

FUTURE BODIES

2022 NEW MEDIA CAUCUS SYMPOSIUM

VIRGINIA TECH, BLACKSBURG, VA

An abstract graphic consisting of numerous vertical lines of varying heights and colors, including red, green, and blue. The lines are arranged in a way that suggests a stylized, organic form, possibly representing a city skyline or a cluster of figures.

SEPTEMBER 30 -
OCTOBER 2
2022

Future Bodies

2022 New Media Caucus Symposium + Exhibition
September 30 - October 2, 2022, Virginia Tech

Future Bodies will present a constellation of new interdisciplinary research and practice in new media that considers the role of bodies, broadly conceived, in our collective future.

As both material and metaphorical entities, bodies are at once subject to historical context and act as agents in forging new horizons of experience. Future Bodies will convene conversations around a set of interrelated questions about how bodies shape and intersect with art, technology, data, ecology, and history. We invite participants to explore how specific bodies, as sites of tension and contestation, are rendered, identified, and understood, and in turn, how they enable us to imagine and instantiate new futures inside and outside of established systems.

The New Media Caucus (NMC) is an international non-profit association formed to promote the development and understanding of new media art. We represent and serve: artists, designers, practitioners, historians, theorists, educators, students, and scholars. Recognizing new media art to be inherently interdisciplinary, multimodal, and evolving, we support and advance a wide range of inquiry to catalyze further evolution of the field.

The NMC is committed to extending and sustaining the diversity of our community, board, and membership, to promote an environment of equality, inclusion, and respect for difference. We prioritize inclusion as an ongoing collaborative process of growth that we continually address, both within the Caucus and in our field.

SPONSORS



Keynote Address

micha cárdenas, "Poetic Operations and Trans Ecologies"
September 30, 2022, 10 am, the Lyric Theater

Bio: micha cárdenas, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Performance, Play and Design, and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she directs the Critical Realities Studio. Her book *Poetic Operations*, forthcoming from Duke University Press, proposes algorithmic analysis to develop a trans of color poetics. cárdenas's co-authored books *The Transreal: Political Aesthetics of Crossing Realities* (2012) and *Trans Desire / Affective Cyborgs* (2010) were published by Atropos Press. She is co-editor of the book series *Queer/Trans/Digital* at NYU Press, with Amanda Philips and Bo Ruberg. She is a first generation Colombian American. Her articles have been published in *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *GLQ: Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, *AI & Society*, *Scholar & Feminist Online*, *the Ada Journal of Gender, New Media and Technology*, among others.

In this talk, Dr. cárdenas will discuss her new book *Poetic Operations* (Duke 2022), as well as her augmented reality artwork about climate justice and her forthcoming book *After Man: Fires, Oceans and Androids*. In *Poetic Operations*, cárdenas considers contemporary digital media, artwork, and poetry in order to articulate trans of color strategies for safety and survival. Drawing on decolonial theory, women of color feminism, media theory, and queer of color critique, cárdenas develops a method she calls algorithmic analysis. In her forthcoming book *After Man*, cárdenas confronts the dual crises of climate change and COVID-19 which have prompted speculation on the end of humanity. Following on the thinking of Sylvia Wynter, cárdenas considers the end of humanism not from the privileged place of posthumanism but from a decolonial viewpoint that many of us never had the privilege to be considered human. She dwells in what comes after man, in contemporary art, science fiction and international art biennials.

* The keynote address is made possible by UVA Arts & the UVA Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia, with a contribution from the Virginia Tech Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series. The gallery reception is made possible by the VT Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology and the VT Moss Arts Center. The Off-Campus Gathering is made possible by the VT Center for Humanities and UVA Arts & the UVA Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost for the Arts at the University of Virginia.

