

Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art

Annual Report

2020-21

Rebranding Announced

After a several year, professionally led process, Greater Reston Arts Center rebranded to Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) in January 2021.

Tephra: Matter from geothermal eruptions which settles upon and nurtures the landscape.

Represents the combustibility of the creative process and the regenerative power of arts, encouraging new ideas/growth.

Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA): A category growing in currency that aligns with the core of the institution. Typically, a non-collecting institution with a strong intellectual component.

[Learn more about the rebranding process here.](#)

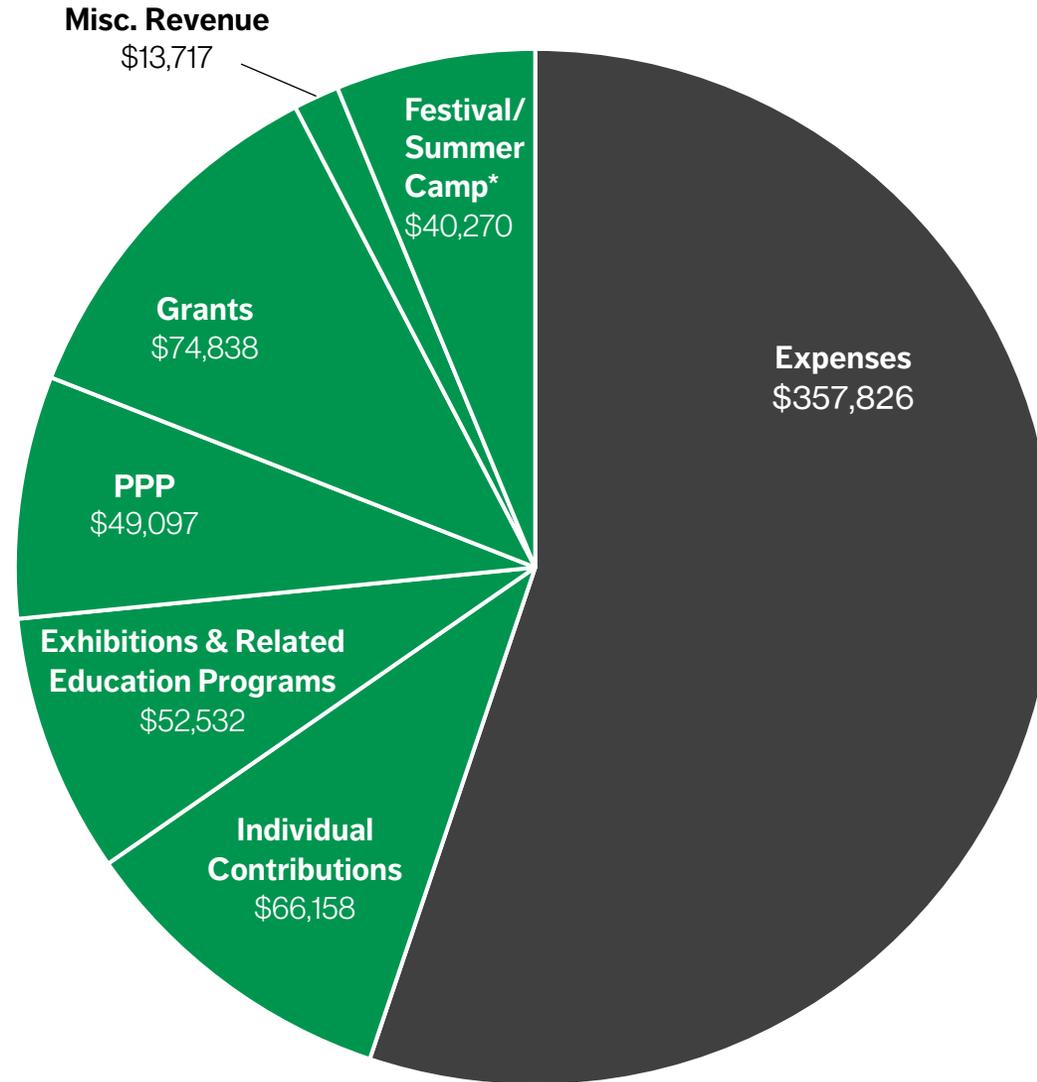


Our Year in Review

Financial Summary

Financial Overview

| Summary | |
|---|-----------|
| Income | \$296,612 |
| Expenses | \$357,826 |
| Deficit (sans Depreciation) | \$61,214 |
| Deficit (with Depreciation) | \$115,028 |
| Typical non-COVID year budget is \$500,000 | |



*Recognizing Festival sponsorships and artist booth fees in 2022 due to rescheduled date.

Financial Successes



Cash Position \$289k
\$26k increase YOY (incl. 2022 Festival income)

Grants Estimated \$75k
\$33k more than budgeted

Corporate Sponsorship
Leidos \$40k, Festival sponsorships continue strong but recognized in FY22 due to rescheduling

Return of Fine Arts Festival during a COVID-19 year
\$32,000 budget shortfall

Return of in-person Summer Art Camp with safety precautions
\$3,000 budget shortfall

Grants Awarded

| | |
|--|----------|
| Paycheck Protection Program | \$49,098 |
| ArtsFairfax | \$28,073 |
| Greater Washington Community Foundation (first time awarded) | \$20,000 |
| Virginia Commission for the Arts | \$14,160 |
| Fairfax RISE | \$10,000 |



Continued Impact of COVID-19 and Beyond



Individual giving down \$15k to goal

Corporate giving remains static

Increase in capital costs
HVAC, Signage, and ADA improvements equivalent to \$75k +

Gallery remains open by appointment only + reduced number of annual exhibitions

Expanded virtual offerings

Down to 2 ½ employees

Our Strategy



Delayed Rebrand/Regenerate Campaign

Capital fundraising campaign postponed to 2022

Staff Updates

Hired Education and Public Programs Manager, Sept. 2021

Hired Associate Curator & Festival Director, Nov. 2021

Hiring Advancement Officer

Progress in Equity Commitments

- ✓ Surveys for artists and audiences
- ✓ In-gallery ADA signage, accessibility questions, and gallery guide
- ✓ Job postings widely available (community colleges, HBCUs, and more)
- ✓ Confidential means for staff, board, and visitor feedback
- ✓ ADA site visits from The M Group Architects and Tony Brunswick of Art Enables
 - Expensive ADA updates
 - Anti-racist and implicit bias training to be delivered shortly

For the full list of Tephra ICA's Social and Cultural Equity Commitments, [click here.](#)

Equity Task Force

Made up of a limited but inclusive group, broadly representative of many different perspectives and backgrounds, the Equity Task Force has helped properly position Tephra ICA in communicating and implementing sensitivity and intention on leading in social and cultural equity.

