

THE SYLVIA AND DAVID STEINER SPEAKER SERIES

*2020-2021 Report:
Year Three at the Frank-
Ratchye STUDIO for Creative
Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon*

The Frank-Ratchye
STUDIO
for Creative Inquiry

THE SYLVIA AND DAVID STEINER SPEAKER SERIES

brings creative practitioners who push boundaries, defy definition, and demonstrate excellence in all aspects of the arts, to the campus of Carnegie Mellon University for deep engagement with our students and faculty. Since 2017, the Steiner Speaker Series has been administered by the **Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry**, the research laboratory of the CMU College of Fine Arts, with the assistance of an advisory committee comprised of faculty from around the university.

As with so many other aspects of life and education in 2020-2021, restrictions on social gathering during **the COVID-19 lockdown year required the comprehensive reinvention of how the Steiner Speaker Series operated** in order to fulfill the goals of its mission and reach its audience.

To meet this challenge, the we adapted our process, **providing CMU faculty, staff and students with the opportunity to invite creative guests—*virtually*—to their departments, cohorts, and classrooms.** Nominations were sought that aligned with the goal of the Steiner Speaker Series: to bring creative individuals, working to address our current moment in timely ways, to share diverse perspectives and expertise. Many guests even spoke “publicly,” streaming live over YouTube. Despite the limits and constraints imposed by Zoom, **50 Steiner Speakers** found ways to give presentations about their creative work, deliver lectures about the history and theory of various topics, lead practical workshops in advanced techniques, participate in critiques and reviews, and facilitate guided discussions with students—reaching more than a thousand attendees.

BY THE NUMBERS

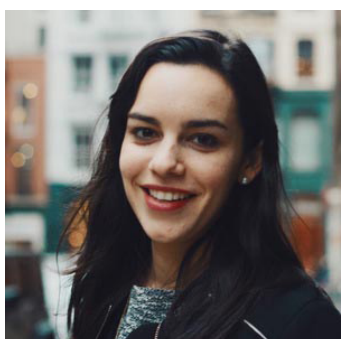
School of Architecture	14 speakers
School of Art	7 speakers
School of Design	5 speakers
School of Drama	3 speakers
School of Music	14 speakers
IDeATe Division	4 speakers
MAM Program	1 speaker
Miller ICA & Gallery	1 speaker
Department of English	1 speaker
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	50 speakers total

STEINER SPEAKERS, 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Kibibi Ajanku	Artist and community connector; indigo dyeing expert
Irene Alvarado	Engineer, designer and creative technologist
Carlos Armesto	Director, producer, entrepreneur
Annie Atkins	Graphic designer for the film industry
Martin Bakari	Noted tenor
Angela Myles Beeching	Arts career specialist
David Belkovski	Award-winning pianist and harpsichordist
Lee Blalock	Artist working with technology and the body
Taeyoon Choi	New media artist, educator, technologist and organizer
Christy S. Coleman	Historian of monuments; Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
Uday Dandavate	Ethnographer and design innovation expert
Shari Frilot	Chief curator of the New Frontier program at the Sundance Film Festival
Marco Fusi	Multi-instrumentalist and early music historian
Jeffrey Gibson	Choctaw-Cherokee artist working across many media
Hilary Greenbaum	Designer, typographer, and design director
Hoda Hamouda	Experience designer creating better tools to verify citizen journalism
Thomas Allen Harris	Filmmaker, animator and artist
Michael Heaston	Opera director and music administrator
Mark D. Heller	Computational designer of responsive architectures
Cathy Park Hong	Poetry editor of the New Republic and author of <i>Minor Feelings</i>
Joyce Hwang	Expert in the architectural consideration of animals
Yvette Janine Jackson	Composer of electronic, chamber, and orchestral musics
Shawn Jeffers	Education specialist working to create inclusive school cultures
Anthony Jones	Theatrical sound designer
Natalie Kane	Curator of Digital Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum
Janette Kim	Architectural designer, researcher, and ecologist
Lucy Kim	Visual artist working across traditional and biological media
John King	Composer, guitarist, violist, and organizer
Ersela Kripa	Architect and expert in military urbanisms
Laleh Mehran	New media artist and educator
Adam Milner	Pittsburgh-based artist, performer and educator
Natalia Molina	MacArthur Fellow and professor of American Studies and Ethnicity
Vernelle A. A. Noel	Research scientist, computational designer, and architect
Sidney Outlaw	Baritone and music historian
Claudia Pasquero	Expert in ecological architecture
Tobias Revell	Design researcher and curator
Dylan Robinson	Writer and theorist on Indigenous arts and deep listening
Amy Rosen	Sociospatial designer focused on sustainability
Legacy Russell	Curator, writer, and artist
Helena Sarin	Visual artist working with artificial intelligence
Larry Sass	Designer and researcher exploring digital design and fabrication
Chad Shomura	Theorist and educator focused on coloniality, species, and materiality
Nadia Sirota	Performer, curator, and broadcaster
Byron Stripling	Renowned jazz trumpeter
Sharon Egretta Sutton	Activist educator and public scholar
Gil Teixeira	Transdisciplinary audiovisual artist
Lauren Vasey	Computational designer and building technologist
Howard Watkins	Vocal coach and conductor
Sarah Weaver	Composer, conductor, technologist, and educator
Michelle Wong	Expert in voice-over acting



