

ART. UNITY. JUSTICE.



**MSU SOCIAL JUSTICE
ART FESTIVAL**

**January 24, 2020 | 12:00-7:00 PM
Snyder/Phillips Hall**

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:00 PM

OPENING CEREMONY

*Opening Remarks by
Dean Esquith (RCAH) &
Associate Dean Racioppi (JMC)
Recital of Dr. Maya Angelou's Poem
"Still I Rise"
Rules of Engagement & Voting Rules
RCAH Theater (Terrace Level)*

1:00 PM

FESTIVAL BEGINS

*See lineup on page 4 for details
RCAH Theatre & Lobby (Terrace Level)
2nd Floor Display Cases
Classrooms (2nd Floor)*

**1:00 PM-
5:00 PM**

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, CREATING STORIES

*See page 6 for details
Room C301 (3rd Floor)*

**2:00 PM-
3:00 PM**

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE: UNIVERSAL ARCHIVE EXHIBIT

*See page 6 for details
Lookout Gallery (2nd Floor)*

5:00 PM

FEATURED PERFORMANCE

*James Gardin - see page 12
RCAH Theater (Terrace Level)*

6:00 PM

CLOSING CEREMONY

*Announcement of Award Winners
RCAH Theater (Terrace Level)*

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

PUSH BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Very simply put, growth and comfort cannot coexist. If you feel yourself getting a bit uncomfortable in certain moments, take time to reflect, engage with the content, and connect with why you're uncomfortable. It is in these moments, where growth happens.

TAKE A MOMENT WHEN YOU NEED IT

Have you found that engaging in conversations around social justice can be both exhilarating and exhausting? Don't worry, you're not alone! Today's Social Justice Art Festival may include conversation and art pieces around challenging topics. While we invite you to remain engaged, we also know that you may need to take a break throughout the day to disconnect and then reengage. If you need a moment... take it.

ART IS A PERSONAL EXPRESSION

Throughout the day you will see various forms of art, each uniquely designed to convey a very personal message about social justice. As you engage throughout the day, keep in mind that each piece is coming from a deeply personal space and lived experience. We may not always agree or experience the same things in life, but today is a fantastic opportunity to grow and see the world through someone else's art.

DON'T STOP HERE

While the Social Justice Art Festival is a single event, happening on a single day, we invite you to take your thoughts, feelings, questions, and ideas with you. Today is just a starting point! Real social justice requires action.... What will you do next?

LINEUP

RCAH THEATER LOBBY (TERRACE LEVEL)

Beginning at 1:00 PM

Beauty Boxed In
Meredith Bieber

**Visual Art
Installation**

Our Rainbow
Abigail Barnum

**Visual Art
Photography**

2ND FLOOR

Beginning at 1:30 PM

Gabriella Joy Acosta
Raquel Acosta

**Visual Art
Drawing**

***Weighted down but moving
forward***
China Tolbert

**Visual Art
Drawing**

Brown Baby
Lillian Young

**Visual Art
Painting**

Raw Reality
Alexa Magsoudi

**Visual Art
Mixed Media**

2ND FLOOR

Beginning at 3:00 PM

Clothes Can't Consent*
Maddy Eischer

**Visual Art
Mixed Media**

Defense, An Example
Madeline Smith

**Visual Art
Mixed Media**

***Love and Support People Who
Have Uteruses****
Madeline Smith

**Visual Art
Installation**

#MeToo*
Tiffanie Quinn

**Visual Art
Mixed Media**

Parkland*
Vanessa Curtis

**Visual Art
Painting**

Blue Black
Azya Moore

**Visual Art
Photography**

** denotes sensitive content*

LINEUP

RCAH THEATER

Beginning at 1:30 PM

Anecdotes of Womanhood

Maddy Eischer

Black Realizing

Azya Moore

State of the Union*

Jake Giuliana

A Journey Speaks Volumes

Hakeem Weatherspoon

Religion*

Lauren Driscoll

Performance

Poetry

Visual Art

Digital Art

Performance

Music

Visual Art

Mixed Media

Performance

Spoken Word

RCAH THEATER

Beginning at 3:30 PM

On the Banks of the Red Cedar

Montgomery Smith

What is your World?

