



**THE SYLVIA AND  
DAVID STEINER  
SPEAKER  
SERIES**

2023-2024 Report:  
Year Six at the Frank-Ratchye  
STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at  
Carnegie Mellon

**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. The Steiner Speaker Series is 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.

In our sixth year of the series, we are thrilled to have stewarded and curated over **40 events from 30 awards including lectures, film screenings, workshops, performances, and readings attended by students, faculty, and staff** from across the CMU community and beyond!

This year also supported longer-term student enrichment through a week-long residency from our visiting artist, **Ioana Vreme Moser** who led lectures, workshops, and performances with the CMU Community, inspiring the original graphic novel documenting that week by participant and STUDIO Alumni, **Neve Monroe-Anderson**.

We are looking forward to our seventh year of support for collaboration with the dynamic community of artists and scholars gathered at Carnegie Mellon University, made possible by the Sylvia and David Steiner Speaker Series.

#### **STEINER BY THE NUMBERS**

School of Architecture	<b>6</b> awards
School of Art	<b>6</b> awards
School of Design	<b>1</b> award
School of Drama	<b>4</b> awards
School of Music	<b>4</b> awards
IDeATe & Robotics	<b>1</b> award
Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry	<b>4</b> awards
Miller ICA	<b>1</b> award
Heinz Masters of Arts Management	<b>1</b> award
Center for Student Diversity Equity & Inclusion	<b>1</b> award
Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	<b>1</b> award

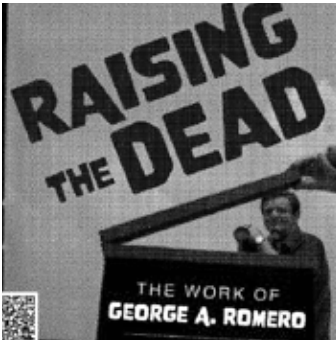
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**30** Total Awards supporting **44** Guests

## STEINER SPEAKERS, 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Adam Charles Hart	Film historian and George A. Romero Scholar
Andrés Burbano	Barcelona-based Colombian designer and creative technologist
Amber Bemak	International filmmaker, artist, and educator
Aria Dean	New-York based artist, critic, and curator
New Red Order	Public secret society facilitated by Jackson Polys, Adam Khalil, Zack Khalil
Aubrey Bergauer	Performing arts business strategist
Audrey Desjardin	Designer investigating living with tech in the home
Benjamin Gaulon	France-based producer and artist, working under the name “recyclism”
Black Quantum Futurism	Interdisciplinary performers Camae Ayewa and Rasheedah Phillips
Bo Fan	Transit data scientist and public policy organizer
Carla Diana	Designer, author, and educator of technological impact
Daniela Rosner	Researcher focused on social and political circumstances of technology
Donna Marquet	Theater designer
Drawing Architecture Studio	China-based creative architecture platform led by Li Han and Hu Yan
Intermission Sessions	Violinists, yoginis, and dear friends Melissa White and Elena Urioste
Ioana Vreme Moser	Romanian creative technologist and musician based in Germany
Jason Veasey	Musical theater and television actor know for <i>Strange Loop</i> and <i>Lion King</i>
Josh Lepawsky	Architect and geographer focused on accumulation of discarded material
Julia Riew	Composer, lyricist, librettist, and writer known for the musical <i>Dive</i>
Kaffe Matthews	Field-forming improvisational musician and electroacoustic composer
Katherine Song	Human Computer Interaction researcher focused on decay and slowness
Kristen N Dew	Designer and educator of sustainable interaction design and technology
Kyle Seinfeld	Design computation researcher and artist
Leah Wulfman	Architect, educator, and media artist
Lisa Crafts	Animator and moving image artist addressing uncertainty and chaos
Madeline Gannon	Multidisciplinary roboticist blending art and computer science
Matmos	Experimental electronic music duo of Martin Schmidt and Drew Daniel
Mindy Seu	Designer, technologist and author of the <i>Cyber Feminist Index</i>
Nadia Granados	Performance artist and experimental filmmaker based in Colombia
Paul Ramirez Jonas	Multimedia and social practice artist focused on circulation of value
Rainbow Serpent	Organization advancing Black LGBTQ culture through art and tech
Regina Gilbert	User-experience designer and educator
Ron Wakkary	Founder of Everyday Design Studio at Simon Fraser University in Canada
Roopa Gogineni	Photographer and documentary filmmaker based in France

Sahraa Karimi	Film director and scriptwriter from Afghanistan and Iran
Samar Sabie	Architect and designer based in Canada
Shahrbanoo Sadat	Filmmaker, writer, and producer from Afghanistan
Sheila Foster	Professor of law and public policy focusing on the question of “commons”
Tami Dixon	Filmmaker known for her works <i>Wolf and Sheep</i> and <i>The Orphanage</i>
Theodora Vardouli	Architect studying algorithmic technique and implications for creative design



**ADAM CHARLES HART** is a scholar, archivist, and the curator for Media Burn, an independent video archive based in Chicago. He is the author of *Monstrous Forms: Moving Image Horror Across Media* as well as *Raising the Dead: The Work of George A. Romero*, which was published this month by Oxford University Press. At CMU, Hart was invited by Suzie Silver, Professor of Art, to speak on his research about George Romero, his indelible filmmaking legacy shaping art and culture both regionally and internationally.



**ANDRÉS BURBANO** explores the interactions of science, art, and technology in various capacities: as a researcher, as an individual artist and in collaborations with other artists and designers. Burbano's work ranges from documentary video (in both science and art), sound and telecommunication art to the exploration of algorithmic cinematic narratives. The broad spectrum of his work illustrates the importance, indeed the prevalence, of interdisciplinary collaborative work in the field of digital art. At CMU, Burbano was invited by Daniel Cardoso Llach, Associate Professor and Chair of Computational Thinking, to speak about his latest book *Different Engines: Media Technologies from Latin America*.



