

STRATHMORE

WOOLLY
MAMMOTH

PRESENT

**ARTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE
FELLOWSHIP CLASS OF 2022
PROJECT SHOWCASE**

Sunday, July 31, 2022, 4pm



ABOUT THE ARTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

The inaugural class of the **Arts and Social Justice Fellowship** presents their culminating projects in a fascinating multi-media experience.

The fellowship was created in conjunction with Strathmore and Woolly Mammoth's co-presentation of Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. Over six months, eight high school fellows engaged in study, discussions, and creation at the intersection of arts and social change.

Their research and reflection covered Butler's *Parable* novels, as well as many other works and creators including Audre Lorde, Sonic Youth, Terence Trent D'Arby, Danez Smith, Robin DiAngelo, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, the film *Sorry to Bother You*, the TV show *American Gods*, and more.

This will be unlike anything you've ever seen before at Strathmore. Encouraging the students to prioritize process over product, we have created a supportive environment for the fellows to experiment and try new things as they evolve their artistic practice.

Projects explore themes spanning from climate justice to human rights at the southern US border to untold Black history and beyond. You will see striking visual art, portions of original plays and music, multi-media installations, and more. Fellows will also discuss their projects and visions for future work in artistry and activism.

PROJECTS

Ambar Condori-Boughton

Right of Revolution

Linoleum prints

The issue of climate change is becoming more and more prevalent as its effects are intensifying all around the world. With images of more frequent catastrophic natural disasters and frightening projections of the future lighting up our screens, it is easy to feel as though there is no hope for the future. In this work, Ambar challenges the sentiment that nothing can be done to work towards a healthier planet as well as uplift the community.

By carving linoleum blocks, Ambar creates simple, clear images illustrating the power of using the chaos around us as motivation to change. Illustrating herself battling and taming the strongest force of nature we encounter on Earth, the Sun, Ambar illustrates the power we all have within ourselves to enact change despite the obstacles we may face. The rope tethered to the sun is on fire but it stands strong, not fraying or breaking. This represents that the power is in our hands both literally and figuratively, when we use our voices and democratic rights. The use of only black and white shows the idea that direct, strong, and decisive

action is needed from the government to create change and prevent the damage that can be done by climate change both locally and nationally.

Rahimah Hagmagid

Salon Appointment

Painting and collage

A series of multi-media paintings and collages that explore forgotten, unacknowledged, and discredited elements of Black American history. Told through the metaphor of hair, this series delves into the themes of self-expression, loss, pain, resilience, and growth. The series gives a spotlight to stories of Black American history that have been left out of textbooks, erased from media, and hidden from memory.

Sophia Hall

With & Without/Boy With Pearl Earring

Visual arts, poetry, theater

Sophia uses a fusion of written word and performance art to explore identity through different lenses. Her two-pronged project consists of both a chapbook of poetry and a play. Her chapbook *With & Without* examines the concepts of both the universal feeling of absence and the constant presence of anxiety; and it also chronicles the emotions of a teenager in this world of war, poverty, illness. Her 10-minute play *Boy With Pearl Earring* focuses on three different aspects of identity—gender expression, culture, and race—and how they conflict and correspond with each other.

Rose Kepka

Lockdown

Visual arts, spoken word

There have been 27 school shootings this year alone in the US, yet there has been little substantial legislative action to address these violent acts. There is a profound amount of trauma shared by students around the country from these tragedies. However, the psychological aspect of school shootings is often ignored. Many kids do not have the vocabulary to speak about it and youth mental health is only just beginning to be explored by the media. Rose's painting depicts a child during an active shooter drill (often called a lockdown drill). They will also accompany this piece with a spoken word performance. They hope that by depicting the emotional toll that these shootings have on kids they can provide a new lens for approaching this issue and emphasize the need for stricter gun regulation and planning for emergency attacks.

Dani Klein

Section 265

Multimedia visual art

A part of US Health Law—Section 265 of Title 42—was invoked at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to immorally justify expulsions of southern border refugees on the grounds of public health and disease prevention.

Because of this, 1.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers have been turned away at our southern border since the start of the pandemic. It can be challenging to wrap our heads around a number that huge. Dani created a mosaic-style piece to help people understand the sheer size of the number 1.8 million, and therefore understand how many people were put in life-threatening danger, how many families were separated in order to be able to stay safe, how many people's processes to legally seek asylum were rendered useless, and on and on. Each bead on this mosaic represents 100 men, women, and/or children seeking refuge from dangers facing them in the Global South who were unjustifiably turned away by the United States in their search for safety.

Emily Liu

Rise

Multi-media performance

"Rise" explores different mediums, along with the intersectionality of climate change and systemic issues like racism. It emphasizes the power and resilience of the affected communities, and the strength they hold.

The performance includes excerpts from Praeludium and Allegro by Fritz Kreisler, Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26 by Max Bruch, The Girl With Flaxen Hair by Claude Debussy, and Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64 by Felix Mendelssohn.

Featuring Ashley Chan, *voice actor*

Allison Sweeney

"Next Stop, Please"

Theater

This portion of Allison's original play, *Next Stop, Please*, focuses on civil rights-era Louisiana when Black women had begun exercising the right to vote in the mid-1960s. Two young girls, Sadie and Tonya, are just of voting age and have come from completely different worlds. They forge an unexpected friendship caught in the dissonance of the American feminist movement and who it has left behind.

