



*THE INVISIBLE HISTORIES: SEE GLITTER IN ALL BLACK EVERYWHERE, ARCHIVING SOUTHERN QUEER HISTORIES*  
A Disruption By Jackie Clay & Bo McGuire, 2021

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**DATE:** JUNE 2022

**LEGAL NAME:** Centre for the Living Arts

**ADDRESS:** 301 Conti Street, Mobile, AL 36602

**EXEMPT TAX ID NUMBER:** 63-1236563

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** elizabet elliott (251) 208-5660

**BOARD CHAIRMAN:** Paige Vitulli, PHD, (251) 605-1962



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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## DEAR FRIENDS,

You tend to know it when a life event is big enough to change you. You don't always know immediately how it will change you though. We've thrown around the words "life-changing", "world-changing", "harrowing" a lot the past couple years. A year ago, I could tell you, did tell you, how we'd attempted to adjust into it, tried to adapt, not fully knowing what was yet to come.

What is most surprising about this particular moment for our organization, for our little crew of passionate and overachieving fire-starters, is the sense of calm starting to set in. When I think over the events of the last 3 years, I can feel the panicked uncertainty we've lived in. I feel the light stomach as we realize the height of the learning curve, the roller coaster car about to careen down into total unknown, the impending drop.

That feeling is still there, just further back. That feeling, that at the time seemed like the new forever, has dimmed. I went to start this letter with how great everything is, how sure of our footing we feel, I caught myself. It's never felt so crazy to be sure of your feet. It all sounded too ridiculous to say out loud.

Here are just the facts, ridiculous or not. We now have key leadership rolls filled for every department in the organization for the first time since 2014. We've added a total of two full time (about to be three) and two part time positions. We started 2022 with the first perfectly balanced budget in, well, I have no idea how long; no contingent programs waiting for a bout of good luck, no mid-year rabbits coming out of hats or



anything. We executed the first year of a now annual \$100K per year artist project grant and funded nine new projects around the state. We helped start a recording studio and partnered on a new program to support performing artists in the state. The BLACC raised funds and mounted a photovoice project, and ended up taking in over 250 photographs to represent "Black Life in Mobile". We've supported (with cash money) the work of XXX artists and curators in the last year. We've made video tours of the exhibitions, got multiple write-ups in multiple publications, mentions on APTV, and on nationally scoped podcasts. And we have had the honor to work on and mount some of the best exhibitions I've seen. Period. Not just in the South, but some of the best I've seen.

And all of that is additional to the strong work we were already doing in education and our existing programs.

I'm not going to say that the unexpected education we've gotten, the whole world got really, was worth it, somehow justified by the fact that we've survived. I absolutely will not say the pandemic happened for a "reason". This is not a search for a silver lining that will magically undo the very real losses so many have experienced, or an overzealous dismissal of the fact that some of the ways the world has changed may not be for the better. There is so much work to be done, for us and for others.

I will say we are actively taking on whatever good, whatever reason we might make out of it. And we have made a decision to be better for it. We can't be the organization we were 3 years ago, so if we aren't better today, then what on earth are we doing.

Yours,



elizabeth elliot

Executive Director/Curator

ALABAMA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

## *ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:*

Founded in 1999, Alabama Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is a non-profit contemporary arts center located on Cathedral Square in the heart of Mobile's historic downtown district. Located in the old Press Register building in historic downtown Mobile, we are a non-collecting organization that is committed to the work of living artists. We serve our community by originating ten to twelve exhibitions a year, offering public programming, adult and children's education, and outreach programming. Through guest curatorship, artist residencies, and our Independent Projects program, we create sustainable opportunities for curators and artists worldwide to make work, take risks, and explore divergent paths. Our first floor boasts of 16 thousand square feet of exhibition space used for rotating exhibitions and site specific installations. On the third floor we have that same quantity of space for education, performances and public programs.

For our community, we provide a third space free of cultural or political bias, where individuals can find and create meaning. By holding space for difference, empathetic communication of ideas, and diverse cultural representation, we play an integral role in building a sense of cultural identity with our community that contributes to the quality of life in Mobile.

# 2021 EXHIBITIONS



## FLOAT, FLY, TRANSCEND

**January 18 – April 18, 2021**

National group exhibition curated by Amy Pleasant and Pete Schulte (Birmingham AL) as the FUEL & LUMBER CO. [Guest Curator Program]

FEATURING WORK BY: DAVID ONRI ANDERSON | KATHERINE BRADFORD | KRISTA CLARK | MATTHEW F. FISHER | LONNIE HOLLEY | OSAMU KOBAYASHI | SHONA MACDONALD | ROB MAZUREK AND LEE ANNE SCHMITT | KEIKO NARAHASHI | BARB SMITH

## SOFÍA CÓRDOVA

**February 12 – May 8, 2021**

Solo Exhibition, Artist Sofia Córdoba, Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, and currently based in Oakland, California.