**AMBER BEMAK** is a filmmaker, artist, and educator. Her work is based in experimental and documentary film. For the past two decades, she has been engaged in a multi-layered exploration of performance and film which uses the body as a sight for socio-political inquiry, engages with text, language, and translation to open up discourse around deeply embedded colonization narratives, and commits to linking the intimate and personal with larger institutional structures. At CMU, Bemak was invited by Nica Ross, Director of the STUDIO, along with her creative partner Nadia Granados to speak about their research and creative practice in conjunction with activities with the Dietrich College Humanities Scholars Program.



**ARIA DEAN** is an artist, writer, and filmmaker based in New York City whose work across the moving image, writing, sculpture, and installation mounts a critique of representational systems, examining the structures of individual and collective subjectivity in relation to aesthetics, cultural histories, and technology. At CMU, Dean was invited by Inbar Hagai (School of Art MFA '24) and Rebecca Shapass (School of Art MFA '23) to screen her new animation work "Abbattoir, U.S.A.!" in conversation with New Red Order as part of the ongoing film series at the STUDIO "Touchstone Cinema."



**JACKSON POLYS (NEW RED ORDER)** is a multi-disciplinary artist who examines negotiations toward the limits and viability of desires for Indigenous growth. He holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University and was the recipient of a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Mentor Artist Fellowship. At CMU, Polys was invited by Inbar Hagai (School of Art MFA '24) and Rebecca Shapass (School of Art MFA '23) to screen “Culture Capture: Crimes Against Reality” as part of New Red Order in conversation with Aria Dean for the ongoing film series at the STUDIO “Touchstone Cinema.”



**ADAM KHALIL (NEW RED ORDER)** is a filmmaker and artist whose practice attempts to subvert traditional forms of image making through humor, relation, and transgression. He received his B.A. from Bard College and is co-founder of COUSINS Collective. At CMU, Khalil was invited by Inbar Hagai (School of Art MFA '24) and Rebecca Shapass (School of Art MFA '23) to screen “Culture Capture: Crimes Against Reality” as part of New Red Order in conversation with Aria Dean for the ongoing film series at the STUDIO “Touchstone Cinema.”



**ZACK KHALIL (NEW RED ORDER)** is a filmmaker and artist whose work explores an Indigenous worldview and undermines traditional forms of historical authority through the excavation of alternative histories and the use of innovative documentary forms. He received his B.A. at Bard College in the Film and Electronic Arts Department, and is a UnionDocs Collaborative Fellow and Gates Millennium Scholar. At CMU, Khalil was invited by Inbar Hagai (School of Art MFA '24) and Rebecca Shapass (School of Art MFA '23) to screen “Culture Capture: Crimes Against Reality” as part of New Red Order in conversation with Aria Dean for the ongoing film series at the STUDIO “Touchstone Cinema.”



**AUBREY BERGAUER** is an author and public speaker focused on data-driven consultation for successful public engagement and financial stability for arts organizations. At CMU, Bergauer was invited by Brett Crawford, Associate Teaching Professor of Arts Management to present her new publication *Run It Like A Business*.



**AUDREY DESJARDIN** is an Associate Professor of Interaction Design at University of Washington School of Art, Art History, and Design, and Director of Studio Tilt. Her research investigates experiences of living with technology in the home. Her current projects are inquiries into the data derived from the Internet of Things by crafting and materializing that data into domestic objects. [At CMU, Desjardin spoke and led a workshop with students by invitation of Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture and the Integrated Innovation Institute at Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Public Programs series, Revolutions/Resolutions.](#)



**BENJAMIN GAULON** is an artist, researcher, educator, and cultural producer based in Paris. He has previously released work under the name “Recyclism”. His research focuses on the limits and failures of information and communication technologies; planned obsolescence, consumerism and disposable society; ownership and privacy; through the exploration of détournement, hacking and recycling. His projects can be softwares, installations, pieces of hardware, web-based projects, interactive works, street art interventions and are, when applicable, open source. [At CMU, Gaulon was invited by Teaching Professor of Architecture, Daragh Byrne, to speak to his students in the STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”](#)



**CAMAE AYEWA (BLACK QUANTUM FUTURISM)** is a national and international touring musician, composer, poet, visual artist, and curator. focuses on the recovery and preservation of communal memories and histories that are often missing from mainstream narratives. Her work uses Afrofuturism as a narrative tool, recognizing its ability to empower marginalized Black and Indigenous people, and acting as an agitator in shaping Afrodiasporan past and future narratives. [At CMU, Ayewa was invited as part of Black Quantum Futurism by Elizabeth Chodos, Director of the ICA Pittsburgh, to perform in the CFA Alumni Concert Hall for the “Impossible Music” exhibition.](#)



**RASHEEDA PHILLIPS (BLACK QUANTUM FUTURISM)** is a queer Philadelphia-based housing attorney, parent, and interdisciplinary artist. Phillips is the founder of The AfroFuturist Affair, a founding member of Metropolitarity Queer Speculative Fiction Collective, co-founder of Black Quantum Futurism, and co-creator of Community Futures Lab. [At CMU, Phillips was invited as part of Black Quantum Futurism by Elizabeth Chodos, Director of the ICA Pittsburgh, to perform in the CFA Alumni Concert Hall for the “Impossible Music” exhibition.](#)



**BO FAN** is a transit data scientist, scholar, and public policy activist around issues of public accessibility, mass transit, and predatory uses of data. At CMU, Fan was invited by Anisha Baid, an MFA student in the School of Art, to perform a lecture as part of the MFA Exhibition “Second Degree Vision.” Bonnie’s performance extended the inquiry of several students, including Baid, whose research includes histories of technology, the development of the tech-oriented university, and institutional complicity with tech-driven solutionism through predictive policing, smart city surveillance, and access to public transit.