Committee

Jaynelle Hazard

Committee Chair

Laila Abdul-Hadi Jadallah

Artist, Curator, and Executive Director
at Washington Studio School

Tony Brunswick

Executive Director, Art Enables

Dominic Green

Artist and Filmmaker

Matt Storm

Artist and Curator

Stephanie Williams

Artist, Professor at MICA,
and Tephra ICA Board Member

Sofia Blom

Gallery and Communications
Manager, Tephra ICA

Thank You Erica Harrison

Left the institution in Sept. 2021

Longest tenured employee (15 years)

Led the success of Tephra ICA at Signature to include care for artists, media coverage, and artwork sales. Built relationship and trust with Signature supporters, Bozzuto, and Boston Properties.

Led the success of the Fine Arts Festival for more than 10 years



Curated Exhibitions

By Erica Harrison

2011 – 2020

Main Gallery Group Exhibitions

Winter Focus 2011

Winter Focus 2012

Artist Member Exhibition

Line Works: Drawing Redefined

Art Educators

Mary B. Howard Artist Member Exhibition

CUT

Building Worlds

Overlooked

STRETCH

An Excellent Thought About a Quality Idea

2018 – 2021

Tephra ICA at Signature Solo Exhibitions

Craig Moran: Spaced Out

Susan Hostetler: Volatile

Doug Moulden: A Purposeful Manner Towards a Vague Destination

Rahshia Sawyer: Invisible Listeners

Monica Stroik: IRL

Maremi Andreozzi: Hidden Histories

Anne C. Smith: A Point of Longing

Khánh H. Lê: Daydreams

Amanda Outcalt: Fleeting Moments

Judith Pratt: (un) Disclosed

2007 – 2012

24 solo exhibitions at Market Street Bar & Grill

Our Year in Review

Exhibitions & Programs

An Excellent Thought About a Quality Idea

Mary B. Howard Invitational

Group exhibition featuring work by Rahne Alexander, Matthew Mann, Omolara Williams McCallister, Zia Palmer, and Mojdeh Rezaeipour. The artists were selected by Guest Curators Zoë Charlton and Tim Doud, co-founders of | 'sindikit |, and Tephra ICA former Associate Curator, Erica Harrison, to revisit an older artwork and to redevelop the work into a new project.

The exhibition is named in memory of Mary B. Howard, an artist, long-time board member, and staunch supporter of Tephra ICA.

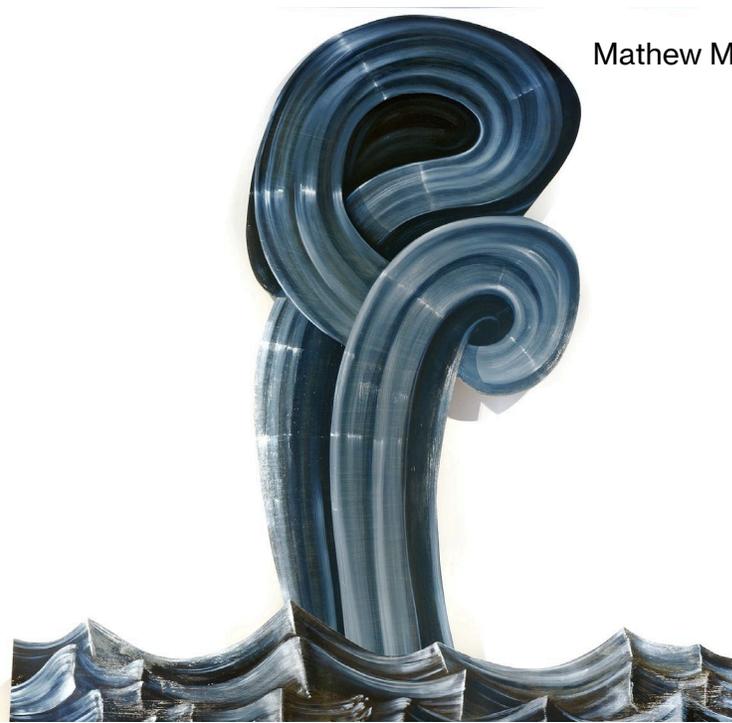
[Learn more about *An Excellent Thought About a Quality Idea* here.](#)



Modjeh Rezaeipour



Mathew Mann



Rahne Alexander



Omolara Williams McCallister



Zia Palmer



Photo credits: Greg Staley

Quantum Shift

Gisela Colón

Quantum Shift featured work by light and space artist Gisela Colón. As a contemporary Latinx artist, working through her innovative practice of Organic Minimalism, Colón has deconstructed and expanded upon the historically male-dominated canon of minimalism; in result, carving out new space for broader identities in the field. In contrast to traditional, hard-edged, geometrical minimalist works, Colón breaks barriers by creating objects that appear both masculine and feminine, liquid and solid, delicate and strong.

Originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Colón currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California. This was the first solo exhibition of the artist's work in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

Learn more about *Quantum Shift* [here](#).