Sofia Córdoba's work considers "sci-fi and futurity, dance and music culture(s), the internet, mystical objects, extinction and mutation, migration, and climate change under the conditions of late capitalism and its technologies"



## TEMPER AND CONDUCT

**April 9 – June 25, 2021**

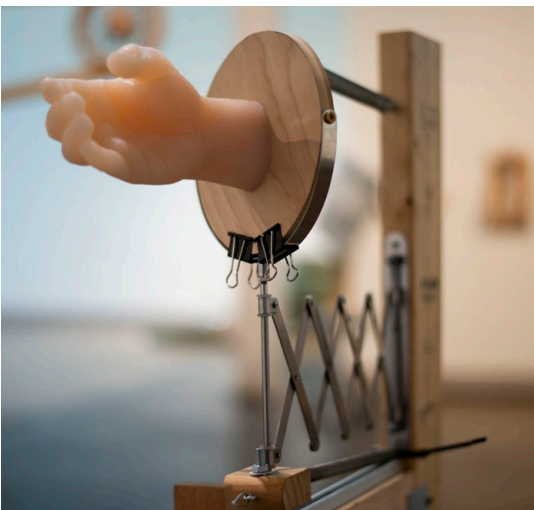
Regional collaboration, new work by Katie Hargrave (TN) and Melissa Vandenberg (KY) [Independent Projects Program]

Artists Katie Hargrave and Melissa Vandenberg aim to explore the history and lore of snakes as a notorious American symbol. In addition to unpacking the meaning behind snakes in American culture at large, they wish to examine the snake in regards to the lore surrounding Mobile's founder Jean Baptiste de Bienville, who was extensively tattooed with snakes.

## FRETHAUS

**April 25, 2021 - July 31, 2021**

FretHaus 2021 features the Auburn University School of Industrial and Graphic Design's Industrial Design Senior Thesis: specifically, handmade guitars. Beginning as a field studies program, The School of Industrial + Graphic Designs **Futures Studio** assists local businesses and industry with development of new products, packaging, branding, identity, and marketing strategies.



## NEW ISLAND

**May 13 – August 21, 2021**

Solo Exhibition, Artist Michelle Jones, born in Central Mississippi, currently based in Mobile, Alabama.

Jones' work reflects a nature that is both beautiful and sinister. A tiger bathes in a pool or emerges from a dense canopy with the offer of a languid freedom only found in the solitude of the terra incognita.

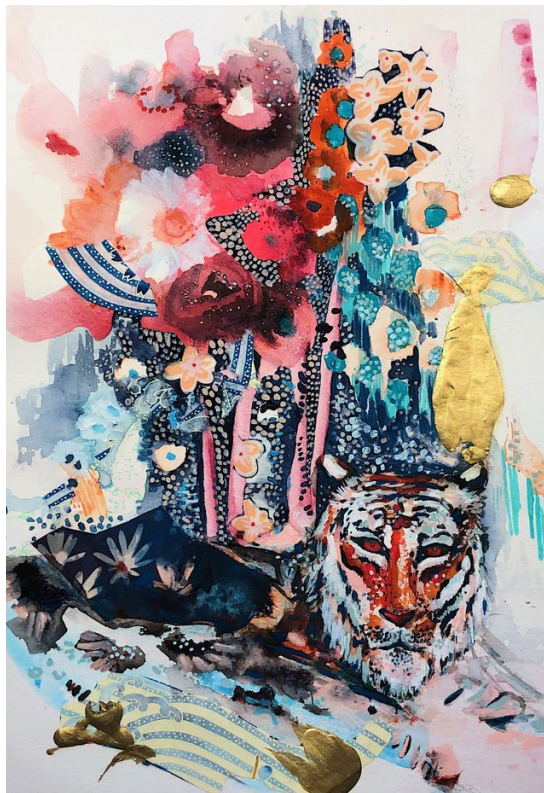
## DISTANCES

**Nov 13, 2020 - Jan 16, 2021**

Guest Curator Peter Prinz (AL) [Guest Curator Program]

Curated by PETER PRINZ of Birmingham's Space One Eleven,

# 2021 EXHIBITIONS



this exhibition of work by artists TIA-SIMONE GARDNER, STACEY HOLLOWAY, and CELESTIA MORGAN, explores differing forms of distances which have been enforced throughout history. From the stay at home orders and six-foot-rules of the COVID-19 Pandemic, to housing discrimination and systemic racism which has had lasting repercussions for more than a century, Distances gives a visual representation of the challenging social and economical distances we have, and are still enduring.

## THE INVISIBLE HISTORIES: SEE GLITTER IN ALL BLACK EVERYWHERE: ARCHIVING SOUTHERN QUEER HISTORIES

**July 9 – October 2, 2021**

Guest Curator Jackie Clay (York, Alabama), and filmmaker Bo McGuire, will pull from and re-contextualize the archives of LGBTQ+ spaces in partnership with the Invisible Histories Project. The Invisible Histories Project is a community driven project whose goal is the collection and preservation of the complex LGBTQ history of the South.

## SOIL

**Sept 9, 2021- December 12, 2021**

Part of the Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance projects, and in collaboration with the Mobile County Commission, ACAC is hosting story-gathering events and exhibitions of the soil gathered from lynching sites in Mobile every six months over the next two years. In 2023 this work will culminate into an exhibition for new work by Black southern artists dealing with what it is to remember and ultimately transcend trauma.



## DAZZLE AND DEGRADE

**September 10 – December 11, 2021**

Solo Exhibition, Artist Jenny Day based in Santa Fe, New Mexico [Independent Projects Program].