**CARLA DIANA** is a designer, author, and educator who explores the impact of future technologies through hands-on experiments in product design and tangible interaction. In addition to her studio practice, she is Design Advisor and former Head of Design for Diligent Robotics, an Austin, TX, based company where advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning manifest in robot assistants to help healthcare workers. At CMU, Wayne Chung, Associate Professor and Product Design Program Chair in the School of Design, to give a public lecture in the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry about her newest publication *My Robot Gets Me: How Social Design Can Make New Projects More Human*.



**DANIELA ROSNER** is an Associate Professor in Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) at the University of Washington. Her research investigates the social, political, and material circumstances of technology development, with an emphasis on foregrounding marginalized histories of practice, from maintenance to needlecraft. She has worked in design research at Microsoft Research, Adobe Systems, Nokia Research and as an exhibit designer at several museums, including the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum. At CMU, Rosner was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture, for his STUDIO-hosted course, Data Dump.



**DONNA MARQUET** is a scenic designer and Senior Lecture in Scenic Design & Theater Advisor at University of North Texas. Her scenic designs have been seen locally at the Dallas Theater Center, Shakespeare Dallas, Casa Manana, Kitchen Dog Theatre, Jubilee Theater and Lyric Stage. Regionally, she has designed for South Coast Repertory, Center Theatre Group, Theatre @ Boston Court, Sacred Fools, Open Fist Theatre, Colony Theatre and The Evidence Room. She has won numerous awards including the Bob Z Career Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. At CMU, Marquet was invited by Kolten Cotton, Video Media Design MFA student in the School of Drama, to discuss unconventional construction.





**LI HAN** is a co-founder of Drawing Architecture Studio (DAS), a Beijing-based creative platform that specializes in architectural drawing, architectural design and urban studies. At CMU, Han was invited along with DAS co-founder Hu Yan, by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak with the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, Data Dump.



**HU YAN** is a co-founder of Drawing Architecture Studio (DAS), a Beijing-based creative platform that specializes in architectural drawing, architectural design and urban studies. At CMU, Han was invited along with DAS co-founder Li Han, by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak with the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, Data Dump



**MELISSA WHITE (INTERMISSION SESSIONS)** is an internationally acclaimed violinist who applies their expertise in yoga and meditation principles to benefit musicians in holistic and healthy ways. Through their yoga/mediation initiative, “Intermission Sessions,” White and their collaborator Urioste have helped musicians begin to unite their physical, mental, and emotional selves through exploring mindful movement, alignment, breath-work, and self-compassion. At CMU, *Intermission Sessions* was invited by Monique Mead, Director of Music Entrepreneurship in the School of Music to present to the students of “Mental Training for Peak Performance.”



**ELENA URIOSTE (INTERMISSION SESSIONS)** is an internationally acclaimed violinist who applies their expertise in yoga and meditation principles to benefit musicians in holistic and healthy ways. Through their yoga/mediation initiative, “Intermission Sessions,” Urioste and their collaborator White have helped musicians begin to unite their physical, mental, and emotional selves through exploring mindful movement, alignment, breath-work, and self-compassion. At CMU, *Intermission Sessions* was invited by Monique Mead, Director of Music Entrepreneurship in the School of Music to present to the students of “Mental Training for Peak Performance.”



**IOANA VREME MOSER** is a Romanian sound artist working in electronics, speculative research, and tactile experimentation. In her practice, she uses rough electronic processes to obtain different materialities of sound. From these collisions, synthesized sounds emerge to carry personal narrations and observations on the history of electronics, their production chains, wastelands, and entanglements in the natural world. At CMU, Moser was invited by STUDIO Director Nica Ross for a one-week residency, including a public lecture, two-day workshop “Screaming Minerals,” and public performance by participants who created their own mineral-activated crystal radio instruments.



**JASON VEASEY** is a musical theater and television actor featured in Tony Award-winning Musicals *Strange Loop* and *The Lion King* as well as Emmy-award winning *Only Murders in the Building*, *American Gangster*, & *Chicago Fire*. At CMU, Veasey was invited by Kaja Dunn, Associate Professor of Anti-Racist and Culturally Competent Practice in the School of Drama to deliver a talk about his career and navigating bias in both the television and theater industries.



**JOSH LEPAWSKY** is Professor of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and the author of *Reassembling Rubbish* (MIT Press 2018) as well as *Discarded Studies* (MIT Press 2022). At CMU, Lepawsky was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”



**JULIA RIEW** is an emerging Korean-American composer, lyricist, and librettist. She has written short musicals for children’s and family theater, and has also developed full-length shows that center stories, bodies, and voices, that are generally absent in contemporary musical theater, including a musical called “The East Side” and now “Dive,” which will be developed at the American Repertory Theater by an all-Female, Asian-American Creative Team. At CMU, Riew was invited by Kate Pukinskis to speak to the students of her “Repertoire Analysis: Contemporary Musical Theater” course.



**KAFFE MATTHEWS** is a pioneering music maker who since 1995 has been making works live with space, data, things, and places to make new electroacoustic compositions worldwide. Violin, theremin, star maps, NASA scientists, sharks, children, solo walks and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra have all sourced this growing body of works for sites such as concert halls, city streets, basement club, gallery, living room, empty shop and the human body. At CMU, Matthews was invited by Freida Abtan, Assistant Professor of Electronic Music Composition, to deliver a lecture in the STUDIO and a live performance at WQED Studio A.



