Torrance Center for Creativity & Talent Development
Mary Frances Early College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Torrance FESTIVAL of IDEAS

2021
The Torrance Festival of Ideas is a free, virtual cultural event where creative and innovative professionals across fields of human enterprise present their new exciting projects and innovative ideas to the general public.

The inaugural festival, held April 23-25, 2021, showcased 21 speakers presenting their expert views on themes relevant to creativity, imagination, visual art, digital art, music, humor, empathy, consciousness, well-being, mindfulness, childhood, aging, education, equality, identity, healing, health, crisis, curiosity, innovation, entrepreneurship, authenticity, political resistance, and sociocultural change.

The festival also highlighted local non-profit organizations in Athens, Georgia that serve the community in creative and crucial ways.
Contents

02 FEATURED EXPERTS
11 SCHEDULE
12 NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHTS
14 CREATIVE SUBMISSIONS
MINDFULNESS 101
Kizmet Adams

“Mindfulness” has become quite the buzzword these days. What’s all the buzz about? Participants in this workshop will hear about some of the science behind the mindfulness movement and learn two different mindfulness techniques they can begin using immediately to help improve their well-being. There will also be a 10-minute seated yoga practice at the end of the session — open to all fitness levels!

Kiz Adams is a human resource specialist in well-being and human relations at the University of Georgia. She is an advocate on campus for promoting balance and well-being among faculty and staff and for creating a healthy, positive, productive work environment at the University. Kiz is certified in Hogan Personality Assessments, Sherpa Executive Coaching, Real Balance Health and Wellness coaching, and Koru Mindfulness and Meditation training.

Session host: Lenoir Gillam, Department of Counseling and Human Development Services, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

GUSTAV MAHLER (1860-1911): MUSIC AS RELIGION, THEN AND NOW
Harry Ballan

As the European middle classes abandoned religious orthodoxies of all kinds throughout the 19th-century, music especially became a kind of substitute for conventional religious worship, and the concert hall, a substitute church. This talk explores religious themes in several of Mahler’s symphonies, and addresses questions about how he managed to create an atmosphere in which performers and listeners sensed (and still sense) that the music “harbored a meaning,” specifically a religious one, that was relevant and needed to be understood, from the time of their composition and first performances until today.

Harry Ballan is senior director of the Tikvah Fund and the founding dean of the Abraham Lincoln Teachers Fellowship. Harry holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. He clerked for Chief Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He has taught at several leading universities on subjects ranging from law and intellectual history to neuroscience and was dean of Touro Law School before joining Tikvah.

Session host: Jonathan Haddad, Department of Romance Languages, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia
WE ARE MORE THAN NUMBERS

Richard Blissett

Data has always been critical to human communication. As our world evolves, how do we ensure that our humanity is at its core? In this talk, we will discuss the fundamentally subjective nature of human data and how to embrace and leverage that subjectivity to address important social problems.

Richard Blissett is an assistant professor of education policy and quantitative methodology in the Mary Frances Early College of Education. His work focuses on the attitudinal politics of justice-oriented education policy as well as how information affects those attitudes.

Session host: Thelron Pleas, grad student, Department of Educational Psychology, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

AGING AND DYING WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR: AN IMPROVISATION IN DIASPORA

Melisa (Misha) Cahnmann-Taylor

Poet and arts-based scholar, Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, meditates on the art, poetry, and comedy of growing older and facing the inevitable end of life. She connects readers in Athens to a series of events as part of the NEA Big Read Program featuring “Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?” by Roz Chast. This graphic memoir by the New Yorker cartoonist, tells the story of Chast’s parents’ final years through cartoons, photos, and narrative prose. If everybody’s parents age, why don’t we talk more about it ourselves?

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor is the director of the 2021 NEA Big Read Program. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. In addition, she is a professor of language and literacy education at the University of Georgia’s Mary Frances Early College of Education.

Session host: Ruth Harman, Department of Language and Literacy Education, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia
LOVE, LOSS, TRAUMA: INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND BEING HUMAN

Divine Charura

The essence of this talk is to engage in a dialogue about what love is in order to draw themes to help endeavors to make a change not only to the human condition but also politically, and socially. Thus, being in line with the view that those of us who are trying to understand and deal with authentic-encounter, engaging in loving human relationships, and in caring for our planet have something to offer in these times of crisis.