Day's work addresses environmental and cultural collapse, depicting fraught and broken landscapes filled with the milieu of everyday life. Day will create a site-specific installation of natural and personal disaster, wounded and celebratory, made up of multiple large paintings and sculptures.



## MASTA MY LANGUAGE

**November 12, 2021 - April 16, 2022**

New work by Artist Nyugen Smith based in New Jersey, New York Curated by DASH [Guest Curator Program]

Masta My Language is an ongoing, multi-part project that includes original poetry, mixed-media works on paper, sculpture/ installation, performance art, and experimental musical scores. The project began with an original poem, "A Letter Home Hoping to Reach You Soon." The poem reflects the artist's desire to further create connections, a deeper understanding and knowledge of his Haitian ancestry.

# 2021 PUBLIC PROGRAMS



## OFF-SITE EXHIBITIONS:

### DIFFERENT/FIT

**September 10, 2021 – December 11, 2021**

In partnership with Mobile Medical Museum, ACAC is organizing a satellite exhibition of newly commissioned site-specific work addressing the difficult history of eugenics in Alabama, and the generation lost to individuals with disabilities living through a time and culture that deemed them 'unfit'. Artists include MERILEE CHALLISS, CHRIS LAWSON and CAREY FOUNTAIN.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

### ALABAMA'S LENGTHENING CHAIN

**September 30, 2021**

The Intersection of Citizenship, Medicine, and Law in Dr. William D. Partlow's Commitment to Eugenics in Alabama 1901-1935. Talk by Susan Ashmore.

### RESISTING ERASURE

**October 14, 2021**

Talking Disability Activism and the fight for self-determination. Panel Discussion with Jen Deerinwater and Sarah Youngbear

### VERDANT FUND INFO SESSIONS

Digital- June 10, 2021 and in-person May 5 | Information sessions are in-person presentations and workshop environments to give you an in-depth look at the funding application process and priority areas. It is a chance for artists to ask questions about the application process and funding area priorities. The Virtual information sessions follow a webinar format that also allows participants to ask questions and interact.



### EMPTY THE SHELTERS | AN ADOPTION EVENT

**May 7th & May 8th 2021** | Alabama Contemporary teamed up with Mobile Cat Society and Bissel Pet Foundation to host a 2 day adoption event where they had cats and dogs ready for adoption for the discounted adoption fee of \$25! All animals were spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and microchipped.

### THE WILD ONES | AN EXPERIMENTAL FILM SCREENING

**April 9, 2021** | Join us during April ArtWalk for this screening of experimental and a little bit out there animated short films! These works have been pre-selected for the Mobile Animated Film



# 2021 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Festival, coming Fall 2021. This screener will feature 9+ national and international shorts in varying mediums and will be screened in the Video Gallery at Alabama Contemporary Art Center. This one isn't for the kiddos (stay tuned for a kid-friendly screener coming this Summer!) and is sure to be a wonderfully colorful experience.

## WEEKLY YOGA WITH ALISON HERLIHY

**May 11, 2021 - June 29, 2021** | Join us every Tuesday evening at 5:30pm for Yoga at Alabama Contemporary! Yoga at ACAC is a beginner-friendly, all levels class for anyone who wants to explore the mind-body connection of yoga, in a beautiful art-filled space. Class is FREE, but you need to bring your own water and mat. Masks must be worn at all times while you are in the gallery, except when you are on your mat. Class will be led by instructor, Alison Herlihy, registered yoga teacher (RYT-200). Alison Has taught at Glow Yoga and the Moorer YMCA for several years and has been an active practitioner of yoga for over 20 years.

## THE YOUNG ONES | AN ANIMATED FILM SCREENING

**July 10, 2021** | Join us for a curated selection of all-age friendly screening of shorts from the 2021 Mobile Animated Film Festival!

## FILM SERIES: GORDON PARKS

**July 16, 2021 - November 19, 2021** | On three separate evenings at 6:30pm we will present Gordon Parks related film screenings: SHAFT (1971), LEADBELLY (1976), & THE LEARNING TREE (1969), free to the public. Throughout the summer and fall of 2021, ACAC will partner with the Mobile Museum of Art to screen a series of films directed by the famed photojournalist Gordon Parks. These events will be in conjunction with MMoA's special exhibition *Gordon Parks: Segregation Story in Mobile, 1956*.

## TALK AND TOUR WITH MICHELLE JONES

**July 30, 2021** | Join us for an artist talk and gallery tour of *New Island* with artist Michelle Jones!

## A PUNKHOUSE IN THE DEEP SOUTH | BOOK TOUR

**October 6, 2021** | Join us in the 3rd Floor Terrace Room on October 6th at 6pm as authors Aaron Cometbus and Scott Satterwhite discuss their new book, "A Punkhouse in the Deep South; The Oral History of 309". Books will be available for purchase on-site.

## 4TH ANNUAL MOBILE ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL

**October 23, 2021** | Join us Saturday, October 23th for the 4th Annual Mobile Animation Film Festival, located in the Video Gallery at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center! Each year, it is MAFF's goal to present the best of student, national, and international animation to the community of Mobile, Alabama. The showcase is internationally scoped and dedicated to presenting animations in a variety of mediums, genres, and styles.

