

COVID-19 Creative Initiative Grant
Davidson Arts and Creative Engagement
2020

Awards

Student Awards:

- Ariel Chung '21
- Chloe Pitkoff '21, Thatcher Pitkoff '23
- Elizabeth Truluck '22, Samantha Armas '20
- Khalil Adams '22
- Laura Bollock '23
- Lidan Zhang '21
- Sanzari Aranyak '22

Alumni Awards:

- Jaylen Thompson '20
- Maura Tangum '20
- Sarah Mayer '20

Faculty/Student Collaborations Awards:

- Alison Bory, Associate Professor and Chair of Dance
- Sharon Green, Professor of Theatre
- Steve Kaliski, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre, Karli Henderson, Producer and Lecturer, Savannah Deal '19, Zoe Harrison '21
- Rosaline Kyo, Assistant Professor of Art and Chinese Studies, Ashley Ip '22, Cathy Xu '21, Sanzari Aranyak '22, Raven Hudson '21, Yashita Kandhari '22

Faculty Awards:

- Annelise Gorenssek-Benitez, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and Research and Academic Engagement Librarian, Meggie Lasher
- Dasha Chapman, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Student Awards:

Ariel Chung '21

Title: *A Visual Poem on Confessions of Korean Comfort Women*

This is a project experimenting with new theatre platforms, finding these spaces and creating a series of videos that theatrically remodel the confessions of Korean comfort women. Through the final product, I hope Korean comfort women are not just looked at as helpless victims, but courageous survivors who give voice to their trauma.

Chloe Pitkoff '21, Thatcher Pitkoff '23

Title: *Perspective, Moments, Hope, Pandemic*

Thatcher and Chloe have found themselves back at home in Brooklyn, New York, trapped inside and for the first time, able to combine their interests and abilities in music and art.

Collaborating on several animations, we will imaginatively reinterpret and explore various aspects of COVID-19 as we have seen and heard about it from home: telling the stories of objects unable to speak for themselves and other untold tales of how the world is working together in this moment.

Elizabeth Truluck '22, Samantha Armas '20

Title: *The heARTfelt Project*

The heARTfelt Project will serve to spread positivity by selling vibrant, multi-layered abstract paintings among the Davidson community on a virtual platform. All proceeds will go to non-profits and organizations in the Davidson and Charlotte area; aiding those struggling with economic instability, homelessness, and inequalities along with the hardships presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel passionate about helping our community and believe this is possible through creating and sharing artwork.

Khalil Adams '22

Title: [untitled]

This project is a creative, documentary containing three parts 1) a studio album that will showcase the stories of the creators (the rappers, producers, and audio engineers), 2) a “behind the scenes” archive that will capture intimate creative processes within the studio, and 3) a visual art hub that embodies the narrative of the creative community through visual interpretations.

Laura Bollock '23

Title: *Painting Together, Apart*

I plan to ship painting supplies to students interested in painting from home. We would then meet on Zoom as a group to discuss what we are painting and why. After completing the paintings, I would have students who are interested create short videos explaining the significance of their work. Footage from Zoom and these videos would then be cut together to create a piece about how art helps students in times of crisis.

Lidan Zhang '21

Title: *The Grey Area*

A playwright and potentially a staged performance for particular bodies at risk because of COVID-19 situation. I hope that could break into the English-language space and give a chance for the traditional Chinese students to speak for themselves.

Sanzari Aranyak '22

Title: *Solidarity and Protest in The Time of COVID-19*

This project will draw on historic roots of protest posters as popularized in the '60s, which were often screen printed and posted en masse. Looking at this rich history of protest art, I will reimagine the medium of protest posters for different COVID-19 mutual aid and solidarity campaigns, reflecting on the work of local community-based activist networks, such as those in the Triangle that are providing food to people in need.

Alumni Awards

Jaylen Thompson '20

Title: *Music Connects Us All*

Music is an art form that people all over the world turn to in both good and bad times in their lives. In this time of uncertainty, I want to provide a sense of solace, comfort, and healing for the Davidson College global community and many others. My goal is to create a song that could evoke the aforementioned feelings in my listeners and post this song on SoundCloud and YouTube. Afterwards, I will host an Instagram Live with fellow artist, Makayla Binter, and will discuss the importance of art during times of crisis.

