Professor at Rowan University. Horowitz has exhibited in solo and group shows throughout the US, and earned degrees from Alfred University (MFA, 2020) and Bard College (BA, 2010). Horowitz was awarded a 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship in Sculpture by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Horowitz has held numerous artist residencies, from Fleinvær (Norway), to Governors Island (NYC), and at Sloss Furnaces (Alabama), where he also served as Union Shop Steward. Over the summer, he teaches with RISD's Continuing Education Department. His work explores the concept of Deep Time. In the studio, Horowitz builds with cast and fabricated metal, stone, wood, glass, and co-opted natural processes to create sculpture-as-metaphor to purvey a sense of empathy and awareness, and to strengthen perceptions of our actions in an accelerating world. His work speaks in geologic allegory to encourage consideration of longer durations of time, durations falling out of fashion in this "Buy Now" era. This encourages empathy among his audience, between humans and with the world surrounding us. By developing affinity for those things human and non-human alike, together we build responsibility to help shepherd in a slower, more kind frame of reference.

WEB: SAMHOROWITZ.ART

INSTAGRAM: [SAMHOROWITZSTUDIO](https://www.instagram.com/samhorowitzstudio)



Moonment

SIZHULI

Li constructs kinetic installations, site-specific and typically large-scale. They are presented in an open forum, where mechanized movements create a percussive environment. In particular, Li pursues a Futurist vision by generating sometimes Sisyphean movements and motorized minimal constructions. These constructions become a contemporary landscape where space is a physical material as much as a piece of metal or wood etc. Li's works are animated, poetic, and storytelling. Materials, though often unrefined, are treated as fleshy, melancholic, nostalgic characters. Their movements are direct, satisfying, repeated, comforting, and mesmerizing. Together, they immerse viewers in an echo of simplicity within the chaos of modern life—evoking live phenomena like moonlight on the flowing water or wind on young leaves. Li is influenced by Minimalism, Futurism, and Chinese painting, poetry, and philosophy. In ancient times, people lived simpler lives, but still had rich intellectual and spiritual experiences. Li believes that we have something to learn from a spirit of wonder that feeds the human soul and brings communities together..

WEB: SIZHULI.COM

INSTAGRAM: [SIZHULI](https://www.instagram.com/sizhuli)

Sunil works with light to explore impermanence, change, and renewal. Light is paradoxical—primordial, variable, boundless, and temporal. Though invisible itself, it is the “cause of visible things.” His evolving sculptures suggest that moments pass and can only be held in universal memory. He aims to encourage viewers to slow down, sense the “cadence of light,” contemplate light and color, and reflect on the rhythms within their own lives while experiencing impermanence together.

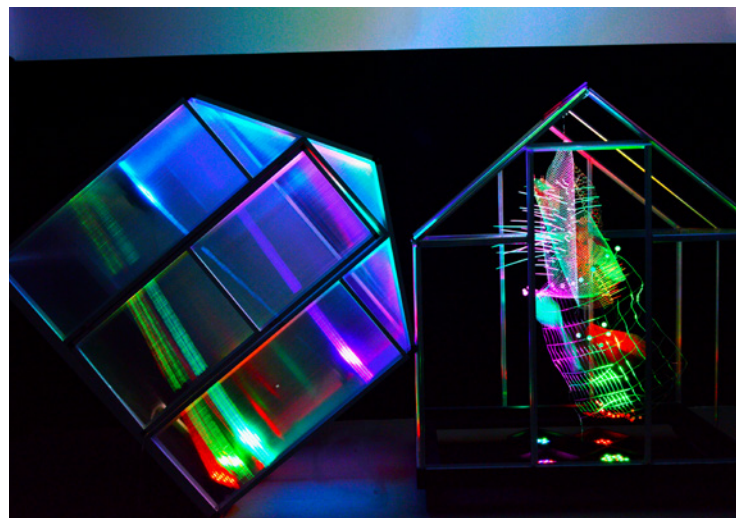
His practice engages both manufactured and natural light, using abstract, gestural forms and programmable digital technologies to create immersive environments and light sculptures.

He also has participated in more than 50 group and solo exhibitions, including temporary public art installations in diverse venues. Sunil’s work has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, Hyperallergic, Vogue, and other media, and a mini-documentary on my practice was selected for the New Filmmakers’ Festival. He was among 11 sculptors in “New Sculpture New Jersey” at the Morris Museum in 2024–25.

WEB: SUNILGARG3D.COM

INSTAGRAM: [SUNILGARG3D](https://www.instagram.com/SUNILGARG3D)

SUNIL GARG



Untitled FIT (2024)



Eighth Dimension - Where the Mind Meets the Ocean. 2025

VOYO WOO

Voyo is a Chinese American artist based in New Jersey with a lifelong practice of traditional Chinese paper cutting, which she began at age 14. A self-taught artist, she later earned a master’s degree in Curatorial Studies in Contemporary Art from Sotheby’s Institute of Art in New York and London. Her work has been featured in public media and exhibited at venues including the White House Visitors Center, Sotheby’s Auction House, Montclair Art Museum, and Tysons Corner Center.

Her background spans creative and cultural fields—from videography and television production to interpreting and arts administration. These experiences inspire my interest in the intersection of physical materials, technology, and immersive environments. In recent years, her practice has expanded to explore mental health, neurofeedback, and the relationship between humans, nature, and technology.

Voyo’s latest interactive projects, *The Seventh Dimension* and *The Eighth Dimension*, use brainwave technology, meditation, and projection mapping to encourage calm, reflection, and awareness of our connection to nature and the ocean.

WEB: VOYOWOO.COM

INSTAGRAM: [VOYOWOO](https://www.instagram.com/VOYOWOO)

The New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowship Program is a project of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Mid Atlantic Arts.



The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council believes the arts are central to every element we value most in a modern society including: human understanding; cultural and civic pride; strong communities; excellent schools; lifelong learning; creative expression; and economic opportunity.

To learn more about the Council, please visit [**artscouncil.nj.gov**](http://artscouncil.nj.gov)

PIRATA

LIBRE

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