Exhibition generously sponsored by



Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art

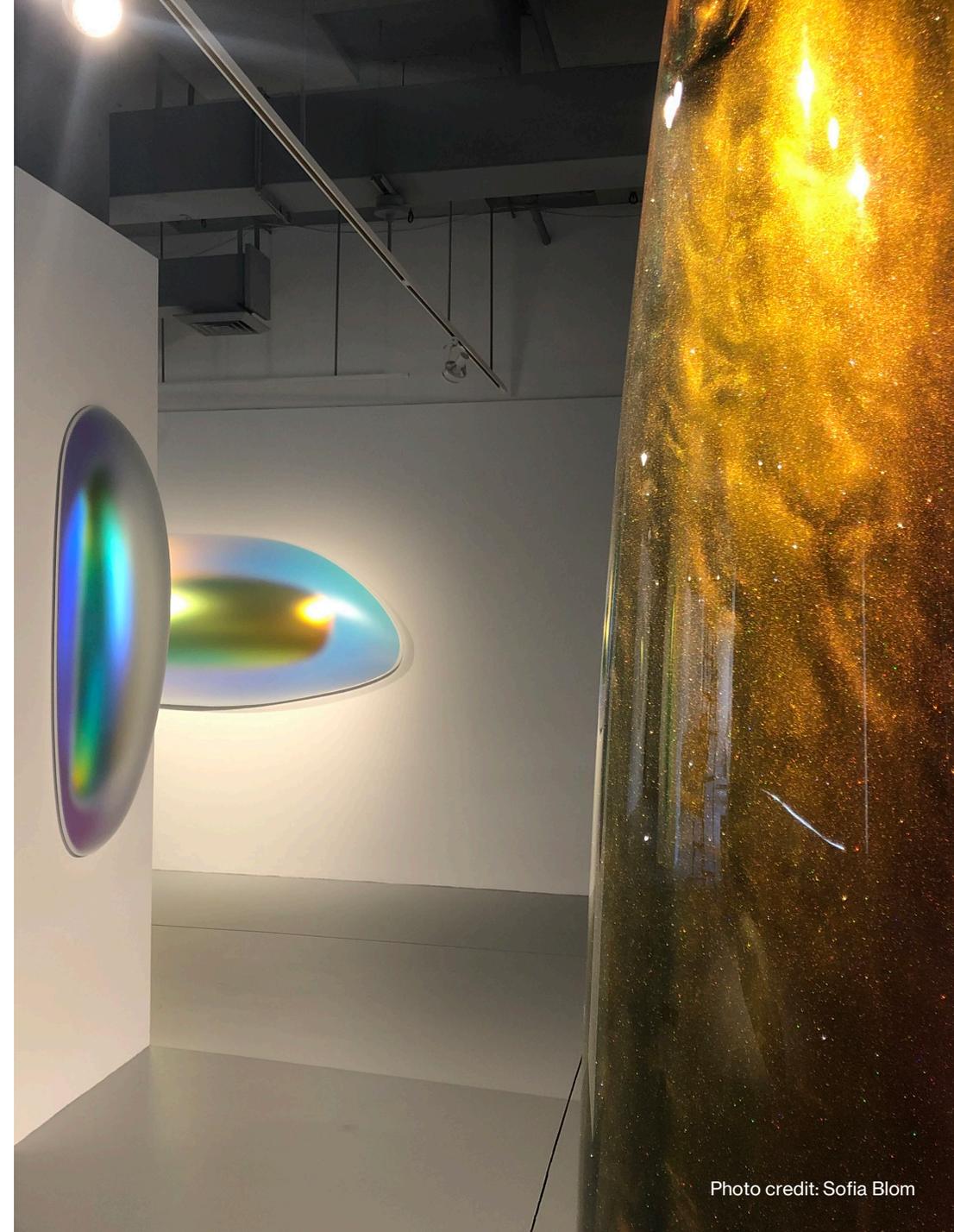


Photo credit: Sofia Blom



Parabolic Monolith Iridium

Gisela Colón

Parabolic Monolith Iridium is a public sculpture by light and space artist Gisela Colón. The sculpture is located near the top of James Monroe Park in Washington, DC, steps away from the National Mall, the White House, and the Renwick Gallery. This is the first public sculpture by Gisela Colón in the Washington, DC metropolitan region and Tephra ICA's first installation in Washington, DC.

Learn more about *Parabolic Monolith Iridium* [here](#).

This project is generously sponsored by Leidos and CPJ Associates and is presented in partnership with the Golden Triangle BID.



Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art

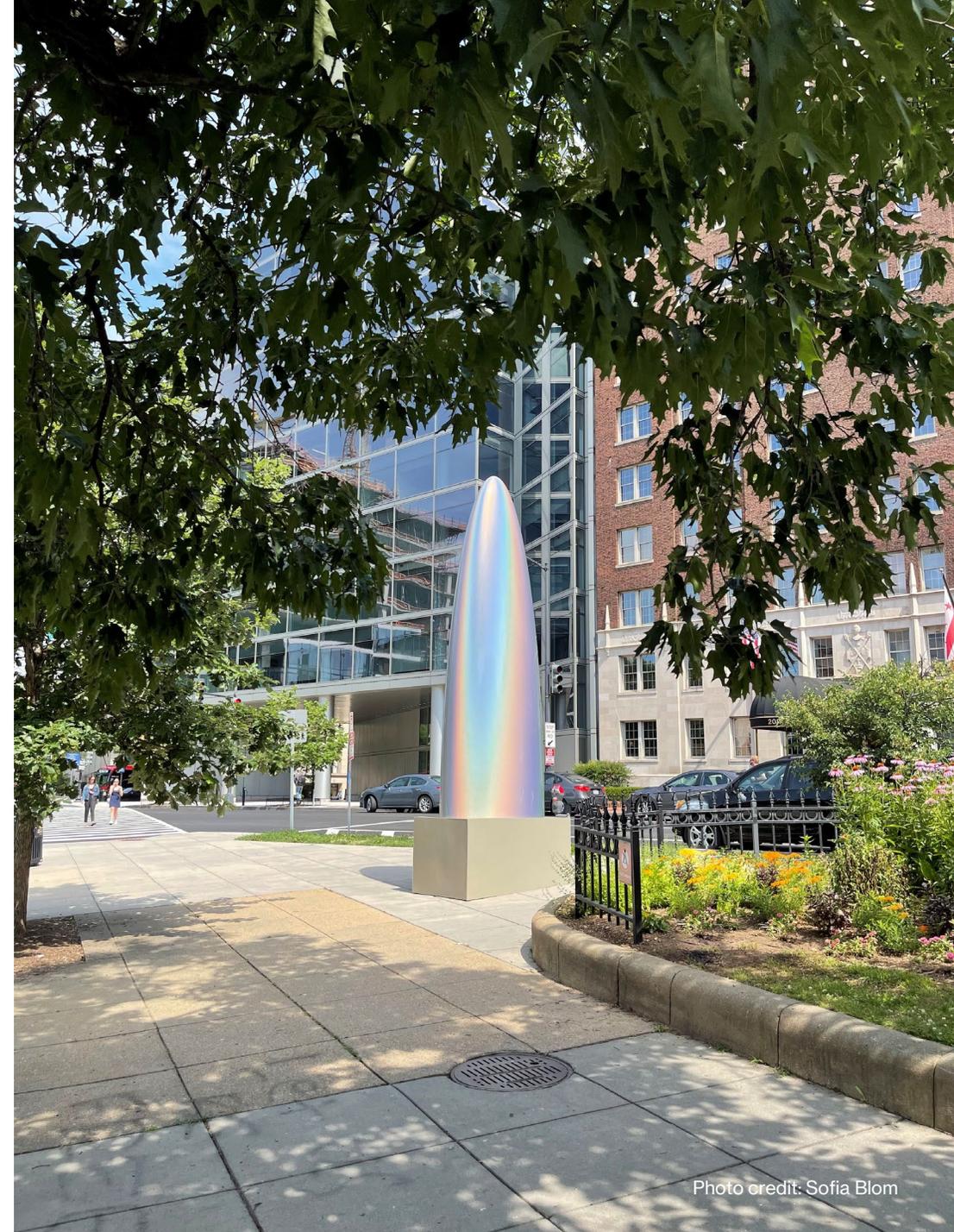


Photo credit: Sofia Blom

Visit & Dinner with Gavlak Gallery

Gisela Colón and her Los Angeles gallery, Gavlak Gallery, traveled across the country to Reston and Washington, DC to celebrate Tephra ICA and the projects the institution created around Gisela Colón's work.