**KATHERINE SONG** is a PhD candidate in computer science at UC Berkeley specializing in human-computer interaction. Song’s research centers around the creation of sustainable, backyard-degradable interactive systems that can be made and un-made at home by the everyday maker. At CMU, Song was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”



**KRISTEN N DEW** is a Senior UX Researcher at Smartsheet and Affiliate Assistant Professor in the University of Washington Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering. At CMU, Dew was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”



**LEAH WULFMAN** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Multi-Disciplinary Design, College of Architecture + Planning at the University of Utah. They have an extensive design practice bridging architecture, product design, and mixed-reality game development. At CMU, Wulfman was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”



**LISA CRAFTS** is an animator and moving image artist whose interdisciplinary work addresses issues of environmental uncertainty, sexuality, creativity, and chaos. She is currently working on a series of short moving image pieces about the horror, beauty, humor, and loss of the Anthropocene. At CMU, Crafts was invited by Johannes DeYoung and James Duesing to be part of the STUDIO-hosted “Women in Animation” speaker series.



**MADELINE GANNON** is a multidisciplinary designer inventing better ways to communicate with machines. She blends techniques in art, design, computer science, and robotics to forge new futures for human-robot relations. At CMU, Gannon spoke and led a workshop with students by invitation of Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture and the Integrated Innovation Institute at Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Public Programs series, Revolutions/Resolutions.



**MARTIN SCHMIDT (MATMOS)** is an American experimental electronic musician, producer, and composer. Schmidt performs with Drew Daniel as “Matmos”, an experimental electronic music duo formed in San Francisco and currently based in Baltimore. At CMU, Schmidt was invited by Freida Abtan, Assistant Professor of Electronic Music Composition, to deliver a lecture and a live performance at WQED Studio A.



**DREW DANIEL (MATMOS)** received a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Berkeley and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Johns Hopkins University. Daniel performs with Martin Schmidt as “Matmos”, an experimental electronic music duo formed in San Francisco and currently based in Baltimore. At CMU, Daniel was invited by Freida Abtan, Assistant Professor of Electronic Music Composition, to deliver a lecture and a live performance at WQED Studio A.



**MINDY SEU** is an American designer and researcher whose work focuses on public engagement with digital archives. She is best known for her Cyberfeminism Index project and publications, and is currently on the faculty at Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts and also teaches at the Yale School of Art. At CMU, Seu was invited by Angela Washko, Assistant Professor of Art, to deliver a university-facing lecture focused on her work creating the “Cyberfeminism Index.”



**NADIA GRANADOS** is a Colombian performance artist who uses her body in combination with multi-media technologies to explore relationships between the representation of state violence in mainstream media, institutionalized machismo, heterosexual pornography, and violence against women. At CMU, Granados was invited by Nica Ross, Director of the STUDIO, along with their creative partner Amber Bemak to speak about their research and creative practice in conjunction with activities with the Dietrich College Humanities Scholars Program.



**PAUL RAMIREZ JONAS** has created works that range from large-scale public installations and monumental sculptures to intimate drawings, performances and videos. Through his practice he seeks to challenge the definitions of art and the public and to engineer active audience participation and exchange. At CMU, Jonas was invited by Professor of Art Jon Rubin, to speak to the students of the course “Introduction to Social Practice.”



**RAINBOW SERPENT** is a non-profit organization committed to advancing Black LGBTQ culture through the exploration of emerging technologies, innovative healing protocols, African cosmologies, and multimedia art. At CMU, Rainbow Serpent was invited by Nicole Guccione, Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Associate at the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, to present an engaging writing-based workshop about dreams at the Mosaic Conference for Intersectionality.



**REGINÉ GILBERT** is a James Weldon Johnson Professor at New York University who is highly respected for her leadership, expertise, and influence in design, education, and authorship. Gilbert is driven by a profound commitment to fostering a more accessible world, firmly rooted in user-centric principles from start to finish. At CMU, Gilbert was invited by Tricia Douglas and her cohort of in the Deisgn Studies Cultures Studio to give a class-facing lecture.



**RON WAKKERY** is a Professor in Design in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology, Simon Fraser University in Canada where he founded the Everyday Design Studio. In addition, he is a Professor and Chair of Design for More Than Human-Centered Worlds in the Future Everyday Cluster in Industrial Design, Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. At CMU, Wakkery was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted class, “Data Dump.”



**ROOPA GOGINENI** is a filmmaker and photographer based in Paris. For a decade she lived in Nairobi where she developed a collaborative practice, working alongside communities of resistance across the region. At CMU, Gogineni was invited by Stephan Caspar, Assistant Teaching Professor of Media Creation & Multi-Cultural Studies in the Dietrich College’s Department of Languages, Cultures & Applied Linguistics to visit both his Third-Cinema Course co-taught with Candace Skibba, as well as to screen her film “SUDDENLY TV” in the STUDIO followed by a conversation with Stephan and the audience.



**SAHRAA KARIMI** is a film director and screenwriter from Afghanistan. She has made more than 30 short fiction films and documentaries, some of which won numerous awards in international film festivals. Prior to the fall of Kabul to the Taliban, Karimi was the first and only female general director of the Afghan Film Organization. Her film “Hava, Maryam, Ayesha” was one of the first independent Afghan films to be shot entirely in country, amid increasing security threat and the first to broach taboo subjects like domestic abuse, abortion, and pre-marital sex. At CMU, Karimi was invited by Wendy Arons, Director of the Center for the Arts in Society as part of the Scholars at Risk Dinner & a Movie series curated by Habib Sorosh.



**SAMAR SABIE** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology. Her research investigates the role of design in building adaptive capacity towards sustainable change at a community scale. Her research draws on a multidisciplinary background across architecture, software engineering, ethnography, and philosophy. At CMU, Sabie was invited by Daragh Byrne, Teaching Professor in the School of Architecture, to speak to the students of his STUDIO-hosted course, “Data Dump.”



**SHEILA FOSTER** is a Professor of Law and Public Policy (joint appointment with the McCourt School) Georgetown. Professor Foster writes in the areas of environmental law and justice, urban land use law and policy, and state and local governments. At CMU, Foster was invited by Stefan Gruber to speak to the Masters of Urban Design students about her most recent book *Co-Cities, Innovative Transition toward Just and Self-Sustaining Communities* (MIT Press 2022).