EVENT
SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 9:00 - 9:45 AM** **REGISTRATION**, CID Community Assembly
- 10:00 - 10:45 AM** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS***, The Lyric Theater
micha cárdenas, "Poetic Operations and Trans Ecologies"
- 12:00 - 1:30 PM** **PANEL SESSIONS**
- Magic and Mimesis**, CID Seminar
Rebecca Shapass - *no more room in hell: zombie possibilities and haunted desires*
Fiona K. Haborak - *Mimesis Through Violent Movement: The Affective Allure of Horror in Spectatorial Engagement*
Lauren Kolodkin - *Material Mourning in Horizon: Forbidden West*
Lois Nguyen - *Reverberations: The Subtle Impermanence of Ruination*
- Touch, Embodiment + Telematic Installation**, Remote (Armory)
Maria Tsilogianni - *The idiot in refiguring the human-machine entanglement*
Courtney Brown, Ira Greenberg, Brent Brimhall - *Skin Hunger: An Interactive System for Telematic Installation and Performance*
Cristina Albu - *Reframing Narratives of Trauma: Empowering Acts of Knowledge Production in Ellen Pearlman's Brain Operas (2016-2020)*
- Artist Talks: Embodiment + Datafication**, CID Library
Alex M. Lee - *Imbuing Agents with Qi (氣) Through Vital Digital Energy*
Jenn Karson - *Algorithms of the Earth + Sky: A Case for Artist-Made Datasets*
Brandon Powers - *Embodiment Design: Creating XR Experiences Like a Choreographer*
Chris Coleman - *Artist Talk*

VIEW OUR FULL SCHEDULE ONLINE



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 (CONTINUED)

- 1:30 - 2:30 PM** **LUNCH**, CID Community Assembly,
bag lunch provided by symposium
- 3:00 - 4:30 PM** **PANEL SESSIONS**
- Capitalism, Surveillance + Cyborgs**, CID Seminar
Jacob Weinberg - *Bodies of Risk and Myth: The Economy of the Flip*
Allison Berkoy - *YOU ARE PREPARED: A Body-Controlling Interactive Installation for the Personal Environment*
Craig Fahner - *Encountering the Datafied Body: Visualizing + Subverting Datafication Regimes*
Morgan Green - *I Can Feel it: Perceived Sentience + the Rights of the Technocitizen*
- Biotech, Power and Identity**, Remote (Armory)
Lily Blakely - *Everyday Transing + Virtual Surgery: A Trans Defense of Face Filters*
Linda Huang - *The Uncertain Body: Lin Tianmiao's Mother Machine + Postsocialist Biopolitics*
Mona Kasma + Lydia Moyer - *The Gentle Shooter: A Speculative Archive*
Deirdre Liu - *Performance of the Female: The Vtuber Phenomena*
- Artist Talks: Speculative Histories + Futures**, CID Library
Rob Ray - *The Long Trip: Speculative Collectivities + Deep Space Telepresence*
Michael Borowski - *Digital Bodies, Chemical Baths*
Shimul Chowdhury - *ALHAMDU | Muslim Futurism*
JLS Gangwisch - *Digital Vivisection*
Katina Bitsicas - *Enduring Impermanence: Reflections on the Body at a Cellular Level*



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 (CONTINUED)

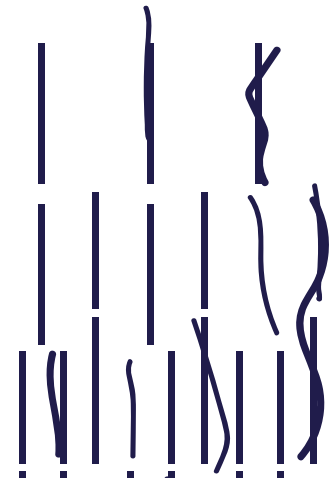
5:00 - 6:30 PM PANEL SESSIONS

Artist Talks: Perception of the Non-Human, CID Library
Laura Splan - *Cryptic Lineages: Convergence of Physical + Virtual Worlds in the Expanded Biotechnological Landscape*
Sue Huang + Jonah King - *Honey Fungus: Extended Ecological Bodies in Virtual Reality*
Rachel Lin Weaver - *Animacy*
Thomas James Tucker - *Celestial Garden*
Stephanie Miracle - *MAMMAL HALL - a study of aliveness and deadness in the natural history museum*

Accessibility + Design, Remote (Armory)
Kel Smith - *Vibroacoustic Accessibility: Sonic Art + the Continuum of Human Capability*
A. P. Vague - *Art and Avatars*
Jing Zhou - *From the Mothers' Movement to Cradlr: An Interaction Design for Refugee Children*
David Adelman, xtine burrough - *Robot Strike!*

Sound, Performance, Embodiment, CID Seminar
Curt Cloninger - *Placing Bodies In-Circuit: Modulating Signals, Hot-Wiring Occasions*
Sarah Bricke - *THE ETERNAL MOMENT, or NOW AND THEN*
Heidi J. Boisvet, - *AI, Data + the Future of the Performing Body*