Divine Charura, Ph.D., is a professor of counseling psychology at York St. John University in the United Kingdom. He is a Chartered psychologist, UK licensed counseling/practitioner psychologist, registered psychotherapist, and author.

Session host: Anna Abraham, Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

FROM CREATIVE SEEDS TO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

Susan Cohen

Creative ideas are fun and exciting. But even more, they fuel the economy and can provide inventors with economic returns. But ideas alone wither without the nurture and support they need to flourish. Join us for an interactive session in which we discuss how entrepreneurs grow their ideas into thriving businesses.

Susan Cohen is an assistant professor in the department of management in the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business. Her research interests include entrepreneurship, innovation, venture finance and acceleration, industry evolution, and corporate strategy.

Session host: David Sutherland, Entrepreneurship, Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia

EMPATHY + INNOVATION: THE UNEXPLORED INTERSECTION OF CREATIVITY

Chris Denson

Innovation and creativity are often fueled by an undying understanding of human need and potential. The further you go to truly feel and understand what others feel, the better we can create for, and with them. Without this sense of empathy, many good ideas hardly ever become great ideas, let alone live out their full potential to spark new, impactful movements in culture and business. This session will explore principles, real-world examples, and the how-tos
of maximizing creative output through the depth of understanding.

Chris Denson is an award-winning innovation advocate, author, host, and recovering comedian. He is the author of the 2018 Amazon #1 bestseller, “Crushing the Box: 10 Essential Rules for Breaking Essential Rules,” creator and host of the Innovation Crush podcast series, and serves as the first-ever U.S. Director of Innovation at MullenLowe, an award-winning IPG creative agency.

Session host: Anna Abraham, Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

RACIAL IDENTITY: A PROMISING PROTECTIVE FACTOR FOR MINORITIZED POPULATIONS

Sycarah Fisher

This talk will focus on the role of racial identity in protecting youth from negative outcomes including low academic achievement and poor mental health. Further, attendees will be exposed to ways to foster racial identity development for the youth in their lives.

Sycarah Fisher, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of school psychology at the University of Georgia’s Mary Frances Early College of Education. Her research focuses on mental health and substance use in minoritized populations.

Session hosts: Joachim Walther, Engineering Education Transformations Institute (EETI), College of Engineering at the University of Georgia and Zoe M. Johnson, School of Social Work at the University of Georgia

SURVIVING AND THRIVING POST-RETIREMENT AND STROKE

Jerry Gale

Following his retirement from the University of Georgia in December 2020, Jerry experienced a stroke in late January 2021 while visiting his partner in Brazil. This presentation will highlight how improvisation, relational meditation, and reflection were used and are being used to facilitate physical and mental wellbeing. Concepts and skills will be shared.

Jerry Gale, Ph.D., LMFT, is an emeritus professor in the department of human development and family science in UGA’s College of Family and Consumer Sciences. He is now a recovering academic and has a private family therapy practice. He embraces improvisational theater, relational meditation, and values social activism and engaged presence.

Session host: Lisa Renzi-Hammond, Institute of Gerontology, College of Public Health at the University of Georgia
THE DURHAM COMMISSION ON CREATIVITY AND EDUCATION

Simon James

The Durham Commission is a partnership between Durham University and Arts Council England that investigated teaching for creativity and creative thinking, across disciplines, in and out of school, 0-18 years. It published its landmark initial report in November 2019.

Simon James is a professor of English Literature at Durham University, UK. His interests include Victorian fiction, textual editing, literature and education, prison education, and teaching for creativity.

Session host: Tarek Grantham, Department of Educational Psychology, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

IS PAIN REAL? A JOURNEY INTO A PECULIAR, PERPLEXING AND PARADOXICAL WORLD

Mark Johnson

Join me on a journey into the peculiar, perplexing, and paradoxical world of pain. I will challenge the belief that pain always signals tissue damage, show how we can trick the brain to alleviate pain, and ultimately, address the question ‘Is Pain Real?’

Professor and director of the Centre for Pain Research at Leeds Beckett University, U.K., Mark Johnson has been investigating pain since the mid-1980s focussing on how non-pharmacological techniques such as electricity, acupuncture, laser, and mirrors alleviate pain to improve well-being.