KIBIBI AJANKU serves as a resident artist, researcher, and community connector in the Baltimore Natural Dye Initiative, part of the Natural Dye as Cultural Connector project in collaboration with the Maryland Institute College of Art. Ajanku works as an Urban Arts Professor for a small cohort of students at Coppin State University, and additionally serves as a Community Researcher for MICA. Through her work as an arts leader, an artist, and an educator, Ajanku works consistently and deeply as a social justice voice. She curates and guides the elements of the Urban Arts Leadership Fellowship for the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, where she serves as Equity and Inclusion Director; under her leadership, the Fellowship has increased racial inclusion within arts sector leadership and has positively altered workplace best practices through actively training, placing, and referring an annual cohort of emerging professionals. [At CMU, Ajanku spoke with students about West African indigo dye traditions in professor Olivia Robinson's IDEATE courses on textiles and soft technology.](#)



IRENE ALVARADO is an engineer, designer and creative technologist based in NYC, currently at employed at GitHub, and previously at Google Creative Lab. She uses a combination of design thinking and technical expertise to explore how emerging technologies will shape new products and creative tools. Most recently she has specialized in the intersection of machine learning, new interfaces, and product innovation. [At CMU, Alvarado was a guest of Architecture professor Daragh Byrne's *Responsive Mobile Environments* course.](#)



CARLOS ARMESTO is the Producing Artistic Director of theatreC, a company dedicated to creating unique theatrical experiences. He has worked as a director and producer on festivals, plays, musicals, concerts, and events around the country. Mr. Armesto was an Associate Curator at the inaugural Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, an Associate Artistic Director at The Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST) and Co-Director for the EST/Sloan Project. He is also a recipient of the Bill Foeller Fellowship at Williamstown Theatre Festival, and a Princess Grace Fellowship. Through theatreC, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2019, he has created over 50 theatrical works. Notable credits include *THE WHO'S TOMMY* (Best Director, Star Ledger's NJ Tonys 2010), *BINDING* (Best Choreography, Solo Performance and Performance Art Piece – Innovative Theatre Awards 2010), *Echoes of Etta* at Joe's Pub (MAC Award for Outstanding Cabaret Act 2014), and *HEADING EAST* (with BD Wong). He has directed and consulted for several university programs, including Rutgers Theater Company, NYU's Graduate Musical TheatreWriting Program and the Dramatic Writing Program, and Fordham University. Currently under development: *ODD MAN OUT* (with Teatro Ciego of Argentina), *CUBAMOR*, and *URINETOWN* (with NYU Tisch). He is also Creative Director for theatreC's renowned LGBTQ+ Party Series *RETRO FACTORY*. [At CMU, Armesto presented a public lecture and two-weekend workshop for the School of Drama.](#)



ANNIE ATKINS is a Canadian-born, Dublin-based graphic designer with expertise in design for the film industry. Beyond the design of movie posters, she also focuses on world-building through the meticulous design of movie props—even if those will only be shown for a brief amount of time or even if they are just blurred out objects somewhere on the screen. Her best known work was done for Wes Anderson’s *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, where she was in charge of helping the director create his distinctive look. [At CMU, Atkins spoke to students in professor Brett Yasko’s *Sophomore Communications Studio* in the School of Design.](#)



MARTIN BAKARI is a noted tenor, who has been praised by Opera News as a “vocally charismatic” performer with a “golden” voice. A 2018 George London Competition award winner, Bakari continues to distinguish himself as a dynamic artist in a wide array of musical and theatrical genres, including multiple tours of *Porgy & Bess* with NY Harlem Productions, and as an Emerging Artist with Virginia Opera. Mr. Bakari is an alumnus of the master’s degree program at Juilliard, and earned a B.M. at Boston University. [At CMU, Bakari was hosted by faculty member Sari Gruber to speak to students in the School of Music’s *Vocal Seminar*.](#)



ANGELA MYLES BEECHING is an arts career specialist. She is the author of *Beyond Talent: Creating a Successful Career in Music*, first published by Oxford University Press in 2005, which is widely used by professional and student musicians and frequently serves as a central career development text in music programs. Beeching was the Director of Manhattan School of Music’s Center for Music Entrepreneurship; during the 2010-11 academic year she was a visiting consultant/adjunct faculty at IU Jacobs School of Music leading Project Jumpstart, a student-centered and student-driven career and entrepreneurial leadership program. Beeching is the former director of the Career Services Center at New England Conservatory. A Fulbright Scholar and recipient of the Harriet Hale Woolley grant, she holds a doctorate in cello performance from Stony Brook University. A leader in the field of music career development, she is the co-founder of NETMCDO, the Network of Music Career Development Officers, the international organization dedicated to enhancing music career development. [At CMU, Beeching spoke with students in professor Monique Mead’s *Freelance Musician* course.](#)