Media Coverage

Gisela Colón

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Museums • Review

In the galleries: Depicting an energy of constant fluctuation and growth



Artist Gisela Colón in her studio, 2020, Duarte, Calif. (Harry Eelman Courtesy of Gisela Colón and GAVLAK Los Angeles | Palm Beach)

By Mark Jenkins
June 18, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. EDT

PRATT INDUSTRIES
LANDFILLS
EMIT
MORE CO₂e
THAN ALL OF
GLOBAL AVIATION
BUY 100% RECYCLED BOXES

📧 📧 📧

Art Reveal

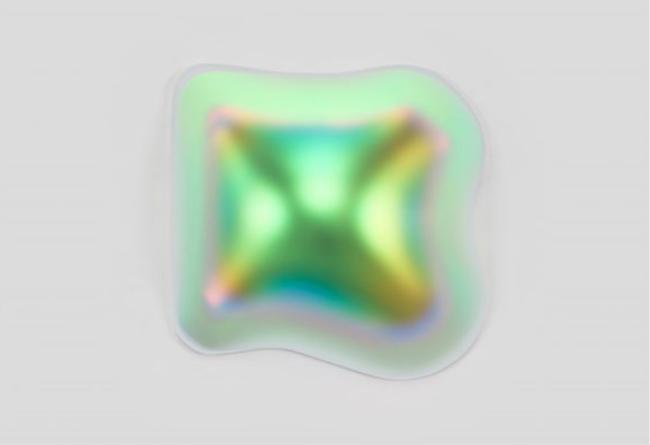
HOME NEWS SUBMISSION ABOUT ARCHIVE CONTACT

WRITTEN BY EDITORIAL TEAM • MARCH 12, 2021 • 11:18 AM • NEWS

Gisela Colón: Quantum Shift

On view March 6 – May 29, 2021

🐦 Tweet 📧 Share 📌 Pin 📧 Mail 📧 Share



Forever is Now

Great Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

Following the Tephra ICA exhibition and sculpture installation, Gisela Colón's site-specific installation titled *Eternity Now* opened at the Great Pyramids in Giza, Egypt.

The installation is part of Art D'Égypte's exhibition, titled *Forever is Now*, and embodies a timeless moment, where past, present, and future merge on the historic 4500-year-old UNESCO site of the Great Pyramids of Giza.



Buoyant Force Celebration

Sue Wrbican

Originally scheduled in Spring 2020 but postponed to September 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event featured special performances, including George Mason University professor and poet Heather Green reading her sculpture-inspired poem and an RCC-sponsored dance performance by contemporary dance artist and choreographer Tariq O'Meally (together with performers Ronya Lee-Anderson and Carlo Villanueva), along with a schedule of speakers including artist Sue Wrbican, Lily Siegel (executive director at time Tephra ICA commissioned *Buoyant Force*), Supervisor Walter Alcorn, and Congressman Gerry Connolly.

Learn more about *Buoyant Force* [here](#).

Buoyant Force is sponsored by

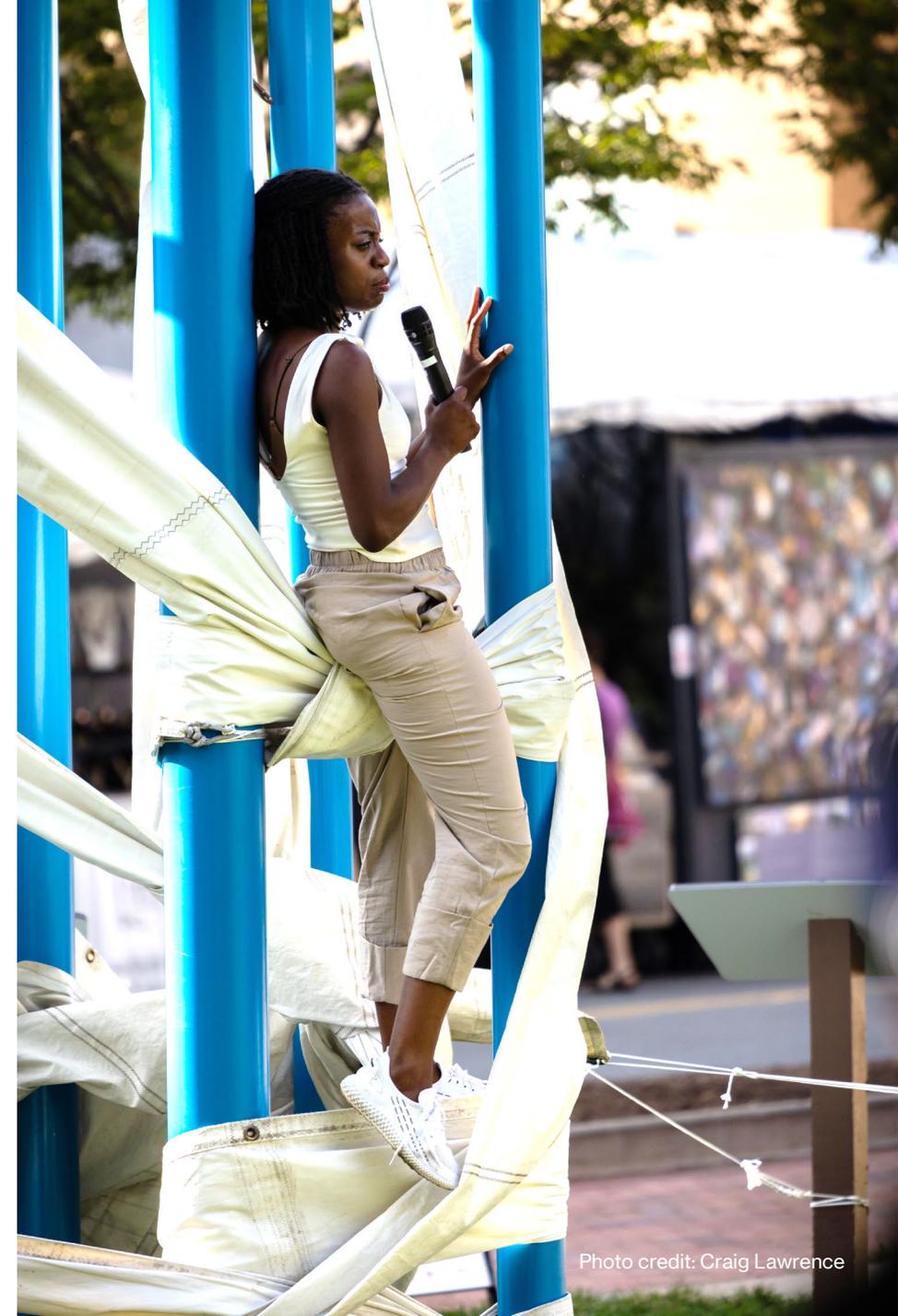
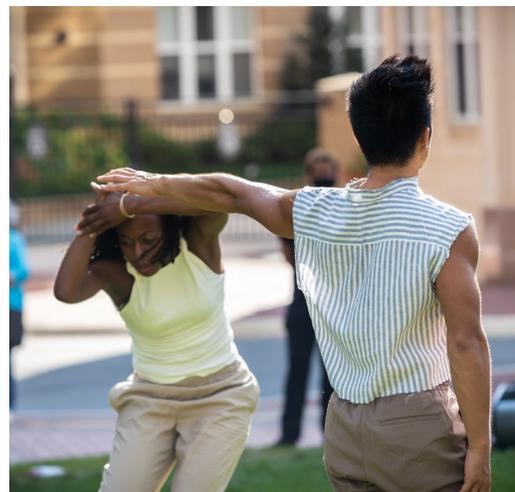