Session host: Alissa Tertichny, grad student, Department of Counseling and Human Development Services, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia

CRISIS, CURIOSITY AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS: AWAKENING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY THROUGH ART

Rebecca Kamen

This session will explore how crisis, curiosity, and the creative process not only generate unexpected opportunities for discovery, but also informs artwork which fosters new connections between art and science.

Rebecca Kamen investigates the dynamics and poetics of curiosity and the creative process in her work as artist in residence in the Computational Neuroscience Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania.

Session host: Mark Callahan, Ideas for Creative Exploration (ICE), Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia
THE MUSICAL CHILD: ARE WE MISSING THE DEVELOPMENTAL WINDOW?

Joan Koenig

Music and language share the same developmental window, yet we would never dream of not speaking with our toddlers, and taking them to a weekly language class instead. This session explores the insights from my upcoming book — “The Musical Child” (July 2021) — of the extraordinary musical capacity of children under seven and how this affects children’s physical, emotional, and cognitive development. It will empower you to practice music with children spontaneously and naturally. Collective musical practice is part of what enhances our humanity, what creates our sense of belonging.

Joan Koenig began her musical life at the age of five winning several awards including the National Symphony Young Soloists competition. After Juilliard, she moved to France and worked as a soloist before founding the Ecole Koenig and dedicating her life to innovation in early childhood musical practice.

Session host: Roy Legette, Elementary Music Education, Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia

THE ARTS AS POLITICAL RESISTANCE

Peter O’Connor

Having spent many years creating and researching theatre with the homeless and in disaster zones, it is possible to think of the arts as acts of cultural resistance. The political power of the work is in the idea that imagination and play are about broader and deeper human possibilities.

Peter O’Connor is director of the Centre for Arts and Social Transformation at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He has created and researched theatre in marginalized spaces including prisons, psychiatric hospitals, with the homeless, and in disaster zones for more than 30 years.

Session host: Anna Abraham, Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia
WHERE WE ARE WITH COVID-19 AND HOW VACCINES ARE HELPING
Fred Quinn

In the space of a single year, the novel SARS-CoV-2 has spread through most of the world, producing more than 53 million identified cases of the multi-symptom disease known as COVID-19. Safe and effective vaccines are making a difference, but where are we going and what have we learned?

Fred Quinn, Ph.D., is the Athletic Association Professor of Infectious Diseases and department head in the University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine. His current research focuses on understanding the pathogenesis and transmission of tuberculosis in humans and animals.

Session host: David Bradford, Department of Public Administration & Policy, School of Public & International Affairs at the University of Georgia

THE TRUE SELFIE: BEAUTY, AUTHENTICITY, AND INSTAGRAM
Rosanna Smith

Is makeup a mask or art? Your answer may depend on how you define the true self. I use both social media data and experiments to examine why people often judge others as inauthentic for engaging in beauty work and explore how we can eliminate this stigma.

Rosanna Smith is an assistant professor of marketing in the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. She enjoys analyzing TV shows and playing ultimate frisbee.

Session host: Aaron Meskin, Department of Philosophy, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Georgia

BREATH ART: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF CREATIVE BREATHING
Shodekeh Talifero

What is Breath Art? When breathing is identified as a creative medium of artistic expression and application unto itself beyond its priceless functionality, a whole new world of dynamic possibilities is revealed through shared practice, illuminating theories, and historic examples. From the vocal arts, music, theater, the visual arts and the martial arts, breath has always been an indispensable tool. Yet as we move through this challenging time in the midst of our current and convergent pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racial injustice,
“Breath Culture” around the world may never be the same.

With 34 years of personal, professional, and community-based experience, Dominic “Shodekeh” Talifero continues to make musical strides as a beatboxer, vocal percussionist, and Breath Artist who pushes the boundaries of the human voice within and outside the context of hip-hop music and culture. Shodekeh currently serves as Towson University’s very first Innovator-in-Residence.

Session host: Timothy K. Adams, Jr., Percussion Department, Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia

**ZOOM OBSCURA, AND OTHER DIGITAL MISCHIEF**

**Pip Thornton**

Have you ever wondered what data you give away on video calls, or how search engines make their money? If you knew the value of your words and faces to digital technology platforms, would you want to subvert them? This talk presents examples of just such digital mischief!

Pip Thornton is a Chancellor’s Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her research and practice exposes and critiques the value of our personal data in an age of digital capitalism.