Thanks to Simon Sinnreich, *lighting designer*

Corvid Thomas

Nightmare the Clown's New World Order

Creative writing, visual arts, music

This project is a combination of Corvid's three biggest passions: art, storytelling, and music. With each medium Corvid has tried to shed light on its Black nonbinary experience. Too often Black and queer people are left out of gaming. It's an industry that's heavily focused on cis het white men, but the art pieces Corvid created seek to erode that norm, by redrawing characters from the white-dominated *Five Nights at Freddy's* franchise as Black queer

people. Corvid also continued an old art series called the *Void Project* in the form of a small book, focused on sharing its stories of rage, struggle, and healing through the eyes of fictional characters.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

AMBAR CONDORI-BOUGHTON (she/her) is a rising senior at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC, where she studies traditional and digital arts. Ambar was the runner-up of the 2022 Jazz Appreciation Month poster contest in association with the Smithsonian, and was even given a personal shoutout on Instagram by the Latin jazz star, Paquito D'Rivera, whom she painted for this competition. She also has multiple published artworks in the 2022 Celebrating Art anthology. Working in many mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, and mixed media, the themes of her artwork revolve around her background, personal experiences, and social and environmental justice issues she is passionate about. For example, climate change and protecting the world's oceans is the central theme of many of her recent artworks, as she works to bring awareness to the damaging effects of not taking care of the environment. Recently, Ambar was commissioned to create an artwork for the upcoming "The Art of Women's Health" project in Washington, DC by global healthcare company Organon, in partnership with Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Her piece focuses on how women are disproportionately affected by climate change, and how pollution will affect the future of women's reproductive health. In the future, she aspires to major in environmental science or marine biology in college and blend her love for science and art together.

RAHIMAH HAGMAGID (she/her) is a rising 11th grader at George Washington University Online High School and has always had a passion for all things art. She enjoys painting, drawing, sculpting, writing, and anything that allows her to use her imagination. She lives in Sterling, Virginia, with her large family and can always be found preparing for her next project.

SOPHIA HALL (she/her) is a rising 12th grader at Holton Arms School and has been recognized by the Scholastic Writing Awards, the Library of Congress, Write the World, Worldwide Plays Festival, Writopia Lab, Bethesda Writer's Center, and Ringling College. Sophia views poetry as a tool for social justice and creating societal change. An ambassador of the Harvard Undergraduate International Relations Scholars Program, she cares about foreign policy and public health. She is the news editor of her school paper and produces the weekly satirical school news show *Screen*; she has also performed violin at Strathmore as part of the Levine School of Music Chamber Orchestra.

ROSE KEPKA (she/they/he) is a rising 11th grader at Montgomery Blair High School in the Communication Arts Program. She is an artist specializing in sculpting, collage, and costume design, and is passionate about filmmaking, creative writing, and performing. A member of the school's documentary program Silver Lens and the school's theatre program, Rose is also a Girl Scouts Cadette of Troop 804 where she volunteers for her community and teaches leadership to young scouts.

DANIELA (DANI) KLEIN (she/her) is a rising 11th grader at Walt Whitman High School. She has a passion for social justice and activism along with an avid interest in art. In addition to spending time with friends, traveling, playing sports, listening to music, and eating good food, she enjoys studying politics, philosophy, history, and current events, and is often found engaged in lively debates with family or friends. She looks forward to learning how to make a difference in the world by expressing her creativity.

EMILY LIU (she/her) is a rising 12th grader at Wootton High School, with a passion for advocacy and music. She has been playing the violin for nine years and has been the concertmaster of Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra's (MCYO) Preparatory Strings, Chamber Strings, and Young Artists. Currently, Emily is the Assistant Principal of Second Violins in MCYO's Chamber Ensemble. She became involved with politics and student advocacy last year and has become a co-coordinator for the Montgomery County Green New Deal Internship. She is a part of the executive board for the Montgomery County Regional Student Government Association and serves on the Maryland Association of Student Council's Civic Engagement Committee.

ALLISON SWEENEY (she/her) is a rising 11th grader at Poolesville High School. An avid musical theatre and Shakespeare enthusiast, she enjoys creating works centered around current issues and youth engagement. Since 2020, Allison has been a stage manager and performer with the Free Theatre, a student-led company, learning all facets of theatre-making under the mentorship of industry professionals. As the National Advocacy Director of Innovate X, she's expanded Project Finance, an initiative to equip all students with personal finance education that has several novel branches nationwide. On Generation Ratify, she is a lead organizer in the DMV area to coordinate canvassing events to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

CORVID THOMAS (it/its/itself) is a rising 10th grade Black and nonbinary artist who advocates mainly for Black and queer communities, specifically Black nonbinary people. Corvid enjoys an array of activities such as singing, songwriting, creative writing, drawing, theatre, playing Dungeons and Dragons, and creating wearable artwork, among many others. The young artist's drive for activism is channeled through art which displays the struggles of facing racism and transphobia, as well as the joy of being Black and queer.

STAFF AND FACILITATORS

Lead Facilitator: Amoja Sumler

Co-Facilitators: Amin Drew Law and Kita Marshall

Strathmore

Lauren Campbell, *Vice President of Education and Community Engagement*

Joi Brown, *Vice President of Programming / Artistic Director*

Martita Galindo, *Education and Community*

Program Manager

Lesley Morris, *Director of Mansion and Galleries*

Pablo de Oliveira, *Education and Engagement Manager*

Katie Laakso, *Education Intern*

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Kristen Jackson, *Connectivity Director /*

Associate Artistic Director

Tania Crescencio, *Miranda Family Connectivity Fellow*

Maria Manuela Goyanes, *Artistic Director*

Special Thanks to Our Project Mentors

Lucas Ashby, *music*

Dany Green, *art*

Jeremy Pesigan, *theater*

Emon Surakitkason, *art*

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