7:00 - 8:30 PM **Gallery Opening***, The Cube, Moss Art Center and the Amory Gallery Mezzanine
The gallery reception was made possible by the Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Art and Technology and the Virginia Tech Moss Art Center



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:00 - 10:30 AM PANEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP

Workshop, MAC Learning Studio
Nick Bontrager + Taylor Hokanson - *Exquisite Corpse 3D Scanning*

Artists Talks: Cyborgs, CID Library
Joshua Albers - *Membranes and Thresholds*
Nik Swift - *Manifestation of Creation in Connection and Isolation*
Yamin Yu - *Artist Talk*
Isla Hansen - *Artist Talk*

Re-framing Performance, Remote (Armory)
Agnese Cebere - *Come On In: Virtual Reality Beyond the Headset*
Jo Pollitt + Nancy Mauro-Flude - *Performing eco(feminist)futures*
Marcel Zaes Sagesser - *Mediating Place Is Staging Time: How Digital Media Frames Time in "Traces of Noise"*

11:00 - 12:30 PM PANEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP

Workshop, MAC Learning Studio
Reid Arowood - *Clone Clinic*

Embodied Practices in Ecology, CID Library
Kit Danowski, Sozita Goudouna, Camille Intson, Kristen Lewis, Mariela Nestora + Rumen Rachev - *Collaborative (Dis)embodied Writing and its ENDS*
Sarah Nelson Wright + Edrex Fontanilla - *Embodied Landscapes: Hidden Vistas + Tomorrow's Sea - VR Projects*

Data, Surveillance + Marginalization, Remote (Armory)
Liat Berdugo - *I'd Swipe Right on Your Metadata*
Claudia Arozqueta - *Pulsating Buildings: Biometric Architectural Forms*
Charu Maithani - *Click and touch: figuring the human and the technical in time tracking data practices*
lee wilkins - *Good Bodies For Outer Space*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 (CONTINUED)

The Merging Spaces / Future Bodies Tour, CID Community Assembly

Led by Rachel Clarke with Artists: Darrin Martin, Tavarus Blackmon, Chelsea Thompto, Richard Haley, Mikko Lautamo + Rachel Clarke - *Tour of AR artwork placed throughout the campus*

12:30 - 1:30 PM LUNCH

On your own: we recommend the Farmers Market, on Draper and Roanoke, which has ready to order salads, tacos, sandwiches, ice-cream, baked goods.

1:30 - 3:00 PM PANEL SESSIONS

Artist Talks, Remote (Armory)

Dana Dal Bo + Ingrid Bachman - *Hybrid Bodies*

Serge Bulat - Inkblot - *Creativity: a portrait of an artist, the audience, or just a stress ball?*

Gizem Oktay - *Corporeal Crossing*

Yoon Chung Han - *Visualizing and Sonifying Biometric Data*

Mutable Voices: Artists Experimenting with AI, Remote (CID Library)

Chair: Kimberly Lyle

Eunsun Choi - *Rebuilding Bad Memory*

Esteban Agosin - *Imaginary Machines: A Machinic Sound Ecology*

Albena Baeva - *Breeds and Seeds*

Pat Pataranutaporn - *Virtual Beings + Being Virtual: AI-Generated Characters + the Beyond*

Intimacy, Value and Technology, CID Seminar

Silvia Ruzanka - *More than Mere Machines*

James R. Jewitt - *(Un)cover(ed) Girl: Embodiment of the Art Historical Canon, from Analog to Digital*

Cory Wayman - *She Smiles, She Lies, She Cries: the Currencies of Affect, Beauty + Performance in Leah Rachel's Curious Female Casting Couch (2017)*

Nate King - *Virtual Connectivity, Intimacy, and Authenticity, or Why the Internet is Queer*

Performative Constructions, CID Performance + Rehearsal

Max Schaffer - *lulu10tacles + Saint Taint: Monstrous Trans Embodiments of the Digital World*

The ManosBuckius Cooperative - *Re/She/DeCode*

Tyler Calkin - Low, Cari K. Cunningham, Jean-Paul Perrotee - *Inelegant Interface: SG 15*