Spencer Arias

Gay Shame: Quite the Drug!*

Aaron Applebey

Black Girl Awakened

Arzelia Williams

Visual Art

Digital Art

Performance

Music

Performance

Spoken Word

Performance

Spoken Word

ROOM C301

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Writing Center @ MSU Presents Connecting Communities, Creating Stories*

LOOKOUT GALLERY

2:00 - 3:00 PM

William Kentridge: Universal Archive Exhibit

RCAH THEATER

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Closing Ceremony Presented by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union

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WORKSHOPS AND FEATURED EVENTS

Connecting Communities, Creating Stories

Writing Center @ MSU

Connecting Communities, Creating Stories is a Community Composing Project sponsored by the Writing Center @ MSU. Everyone has a story to tell, and we're here to listen! Our goal is help our community find commonalities and a love of our differences through the telling and listening of story. Please visit our station to tell us your story. We'll record it and place along the stories of many others in the Lansing community on our website, communitycomposing.org.

Universal Archive

William Kentridge

William Kentridge: Universal Archive presents a series of 79 linocut images printed onto pages from dictionaries and encyclopedias. The images (trees, coffee pots, cats, typewriters, birds, horses, nudes, self-portraits) are frequent characters in the artist's visual lexicon, and range from highly descriptive to gestural abstractions. The images are printed over columns of text that become part of the visual dialogue. This interplay of text and images serves as a metaphor for the interaction between rational and creative processes.

Internationally acclaimed, South African artist William Kentridge has a vast body of interrelated work in drawing, printmaking, sculpture, film, theatre, opera, and puppetry. His interdisciplinary approach to art is most often political. Born and raised in Johannesburg, Kentridge witnessed the conditions of pre-and post-apartheid life. The artist notes: "I am interested in a political art, that is to say an art of ambiguity, contradiction, uncomplicated gestures, and uncertain endings".

VISUAL ART

#MeToo*

Tiffanie Quinn

Apparel and Textile Design and Studio Art - College of Arts & Letters

In this piece, online testimonies and stories of sexual assault survivors are repeatedly pasted onto a wood cutout of open legs. The repetition of the readable testimonies represents the memories and reminders that a survivor of sexual assault has to live with everyday.

Beauty Boxed In

Meredith Bieber

Graphic Design - College of Arts & Letters

Every culture around the world has a set of beauty standards. Rather than celebrating unique and diverse beauty, society tells women they must fit the standard to be considered beautiful. All are invited to sit in the box and reflect on this question: "When have beauty standards boxed you in?"

Black Realizing

Azya Moore

Studio Art - College of Arts & Letters

This series relates to social justice because it addresses the treatment and discussion around native students on the MSU campus. By bringing this environment and conflict to the view of the public it introduces a call to action for our university community.

Blue Black

Azya Moore

Studio Art - College of Arts & Letters

The notion of being Blue Black is the physical appearance of a person(s) of color whose skin has gone so beyond Black that it gives off a blue tint. This work connects to social justice as it explores the concepts of being Black within Amerika.

Brown Baby

Lillian Young

Studio Art - College of Arts & Letters

Brown Baby is a memorial for 17 of the many Black children that have been murdered because of racism and police brutality. Each portrait is painted in a different color and has the eyes crossed out to represent how these children's identities are take away after their death to represent a movement.

Clothes Can't Consent*

Maddy Eischer

Apparel & Textile Design and Genomics/Molecular Genetics - College of Arts & Letters and College of Natural Science

Inspired by the original "What Were You Wearing?" Survivor Art Installation created by Jen Brockman and Dr. Mary Wyandt-Hiebert at the University of Arkansas, this series of croquis-style drawings depicts the variation in outfits worn by survivors during their sexual assaults.

Defense, An Example

Madeline Smith

Art Education and Museum Studies - College of Arts & Letters

This piece is a combination of found objects and a designed infographic. Its purpose is to highlight the everyday tools that rebels across the world, but particularly in Hong Kong, are using to effectively fight back against oppression.

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VISUAL ART

Gabriella Joy Acosta

Raquel Acosta

International Relations and Spanish - James Madison College

"Gabi" is multi-racial, she is deaf, and she does have Down Syndrome. She is also the most, kind, compassionate, and beautiful soul to ever walk this earth. An individual's social identity has never stopped her from loving and caring for them with all she has, and I am proud to call her my sister.

Love and Support People Who Have Uteruses*

Madeline Smith

Art Education and Museum Studies - College of Arts & Letters

This piece is a large banner painted with hearts and the phrase "Love and Support People Who Have Uteruses." This banner was made and used to counteract a large anti-abortion, alt-right group that organized on MSU's campus in October 2019.

On the Banks of the Red Cedar

Montgomery Smith

Chemical Engineering - College of Engineering

This series relates to social justice because it addresses the treatment and discussion around native students on the MSU campus. By bringing this environment and conflict to the view of the public it introduces a call to action for our university community.