Session host: Alice Hunt, Instructional Development, UGA Center for Teaching and Learning

**SURVIVAL, ESCAPE, RESCUE, AND RENEWAL**

**Sideth Ung**

Born in the war-ravaged country of Cambodia, I was one of only three in my family of 10 to survive the unspeakably brutal horrors of Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge regime. Left nearly alone at an age when I was much too young to care for myself, it is only by the hand of Providence that I survived. This is my story.

Sideth Ung acquired a patent signature and published a book, “No Mama, No Papa,” in 2020. He is passionate about family and making a difference with his life and his work. His greatest achievement to date — being a father to his three boys.

Session host: T.J. Ragan, UGA Speech and Hearing Clinic, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia
THE DOMINO EFFECT IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Laetitia Vançon

When we talk about photography, there are three major aspects to consider: its role, its impact, and its limitation. It is limiting because it cannot tell the whole story. Yet, it is this limit that lets in space for the viewers to fill the gaps with their own personal narratives. What we have is a virtual bridge that can connect us emotionally across continents, and despite our differences, through awareness, action, and even conflict. This to me is the domino effect of photography.

Laetitia Vançon is a French freelance award-winning photographer based in Munich, Germany. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, National Geographic, Geo Magazine, Libération, and Spiegel, among others.

Session host: Mark E. Johnson, Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia

BLIND MIND’S EYE: THE SCIENCE OF EXTREMES IN VISUAL IMAGERY

Adam Zeman

We have discovered that 1-3% of the world’s population lacks a mind eye, christening this ‘aphantasia’. People at the opposite extreme of the spectrum, with ‘hyperphantasia’, enjoy imagery ‘as vivid as real seeing’. This talk will focus on the experience, psychological associations, and biological basis of imagery and imagery vividness extremes.

Adam Zeman, Ph.D., is a clinical neurologist with research interests in visual imagery, memory in epilepsy, and, more generally, the relationship between mind and brain. He is the author of “Consciousness – a User’s Guide” and “A Portrait of the Brain”.

Session host: Jing Xu, Department of Kinesiology, Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia
Friday, April 23

10–11 a.m.
LOVE, LOSS, TRAUMA: INTERCONNECTEDNESS AND BEING HUMAN
Divine Charura
Session host: Anna Abraham

11 a.m.–Noon
WE ARE MORE THAN NUMBERS
Richard Blissett
Session host: Thelron Pleas

Noon–1 p.m.
MINDFULNESS 101
Kizmet Adams
Session host: Lenoir Gillam

1–1:30 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: ATHENS CHAUTAUQUA SOCIETY
Madeline Van Dyck (Board member of the Athens Chautauqua Society)

1:30–2 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: BOOKS FOR KEEPS
Leslie Hale (Executive Director)

2–3 p.m.
AGING AND DYING WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR: AN IMPROVISATION IN DIASPORA
Melisa (Misha) Cahnmann-Taylor
Session host: Ruth Harman

3–4 p.m.
RACIAL IDENTITY: A PROMISING PROTECTIVE FACTOR FOR MINORITIZED POPULATIONS
Sycarah Fisher
Session hosts: Joachim Walther and Zoe M. Johnson

4–5 p.m.
BLIND MIND’S EYE: THE SCIENCE OF EXTREMES IN VISUAL IMAGERY
Adam Zeman
Session host: Jing Xu

5–6 p.m.
CRISIS, CURIOSITY AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS: AWAKENING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY THROUGH ART
Rebecca Kamen
Session host: Mark Callahan

Saturday, April 24

10–11 a.m.
THE MUSICAL CHILD: ARE WE MISSING THE DEVELOPMENTAL WINDOW?
Joan Koenig
Session host: Roy Legette

11 a.m.–Noon
SURVIVING AND THRIVING POST-RETIREMENT AND STROKE
Jerry Gale
Session host: Lisa Renzi-Hammond

Noon–1 p.m.
FROM CREATIVE SEEDS TO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS
SUSAN COHEN
Session host: David Sutherland

1–1:30 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: ATHENS AREA ARTS COUNCIL
Jeanne Golightly (President AAAC)

1:30–2 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: ESP (EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE)
Briana Hayes (Leadership Development Intern) and Jake Sapp (Program Director)

2–3 p.m.
IS PAIN REAL? A JOURNEY INTO A PECULIAR, PERPLEXING AND PARADOXICAL WORLD
Mark Johnson
Session host: Alissa Tertichny