3:30 - 5:00 PM PANEL SESSIONS

Glitch Feminism, Race + Technology, CID Seminar

Taylor Jasper - *System Error: Caitlin Cherry's Glitch Feminist Aesthetics*

Srimoyee Mitra - *Afro-now-ist Bodies and the Art of Stephanie Dinkins*

Stephanie Kang - *Jacolby Satterwhite and the Cyborg's Reanimation*

Amanda Hodes - *New Media/Digital Poetry and the Body*

Artists Talks: Rendering Ecology, CID Library

Sabine Gruffat - *Fish Hotel*

Byron Rich - *Epicurean Endocrinology: The Middle-American Grocery Store Index*

seah - *Conduits of the Hydrosphere*

Kimberly Callas - *Embodied Place*

Gene A. Felice II - *Flow: Seeking confluence across art, science, education + community*

Machine Learning + Tactical Media, Remote (Armory)

Aya Shabbar - *We have always been Cyborgs*

Dejan Grba - *The Mechanical Turkness: Tactical Media Art and the Critique of Corporate AI*

Riad Salameh - *Post-biological bodies on the web: Performance of the internet self as an agent of surveillance capitalism*

Georgina E. Ruff - *Artificial Empathy: Embodied Connections between Viewers and Techno-Art*





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 (CONTINUED)

5:30 - 7:00 PM PANEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP

Dancing at and around the tech university: Dance as object and method of Research,
CID Performance + Rehearsal
Chair: Audrey Reeves
Julia Basso - *Examining dance through the lens of inter- and intra-brain synchrony*
Candy Beers - *The Good Mother: Using Dance to Explore Gender Ideology in Current Literature*
Scotty Hardwig - *Body is a Metaphor*
Catalina Hernandez - Cabal - *To Study in Movement*
Andreza Jorge - *Body writing: Dance and bodies as resistance, struggle and collective memory - A study of artistic practices in a Brazilian favelac*
Sumin Jung - *Soom (숨), Breathing travels into inner spaces of the whole body*
Rachel Rugh - *untitled*
Audrey Reeves - *Dance as methodological resource in the study of world politics*

Artists Talks, Remote (Armory)
Aroussiak Gabrielian - *Transcorporeal Atmospheres*
Alessandro Ayuso - *Revealing Relationality via Alien Bodies: Designing the LEAP Studiolo*
Lauren Ruiz - *The GLEI Inc. Projects: Progression to a Postnatural Body*
Marilène Oliver - *My Data Body*
Rose Ansari - *Humachinex*

Workshop, MAC Learning Studio
Kate Hollenbach - *Prototyping Embodied Interactions Online*

7:15 - 8:30 PM PERFORMANCE, The Cube, Moss Art Center
Kat Mustatea, Sidney San Martin & Brittany Engel-Adams - *ielele*

8:45 - 10:00 PM OFF-CAMPUS SOCIAL EVENT, Maroon Door
The off-campus event was made possible by the Virginia
Tech Center for the Humanities

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 - 10:00 AM NMC FEEDBACK SESSION, CID Library

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM PANEL SESSIONS

Design: Breaking the Grid, CID Seminar
Samantha F. Welwood - *Breaking the Grid: The Materiality of Play in Typography*
Andrew Gipe-Lazarou + Mathew Schrage - *Ocular-centrism and the Future of Design Education*
Annie K. Jacobson + Eden Ünlüata-Foley - *Future Bodies in New Media Education: Community Colleges as a Part of The Equation*
Eiman Mohamed Elgewely - *Accumulated Layers of historical information Visualized in a 3D immersive environment*

Water, Non-human Ecology + Liminal Experiences, Remote (Armory)
Alessia Cecchet - *Whales and Women Bodies: Technological sublime, death and patriarchy*
Heather Freeman - *Liminal Means: Navigating experiential magic and the physical body within digital spaces*
Stephanie Rothenberg - *Aquadisia*
Mark Isaac, Billy Friebele, Gabriela Bulisova - *Roots and Ripples: The Biosphere as an Expansive, Networked Body*

Artist Talks: Games, CID Library
Roland Graf - *Body. Play. Innovation.*
Victoria Szabo, Joyce Rudinsky - *Psychasthenia 4: Insomnia (2022)*
Victoria Bradbury - *Mother Bear Mother Hen*
Vasia Abatzi - *Submission: The absolute religious game*



EXHIBITION CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Future Bodies

Digital technologies have changed the way we understand bodies and relate as bodies in the world. Bodies act as interfaces, extending with technology and blurring their boundaries while pushing their limits. We see the simultaneous dematerialization of bodies into "data bodies," and their hypervisibility within surveillance technologies that disproportionately target women, queer, and BIPOC. Elsewhere, both human and non-human bodies are rendered commodities by an economy of extraction for profit. Digital technologies have made entrenched concepts of the body more malleable, disassembling and reassembling them anew as technologically enhanced, hybrid, and both material and immaterial.