**TAMI DIXON** is Co-Artistic Director of Bricolage Production Company. She has created dozens of programs, written countless episodes of Midnight Radio, and spearheaded initiatives of inclusion and accessibility like 5th Wall and Between the Lines: Community Conversations around Racism in Pittsburgh. At CMU, Dixon was invited by Lara Miller an MFA student of Dramatic Writing in the School of Drama to speak with the students in her course, “Documentary Theatre.”



**THEODORA VARDOULI** is an Assistant Professor at the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University. Her research examines algorithmic techniques of describing, generating, and simulating architectural form and performance -- their histories, cultural meanings, and operational implications for creative design. At CMU, Vardouli was invited by Daniel Cardoso Llach, Associate Professor of Architecture, Track Chair of Computational Design, and co-editor with Vardouli of *Designing the Computational Image, Imagining Computational Design* (Applied Research and Design Publishing 2023).

THURSDAY MARCH 28TH-  
THE FRANK-RATCHYE STUDIO FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY

IOANA -  
ROMANIAN EX-BALLERINA  
AND ELECTRONICS ARTIST

NEVE -  
YOUR INTREPID  
AUTHOR/CARTOONIST

NICA, HARRISON, BILL, CAROL, LINDA, AND  
MORE... THE TEAM MAKING THIS EVENT HAPPEN

IOANA'S ARTIST TALK IS THE FIRST PART OF  
HER WEEKEND WORKSHOP...  
ONE IN WHICH SHE'S TEACHING US. I'D BEEN TOLD  
TO MAKE ROCKS SCREAM.

TONIGHT THOUGH,  
SHE WAS HERE TO SHOW US HER  
BODY OF WORK...  
THE SORT OF PIECES ONLY ACHIEVED BY  
USING ART TO SHARE FORGOTTEN HISTORY,  
DISTILLED RESEARCH....

...BUILT INTO A  
MODULAR SYNTHESIZER...

...SO I BEGAN BUILDING FLUIDIC  
TRANSISTORS...

...RESEARCH INTO THE  
USEFULNESS OF TREES AS RADIO  
TRANSCIVERS...



SATURDAY MARCH 30TH, 10AM  
THE FRANK-RATCHEY STUDIO FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY

COFFEE

17-001

COURTESY OF THE STUDIO, IOANA'S WORKSHOP IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



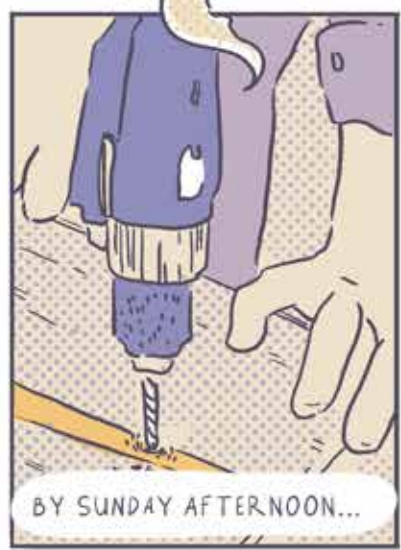
COURTESY OF THE FORETHINKING STAFF, MY SPOT IS RESERVED.



IOANA RUNS A TIGHT SHIP...  
METERING OUT COMPONENTS  
AS WE NEED THEM



KEEPING ERRORS TO A  
MINIMUM AMONG NEWER  
AND MORE SEASONED  
PARTICIPANTS ALIKE



BY SUNDAY AFTERNOON...



THE INSTRUMENTS ARE DONE,  
AND THE BAND IS READY TO PLAY!



MONDAY MARCH 31ST,  
CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART  
AND SCIENCE

IOANA WAS ONLY HERE FOR 8 DAYS,  
BUT I DID GET ONE OTHER  
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW  
HER BEFORE SHE WENT BACK TO  
BERLIN...

NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE,  
LET'S GO SEE THE GEMS!

TRAVIS, ASSISTANT  
CURATOR OF GEMS AND MINERALS

THIS IS A BIT EMBARRASSING,  
BUT COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME  
EXACTLY WHAT YOU DO...

I DIDN'T TOTALLY  
UNDERSTAND

IOANA'S AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SOUND  
ARTIST HERE TEACHING A WORKSHOP ABOUT  
THE POTENTIAL OF NEGATIVELY CONDUCTIVE  
NATURALLY OCCURRING ROCKS...

HILLMAN HALL OF MINERALS AND GEMS

TO PUT IT A DIFFERENT WAY,  
I MAKE THINGS LIKE SYNTHESIZERS AND  
DEVICES USING ELECTRONICS FOR  
PERFORMANCE AND TIME BASED  
PIECES...

I CAN'T SAY I TOTALLY GET IT...  
BUT I'M EXCITED YOU'RE HERE!

I LOVE SHOWING PEOPLE THE  
COLLECTION

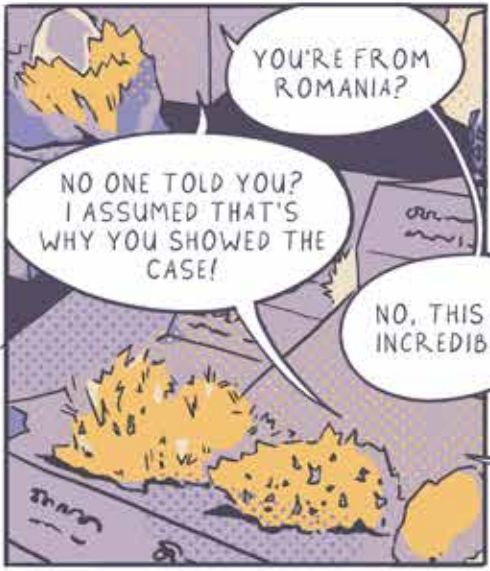
THIS ONE IS SO  
PRETTY!