## NEU DAWN 3 (ANNUAL)

**October 10, 2021** | Neu Dawn is a cross disciplinary collaboration started by Courtney Matthews in which each installation will feature a multi-media artist creating a one-of-a-kind backdrop, while a fashion designer creates a costume, and (pre-covid) a hair and makeup artist to design the finishing touches culminating in 10-15 large scale immersive fashion installations. This year, a one-of-a-kind sound experience created by Trey Lane played at each installation.

## TALK AND TOUR WITH JENNY DAY

**December 17, 2021, August 20, 2021** | Join us for an artist talk and gallery tour of *Dazzle and Degrade* with artist Jenny Day!



## BLACC

### THE BLACK LIFE ARTS AND CULTURE COALITION

is a subcommittee of ACAC's Board of Directors, working to realize public-facing projects that lift up Black artists and voices in the Mobile community, in line with the ACAC mission and in pursuit of equity and accountability in the arts.

Teaching Artist	Dates	Time
Ira Bates	March 17 & March 24, 2022	4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Henri MrGuire	March 24 & March 31, 2022	4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Vincent Lawson	April 2 and April 9, 2022	10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**Photography Workshops – March 17, March 24, March 31, April 2, April 6, April 9, and April 13, 2022. The classes took place in community centers around the city of Mobile including Hillsdale, Seals, Dotch, and Hope Community Centers. Attendance total: 48 people Artists Served: 4 Photographers**

### 2022 PHOTOVOICE PROJECT:

Mobile, Alabama presents itself as a city with a proud tradition of public art and culture—the Downtown Business District and other prosperous areas of the city are filled with art and culture. But even though the city's population is over 50% Black, very little of the publicly visible art in the city celebrates Black life and culture. Through this project, the Black Life Arts and Culture Coalition (BLACC) aims to work in collaboration with the Black communities of the city to change the landscape of Mobile's artistic and cultural representation to better represent the diversity of our city and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Black communities.



The cornerstone of our undertaking is a photovoice project. Photovoice is a research methodology used often in the social sciences to aid in better understanding of the challenges faced within a community. In our use of photovoice, we will place cameras into the hands of people across Mobile's Black communities and invite them to document their answer to the question, "What is Black Life in Mobile?" As we build a collection of photographs taken by Black Mobilians of all ages, genders, classes, abilities, and sexualities in answer to this question, the collection

will foster a wellspring of thought and idea about the experience of Black Life in Mobile. By engaging Black artists and the broader community in dialogue with and creative response to these ideas, we aim to foster and change the landscape of Black artistic and cultural representation in Mobile. The culmination of this project will result in an exhibition of the submitted photos MAY of 2022.

**In 2022 we collected and displayed 255 photos submitted from the community.**

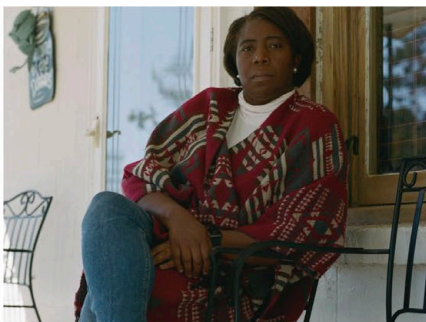
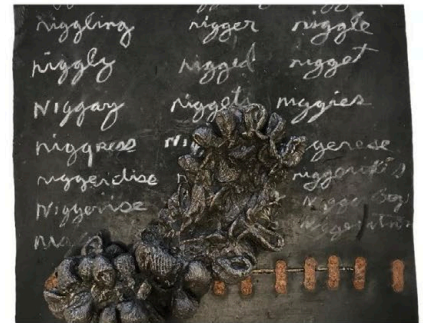
## THE VERDANT FUND PROJECT GRANT

The Verdant Fund is a new project grant that seeks to fund independent artists with site-specific exhibition concepts, independent projects, or new work as it is relevant to the community we serve. An expansion of the Warhol Foundation's Regional Re-granting program, the Verdant Fund supports creative practice born of and within Alabama. Administered through a partnership between Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile, AL), Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL), and Space One Eleven (Birmingham, AL), our goal is to reach a broad range of artists across all geographic areas of the state and expand and support creative practice at the margins.

The Verdant Fund is proud to announce the results of its inaugural re-granting cycle for projects born of and within Alabama. In 2021, Verdant Fund awarded over \$60,000 in grants to Alabama artists creating and presenting outward-facing, community-based projects.

From a highly competitive group of applicants, projects were reviewed by a panel of professionals that ultimately selected the following nine artists to receive up to \$7,000 in funding each, for a grant total of \$60,125. Each project will be supported throughout the year and documented on the Verdant Fund website.

**Visit [Verdantfund.org](http://Verdantfund.org) to check out what was funded in 2021.**



# 2021 INITIATIVES

## **The Verdant Fund is annually supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.**

ABOUT: In accordance with Andy Warhol's will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The Foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol's legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the Foundation has given nearly \$260 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.



## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SOYNIKA EDWARDS-BUSH IS FINISHING OUT HER TWO-YEAR RESIDENCY AT ALABAMA CONTEMPORARY

Alabama Contemporary Art Center (ACAC) is honored to have hosted Soynika Edwards-Bush as artist-in-residence. Bush began her residency August 31, 2020, and will mount her first museum solo exhibition as the culmination of her residency December 9, 2022. Bush is a self-taught artist, mother of four, and wife, born and raised in Prichard. Bush, who is community focused and driven to bring art to her city, has worked alongside Legacy 166 and the Boys and Girls Club to bring art into the lives of children.