The artists in Future Bodies work in a range of media to extend the possibilities of technology, opening up questions concerning data, ecology, identity, and embodiment, and engaging with bodily transformation through technology. The exhibition reflects the multitude of ways bodies can be conceived through the lens of futurity. Collaborators Sue Huang and Jonah King explore new ways of relating to non-human bodies revealing new subjectivities. Work by Timothy Thomasson, as well as collaborators Rachel Lin Weaver and Michael Borowski, expand on our relationship with images and landscape, geography, and historical sites using data collection systems. Mez Breeze, Victoria Bradbury, and Katy McCarthy use the power of narrative in interactive works to orient us to informative, playful, and intimate spaces.

Other artists take the opportunities created by more recent technologies to envision alternative futures. While Federico Cuatlacuatl and Estephania Gonzalez expand on notions of identity and culture by melding fantasy and science fiction with indigenous narrative, Farhad Bahram turns to dreams and the dissolution of identity. Christopher Coleman and Eric Souther & Benjamin Rosenthal focus on the materiality of bodies, including their fragmentation and abjection, while collaborators Marilène Oliver, Scott Smallwood, J.R.Carpenter, and Stephan Moore explore the corporeal breach of private information by science and technology which renders us data bodies.

Bodies also perform labour, as in the work of Isla Hansen, Lena Chen and Maggie Oates, Sabine Gruffat, and Anxious to Make (Liat Berdugo and Emily Martinez), which explore a more automated future where gendered and racial realities are hidden but still present. The blurring between machine and body introduces the themes

of hybridity, the posthuman, the cyborg and our complex relationships with AI companions; these themes emerge in the work of Daniel Saakes, Lucas Bang, Yamin Xu, Andrew Frueh, Mayte Gomez-Molina, and Adi Fleisher. Collaborators Laura Hyunjee Kim and Chris Corrente also use the intersection of bodies and technology to emphasize new forms of embodiment and extension through performance and dance. Together, revealing the ecological, technological, and social entanglement of these different bodies, the artists question their limits but also look to their futures.

—Constanza Salazar

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Steering Committee Co-Chairs: Jessye McDowell + Zachary Duer

Members: Nick Bontrager, Victoria Bradbury, Meredith Drum, Rebecca Forstater, Johanna Gosse, Mona Kasra, Mat Rappaport, Chelsea Thompto

Exhibition Committee Chair: Zach Duer. **Members:** Constanza Salazar, Jennifer Zaylea, Jessye McDowell, Meredith Drum, Mona Kasra, Nate King Installation by Zach Duer and Nate King

Symposium Committee: Co-chairs: Chelsea Thompto, Johanna Gosse

Secondary Reviewers for Symposium: Adia Sykes, Alejandro T. Acierto, Helen Star, Jessye McDowell, Meredith Drum, Robert Derr.

Secondary Reviewers for Exhibition: Abishek Narula, Adam Eddy, Amanda Lechner, Blake Carrington, Caleb Flood, Caroline Voagen Nelson, Clint Sleeper, Chris Kojzar, Deb Sim, Dustin Dennis, Eden Unluata-Foley, Jonah Brucker-Cohen, Kim Lyle, KT Duffy, Lydia Moyer, Liz Flyntz, Mariam Egbal, Peter Bussigel, Rachel Clarke, Rene Cepeda, Rebecca Forstater, Sam Blanchard, Tacie Jones, Thomas Tucker.

Scholarship Committee: Co-chairs: Jessye McDowell + Meredith Drum. Review of applicants by Victoria Bradbury, Robert Derr, Rebecca Forstater, Kim Lyle.