Our Rainbow

Abigail Barnum

Comparative Cultures and Politics and Social Relations and Policy - James Madison College

My LGBTQ+ photo series is meant to advocate for equality on the basis of sexual orientation. My photos show an environment where people of all sexualities can feel at peace with themselves and extend the joy brought by this open mindedness.

Parkland*

Vanessa Curtis

Comparative Cultures and Politics - James Madison College

This piece depicts Emma Gonzalez and all 17 victims of the February 14th, 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. This event was a turning point- like never before the discussion of gun reform was started by young adults. A new generation is defining activism, reform, and our new United States.

Raw Reality

Alexa Magsoudi

Medicine - College of Osteopathic Medicine

This piece expresses a Native American woman and her dog. It speaks to the colonization and dismantling of Native American community and land by the hands of white people. The woman and dog represent the unity inherent in nature and feeling connected to one's culture admits loss and isolation.

Weighted down but moving forward

China Tolbert

Graphic Design - College of Arts and Letters

This piece shows some of the struggles black women go through daily and have to bare the pain and keep their heads held high.

** denotes sensitive content*

PERFORMANCE ART

Anecdotes of Womanhood

Maddy Eischer

*Apparel & Textile Design and Genomics/Molecular Genetics -
College of Arts & Letters and College of Natural Science*

"Anecdotes of Womanhood" seeks to capture the trials and tribulations of being a woman. From being an object of over-sexualization, to having to be constantly cautious about our surroundings, this poem sheds light on the issues that women deal with in everyday life.

Black Girl Awakened

Arzelia Williams

*Social Relations and Policy and Residential College in Arts and Humanities -
James Madison College and Residential College in Arts and Humanities*

Black Girl Awakened is a spoken word poem that chronicles an individual experience of being unheard and underrepresented in spaces that are predominantly white. The piece serves as a reflection and moment of growth for other black girls who are searching for their voices.

Gay Shame: Quite the Drug!*

Aaron Applebey

*Media & Information, Public Relations, LGBTQ+ Studies, Fiction Filmmaking -
College Communication Arts and Sciences*

The avoidance of shame is a universal, paralyzing force beginning in the personal and radiating outwards. This performance (a reading of two comedically heightened and blunt poems) intends to tango with shame, giving language to the tension I and other queer people may feel.

Religion

Lauren Driscoll

Comparative Cultures and Politics - James Madison College

My piece relates to social justice as it discusses the experiences of sexual assault survivors, navigating systems that continue to act as barriers against healing and support, keeping victims in degraded situations. It further considers hope and identity in a post-assault society.

State of the Union*

Jake Giuliana

Social Work - College of Social Science

State of the Union is a song I wrote that aims to shed light on the various issues that the people of our country face everyday, and to raise our awareness of those issues in the process.

What is your World?

Spencer Arias

Music Composition - College of Music

What is your world is a community-minded project that asked members of the queer community to answer the questions "in a single word, what is your world?" The answers to these questions were then arranged in a collage with a sound world created by the composer.

** denotes sensitive content*

PERFORMERS & JURORS



JAMES GARDIN *Guest Performer*

James Gardin has used his multifaceted skill set of empowering rhymes, fun melodies, energetic stage presence, and deft fashion sense to become the most successful emcee in his hometown of Lansing, Michigan.

His sound has been inspired by Kirk Franklin, Kanye West, Bill Withers, and has a sound akin to Chance The Rapper, Anderson Paak, and Childish Gambino.

He has performed hundreds of shows around the world, amassed thousands of plays and downloads with coverage on top web sites, publications, and radio (HipHopDX, Earmilk, 2DopeBoyz, DJBooth, Paste, The Word Is Bond, Rapzilla, Lansing State Journal, Grungecake, Respect Mag, Sphere of Hip-Hop, and many more.). He has also had songs featured on ads for Tommy Hilfiger, Facebook, TMobile, ESPN, Fox Sports, GaryVee TV, and Black&SexyTV. He has also shared the booth and the stage with artists such as Grieves, Macklemore, Dessa, Murs, Talib Kweli, Astronautalis, KING, and many more. James aims to use his art and message to inspire all those around him to live their life fully, and encounter their purpose daily.

MATT BOYD

Juror

Matt Loy Boyd is a multidisciplinary artist and arts educator working within the Lansing/East Lansing area. Originally from Northwest Arkansas, he began his career in museum education in 2013 at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. After graduating in 2018 with his MFA in Print Media from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Matt Loy Boyd joined the MSU community in his current role as Gallery Educator for University and Adult Audiences at the MSU Broad Art Museum.