DAVID BELKOVSKI is an award-winning pianist and harpsichordist. Born in Macedonia, he made his Lincoln Center debut in Alice Tully as fortepiano concerto soloist with the American Classical Orchestra, and has performed as a soloist with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Along with Rachell Ellen Wong, David is a founding member of Dioscuri, an ensemble that focuses on vivid interpretations with period instruments. David holds degrees from the The Juilliard School, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Michigan, and is a faculty member of The Juilliard School’s Evening Division. [At CMU, David’s visit with the Collaborative Piano student cohort was hosted by Billie Miller, a graduate student in the School of Music.](#)



LEE BLALOCK is a Chicago based artist and educator presenting alternative and hyphenated states of being through technology-mediated processes. Interested in how technologies support the idea of impossible anatomies, behaviors and performances, the work is an exercise in body modification by way of amplified behavior or “change-of-state”. Blalock also works under the moniker of L[3]’2, whose most recent live work embraces noise and fissure as a natural state of being for bodies living in hybrid states. [Blalock, an Assistant Professor in the Art and Technology Studies Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, spoke to the students in Prof. Lindsey French’s section of *Electronic Media Studio: Introduction to Interactivity*.](#)



TAEYOON CHOI is an artist, educator, and organizer based in Seoul and New York. A co-founder of the School for Poetic Computation, he works with computer programming, drawing, and writing, oftentimes in collaboration with fellow artists, experts and community members. Choi explores the poetics in science, technology, society, and human relations, and is currently working on a project, *Distributed Web of Care*, to promote critical perspectives on technology, ethics, justice and sensitivity to the concept of personhood. He believes in the intersectionalities of art, activism, education and works on disability rights, environmental justice and anti-racism. Through his diverse practices, he seeks a sense of gentleness, magnanimity, justice, and solidarity, and intellectual kinship. [At CMU, Choi spoke with students in the IDEATe program in a public event hosted by professors Heidi Wiren Bartlett and Robert Zacharias.](#)



CHRISTY S. COLEMAN is an American historian, named by Time Magazine as one of their “31 People Changing the South” in 2018. She is the Executive Director of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and former president and chief operating officer of the American Civil War Museum. [At CMU, Coleman was hosted by Jessica Bowser Acrie, Director of the Masters of Arts Management program, where she participated in a panel, *Time for Monumental Change: The role of public art in communities and collective memory*, and spoke to the removal of Confederate monuments and reexamination of public art in the field of arts management.](#)



UDAY DANDAVATE is an expert in helping organizations innovate through ethnographic research. A world traveler, a champion of co-creation, and a design activist, Uday’s curiosity for people, cultures, and change has drawn him to fields as diverse as anthropology, psychology, communication, sociology, marketing, politics, and design. At SonicRim he helps clients cultivate a capacity for co-imagining the future and co-creating solutions that help improve the lives of everyday people. Uday holds a Masters of Design Research from The Ohio State University, and a professional diploma in industrial design from the National Institute of Design Ahmedabad. [At CMU, Uday spoke with students in professor Wayne Chung’s *Tools for UX Design* course in the School of Design.](#)



SHARI FRILLOT is an artist, filmmaker, organizer and arts administrator. Since 2007, Frilot has been chief curator of the New Frontier program at the Sundance Film Festival, where she leads programming of new experimental American film and has developed an exhibition space which hosts digital artworks, media installations, and multimedia performance, including cinematic and artistic projects that make use of virtual reality technology. Her interests as a curator and a filmmaker are informed by her early experiences within a creative community of queer artists of color. [At CMU, Frilot spoke to the School of Art's graduate students as a guest of professor Jon Rubin.](#)



MARCO FUSI is an internationally known multi-instrumentalist, and a passionate advocate for the music of our time. Among many collaborations with emerging and established composers, he has premiered works by Billone, Sciarrino, Eötvös, Cendo and Ferneyhough. As violinist and violist, Marco has performed with Pierre Boulez, Lorin Maazel, Alan Gilbert, Beat Furrer, David Robertson, and frequently plays with leading contemporary ensembles including Klangforum Wien, MusikFabrik, Meitar Ensemble, Mivos Quartet, Ensemble Linea, Interface (Frankfurt), Phoenix (Basel) and Handwerk (Köln). Marco also plays viola d'amore, commissioning new pieces and collaborating with composers to promote and expand existing repertoire for the instrument. Marco teaches Contemporary Chamber Music at the Milano Conservatory and is Researcher in Performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. [At CMU, Fusi spoke with students about early tuning systems and other topics in Professor Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh's *Harmony 1* course in the School of Music.](#)



JEFFREY GIBSON is a Mississippi Choctaw-Cherokee indigenous artist working across sculpture, painting, and textile construction. Born in Colorado, as a child his family moved frequently; Gibson has lived in Korea, Germany, and England, and his artworks combine and transform seemingly disparate references drawn from both Western and non-Western sources. He is currently an Artist in Residence and studio arts educator at Bard College. [At CMU, Gibson gave a public lecture attended by students of professor Isla Hansen's *Advanced Studio: Open Sculpture* students in the School of Art.](#)