3–4 p.m.
WHERE WE ARE WITH COVID-19 AND HOW VACCINES ARE HELPING
Fred Quinn
Session host: David Bradford

4–5 p.m.
THE TRUE SELFIE: BEAUTY, AUTHENTICITY, AND INSTAGRAM
Rosanna Smith
Session host: Aaron Meskin

5–6 p.m.
EMPATHY + INNOVATION: THE UNEXPLORED INTERSECTION OF CREATIVITY
Chris Denson
Session host: Anna Abraham

Continued on the following page
Sunday, April 25

10 – 11 a.m.
THE DURHAM COMMISSION ON CREATIVITY AND EDUCATION
Simon James
Session host: Tarek Grantham

11 a.m. – Noon
ZOOM OBSCURA, AND OTHER DIGITAL MISCHIEF
Pip Thornton
Session host: Alice Hunt

Noon – 1 p.m.
SURVIVAL, ESCAPE, RESCUE, AND RENEWAL
Sideth Ung
Session host: T.J. Ragan

1 – 1:30 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: LOVE.CRAFT ATHENS
Susan Fontaine (President & Director)

1:30 – 2 p.m.
NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT: TORRANCE CENTER FOR CREATIVITY AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT
Sarah Summers, Desiree Sharpe, and Daehyun Kim (Torrance Center Team)

2 – 3 p.m.
THE DOMINO EFFECT IN PHOTOGRAPHY
Laetitia Vançon
Session host: Mark E. Johnson

3 – 4 p.m.
BREATHE ART: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF CREATIVE BREATHING
Shodekeh Talifero
Session host: Timothy K. Adams, Jr.

4 – 5 p.m.
GUSTAV MAHLER (1860-1911): MUSIC AS RELIGION, THEN AND NOW
Harry Ballan
Session host: Jonathan Haddad

5 – 6 p.m.
THE ARTS AS POLITICAL RESISTANCE
Peter O’Connor
Session host: Anna Abraham

Athens Area Arts Council
Jeanne Golightly (President AAAC)

The Athens Area Arts Council is a non-profit arts organization, staffed entirely by volunteers, whose mission connect the arts to the community through promotion, education, and funding.

Athens Chautauqua Society
Madeline Van Dyck (Board member of the Athens Chautauqua Society)

The Athens Chautauqua Society is a non-profit, community cultural organization in Athens–Clarke County providing humanities-focused educational programs, such as History Comes Alive! events for the general public. We celebrate the diversity of our culture through a variety of voices from the past because history belongs to all of us. In addition, we develop programs that encourage and support civic discourse, public deliberation, and engagement.
Books for Keeps
Leslie Hale (Executive Director)

Books for Keeps works to improve children’s reading achievement by addressing barriers related to the accessibility and appeal of reading material. Since 2009, Books for Keeps has distributed more than 660,000 books to children across four Georgia counties – and growing.

ESP (Extra Special People)
Briana Hayes (Leadership Development Intern) and Jake Sapp (Program Director)

ESP exists to create transformative experiences for people with disabilities and their families, changing communities for the better. Our mission is carried out daily not only through engaging people of different abilities but also by inviting others from the community to join us.

Love.Craft Athens
Susan Fontaine (President & Director)

Our mission is to promote community inclusion and empower differently-abled adults through art and music exploration and educate the local community on how to engage in customized work opportunities for this population.

Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development
Sarah Sumners, Desiree Sharpe, and Daehyun Kim (Torrance Center Team)

The Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development is a service, research, and instructional center based in the University of Georgia’s Mary Frances Early College of Education. The focus of the Torrance Center is in the identification and development of creative potential across the lifespan.
Creative Submissions

People of all ages and backgrounds were encouraged to participate in a creative challenge exploring the theme, “Reflections on 2020.” Their contributions ranged from literary submissions and musical compositions, to the visual arts. View the multimedia submissions online at tinyurl.com/Reflectionson2020 or by scanning the QR code.

Abraham Simon – untitled

Sachi Abraham – untitled
AGES 12-17

THESE ARE THE TRUTHS THEY TELL YOU WHEN YOU SLEEP:

They always tell you (life’s a journey)  
But they never tell you how hard it’s going to be.