The artist-in-residence program is part of an on-going commitment to grow and sustain creative practice in the region. By supporting artists, we support community and culture-building for the South, we re-define both ourselves and what is possible here.

## CARTOGRAPHER RECORDS WE NOW HAVE A FULL SERVICE RECORDING STUDIO ON OUR THIRD FLOOR

Cartographer Records is a record label whose mission is to help small independent artists record and release original music. The organization was founded in 2020 by Bryan Gottshall and James Black as a way to aid musicians seeking to release music in their respective communities of Mobile, AL and New Orleans, LA. The label seeks to give musicians a way to record their music and have it professionally mixed and mastered. Cartographer also guides artists during the release process, helping them explore different distribution channels and physical or digital formats.

### **THE STUDIO:**

Housed on the 3rd floor of Alabama Contemporary, Cartographer Studio pays int rent through an exchange of robust programming commitments including a video concert series and patchwork symphony, administered through the Higher Ground Society, and pays the rest of it's costs through commercial album recording. As full service recording studio, both partnership programming and Cartographer's independent work center around seeding growth in the cultural production of the South.

# 2021 EDUCATION

We have built our education model around providing a space for courageous conversation. By holding space for difference, empathetic communication of ideas, and diverse cultural representation, we play an integral role in building our state's cultural identity, and contributing to human dignity and the cultural esteem of the Deep South. This year we served XX students, hired X teaching Artists and created X new digital education programs

## OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSION:

**To create educational experiences that stimulate critical thinking, dialogue and curiosity for the creation of meaning in the South Alabama community. We support cultural actors that dismantle cultural boundaries and reclaim identities. The education department approaches artistic skill as a communication tool to inspire discussion about the human experience while celebrating diverse, underrepresented voices and uplifting their ideas.**

## K-12 EDUCATION

### *SUMMER ART CAMPS*

ALL THROUGHOUT JULY | \$160 FOR MEMBERS | \$200 FOR NON-MEMBERS

Classes include ceramics, drawing, painting, art appreciation, mixed media projects, and movement.

### **CLAY EXPLORATIONS: INSPIRED BY NATURE | AGES 6-10**

July 5, 2021 - July 9, 2021 | 2 Artists and 10 Students

Campers are encouraged to think creatively using clay, paint, mixed media, and movement to create artwork inspired by nature.

### **TEEN ART SAMPLER | AGES 11-14**

July 12, 2021 - July 16, 2021 | 2 Artists and 11 students

Students create and play using everyday objects and experiment with different art mediums including watercolor, sketching, illustration, mixed media, and Japanese ink.

### **CHILDREN'S ART SAMPLER | AGES 6-10**

July 19, 2021 - July 23, 2021 | 2 Artists and 10 Students

Campers will use hands-on sculpture techniques to create mini animals, coil-built pots and vessels, and more.

### **GRAFFITI, REMIX, AND RECYCLE | AGES 9-13**

July 27, 2021 - July 31, 2021 | 2 Artists and 10 Students

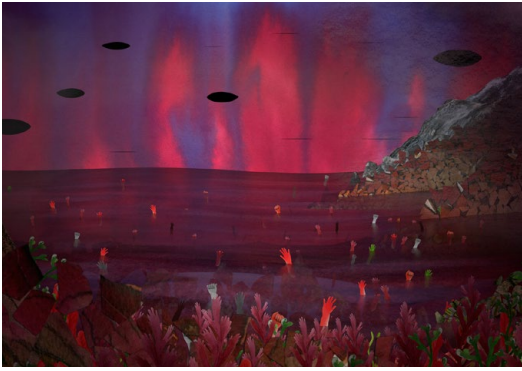
Art making that explores the student's identity, using mixed media and recycled materials to make a one of a kind artwork. Students learn about the history of graffiti, and learn how to discuss public art pieces through artist led critique.

### **SPRING BREAK ART CLUB**

with Soynika Edwards Bush. Attendance: 9 students

### *FIELD TRIPS*

Alabama Contemporary field trips focus on the four areas of **Discipline-Based Arts Education: arts production, art history and culture, criticism and aesthetics**, and **core curriculum standards**. Alabama Contemporary educators engage students using a cross-curriculum strategy that incorporates multi-sensory learning methods. Our guided tours and teacher resources are designed to light the fire of creativity and imagination in students of all ages.



**Girl Scout Troop 8716:** Merit badge, 15 Scouts, January 21, 2022

**Alabama School of Math and Science:**

- Art Class, 35 high school art students, October 28, 2021
- Gender Studies Class: 20 high school students, February 15, 2022
- Allies Club, 10 high school students, May 21, 2022.

**Columbus State University- Art department:** 23 undergraduate sophomores and juniors, March 15, 2022

**Taylor White and Tanner Williams Elementary:** Gifted Students Program, 48 Students, 21 Chaperones.



**ROVING FIELD TRIPS**

BEGINNING FALL 2021 | VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Roving Field Trips, a tool for educators and students that have been isolated from museums and the excitement and stimulating experiences they provide. Roving Field Trips will allow teachers to bring the gallery to their classrooms, provide inquisitive learning tools for art creation, and introduce lesson plans that relate to current topics while following national and state learning standards.