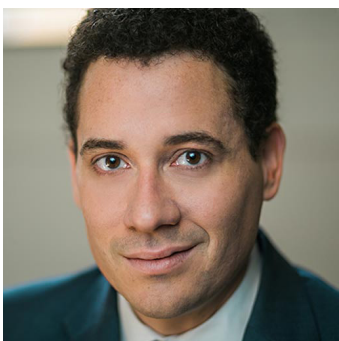
HILARY GREENBAUM is the design director for the Whitney Museum of American Art, and a professor at NYU's School of Continuing & Professional Studies. Her work has been recognized by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the Society of Publication Designers, the Type Directors Club, the Art Directors Club, and the Society for News Design. Greenbaum studied graphic design at the California Institute of the Arts (MFA 2006) and CMU (BFA 2001), and has previously worked as a staff designer and design columnist for The New York Times Magazine. [Greenbaum spoke to students in Professor Brett Yasko's *Publication* course in the CMU School of Design.](#)



HODA HAMOUDA is a user experience designer at Blockchain@UBC in Vancouver, Canada. With expertise in user-centered design, user research, UI design, user testing, and a wide range of design methodologies, her current work focuses on designing better tools to verify citizen journalist videos captured during political events. She holds a Master's degree in Interaction Design and Applied Arts from Emily Carr University and has designed for companies, institutions and startups such as Orange France Telecom, Goethe Cultural Institute, and American University in Cairo. [Hamouda spoke at the invitation of Hajira Qazi, a graduate student co-teaching the course *Research Methods For Design* in the School of Design.](#)



THOMAS ALLEN HARRIS is a filmmaker, animator and artist whose work across film, video, photography, and performance illuminates the human condition and the search for identity, family, and spirituality. A graduate of Harvard College and the Whitney Independent Study Program, member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and published writer/curator, Harris lectures widely on the use of media as a tool for social change. He lectures and teaches at Yale University on media arts, visual literacy, and personal archiving as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of African American Studies & Film and Media Studies. Harris's deeply personal films have received critical acclaim at international film festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, FESPACO, Outfest, Flaherty, and Cape Town. His most recent feature film, *Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People* (2014), which looks at the ways photographic representations serve as tools of representation and self-representation through history, was nominated for both an Emmy and Peabody, and won over 7 international awards including the 2015 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Documentary Film. His work has been supported by the Ford Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, The Fledgling Fund, Rockefeller Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Nathan Cummings Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, Creative Time Inc., and the Banff Centre. [At CMU, Harris spoke to students in professor Johannes DeYoung's *Real-Time Animation* course in the School of Art.](#)



MICHAEL HEASTON is Director of the Opera Program at Rice University, and music director of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. A respected artistic administrator, collaborative pianist and vocal coach, Heaston served as advisor to the artistic director of the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and later, as acting artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera. Named one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year for 2015, Heaston holds B.M. degrees in piano pedagogy and arts administration from Drake University, and a M.M. degree in accompanying and coaching from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. [At CMU, Heaston was hosted by Professor of Music, Jocelyn Dueck.](#)



MARK D. HELLER is an Irving Innovation Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and an Adjunct Professor in Architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Mark received his MLA and MUP from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. As an Irving Innovation Fellow, Mark is devising an alternative mode of interrogating landscape through densities and voids of electromagnetic bandwidth. Working predominantly through geographic-scale visualization, Mark explores how classical interpretations of the landscape sublime might be resurrected today not through the physicality of nature, but rather in the deepest trenches of the electromagnetic terrain. [At CMU, Heller spoke to students in Professor Sinan Goral's *Responsive Spaces and Media Architecture* course in the School of Architecture.](#)



CATHY PARK HONG is the poetry editor of the *New Republic* and is a professor at Rutgers-Newark University. Her recent book, *Minor Feelings*, is one of the most potent and illuminating explorations of the Asian American experience ever written. As the nation continues to reckon with the forces of white supremacy, this cogent and lucid book is a revelatory exploration of the impacts of the particularities of anti-Asian racism. Hong is the recipient of the Windham-Campbell Prize, the Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. [At CMU, Hong gave a public lecture hosted by Elizabeth Chodos, Director of CMU's Miller Institute of Contemporary Art.](#)



JOYCE HWANG is Associate Professor, Associate Chair, and Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies in the Department of Architecture at the University of Buffalo. Hwang has been recognized as one of the leading practitioners in considering the role of animals in architectural design and discourse; through her teaching, research and critical practice as director of Ants of the Prairie, she confronts contemporary ecological conditions through creative means. Currently Hwang is developing a series of projects that incorporate wildlife habitats into constructed environments. Recent projects include "Bat Tower," "Bat Cloud," "Habitat Wall," and "Bower." She is a recipient of the Architectural League Emerging Voices Award (2014), the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship (2013), the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Independent Project Grant (2013, 2008), and the MacDowell Colony Fellowship (2016, 2011). [In the CMU School of Architecture, Hwang spoke to students in the First-Year Studio of Professor Sarah Rafson, who are designing habitats for different species of animals.](#)



YVETTE JANINE JACKSON is a composer of electroacoustic, chamber, and orchestral musics for concert, theatre, and installation. Building on her experience as a theatrical sound designer, she blends various forms into her own aesthetic of narrative soundscape composition, radio opera, and improvisation. Her works often draw from history to examine relevant social issues. Yvette holds a B.A. in Music from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in Music-Integrative Studies from UC San Diego. Her research focuses on the history of production techniques and aesthetics which link radio drama and electroacoustic musics; multichannel composition; and immersion. [At CMU, Jackson spoke to students in the School of Music's *Experimental Sound Synthesis* course taught by professor Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh.](#)