...AND HERE'S ROMANIA!  
IN MY OPINION IT HAS SOME OF  
THE BEST SPECIMENS COLLECTED IN  
THE WORLD



WOW!  
THIS GEM CASE LOOKS LIKE A  
FANCIER VERSION OF MY  
GRANDDAD'S COLLECTION



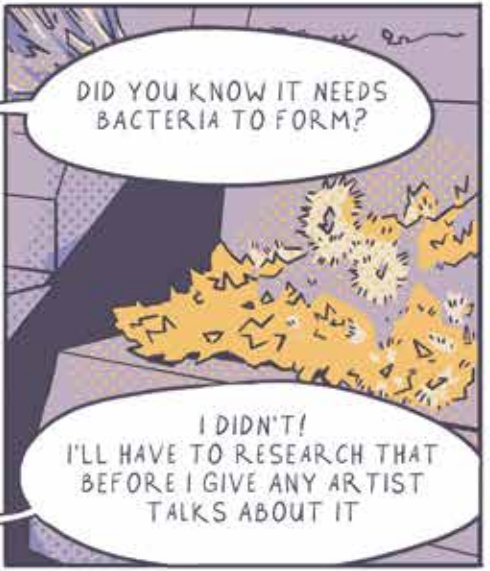
YOU'RE FROM  
ROMANIA?

NO ONE TOLD YOU?  
I ASSUMED THAT'S  
WHY YOU SHOWED THE  
CASE!

NO, THIS IS  
INCREDIBLE



THIS PYRITE SAMPLE LOOKS  
LIKE ONE I COLLECTED!  
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TURN  
IT INTO AN INSTRUMENT



DID YOU KNOW IT NEEDS  
BACTERIA TO FORM?

I DIDN'T!  
I'LL HAVE TO RESEARCH THAT  
BEFORE I GIVE ANY ARTIST  
TALKS ABOUT IT



I'D LOVE TO SEE THE  
MINES IN THE NORTH  
ONE DAY

MAYBE WE CAN  
ORGANIZE  
A TRIP!

MAYBE I COULD HELP  
YOU FIND SOME  
SAMPLES FOR YOUR  
ART...

SEEING IOANA OUT OF HER ELEMENT,  
MADE ME REALIZE HOW AN ARTIST LIKE HER CAN BE SUCCESSFUL-  
THE CONNECTIONS SHE FORMED THROUGH STORY COULD TRANSCEND  
'ARTS CULTURE'... MAKING SCIENTISTS TO SEE THEIR OBJECTS OF  
STUDY AS IMPORTANT TO ART TOO...

The Steiner Speaker Series makes it possible for STUDIO hosted classes to invite guest lectures and critics throughout the semester. Their broadened intellectual community inspires students to present their work professionally in a final exhibition.

Associate Teaching Professor Daragh Byrne (CMU School of Architecture) is the mind behind our Fall 2023 STUDIO-hosted Course, “Data Dump”. Data Dump is a three-year sequence of Advanced Synthesis Option (ASO) studios. Each year will use emerging frameworks in design research to unpack, examine and reinterpret the wasteful, material and resource intensive cycles of innovation found within modern technology. Within this studio, students are first asked to understand global material flows exporting harms and the consequences of those decisions on local and global contexts. Subsequently, through precedent research about urban mining to recover e-waste, we will take apart and tear down e-waste – technically, materially and conceptually – and reconfigure it to present alternatives.



Nica Ross (STUDIO Director) participates in final project critiques for students of the Steiner supported STUDIO course, “Data Dump” taught by Dr. Daragh Byrne (CMU School of Architecture)

Harrison Apple (STUDIO Assoc. Director) and Robert Zacharias (IDeATe Physical Computing Faculty) review final projects for students in the CFA Great Hall





Melisa Orta Martinez (Robotics Institute, SHRED Lab, Computer Science, with courtesy appointment in Mechanical Engineering) and Olivia Robinson (IDeAte, Soft Technologies, and Entertainment Technology Center) are the professors behind the Spring 2024 STUDIO-hosted Course “Re-Crafting Computational Thinking with Soft Technologies.”

This course focuses on teaching introductory concepts of Robotics, Mechatronics, and Computer Science using an arts-based approach. During the course, you will build a weaving robot, program it, and explore how weaving is connected to computer programming and matrix mathematics. You will also learn the history of weaving, how to design dynamic patterns, and how to extract the features of those patterns into mathematical equations and computer programs.

Students test structural strength with large-gauge rope before coding the sequence with their team’s robotic jacquard looms.

Students worked in five teams to assemble and program their looms to create a range of complex structures expanding on their lectures and readings about computational principles and applications for design and fabrication





# WOMEN IN ANIMATION

SPEAKER SERIES

LAURA  
HARRISON

FEBRUARY 19, 2024  
STUDIO (CFA III), 5PM

SPRING 2024

REBECCA  
RUIGE XU

MARCH 13, 2024  
STUDIO (CFA III), 5PM

LISA  
CRAFTS

FEBRUARY 26, 2024  
STUDIO (CFA III), 5PM

BROOKE  
KEESLING

APRIL 8, 2024  
STUDIO (CFA III), 5PM

JOO YOUNG  
CHOI

MARCH 27, 2024  
STUDIO (CFA III), 5PM

Made possible by the generous support of Carnegie Mellon University Center for the Arts in Society, the College of Fine Arts Dean's Office, Dietrich College Department of Modern Languages, the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, the



**Brooke Keesling** closed out the STUDIO-hosted “Women in Animation Series” curated by Johannes DeYoung and Jim Duesing and supported by the Steiner Speaker Series, the CMU School of Art, and IDeATe.

Brooke is the head of Animation Talent Development for Bento Box Entertainment in Los Angeles California. With support from the Steiner Speaker Series, she was able to visit from Los Angeles to meet individually and collectively with Animation students across Carnegie Mellon University.