**June 8, 2021** - Presentation about Temper and Conduct, 6 children.

**Jun 15, 2021** - Soynika Painting Class at Washington County Public Library

**Jun 28, 2021** - Presentation about Temper and Conduct, snake drawing art class for 20 children at Washington County Public Library

**July 10, 2021** - Ben May Library presentation about Sofia Cordova

**Monthly** - at Ben May Library starting in March 2022, during their STEAM Club Attendance: 5 children



**ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SATELLITE OUTREACH**

July 15, 2021 - 1 Artist and 20 Students

Soynika Edwards Bush, ACAC artist in residence, is committed to expanding the reach of her work with the local community, as well as offering art making opportunities for children and adults in areas where the access to arts and culture is limited.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**INTRO TO WHEEL THROWING**

6 WEEKS | SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Fall 2021: 1 Artist, 3 Students

Spring 2021: 1 Artist, 15 Students

Summer 2021: 1 Artist, 7 Students

Teachers: Bronco Sloan, Mary Cave, and Jenny Williams

## INTRO TO HAND BUILDING

6 WEEKS | SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

Fall 2021: 1 Artist, 3 Students

Spring 2021: 1 Artist, 15 Students

Summer 2021: 1 Artist, 7 Students

Teachers: Bronco Sloan, Mary Cave, and Jenny Williams

## WORKSHOPS:

### INTUITIVE PAINTING W/ MICHELLE JONES

August 15, 2021

During this three-hour intensive we will pour, splash, tear, and wash our way into paintings to find the freedom that comes from relying on happenstance and chance for direction. Jones will demonstrate her painting process and will lead you to create the initial surfaces and then find gems that are waiting within those drips of paint.

### CLAY ANIMAL SCULPTURES W/ JENNY DAY

December 18, 2021

Participants created an animal of their choice using hand-building techniques with clay. Topics covered will include the breakdown of a form into parts, pinching, coiling, slabs, and attachment of multiple clay pieces.

### MASK MAKING WITH JENNY DAY & LIFELINES COUNSELING

December 19, 2021

Students made and decorated papier Mache masks using paint, paper, and fabric. Students also received a one-on-one tour with Jenny Day where they discussed and interpreted the artwork presented in the exhibit.

### TEACHER TRAINING

BIANNUAL | SPRING, FALL

Spring Information Session March 24, 2021. 7 Students

Offered biannually, this training session brings the world of art to classrooms to enhance curriculum and improve students' critical thinking skills. Programs offer innovative methods to connect Alabama Contemporary exhibitions with learning objectives across History, Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. Participants of this FREE professional development workshop are eligible for 4 SARIC CEUs.



# 2022 EXHIBITIONS



JAN 14 - MAR 26, 2022

## **TENDER IS OUR SKIN**

Guest Curated by Hannah Israel (Columbus, GA), in partnership with the Do Good Fund, *Tender is our Skin* is an exhibition of photographs, films, videos, and voices by artists whose work explores the intimate moments of coming of age. The selection of works focuses on individual narratives and contemplates how stereotypes are shaped in our society. Through the artist lens and voices the exhibition challenges how society defines the concept of identity and kinship and questions how traditional rites of passage have changed over time, influenced by social climate, history, and environmental changes.

Artist List:

Jill Frank | Peyton Fulford | Preston Gannaway | Titus Brooks Heagins  
Stacy Kranitz | Baldwin Lee | Celestia Morgan | Bill Yates

FEB 11 - APR 23, 2022

## **MOONMENT**

### **New Work by SIZHU LI**

Responding to the global pandemic, a site-specific immersive exhibition project *Moonment* (Moon-Moment) is an independent solo exhibition at Alabama Contemporary Art Center. The motivation of this project is from a Chinese poem by Tang Dynasty poet Jiuling Zhang: 'When the moon rises above the sea level, people no matter where they are, see the moon and connect to each other by sharing the moonlight of that moment.' Inspired by the idea of the moon, in this work a "heart" with beating sounds is created, together with metallic moving waves. People see the heart, hear the sound, thereby connecting to the ones they love beyond distances.



MAY 13 - JUL 9, 2022

## **ANCESTRAL LIGHT SERIES**

### **New Work by TONY BINGHAM**

In 2012, Bingham spent a week with a family in Africatown. While there, he began making connections and capturing pinhole images of the people and sites. The house he stayed in served as a makeshift darkroom and film changing space for his cameras. He visited the fishing holes, graveyards, archeological sites, creeks and churches. The work was almost incidental, Bingham was primarily on a journey without an outcome in mind, and stumbled into a body of work that begins to document the rich history of a profoundly important place, that few seemed to know of at the time.



MAY 13 - AUG 20, 2022

## **FLASHING THE LEATHER**

Guest Curated by Aaron Levi Garvey, *Flashing the Leather* is an exhibition of contemporary art using baseball as a point of reference and inspiration over the last 25 years since the infamous baseball strike of 1994. Works included in the exhibition revolve around the notions of baseball, its archetypes, the superstitions within the game and the use of baseball objects as an artist's medium. The exhibition includes painting, installation and single channel video installation.