Photo credit: Craig Lawrence



3AM: Time Sensitive

Curated by Adriel Luis

An exhibition of works by Myanmar artist collective, 3AM, curated by Adriel Luis. Los Angeles-based Adriel Luis is a community organizer, artist, and curator whose work is focused on bridging artistic integrity and social vigilance. Luis has been a speaker at the Tate Modern, Yale University, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the China Academy of Fine Arts.

Since 2016, 3AM members Ma Ei, Ko Latt, and Yadanar Win have collaborated on works that dissolve the lines between art and activism, performance, and media. 3AM's work responds to social conditions that are pressing in Myanmar, but that resonate throughout the world – the repression of social critique, the complexities of queer life, and the effects of globalization, to name a few. Tephra ICA is pleased to show 3AM's works in the United States for the first time.

[Learn more about *Time Sensitive* here.](#)





3AM: Time Sensitive invites us to examine the depths of global empathy and solidarity.



Tephra ICA at Signature

Sponsored by Reston Community Center

[Learn more about Tephra ICA at Signature exhibitions here.](#)



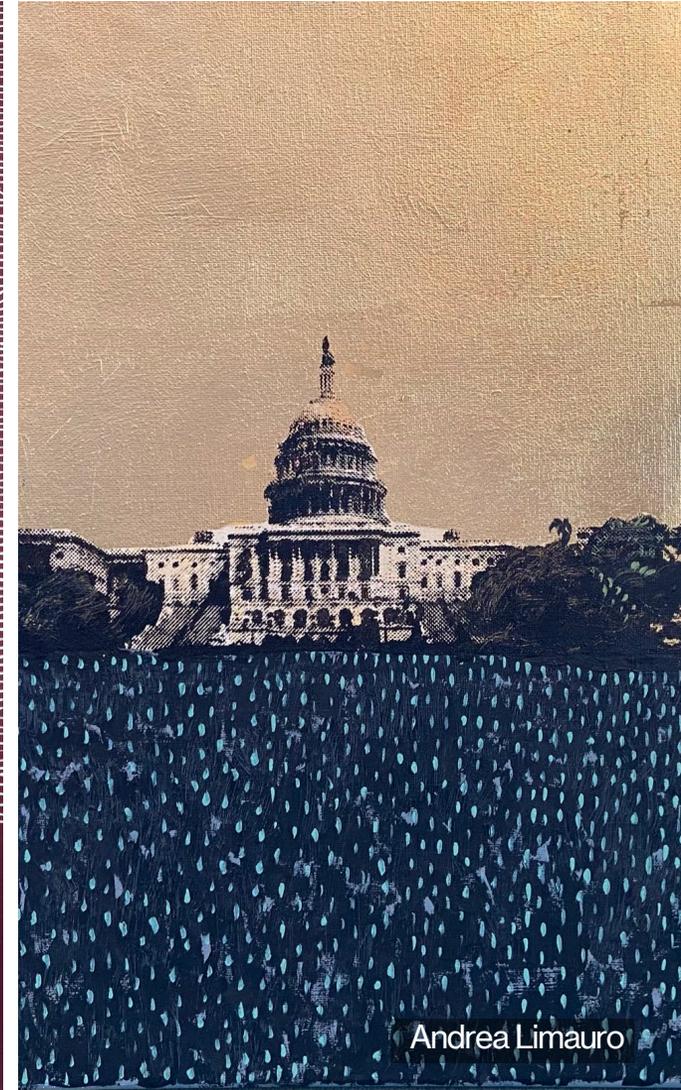
Anne Smith



Amanda Outcalt



Judith Pratt



Andrea Limauro

Media Coverage

Judith M. Pratt

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness



"(Untitled) Piedmont No. 3" by Judith M. Pratt is part of a series featuring white lines on a single-color backdrop. (Judith M. Pratt)

Pratt's "(Untitled) Station No. 1" in the other series is more complex in design and color. Both series have an underlying message addressing racism in Virginia's history. (Judith M. Pratt)

Judith M. Pratt

The tightly interlocking lines in Judith M. Pratt's abstract drawing-paintings suggest tectonic faults and topographical maps, which the local artist intends. But "(Un)disclosed," her show at Tephra ICA at Signature, also refers to something else that underlies Virginia: racism.