SHAWN JEFFERS is the Cincinnati chapter leader of GLSEN, an American education organization working to end discrimination, harassment, and bullying based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and to prompt LGBT cultural inclusion and awareness in K-12 schools. [At CMU, Jeffers spoke to the Music Education student cohort, directed by Professor Susan Raponi in the School of Music, about best practices for creating inclusive school cultures and considerations in working with students who identify as LGBT+ and as gender and sexual minorities.](#)



ANTHONY JONES is a professional working the field of theatrical sound. He works as Head of Audio for the Hamilton Angelica tour. [At CMU, he spoke with students in Professor Christopher Evans' *Audio System Design* course in the School of Drama.](#)



NATALIE KANE is a curator, writer and researcher based in London, UK. She is Curator of Digital Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum (UK) within the Design, Architecture and Digital Department. As part of her role, she curated the official U.K. pavilion at the 2018 London Design Biennale, and the official U.K. pavilion at the 2019 XXII Milan Triennale. Natalie is a co-curator of Haunted Machines with Tobias Revell, a long-term research project which reflects on narratives of magic and mythology pervading our relationship with technology. [At CMU, Kane was a guest of Architecture professor Daragh Byrne in his *Responsive Mobile Environments* course.](#)



JANETTE KIM is an architectural designer, researcher, and educator. Her work focuses on the intersection between ecology, social equity and the built environment. Janette is assistant professor of Architecture and co-director of the Urban Works Agency at California College of the Arts, and founding principal of the design practice, All of the Above. She is author of *The Underdome Guide to Energy Reform*, and has worked in partnership with municipal agencies such as the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York, and the City of Newark. [At CMU, she visited the students of Architecture professor Stefan Gruber, with whom she spoke with about the relation between energy and equity.](#)



LUCY KIM is a visual artist working in painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography and biological media. Using material mistranslations as a premise, she explores the many naturalizing mechanisms that structure day-to-day visual experiences, from the seamless transition of a physical subject into an image, to the production of visual salience. She works with a wide range of materials: oil paint, silicone rubbers, resins, and more recently, bacteria that have been genetically modified to produce melanin. Kim received her BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2001, and her MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the Yale School of Art in 2007. [At CMU, Lucy Kim spoke in Kim Beck's *Visual Arts Research* course.](#)



JOHN KING, composer, guitarist and violist, has received commissions from the Kronos Quartet, the Albany Symphony, Bang On A Can All-Stars, Mannheim Ballet, New York City Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Ballets de Monte Carlo, as well as the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Since the beginning of the COVID quarantine, King has co-organized a weekly dance and music series, Sonic Gatherings, which has adapted and evolved to the many challenges of connecting musicians, performers, and audiences in a virtual environment. [At CMU, King spoke to members of the Exploded Ensemble as a guest of Music professors Jesse Stiles and Freida Abtan.](#)



ERSELA KRIPA is a registered architect and professor in the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University. Her interests center on hackable infrastructures: research and visualizations that focus on using data to transfer agency to marginalized urban communities by operating where hacker culture meets the city, cataloging, analyzing, and co-opting ways in which citizens intersect with urban systems. Kripa uses design as an empowering tool for agency in public space. Her work is located on the U.S. Mexico border where she maps trans-border shared ecologies, urbanism, infrastructures and exposes binational systems of control that affect human rights. [At CMU, Kripa spoke on *Front: Military Urbanisms and the Developing World* to students as part of a mini-lecture series in Professor Dana Cupkova's *Introduction to Ecological Design and Thinking* class in the School of Architecture.](#)



LALEH MEHRAN is an Iranian-born new media artist, Professor and the Director of Emergent Digital Practices at the University of Denver. Mehran creates elaborate environments in digital and physical spaces focused on complex intersections between politics, religion, and science. In a political climate in which certain views are increasingly suspect and can have extreme consequences, Mehran's artworks are invitations to think again about each of these paradigms and the profound connections that bind them. Her work has been shown individually and collaboratively in the USA and international venues including ISEA, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, ACT Festival, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Carnegie Museum of Art, The Andy Warhol Museum, Denver Art Museum, European Media Arts Festival, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Fe International New Media Festival, and the Pittsburgh Biennial. [At CMU, Mehran visited students in the *Electronic Logics & Creative Practice* course taught by IDEaTe Professors Heidi Wiren Bartlett and Robert Zacharias.](#)



ADAM MILNER is a Pittsburgh-based artist and educator. In his work, he draws upon personal exchanges with people, things, and institutions, to examine systems of intimacy, value, and power. Approaching materials and spaces that are often off-limits, his works reveal boundaries and involve a process of negotiation and exchange. He has exhibited at The Warhol Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Aspen Art Museum, Casa Maauad, Galería Mascota, Flux Factory, Florian Christopher Zurich, and David B. Smith Gallery. [At CMU, Milner spoke about performance art with the students of Kristina Straub, faculty member in the English Department.](#)