Maura Tangum '20

Title: *Objectifying the Interior: Addressing and Dressing Quarantine*

I will create a collection of clothing from hand-designed, digitally printed fabric inspired by the objects and interior spaces of my house while quarantining and social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Sarah Mayer '20

Title: *Cut for Time*

A linocut project about the mental health impacts, community, perceptions of time, and interaction with religion during the current coronavirus and the new social distancing norm. This work hopes to address the experiences that I and other Davidson students have encountered during this pandemic. These print pieces can be enjoyed either individually or all together.

Faculty/Student Collaborations Awards

Alison Bory, Associate Professor and Chair of Dance

Title: *It's 5 o'clock Somewhere/AGA Collaborative*

AGA Collaborative, the trio of dancers/makers with which I have been working since 2011, would like to develop components of our latest performance project, *It's 5 o'clock Somewhere*, on a dedicated website. While this is a project we have been exploring for a few years, we want to make content for a virtual component, exploring and expanding the ideas to live in a digital format and speak to the current moment which seems to pair anxiety and isolation with a push for productivity. Students and alumni will participate in this project through web design and dance performance.

Rosaline Kyo, Assistant Professor of Art and Chinese Studies, Ashley Ip '22, Cathy Xu '21, Sanzari Aranyak '22, Raven Hudson '21, Yashita Kandhari '22

Title: *Navigating the Asian Experience During COVID-19*

In light of the current pandemic, Asian student organizations at Davidson will join together to create a digital platform addressing topics of Asian-ness during COVID-19. The platform will be used to showcase pandemic-inspired art, as well as to document the experiences and thoughts of Asian community members and explore topics on a sociopolitical level. This will include forms and mediums of podcast episodes, journal entries, creative writings, short essays and op-eds, and visual art.

Sharon Green, Professor of Theatre

Title: *"The Count" for Liberal Arts Colleges: Gender, Race, and Representation in Theatre Departments' Production Seasons*

The grant amount awarded will go towards stipends for student participants (divided equally amongst the four). Publishing article in theatre publications.

Steve Kaliski, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre, Karli Henderson, Producer and Lecturer, Savannah Deal '19, Zoe Harrison '21

Title: *Open Scenes, Open Spaces*

This project is an outdoor promenade experience featuring multiple, diverse interpretations of the same piece of text. It will examine how live events can succeed as gathering places while also adhering to rigorous public health guidelines. It will take place on the Davidson campus in August 2020, with an option for another presentation once students return. The work will also be captured digitally for virtual sharing to folks unable and/or unwilling to attend.

<https://www.exit30ensemble.com/>

Faculty Awards

Annelise Gorensek-Benitez, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and Research and Academic Engagement Librarian, Meggie Lasher

Title: *Quilting COVID: Documenting a Pandemic with Thread*

For hundreds of years, quilts have functioned as storytellers and documenters of history. This project proposes inviting members of the Davidson community to commemorate their experiences by creating a quilt square. Annelise Gorensek-Benitez will prepare the finished squares into a quilt, while *Crafternoons* at the Library, headed by Meggie Lasher, will be used to support community members as they create their quilt.

Dasha Chapman, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance

Title: *Finding the Body, Remaking the World: A Series on Movement In and Against Confinement*

How can we feel into moments of crisis and draw inspiration from dance and Africana embodied technologies long-practiced in contexts of duress? In this 4-workshop series, Dr. Dasha Chapman brings 3 different dance scholar-practitioners together to lead movement-discussion workshops that guide participants in exploring, reconfiguring, and reflecting on the possibilities of finding the body in [literal and metaphorical] spaces of confinement. Drawing improvisational practices and creativities from experimental arts practice and Africana frameworks, these workshops will engage movement, writing, dialogue and co-creation to foster new relationships to self, other, space-time, creativity, and survival. Ultimately culminating in collaborative performances, our work together will create community and investigate remaking the world.