The pictures are divided between two series. "Piedmont" features white lines on single-color backdrops, most often black. The works in "Station" are similar in design but larger, more complex and richer in hue, with gray and black marks underscored by shadowing in red, yellow and blue. The first group refers to the legacy of slavery and was inspired by the Charlottesville native's [discovery](#) that the area where she was raised once had the largest concentration of enslaved people in the United States. The second series, whose title refers to Christianity's Stations of the Cross, memorializes Black victims of racist violence. Works in both series are on paper made of domestic cotton, a reminder of that crop's role in the oppression of Black people.

Northern Virginia
**FINEARTS
FESTIVAL**

Presented by Tephra Institute
of Contemporary Art
**SEPTEMBER
10-12, 2021**



Generous support also provided by Roz Rakoff and Larry Issa



Photo credits: Craig Lawrence

Public Programs

- **Adriel Luis**
Community Organizer, Artist, and Curator, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center (*An Excellent Thought*)
- **Rob Ferrell**
Artist, Organizer, and Archivist (*An Excellent Thought*)
- **Isabel Manalo**
Visual Artist, Educator, and Curator (*An Excellent Thought*)
- **Zoë Charlton and Tim Doud of 'sindikit**
Artists and Professors at American University (*An Excellent Thought*)
- **Valencia K. Long**
Social Entrepreneur, Professor, Mentor, and Advocate, District of Fashion at Downtown DC (*Quantum Shift*)
- **Fanna Gebreyesus**
Curatorial Associate, Glenstone Museum (*Quantum Shift*)
- **Nathalie Johnston**
Myanm/art Founder and Director (*3AM: Time Sensitive*)
- **Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez**
Writer, Poet, and Performer (*Parabolic Monolith Iridium*)
- **Jocelyn Law-Yone**
Artist, Teacher, Co-Founder and Chef of Thamee (*3AM: Time Sensitive*)

Emerging Visions

Through the Emerging Visions program, Tephra ICA extends its mission beyond the gallery walls, creating opportunities for students to engage with contemporary art in the classroom.

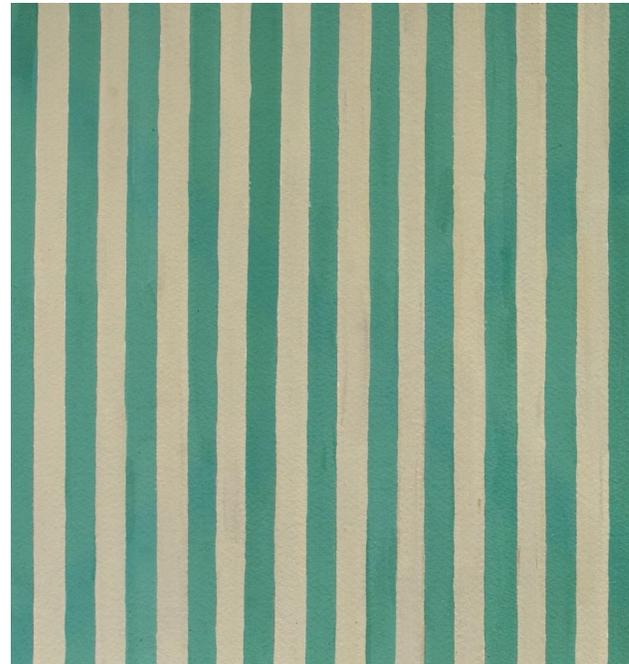
Tephra ICA works directly with Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Art Educators to develop classroom curriculum for K–12 students. Student artwork, as selected by Tephra ICA staff, is exhibited as part of the Emerging Visions exhibition at the Tephra ICA gallery each Spring.

COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect participation rates.

[Learn more about the 2021-22 Emerging Visions program here.](#)

2020-21

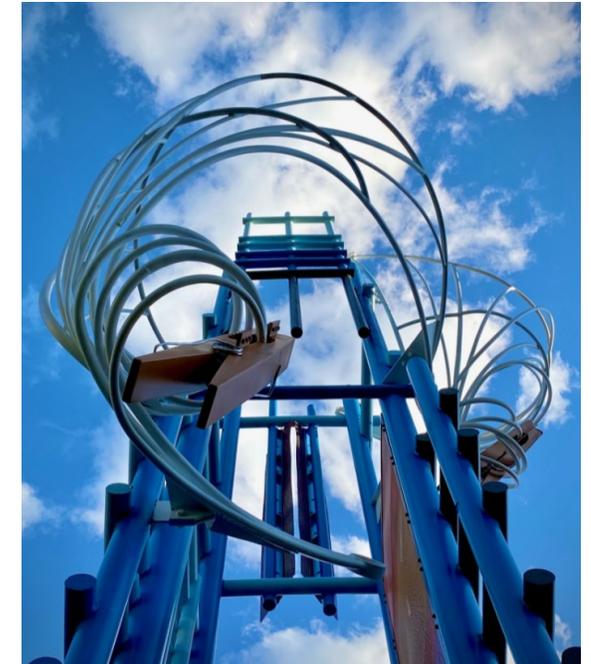
Moira Dryer: Yours for the Asking



Courtesy of Klaus Ottmann and Leslie Tonkonow
Photo credit: Greg Staley

2021-22

Buoyant Force by Sue Wrbcian



Courtesy of Sue Wrbcian

Explore More Home Edition

Introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Explore More Home is an edition of our in-gallery, self-guided program designed for kids and families to explore from the comfort of their home.

[View current Explore More Home Editions here.](#)



Gisela Colón, *Skewed Square (Osmium Gold)*, 2020

About Quantum Shift

Tephra ICA is pleased to present *Quantum Shift* featuring the work of light and space artist Gisela Colón (b.1966). Colón's light-activated sculptural objects have little to no edges, lines, or place for the viewer to rest their eye. As the viewer moves past the artwork, the colors and angles shift creating an experience full of energy. The artist grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Los Angeles, California. The nature, light, and color in these two places have greatly influenced her work. She also finds inspiration in living organisms that you might find under a microscope such as amoebas, as well as from huge celestial bodies like galaxies in outer space.

Colón has exhibited internationally throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Most recently, Colón presented a monumental site-specific installation in the Land Art Biennial, Desert X AlUla 2020 in Saudi Arabia. Colón's work resides in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), San Diego, CA; Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, FL; and Mint Museum, North Carolina, among other locations.