NATALIA MOLINA is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, where she has served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Diversity and Equity. A 2020 MacArthur Fellow, she explores the themes of race, space, labor, immigration, gender and urban history. She is the author of two award-winning books, *How Race Is Made in America: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Historical Power of Racial Scripts* and *Fit to Be Citizens?: Public Health and Race in Los Angeles, 1879-1940*. [At CMU, Molina was hosted by professor of Architecture, Nida Rehman, to speak in a CAS seminar on *Quarantines and Sanitary Enclaves: The Spatial Politics of Health and Disease*.](#)



VERNELLE A.A. NOEL is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology. As a research scientist, computational designer, and architect who has worked in the U.S., the Caribbean, India, and Singapore, she investigates craft, computational making, and technology in vernacular design practices. Vernelle earned her Ph.D. in 2019 from Pennsylvania State University in Design Computing, with a dissertation entitled *A Framework for Repairing Craft: A Case Study on Wire-Bending in Trinidad & Tobago*. Prior to this, she earned an MS from MIT in 2013 in Design Computation, with research focused on computational approaches to design, digital fabrication, and a B.Arch from Howard University. [At CMU, she spoke with students attending the School of Architecture's Computational Design Lecture Series program, under the direction of Professor Daniel Cardoso-Llach.](#)



SIDNEY OUTLAW has been lauded by *The New York Times* as a “terrific singer” with a “deep, rich timbre” and the San Francisco Chronicle as an “opera powerhouse” with a “weighty and forthright” sound. A GRAMMY nominee, Outlaw was the Grand Prize winner of the Concurso Internacional de Canto Montserrat Caballe in 2010 and continues to delight audiences in the U.S. and abroad with his rich and versatile baritone and engaging stage presence. Outlaw has sung with Atlanta Opera and Arizona Opera, San Francisco Opera, Madison Opera, New Orleans Opera, Colorado Symphony, and Toledo Symphony. [At CMU, Outlaw presented a lecture on *Exploring the Musical Legacy of Black Composers in Opera and Art Song* to the School of Music's piano and voice students, under the direction of Prof. Jocelyn Dueck.](#)



CLAUDIA PASQUERO is co-founder and director of ecoLogicStudio Ltd, Professor of Synthetic Landscapes at University of Innsbruck, Director of the Urban Morphogenesis Lab at The Bartlett UCL, Senior Tutor at the IAAC in Barcelona. Claudia has been Unit Master at the Architectural Association in London, Visiting Critic at Cornell University, Visiting Critic at the Angewandte in Vienna, and Urban Morphogenesis Lab Director at the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. She has also been the curator of the Tallinn Biennale 2017. Her projects have been published and exhibited throughout the world, in particular in Astana (EXPO 2017), Karlsruhe (ZKM Museum, 2015), Milan (EXPO2015, 2015), in Orleans (Biennale of Architecture, 2017), in Paris (EDF Foundation, 2013), in London (Architectural Association, 2011 and London Biennale, 2006 and 2008), and in the Venice Art as well as Architectural Biennales. She is co-author of *Systemic Architecture – Operating Manual for the Self-Organizing City* published by Routledge in 2012. [At CMU, Pasquero spoke on *Photosynthetics and Dark Ecologies* as part of a mini-lecture series in Professor Dana Cupkova's *Introduction to Ecological Design and Thinking* class in the School of Architecture.](#)



TOBIAS REVELL is Programme Director of Graphic Design Communication at London College of Communication, UAL. He is a founding director of design research consultancy Strange Telemetry, one half of research and curatorial power-brand Haunted Machines and a founding member of Supra Systems Studio. He is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education and Academy and is currently undertaking a PhD in Design at Goldsmiths. Spanning different disciplines and media his work addresses the urgent need for critical engagement with material reality through design, art and technology. [At CMU, Revell was a guest of Architecture professor Daragh Byrne's *Responsive Mobile Environments* course.](#)



DYLAN ROBINSON is a xwélmexw (Stó:lō/Skwah) artist and writer, and the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Arts at Queen's University. He is the author of *Hungry Listening*, a book that examines Indigenous and settler colonial forms of listening. His current research focuses on the material and sonic life of Indigenous ancestors held by museums, and reparative artistic practices that address these ancestors incarceration in museums. [At CMU, Robinson engaged in a public discussion organized by professor Alexa Woloshyn \(Music\), with CMU faculty members Anne Lambright \(Department of Modern Languages\), Sartje Pickett \(School of Drama\), and Richard Purcell \(Department of English\).](#)



AMY ROSEN is a sociospatial designer who applies integrated design methodologies to everything they do, seeking opportunities to tie architecture into systematic and fluid urban networks. Rosen is an advocate for the power of design to inspire, to unify, and to heal. Using their architectural education as a backbone, Rosen incorporates equity and social sustainability into their design process. Rosen further leverages a passion for data, research, difference, and experimentation in order to unveil innovative design strategies that empower users and ensure a more resilient future. [At CMU, Rosen was hosted by professor Mary-Lou Arscott to speak to students in the School of Architecture.](#)