In this position, he has worked to help establish the MSU Broad Art Museum as a great campus resource to faculty and students through specific museum interactions and academic integrations. Along with his work as an educator, Matt Loy Boyd continues his individual art practice, showing and producing works that combine elements of printmaking, painting, sculpture and installation in a manner that addresses the limitations of philosophical systems in relation to human experience.



PERFORMERS & JURORS



KATRINA M. DANIELS

Juror

Daniels' academic background includes a BA in Interior Design and a BA in Art History & Visual Culture with a minor in Museum Studies. Daniels is passionate about the arts and the community; her experience includes over ten years in the arts field with particular expertise in gallery settings and community engagement. Daniels grew up in the Lansing area and has lived NYC and abroad before returning to the area.

In her current role she serves as the Exhibitions & Gallery Sales Director at Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center overseeing over 100 Michigan artists in the gallery's exhibitions and public art programs. Daniels has enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors of such organizations as Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. (a local social justice theater) and as the Vice President of Community for the Junior League. Additionally, Daniels jury's Statewide and has twice served as a mentor in the New York Foundation for the Arts Immigrant Artist Mentorship program in Detroit. Daniels is also the co-founder of Project Vermillion, a curatorial collective founded in 2019 that is centered on the intersection of art, architecture and the built environment.

MARK SULLIVAN

Juror

Mark Sullivan is a composer, photographer, and educator. He teaches music composition, computer music, photography, and aesthetic theory. Over the last three decades he has taught scores of young people how to use various media to create imaginative and incisive creative works. He is the Creative Director of Science Gallery Detroit, part of the world's only university network dedicated to public engagement with science and art, and is the co-author of a highly successful set of online courses on photography. His photographs have been published and featured in galleries, books, and magazines in the US, Europe, and Asia. His musical works have been performed around the globe, and range across interdisciplinary scientific and artistic thought. He has served over the last couple of decades numerous times on the selection committee for the selection of candidates for the Excellence in Diversity through Artistic Expression awards, and has been on the College of Music Diversity Committee since its inception.



ABIGAIL TYKOCKI

Juror

Abigail Tykocki (she/her/hers) is a communications specialist for the MSU Department of Theater and faculty in the MSU Arts & Cultural Management Museum Studies program. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from Michigan State and a Masters in Arts Management from Columbia College with an emphasis on performing arts. She has worked in marketing, fundraising and audience development for Vermont Stage Company, Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, and Infamous Commonwealth Theatre.

Abigail has directing credits with Vermont Stage, Girls Nite Out Productions and the Stowe Theatre Guild. She also serves as President of the East Lansing Pinecrest Neighborhood Association and on the Arts Commission for the City of East Lansing.



VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

HOW VOTING WORKS

During the SJAF we want attendees to not only have a good time but we also want you to engage in the voting process. In order to effectively do this, here is what you need to know:

- Voters can only vote for 1 artist per category.
- Voters can only vote once.
- Artists are allowed to vote for their own work.
- Votes can be cast electronically using the following link or QR code: bit.ly/sjafvote2020



All votes must be cast by 5:59 PM on Friday, January 24.

VOTING CATEGORIES

People's Choice Award

The "People's Choice" award will be given to the artist with the best visual or performance art based on overall quality, creativity and relationship to social justice. It will be up to the voters to interpret what those elements mean and to cast a vote for the work that most closely aligns with that personal interpretation.

Most "Out of the Box" Artistic Display/Performance

The "Out of the Box" award will be given to the artist with the most unique artistic concept or creative medium. When voting, voters should consider the originality, effort, level of risk, level of artistry and overall quality of work.

Most Inspiring (Visual Art)

The "Most Inspiring-Visual Art" award will be given to an artist with an entry classified as one of the SJAF approved visual categories. The winning piece will be selected by external committee based on determined rubric.

Most Inspiring (Performance Art)

The "Most Inspiring-Performance" award will be given to an artist with an entry classified as one of the performance categories. The winning piece will be selected by external committee based on determined rubric.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Sponsors:

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Closing Ceremony Sponsor

Special Thanks:

All of the Above Hip Hop Academy
DJ/MC
Ozay Moore and Ess Bee of AOTA Creative

Thank You!

Thank you so much for attending the festival! None of this would be possible without the artists and most importantly, your support. In order to make sure we are meeting the needs of festival attendees we ask that you complete a short festival evaluation which can be found at the following link:

bit.ly/sjafeval2020. Again, thank you for attending the festival, and please make your voice heard!