[Read More About *Quantum Shift* for Inspiration](#)

Activity 1: Mini Light “Pods”, “Monoliths” and “Ellipsoids”

Shifting colors and forms are featured in the work of Gisela Colón. She uses materials such as optical acrylics and carbon fiber materials with aerospace technology to make layers in her sculptural objects.

When these layers are experienced from different viewpoints, we see shifting colors, light, and forms from within the sculptures.

Summer Art Camp

Presented in partnership with Reston Association

Summer Art Camp explores the visual arts in tandem with science, engineering, and art history in a fun, safe, and exciting setting.

Implemented COVID-19 precautions (limiting number of campers per session, frequent hand washing and cleaning, and encouragement of social distancing). In result, we did not experience any COVID cases.

Expecting to open full enrollment in 2022.

Learn more about Summer Art Camp [here](#).



Upcoming Exhibitions & Programs

Laurel Nakadate

Spring 2022

Curated by Lily Siegel
and Don Russell

Photographer, filmmaker, and video and performance artist Laurel Nakadate explores themes of sexuality, femininity, and gender roles through voyeurism and interactions, often using herself as the subject.

The exhibition will include solo exhibitions at Tephra ICA and George Mason University. Program was held in September 2021 in conjunction with the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

[Learn more about the Laurel Nakadate exhibition here.](#)

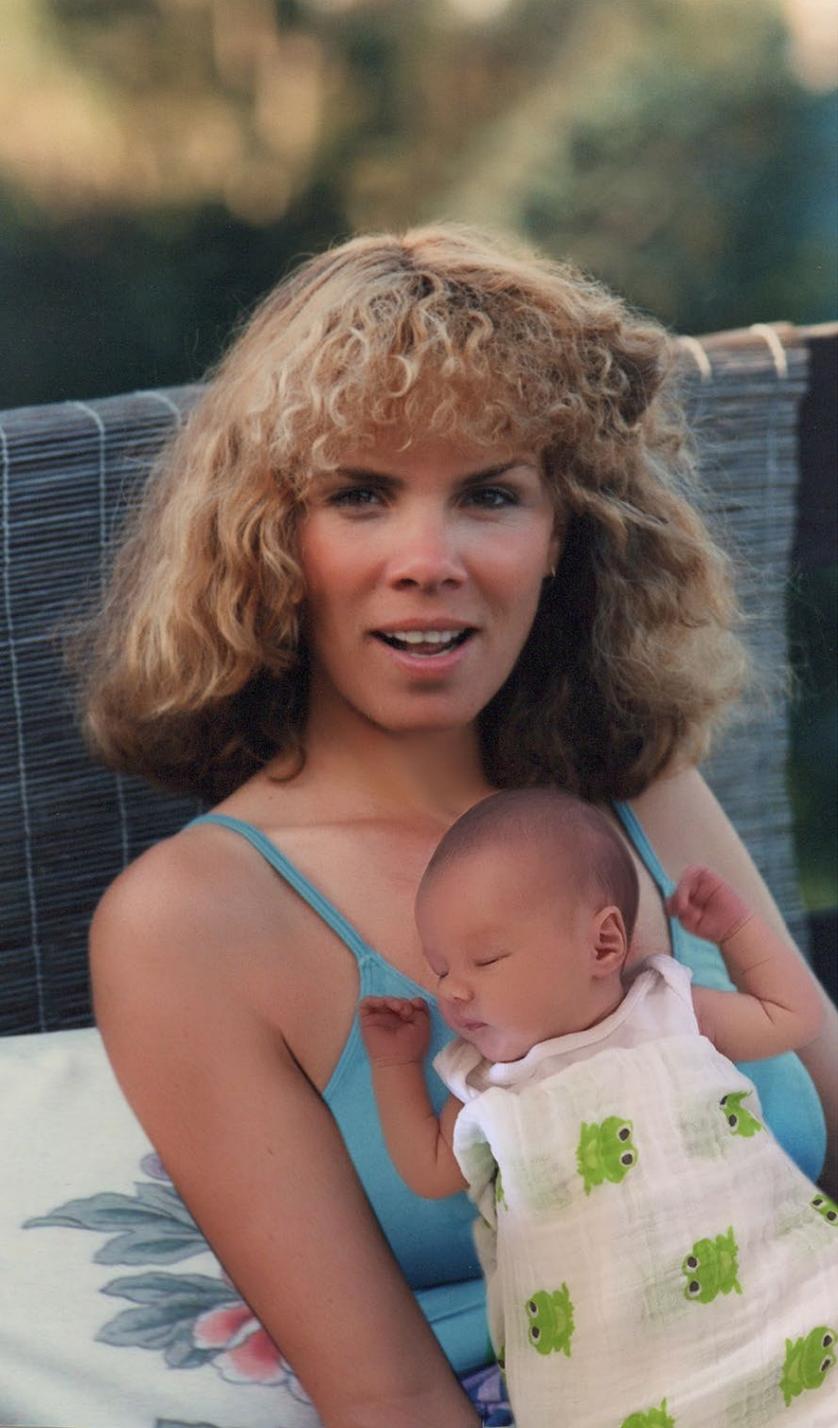
Presented in partnership with:



Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art



Courtesy of Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects



Courtesy of Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects

Dominic Chambers

Fall 2022

Drawing loosely upon a tradition of contemporary mystical realism, Dominic Chambers creates paintings that reference literary narratives cited in books, various mythologies, and Black history.

Chambers received a BFA from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and an MFA from the Yale University School of Art. Dominic is represented by Roberts Projects in Los Angeles, CA and Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York, NY.