LEGACY RUSSELL is a curator, writer, and artist. Born and raised in New York City, she is the Associate Curator of Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Russell holds a dual-major B.A. with Honors from Macalester College in Art History & Studio Art and English & Creative Writing with a focus in Gender Studies, and an MRes with Distinction in Art History from Goldsmiths, University of London with a focus in Visual Culture. Her academic, curatorial, and creative work focuses on gender, performance, digital selfhood, internet idolatry, and new media ritual. Her curated exhibitions and projects include *Projects 110: Michael Armitage*, organized with Thelma Golden and The Studio Museum in Harlem at MoMA (2019); *Dozie Kanu: Function* (2019), *Chloë Bass: Wayfinding* (2019), and *Radical Reading Room* (2019) at The Studio Museum in Harlem; *MOOD: Studio Museum Artists in Residence 2018-19* at MoMA PS1; *GLITCH @ NIGHT*, a series of multi-media events exploring digital feminism and celebrating queer nightlife at ICA London (2017); and the critically acclaimed *Wandering/WILDING: Blackness on the Internet* in collaboration with IMT Gallery and ICA London (2016). Amongst other institutional projects, Russell is currently working on organizing with The Studio Museum in Harlem *Projects: Garrett Bradley*, a presentation of the artist and filmmaker's multichannel video installation, "America" (2019) forthcoming at MoMA in 2020. She is the recipient of the Thoma Foundation 2019 Arts Writing Award in Digital Art and a 2020 Rauschenberg Residency Fellow. Her first book, *Glitch Feminism: A Manifesto* (2020) is published by Verso Books. [At CMU, Russell spoke to the CMU School of Art in a public event organized by Prof. Isla Hansen.](#)



HELENA SARIN is one of the world's foremost artists working with artificial intelligence to generate images. A former software engineer, she works with Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) whose unpredictability inspires, unblocks, speaks to our perception in unexpected ways. After leaving the Soviet Union, Sarin spent more than twenty years at Bell Labs, designing commercial communication systems and developing computer vision software. Over the past six years, Sarin has developed a second, international career in new media arts; her work has appeared in virtually every significant exhibition exploring the intersection of the arts and artificial intelligence. [At CMU, Sarin spoke to students in professor Golan Levin's course, *Interactivity and Computation for Creative Practice*, in the School of Art.](#)



LARRY SASS is an architectural designer and researcher exploring digital design and fabrication across scales. As an associate professor in the Department of Architecture at MIT, Larry has taught courses specifically in digital fabrication and design computing since 2002. He earned his PhD '00 and SMArchS '94 at MIT, and has a BArch from Pratt Institute in NYC. Larry has published widely, and has exhibited his work at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. His research focused on digital delivery of housing for low income families. He believes that hand operated construction will soon be a thing of the past, and that in the future, buildings will be printed with machines run by computers. Today in the age of manufacturing with information and new forms of machine intelligence more than ever designers will need new tools to produce their ideas. [At CMU, Sass spoke on *Technologies of Affordable Housing* to students in professor Dana Cupkova's *Introduction to Ecological Design and Thinking* class in the School of Architecture.](#)



CHAD SHOMURA is a political theorist, teacher, and artist based in Colorado, where he is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado Denver. Shomura's work focuses on affect and politics at the intersections of race, sexuality, coloniality, species, and materiality. It explores minoritarian struggles to survive and thrive, as well as the alternative ideas, aesthetics, and worlds that are created along the way. [At CMU, Shomura was hosted by Esther Kang, Teaching Fellow in the School of Design, to speak to undergraduates in *Cultures*, a course that introduces young designers to multiple perspectives, capabilities, and modes of living as they practice in the working world.](#)



NADIA SIROTA's varied career spans solo performances, chamber music, curation, and broadcasting. In all branches of her artistic life she aims to open classical music up to a broader audience. Nadia's singular sound and expressive execution have served as muse to dozens of composers, including Nico Muhly, Bryce Dessner, Missy Mazzoli, Daniel Bjarnason, Judd Greenstein, Marcos Balter, and David Lang. As a soloist, Nadia has appeared with acclaimed orchestras around the world, including the Detroit Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Colorado Symphony, the National Arts Centre and Spanish National Orchestras, and the Orchestre National d'Île-de-France. To date, she has released four solo albums of commissioned music. She has also lent her sound to recording and concert projects by such artists as The National, David Bowie and Björk, and, as a member of the acclaimed chamber sextet yMusic, has collaborated with Paul Simon and Ben Folds, among others. As a broadcaster, Ms. Sirota is the creator and host of *Living Music with Nadia Sirota*, a podcast and concert series that demystifies classical music. She also serves as creative associate at The Juilliard School and as artist-in-residence at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance. Since 2018, Nadia has served as the New York Philharmonic's Creative Partner, a position created for her. Nadia won a 2015 Peabody Award, broadcasting's highest honor, for her podcast Meet the Composer, which deftly profiled some of the most interesting musical thinkers living today. [At CMU, Sirota spoke with students in Professor Lance LaDuke's *Remote Performance* course in the School of Music.](#)



BYRON STRIPLING is a jazz trumpeter who has been a member of the Count Basie Orchestra. His electrifying and heartfelt tribute to Louis Armstrong has become America's most popular orchestral pops program. Since his Carnegie Hall debut with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops, Stripling has become a pops orchestra favorite, soloing with Boston Pops, National Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, and Dallas Symphony, to name a few. Currently, Stripling serves as artistic director and conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Stripling earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Thad Jones and Frank Foster. He has played and recorded extensively with the bands of Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Dave Brubeck, Lionel Hampton, and Buck Clayton. [At CMU, Stripling spoke to students in Professor Ken Keeling's *Convocation*, a long-standing, weekly required activity for our undergraduate students in the School of Music.](#)