Students received individual guidance for their personal practice and key advice from a leader in the industry.

# RAISING THE DEAD

THE WORK OF  
**GEORGE A. ROMERO**



**GUEST LECTURE BY ADAM CHARLES HART**  
**3/28 CFA - 111 (IN THE STUDIO)**  
**5:30 PM**

The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry

Few movies have had more impact than **George A. Romero's** debut feature, *Night of the Living Dead*. When it was unleashed on the world in 1968, it scandalized some and was dismissed by others, but it clearly struck a chord. Night invented a new kind of smart, savage horror, and it's been watched, loved, and imitated as much as any movie ever made.

And its influence continues to be felt across the culture, from zombie properties like *The Walking Dead* and *The Last of Us* to "elevated" horror films like *Get Out* and *Midsommar*. But, once upon a time, it was just a low-budget movie from Pittsburgh made by a Carnegie Tech dropout and his pals. This talk, taken from the new book *Raising the Dead: The Work of George A. Romero*, traces Romero's creative life throughout the decade leading up to *Night* to show how and why a zombie movie could change the cinema.



**IOANA VREME MOSER**  
**3/24 6PM CFA 111**  
**SCREAMING MINERALS. Public Performance.**

The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry The Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry

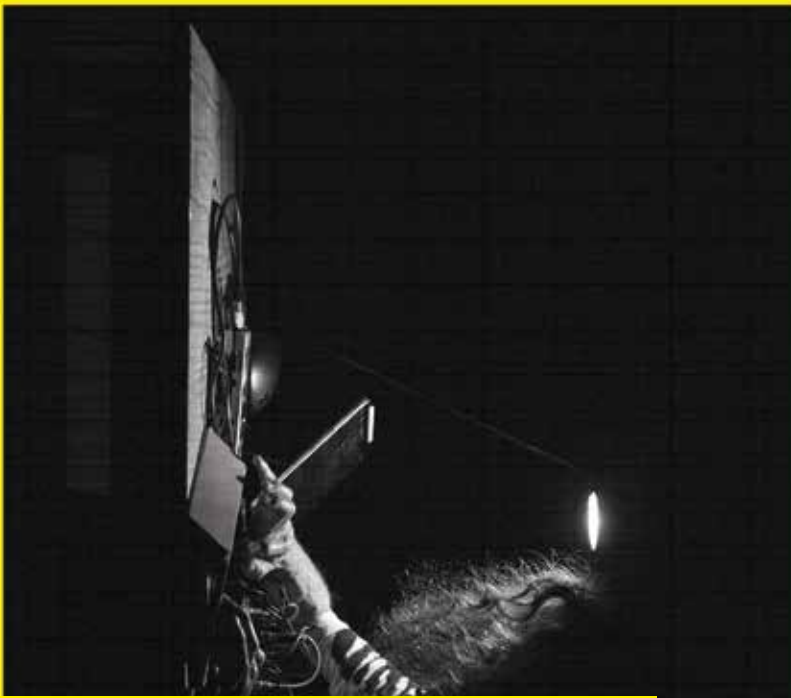


IOANA VREME MOSER 3/24 6PM CFA 111 Public Performance. Screaming Minerals. Semiconductors

**KAFFE MATT**  
**3/20 5:30PM**  
**ARTIST TALK**

The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO**  
 for Creative Inquiry

KAFFE  
 MATTHEWS  
 3/20 5:30PM  
 CFA 111  
 ALCHEMICAL  
 NOISE  
 ARTIST TALK

Thank you again for your generous support of groundbreaking intellectual and artistic work on Carnegie Mellon University's Campus.

We are already planning ahead for the 2024-2025 season at the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry including early applications reviewed this Spring for the start of the Fall Semester!