Artist List:

Baseball Card Vandals (Bryan and Beau Abbott) | David Bordett  
Noah Breuer | Tommy Coleman | Bobby Davidson | Daniel Newman  
Tony Rodrigues | Raymond Pettibon | Howardena Pindell  
Sheida Soleimani | Miles Warner

# 2022 EXHIBITIONS



JUN 10 - AUG 27, 2022

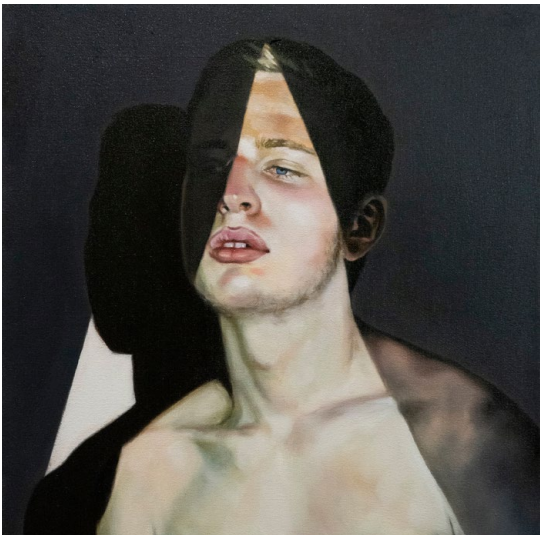
## **SURPLUS IN PANTOMIME**

Guest Curated by Y. Malik Jalal (GA)

Inspired by Ben Vereen's 1981 tribute performance to the great black vaudevillian Bert Williams at the Reagan inaugural gala, *Surplus in Pantomime* contextualizes abstraction in the broader conversation of black identity. Pantomime, in Jalal's view, is a vantage point from which to view how the gestures of black artists become loaded with cultural assumptions often beyond the artist's intent. "The creative and cultural work of black folks exists in the abstract," Jalal writes, describing a specific relationship to form that is "never neutral". Through the work of five artists, Jalal explores what the politics and possibilities are in making work from a fraught and complicated place of interdependence on material culture. *Surplus In Pantomime*, through collage on textile, pigment on canvas, and twisted and shaped forms, leverages ambiguity to signal the psychological state of black folks, and reclaim the gesture.

Artist List:

Caleb Jamel Brown | Rosa P. Duffy | Jaymerson Payton  
Zeke Wright Robinson | Hansani Sahlehe



AUG 12 - OCT 29, 2022

## **THE LOST CAUSE**

**New Work By BRANDON DEAN (OH)**

*The Lost Cause* merges tropes from art history and contemporary image culture to construct an alternate reality that critiques representations of race and masculinity, ultimately exploring "history" as a malleable and inherently creative enterprise. The work reimagines elements of American history with a new mythology replete with iconography that subverts the white male gaze.

SEP 9 - NOV 26, 2022

## **SUAVE CON LOS EMBUSTES**

**(EASY ON THE BULLSH\*T)**

**NEW WORK BY ELSA MARÍA MELÉNDEZ**

Mounting her first solo exhibition in the United States, Elsa María Meléndez (Born 1974, Caguas, Puerto Rico) is a printmaker and creator of installations where she incorporates embroidery, stitch, and large amounts of synthetic materials. The iconography in her work shows features of the Puerto Rican idiosyncrasy and summarizes debates that respond to uncertainty faced with cultural destruction, exhaustion of human relations, the decline in public policy, and lack of gender equality.



SEP 9 - NOV 26, 2022

## **BETWEEN THE SNAKES**

Guest Curated by curatorial collective Triptych Arts, *Between the Snakes* is an exhibition that looks at the different codices of Black folk magic and its widespread international iterations that continue to challenge Eurocentric modernist binaries. Triptych Arts is a curatorial collective that explores the social role and revisionist potentials of art to build spaces of mutual understanding. Founded in October 2018 by three curators: Piper Ross Ferriter, Jacqueline Kok, and Amanda Lee.

Artist List:

Kathia St. Hilaire | Maria De Los Angeles | Rodriguez Jiminez | Mary Valverde | Manuel Mathieu



# 2022 EXHIBITIONS



OCT 11 - DEC 31, 2022

## **SOMETIMES THEY LISTEN**

**Site-specific installation by AKIKO ICHIKAWA**

Since July 2018, I've been collecting all of the un-recyclable, non biodegradable stuff (usually of plastic but also the hybrid material that lids and covers are made of) that encases the food, art, and other products I buy to maintain my life and art practice in Brooklyn. Entitled *Sometimes They Listen*, for the ongoing action, I have been mailing tailored letters to these manufacturers and distributors, asking them to replace their current packaging, which now includes "recyclable" #1 and #2 containers and plastic as in practice they are not recycled except in places like San Francisco. I often times give concrete suggestions, while performatively pushing a polemic via the recently-lost craft of personal correspondence while providing a social service and supporting the U.S. Postal Service. I use art to shed journalistic light on specific companies, plastic's use in advertising, the names of cities and towns most have never heard of, and which states/provinces produce this kind of trash (it is hardly limited to red states)."