DR. SHARON EGRETTA SUTTON, FAIA is an activist educator and public scholar who promotes inclusivity in the cultural makeup of the city-making professions and in the populations they serve, and also advocates for participatory planning and design processes in disenfranchised communities. Over a 43-year period, Sutton has served on the faculties of Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Columbia University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington. Sutton was the twelfth African American woman to be licensed to practice architecture, the first to be promoted to full professor of architecture, the second to be elected a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the first to be president of the National Architectural Accrediting Board. She holds five academic degrees—in music, architecture, philosophy, and psychology—and has studied graphic art internationally. Sutton's scholarship explores America's continuing struggle for racial justice and its effect on the built environment. Her latest book, *When Ivory Towers Were Black: A Story about Race in America's Cities and Universities*, portrays what was undoubtedly the nation's most audacious effort to recruit African American and Latino students to Columbia University's School of Architecture. Sutton received the Medal of Honor from both AIA New York and AIA Seattle, and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award from AIA National. She is a distinguished professor of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and an inductee into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. [In an event organized by Ever Clinton, a graduate student in the CMU School of Architecture, Dr. Sutton spoke with students in the National Organization of Minority Architect Students.](#)



GIL TEIXEIRA is a transdisciplinary and socially engaged creative artist who strives to establish positive, meaningful and enduring connections between people. In his work, Teixeira uses sound, music, video, text, sensory data, analog and digital technology, not so much to create objects but to amplify the resonances and connections that emerge from interpersonal space. Teixeira also teaches music at the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. [At CMU, Teixeira spoke with students in electronic music courses taught by professors Jesse Stiles and Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh in the School of Music.](#)



LAUREN VASEY has been a Research Associate and a Doctoral Candidate at the Institute for Computational Design and Construction at the University of Stuttgart since 2014. Previously, she received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Tufts University, cum laude, and a Masters of Architecture from the University of Michigan, with distinction. She has previously conducted research on customizable robotic fabrication processes at both the University of Michigan Taubman College FABLab as well as the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich), Chair for Architecture and Digital Fabrication. Vasey's research at ICD focuses on behavioral and adaptive robotic fabrication: considering in particular how sensor feedback, iterative computation, and flexible robotic behaviors enable a rethinking of linear production chains and foster increased integration and collaboration in large scale fabrication. [At CMU, Vasey spoke on *Material Ecologies and Adaptive Robotic Fabrication* to students in professor Dana Cupkova's *Introduction to Ecological Design and Thinking* class in the School of Architecture.](#)



HOWARD WATKINS is vocal coach and assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. His appearances throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, Russia, and Israel have included collaborations with Joyce DiDonato, Diana Damrau, Kathleen Battle, Grace Bumbry, Mariusz Kwiecień, Anna Netrebko, and Matthew Polenzani at such venues as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Spivey Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the United States Supreme Court, Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the three stages of Carnegie Hall, and the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. Watkins has served on the faculties of the Tanglewood Music Center, the Aspen Music Festival, the Mannes School of Music, the North Carolina School of the Arts, the International Vocal Arts Institute, IIVA in Italy, the Brancaleoni Music Festival in Italy, the Tokyo International Vocal Arts Academy, and VOICEexperience in Orlando, Tampa, and Savannah. He has also worked on the music staffs of Palm Beach Opera, the Washington National Opera, and the Los Angeles Opera. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Watkins completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in accompanying and chamber Music at the University of Michigan. In 2004, he received the Paul C. Boylan Award from the University of Michigan for his outstanding contributions to the field of music, and a special achievement award from the National Alumni Association of the University of Dayton. [At CMU, Watkins visited *Voice Seminar*, a required course for all undergraduate voice majors, taught by Prof. Jennifer Aylmer in the CMU School of Music.](#)



SARAH WEAVER, Ph.D. is a New York-based contemporary composer, conductor, technologist, educator, and researcher working internationally as a specialist in Network Arts. Weaver has composed solo, chamber, and large ensemble works for groundbreaking musicians for twenty-five years, integrating influences of jazz, contemporary classical, improvisation, computer music, world music, and individual music languages of performers. She is an innovator of live performance via the internet by musicians and artists in different geographic locations, encompassing numerous artistic projects with collaborators and interdisciplinary projects with groups such as NASA Kepler/K2 Mission and United Nations. Weaver is the director of NowNet Arts, director of the Sarah Weaver Ensemble, and editor of the Journal of Network Music and Arts; she is on the faculty of New School College of Performing Arts. Weaver is a member of ASCAP, College Music Society, National Association of Composers, and board member of the JackTrip Foundation. [At CMU, Weaver spoke with students in electronic music courses taught by Professors Jesse Stiles and Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh in the School of Music.](#)



MICHELLE WONG is an expert in the unusual field of voice-over acting. She is known for her work in *Abominable* (2019), *Scandal* (2012) and *ER* (1994). [At CMU, Wong visited the 4th-Year BFA Acting and Music Theatre students, under the direction of professor Catherine Moore in the CMU School of Drama.](#)