**Nica Ross**  
 Director



**Dr. Harrison Apple**  
 Associate Director



**Bill Rodgers**  
 Program Administrator



**Linda Hager**  
 Business Manager



**Carol Hernandez**  
 Financial Assistant



**Rich Kawood**  
 Technical Coordinator



**Anastasia Jungle**  
 Videographer & Editor



**Ran Peng**  
 MAM Intern

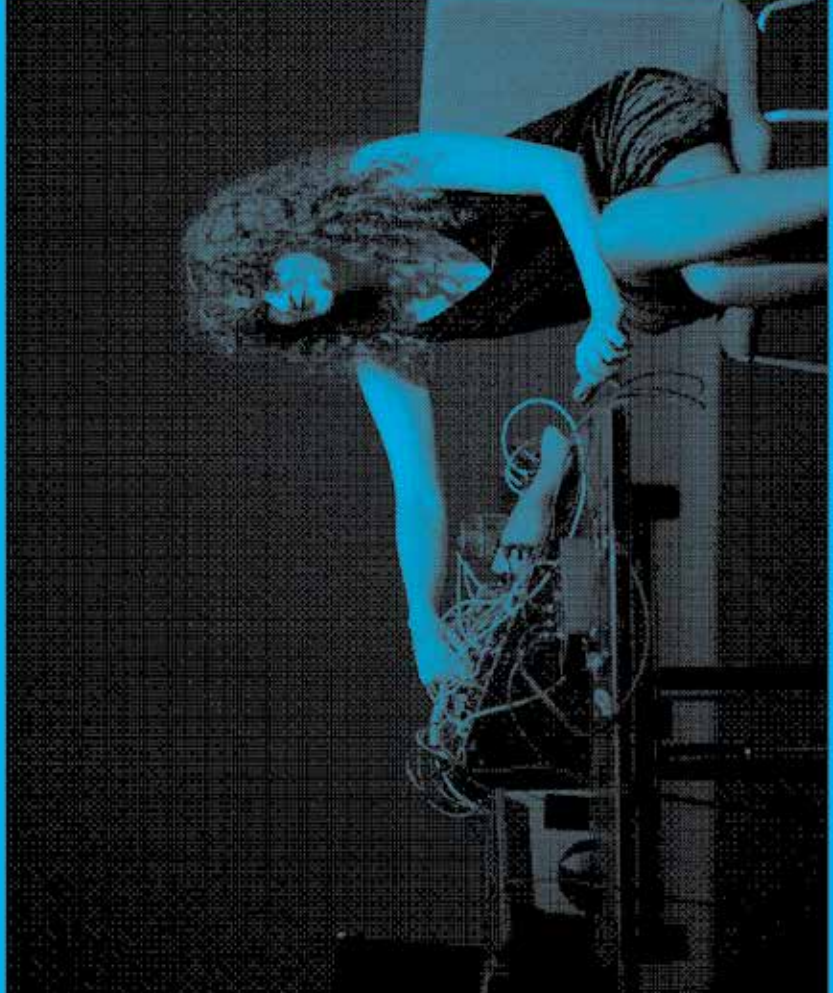


**ROOPA GOGINENI**  
**4/3 5:00PM CFA 111**  
**SUDDENLY TV: SCR**

The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO**  
 for Creative Inquiry



**ROOPA GOGINENI**  
 4/3 5:00PM  
 CFA 111  
 SUDDENLY TV:  
 A SCREENING &  
 TALK WITH THE  
 FILMMAKER



**IOANA VREME MOSER - ARTIST TALK**  
**3/21 5:30PM CFA 111**  
**Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.**

The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
 for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry

					
IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.	IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.	IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.	IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.	IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.	IOANA VREME MOSER 3/21 5:30PM CFA 111 Pirouette Machines. Fluid Components.

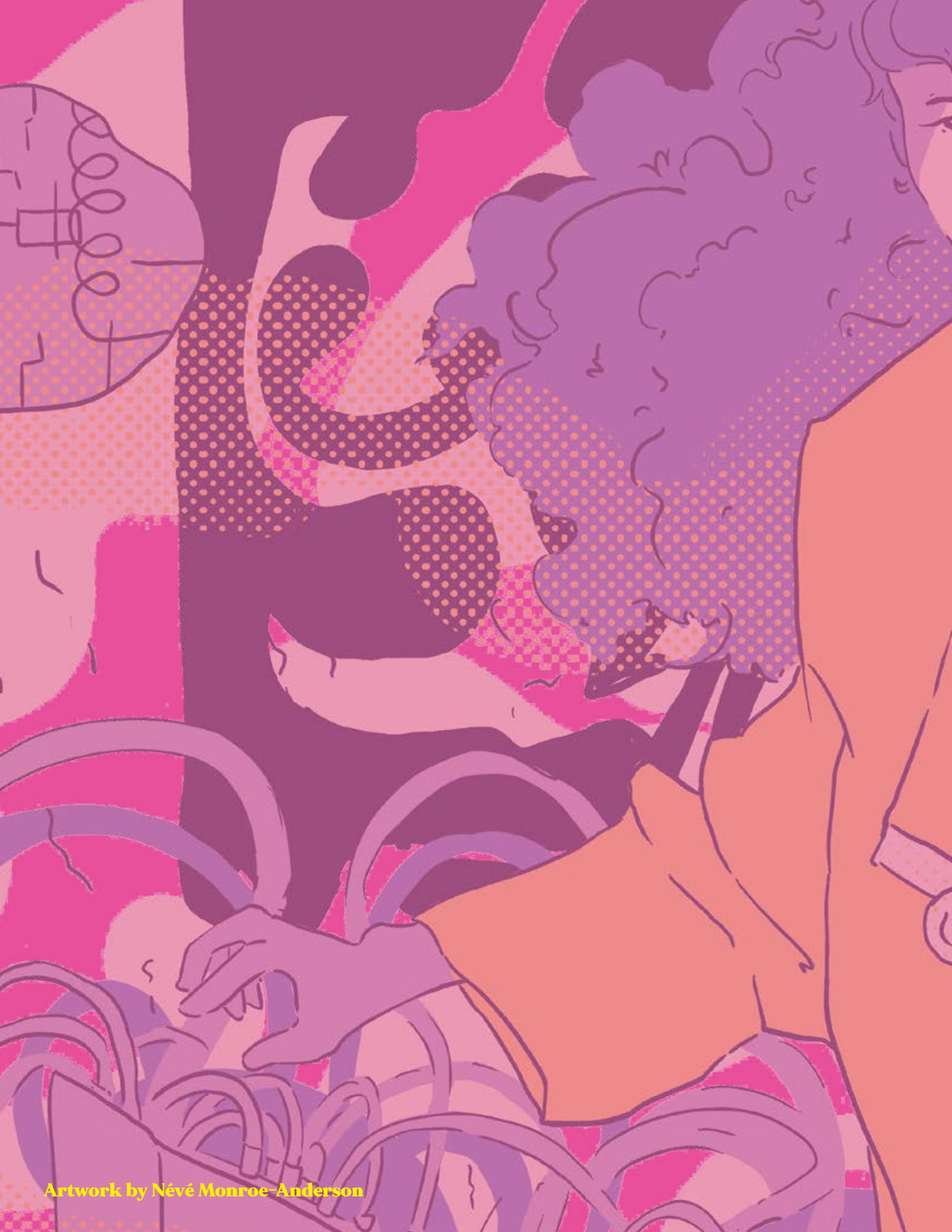


**CARLA DIANA**  
**3/26 5PM CFA 111**  
**DESIGNING EVERYDAY PRODUCTS WITH SOCIAL ROBOTICS IN MIND**

The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
**STUDIO** The Frank-Ratchye  
 for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry for Creative Inquiry

					
CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind	CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind	CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind	CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind	CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind	CARLA DIANA 3/26 5PM CFA 111 Designing Everyday Products with Social Robotics in Mind





Artwork by Nève Monroe-Anderson