- Excerpt from Proposal, Akiko Ichikawa, 2020



NOV 11, 2022 - JAN 31, 2023

## **EX TABULA RASA**

**Site-specific installation by SALLY HELLER (LA)**

*EX-Tabula RASA* represents a different trend of thought; we live in an age rife with data overflow, convenience, and product-laden desire. Constantly fed with artificial intelligence, social media and communication in the form of code, we are taking in, accessing and ejecting new and old ideas every minute. Our bank of knowledge is forever mutable. We are anything but blank slates. Avienna of the 11th century said: "Knowledge is attained through "empirical familiarity with objects in this world from which one abstracts universal concepts." When viewers enter *EX-Tabula RASA*, they will be asked to discard preconceptions and experience a transformed reality. Objects are not what they seem.



## 2022 PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

### **BODY LANGUAGE**

April 8, 2022, 8pm | Concurrent with his solo show *Masta My Language*, Nyugen E. Smith in collaboration with the Mobile-based artist, Ottie James, will present a new performance work titled *Body Language*. This new work synthesizes matter embedded in Smith's *Masta My Language* series such as poetry, improvisation, language, heritage, sound, and the body. It also draws from Adam Pendleton's disruptive 'Black Dada' theory and the European Dadaist movement of the early 20th century.

### **THE WELL BORN' SCIENCE:**

**April 28, 2022**

Assessing the Legacy of Eugenics in America. Talk by Dr. Paul A. Lombardo. In honor of the multi-site partnership exhibition with Mobile Medical Museum, *DIFFERENT/FIT*, medicolegal historian Dr. Paul A. Lombardo will present a free Zoom lecture on April 28, 6 - 7 p.m. More than 100 different laws were passed in the United States during the twentieth century, at both the federal and state

# 2022 PROGRAMS

level, that reflected ideas associated with the eugenics movement. This presentation will survey those ideas and the various ways they were absorbed in the country's political and legal culture.

## THE WILD ONES; MOBILE ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL PRE SCREENER

May 13, 2022 7:30-8:30 | Join us during May ArtWalk for this screening of experimental and a little bit out there animated short films! These works have been pre-selected for the Mobile Animated Film Festival, coming Fall 2022. This screener will feature 9+ national and international shorts in varying mediums and will be screened in the Video Gallery at Alabama Contemporary Art Center.

## COMMUNITY CAT CARE: BOTTLE FEEDING 101

June 4, 2022 10:00-12:30 | Join us at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center on June 4th as we walk you through the life-saving tips, tricks, and techniques behind bottle feeding baby kittens. This event is FREE and we welcome ALL AGES. We will be joined by one of our bottle feeders, and practice manager of Highlands Vet Hospital, Gen Ring.

## FUCK-UP NIGHTS (MONTHLY EVENT)

June 23, 2022-December 23, 2022 | Failure is a part of any success story, but we don't talk about it enough. We've all been to plenty of events where people tell you how they hacked, hustled, and created their success, but very few where someone gets up and says "I totally messed up, and this is what you can learn from it." Fuckup Nights is a global speaker series where stories of failed businesses and projects are told, questioned, and celebrated. Each speaker is given 10 minutes and is able to use 10 images. After each speaker, there's a Q&A session, as well as time for mingling and drinks!

## TALK AND TOUR WITH AARON LEVI GARVEY

TBD | Join us for an curator talk and tour of his exhibition Flashing the Leather featuring an in-depth presentation on Art and Baseball.

## NEU DAWN 4 (ANNUAL)

December 3, 2022 | Neu Dawn is a cross-disciplinary collaboration started by Courtney Matthews in which each installation will feature a multimedia artist creating a one-of-a-kind backdrop, while a fashion designer creates a costume, and a hair and makeup artist to design the finishing touches culminating in 10-15 large scale immersive fashion installations. This year, a one-of-a-kind sound experience created by Trey Lane played at each installation.

## 5TH ANNUAL MOBILE ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL

October 18, 2022 | Join us Saturday, October 23th for the 4th Annual Mobile Animation Film Festival, located in the Video Gallery at the Alabama Contemporary Art Center!



# ACAC BY THE NUMBERS:

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>FY2019-20</b>	<b>FY2020-21</b>
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	5,782*	6,632
SCHOOLS SERVED	146	22*
YOUTH BENEFITING	829*	300*
ARTISTS BENEFITING	238	196
TEACHERS BENEFITING	127	127

\* Reflects a loss in attendance due to the COVID 19 pandemic and cancellation of in-person summer education programming

<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>	<b>FY2019-20</b>	<b>FY2020-21</b>
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$498,160.00	\$578,078.00
PROGRAMMING EXPENSES	\$62,612.00	\$52,100.00
SALARIES	\$241,921.00	\$274,824.00
ARTIST AND TEACHER PAY	\$21,485.00	\$121,199.00
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$172,142.00	\$129,905.00

<b>ANNUAL INCOME</b>	<b>FY2019-20</b>	<b>FY2020-21</b>
INDIVIDUAL GIVING	\$16,123.00	\$17,078.00
MUNICIPAL SUPPORT	\$200,000.00	\$215,000.00
GRANT SUPPORT	\$132,565.00	\$238,700.00
CORPORATE GIVING/ SPONSORSHIPS	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
PROGRAM & FACILITY INCOME	\$86,587.00	\$89,367.00

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## COME VISIT

301 CONTI STREET  
MOBILE, AL 36602  
251.208.5671

**HOURS**  
Wednesday-Saturday  
11 - 5 PM

ADMISSION BY DONATION

ALABAMAContemporary.org

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Alabama State Council on the Arts

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Karlos Finley Attorney at Law, Municipal Court Judge