There’s a (blanket of indifference) around our eyes  
Telling us (life’s a dream)

They whisper in our ears, day and night  
Rain or shine

They tell us (love is fine wine)  
And invite us to take a sip

But when we sip they take away  
Our (peace of mind)

We’re all (boiling mad)  
With (broken hearts) and (cold feet)

Drifting away to the unspoken lies of (sweet dreams)  

– Emery C
Artist’s Statement
“TRUE COLORS: USING MAKEUP AS ACTIVISM AND WEARING OUR THOUGHTS ON OUR FACES”

I painted the graphs of new COVID-19 cases in Spain, the USA, Athens-Clarke County, Uruguay, Italy, and China, onto my face. Each line graph begins in February, 2020 and goes up to July 17, 2020. I was surprised to see that Uruguay and Athens have about the same number of cases (1,000 - 1,100.) I was not able to fit the entire graphs of Spain or the USA because Spain goes up to about 300,000 cases and the US gets up to about 70,000. I included Italy and China, which show that their governments have been able to control the spread of the virus and, while there was a big spike in cases in these countries, there are now almost no cases in either country. I have been doing everything I can to stop the spread of the virus, but many of my peers are unable to accept that this is not a normal time. As cases keep climbing in my hometown, home country, and the country I live in, my disappointment grows. There are more cases everyday and it is not about politics or the economy or freedom. It is about acceptance, safety, and action. The virus is not trying to hurt us and will not hear you if you call it stupid. You may not be at risk, but this is about us, not you. – Emma Scott

Longing

I have known the unfortunate loneliness of my new office key, alone on a silver chain, like a widow living in detachment, jealous of shoes that stay in pairs, blaming N-95s on the coffee console below the coral chandelier, she witnesses the wordy wrangles on ABC News, without a clue when she would woo her wise lock, lock her lips like a magnet to the fridge, but like an ant who climbs after every tumble, she fights for love with everything around, be it the nasty smell of sanitizer or bleach on window tops, that slowly makes her rust. And I have seen her eyes peeking outside, anticipating messages via pigeon, despite knowing that her deed makes the key holder crimp, and her weight is a long burden, she wails to be picked up once like older parents living in care homes, waiting for their kith and kin to come and play easy board games.

– Saurabh Anand
MANDATED REPORTER DURING A PANDEMIC

Believe it.
Immediately contact your supervisor. Now.
Even at 10:40 p.m.
Call. Don’t email.
Call ’til she picks up.
Do not ask for photos.
No clarification.
No evidence of any kind.
Believe it.

Delete nothing from your phone.
In fact, don’t use your phone,
it is now evidence in a complex case.
The State will send someone
to your home.
Leave Lysol wipes
and hand sanitizer
on the front stoop
next to the cell phone.
You can watch through the window as they put on gloves,
bag it up
and take it away.

When the police arrive
at the duplex
and the mom
and aunt
and cousins
and uncle
and the guy who lives in the basement
turn on each other,
trying to figure out who called
the cops,
and every last one of them calls you,
don’t say anything.

When you go,
because you have to check on the other kids,
even unvaccinated,
even when the DFACS social worker
is crying, when the nurse
from forensics explains hair growth pattern proves a history (as much
history as a five year old can have),
be glad you are double
masked, six feet away.

— Elizabeth Dubberly
Draft #8: Witness

MUSICAL SUBMISSION
Sebastian Granados
“Art Gallery Set”

Scan the QR codes with your smartphone’s camera to
experience the digital creative submissions.
Boxed In – Reflections on 2020

Movement
Has been stilled.
A restless stillness
That is boxed in neatly, Zoom in zoom out
Day in day out
Work consuming life
In pandemic academia
Movement across spaces
Campuses, cafes, libraries
Minimized
Masked
Distanced
So that movement
Disappears and reappears
Across screens instead of spaces.
Space is newly defined in zoom
Zooming in zooming out
To spaces Across the world –
Conferences, classes, committees
All in a day’s work
Because now the day
Has been successfully captured
In neat little boxes
The idiot box
Replaced by a smart box
That successfully confines us to our seats.
Seated we work
Across virtual campuses
And online libraries;
Sated with work
We escape into the same box
Watch endless loops of reruns
To take a break.