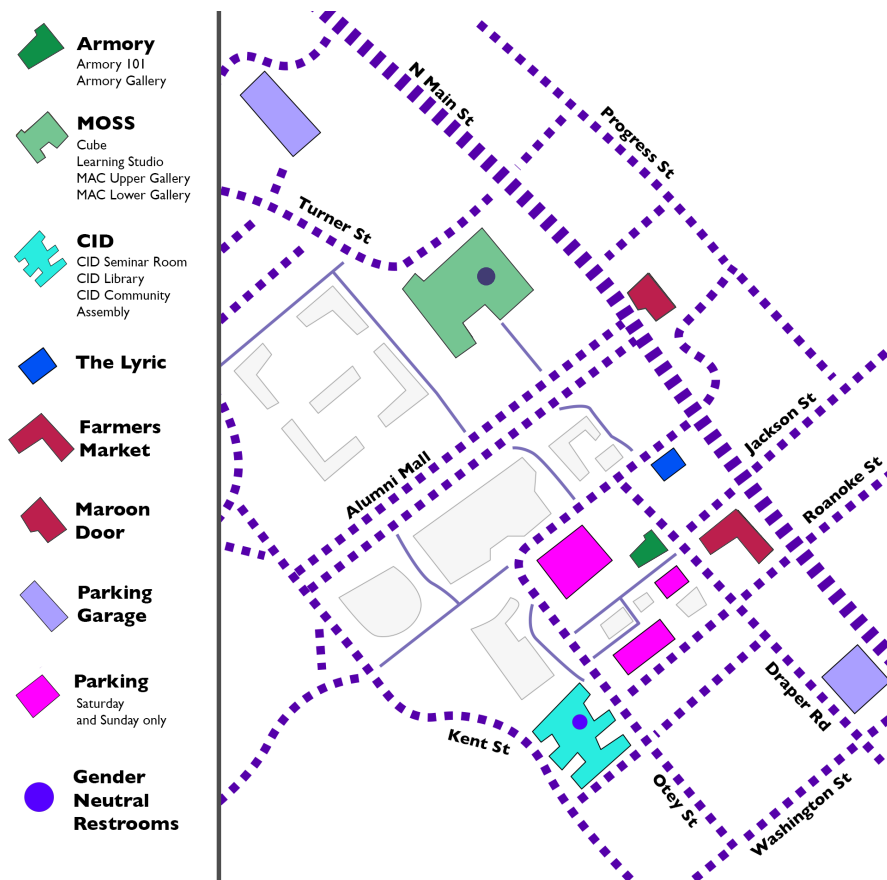
On-the-Ground Committee: Zach Duer, Jessye McDowell, Nate King and Meredith Drum

Volunteer Coordinator: Meredith Drum

Graduate Assistant: Pai-Hsueh Cheng

Photographers: Rodney Kimbangu, Harshal Pilania, Nikita Shokhov, Joshua Okoro, Shiven Saxena

LOCATION MAP



EXHIBITION LOCATIONS

Armory, top floor, first room:

Farhad Bahram, *Dreamer's Dream*

Armory, mezzanine:

Victoria Bradbury, *Mother Bear Mother Hen*

Sue Huang & Jonah King, *Honey Fungus*

Marilène Oliver, Scott Smallwood, J.R.Carpenter + Stephan Moore,
My Data Body

Moss Art Center, lower gallery

Federico Cuatlacuatl, *Timekeepers of the Anthropocene: Tolchikaualistli*

Timothy Thomasson, *I'm Feeling Lucky*

Mayte Gomez-Molina, *Please don't stop the music*

Eric Souther + Benjamin Rosenthal, *the gleaners, and: ritual for signaled bodies*

Estephania González, *Huitzilopochtli*

Mez Breeze, *The Thing Tableau*

Opening night performance, Moss Art Center

Yamin Xu, *Iris*

Moss Art Center, upper gallery

Isla Hansen, *Tools To Dismantle My Self*

Lucas Bang, *Autopoietic Turing Machine*

Young Suk Lee + Daniel Saakes, *Footsie*

Lena Chen + Maggie Oates, *OnlyBans*

Chris Coleman, *SSH Copy*

Daniel Longo, *CROOKED*

Michael Borowski + Rachel Lin Weaver, *The Wooden Beaver*

Sabine Gruffat, *2020 Moving or Being Moved*

Anxious to Make (Liat Berdugo + Emily Martinez),

Liat Berdugo + Emily Martinez as *Five Twins*

Adi Fleisher, *I love you even if there isn't any me*

Katy McCarthy, *Tether*

Laura Hyunjee Kim and Chris Corrente, *traveling 2046*