Tephra ICA at Signature

Sponsored by Reston Community Center

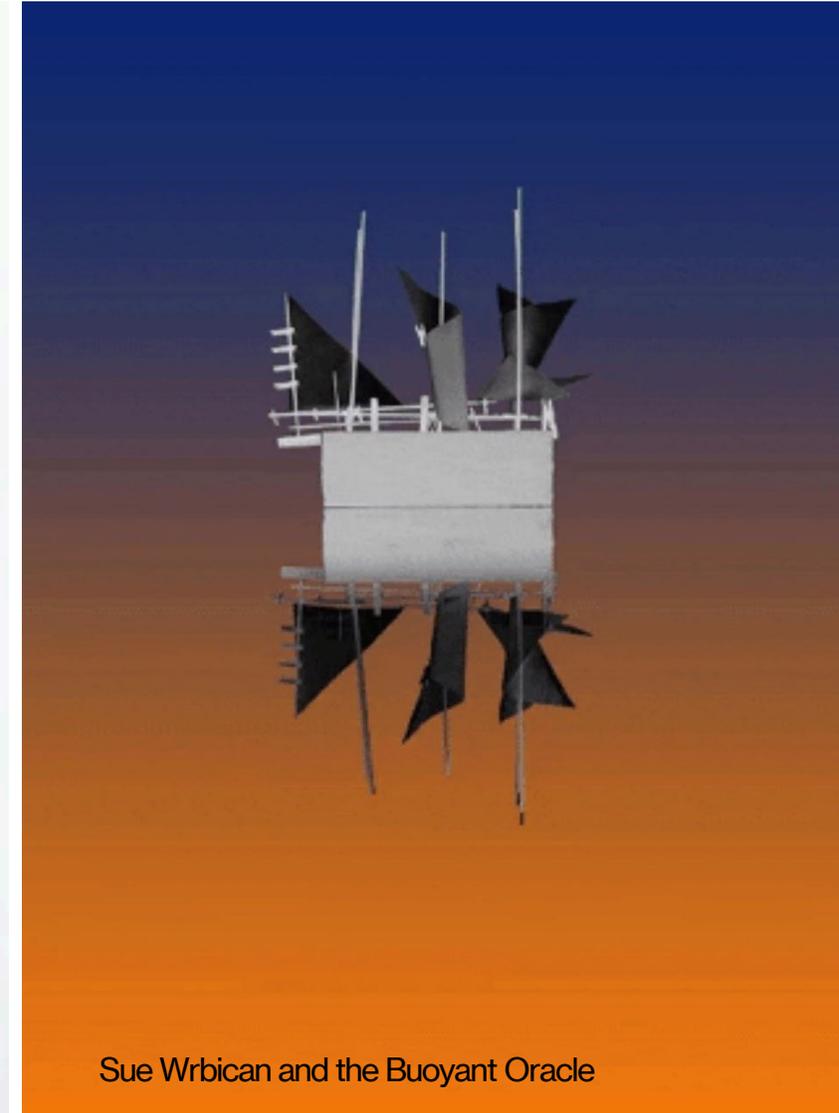
[Learn more about Tephra ICA at Signature exhibitions here.](#)



Travis Childers



Danni O'Brien



Sue Wrbican and the Buoyant Oracle

Expanded Art School and Career Panel Series

The Art School & Career Panel Series allows the opportunity to learn from art educators and professionals to prepare for careers in the fields of fine art, art history, and arts management. Panel members include professors, art practitioners, and art historians.

The program is designed for high school and college students and early career artists and professionals.

[Learn more about the Art School and Career Panel Series here.](#)



The logo for the Tephra Fine Arts Festival. It features the word "tephra" in a lowercase, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "FINEARTS" and "FESTIVAL" are stacked in a bold, uppercase, green, sans-serif font. A vertical black line is positioned to the left of the text.

tephra
FINEARTS
FESTIVAL

Tephra Fine Arts Festival

Tephra ICA's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival is now titled Tephra Fine Arts Festival.

This change is introduced to better align with the institution's rebranding and mission.

Final logo artwork is in development.

[Learn more about the Tephra Fine Arts Festival here.](#)

2022 Tephra Fine Arts Festival Performance

Sponsored by Reston Community
Center

Trisha Brown
Dance Company

[Preview Trisha Brown Dance Company here.](#)

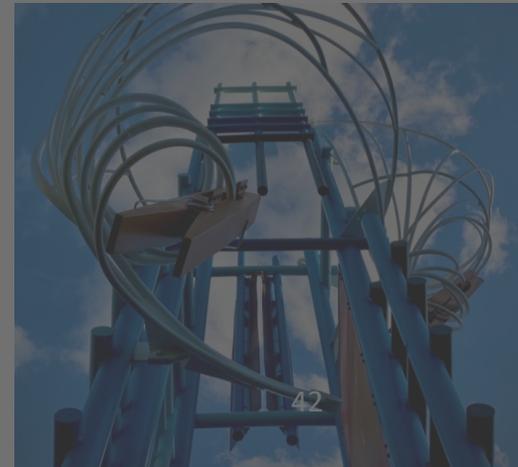


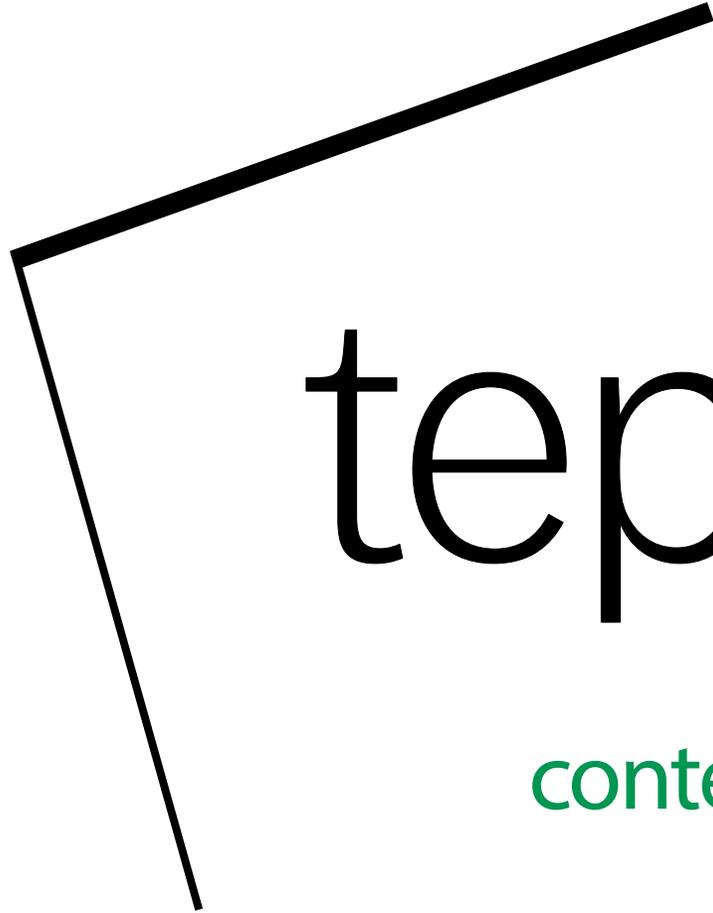
Courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art, NY

A person with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture, standing on a grassy field. The background shows a building and trees.

Thank You

Tephra ICA staff, Board of Directors, donors, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and friends who have made this year a success.





tephra

institute of
contemporary art