Break is no longer
Laughter with friends
A walk to the gym
Standing in line
During lunch hour to grab a wrap.
Break is now movement stilled
Stilted packed boxed in.
Zoom in and zoom in further
All you’ll find
Is zoom within zoom.
Boxes stacked in the smart box
A screen defying distance
A smile here
A name there
An alphabet
A black screen
A black box
Like that which remains
When everything that matters
Has crashed burnt
Turned to cinder.
And you turn to the black box
To tell you the tale
Of what was.
Movement stilled.
A pandemic academic
Turning to the blackbox
Endlessly
As the world crashes
Tumbles
Spins out of control.

– Marina Basu
VIRTUAL REALITY, THE YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY

Twenty Twenty Cricket – watching Chris Gayle blazing away at the wicket,
Twenty Twenty Vision – perfect sight bringing clarity instead of confusion.
Twenty Twenty the year – with the entire world dealing with the COVID scare,
Twenty Twenty will forever be – the year everything changed for you and me.
The year of the Corona virus, the COVID 19 pandemic that has come to kill us!
Don’t help to spread the virus; don’t touch your face – wash your hands first!
Don’t hug, not even your lover! Practice social distance from him or her,
If you can’t get bread, you’d better learn to eat crackers and sardines instead.
For God’s sake don’t cough or sneeze, they will think you have corona disease,
Everybody is acting so paranoid, you really are safer if you stay home, stay inside!

2
Don’t send your child to school – though Sparrow say they’ll become a bloody fool.
Don’t put your fishing boat in the water – for every Anguillian is a born smuggler,
Keep out the virus and the illegal invader, we must protect our entire border!
If only we could also keep out the hater, the ignorant, the small minded and the liar,
And restore the spirit of community, jollification – the things that make us Anguillian!
But no, Twenty Twenty election! My God, look politicians with their lies and confusion!
In typical Anguillian style so much expert opinion, empty vessels making the most sound.
Fake news and conspiracy theories abound, idle hands and mouths are all around.
Twenty Twenty, the churches closed down, people screaming out apostasy, abomination!
Though they haven’t been there worshipping, since their confirmation or child’s christening!

3
Twenty Twenty: curfews, shutdown, quarantine; lives, virtual parties are now the scene,
Virtual church, virtual loving, virtual meetings, real-time family reunions and elbow greetings.
Unfortunately, robbed of the real occasion, some have to settle for a virtual graduation.
Some missing the dominos and the drinking, some carrying on extra-creative gossiping.
Others are dying to go on vacation again, wondering if they will ever board another plane
Some can’t imagine, absolutely refuse – to believe they can’t take that long-planned cruise!
Some spinning like a crazy hen, because they cannot visit their other house in St. Maarten
Or go there to shop or for gambling; or just to bring back some Kentucky Fried Chicken.
Twenty Twenty, the year of the spoiled plans, anxiety, … sorrow … and all the restrictions,
Still, .. it has brought innovation! Twenty Twenty vision, reflection, revision, and restoration!

4
Through the Corona closedown, no tourists are coming, so our economy is really suffering,
In Twenty Twenty, some are really juggling, without their job they truly are struggling.
It’s not to say that Twenty Twenty is all bad; it has reminded us of the good that we had
Enforced family time, leisure time, quiet time; reflection time, sometimes too much time!
Showed who around us are really essential, without whom we couldn’t survive at all,
Showed … what we can do without, showed us what is really important without a doubt.
Twenty Twenty showed us no man is an island, each of us is only as safe as the other man,
Showed us that Anguilla is ever so blessed, we will get past this, no need to be stressed!
So… is virtual school and work from home the new norm? Is this Twenty Twenty’s last storm?
….. My God, the hurricane season is upon us! Oh Lord in Thee, in Thee do we put our trust!

– Timothy A. Hodge
Artist’s Statement
“HOPE SERIES”

My work explores the role of hope in the human condition and considers, with interest and wonder, those who move along uncertain paths, toward unknowable futures. I use my brush to draw attention to social issues, examining topics like racism, borders, refugees, migration, and displacement. I am especially interested in reflecting the hope that exists, however fragile, among individuals, families, and communities with limited opportunities. Marginalized people, the faceless, those without a voice. I look at the places where hope coexists with hopelessness, welcome but seemingly out of place. In such circumstances the connections to hope may appear tenuous. But they are there and plainly visible to those who look.

— Jeanne Golightly
CREATIVE SUBMISSIONS

VIDEO SUBMISSION
Rosemary Woodel
“Covid Art As I Did It”
Movie about Pre-Covid vs Covid Art

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Alan Black – untitled
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