



BENNINGTON ALUMNI NEWS

A Newsletter
for Alumni
and Friends



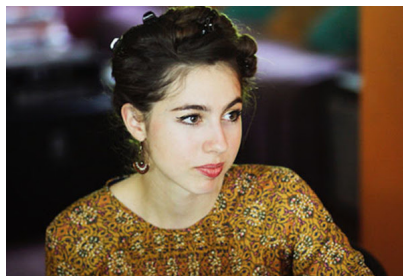
Natural Respite

The Sara Nightingale Gallery in Sag Harbor is currently [hosting](#) *Natural Respite*, a site-specific installation of works by **Erica-Lynn Huberty MFA '95** created over the pandemic year. Rather than mourning the many losses brought about by the global health crisis, Huberty seeks to evoke joy in the viewer, drawing inspiration from the Earth's rebound during our human respite.



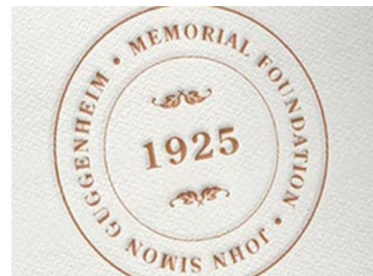
Thrilling Scores

Akari Uchiyama '11 and **Sam Tyndall '04** [have scored](#) a horror/thriller film, *Blood Conscious*, directed by Timothy Covell. The [film](#) will hit Panic Fest and other film festivals this spring, and theaters/VOD this summer.



"Noise Cancelling"

Devon Walker-Figueroa '15 [has won](#) the 2021 Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America for her poem, "Noise Cancelling." The judge was poet Amit Majmudar, and the award is given annually to the best poem on a humanitarian theme.



Holy Guggenheim!

Mark Wunderlich, Director of Bennington Writing Seminars, faculty member **Craig Morgan Teicher**, and past faculty **Paul Yoon**, **Ephraim Asili**, **Kaitlyn Greenidge**, and **Alexander Chee** [are recipients](#) of the prestigious 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship. Appointed on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise, the successful candidates were chosen from a group of almost 3,000 applicants in the Foundation's 96th competition.



Along for the Ride

Sofia Alvarez '07, the screenwriter behind the Netflix hit *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* and *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*, [will write and direct](#) a feature adaptation of the YA novel *Along for the Ride*, from *New York Times* bestselling author Sarah Dessen.

Designs for Different Futures

Heather Dewey-Hagborg '03 recently premiered a new work, *Viral Time*, created during the pandemic, at the AIR Art and Science Center in St. Petersburg. The work explores the passage of time from the perspective of a virus and consists of a web-poem and physical installation. Experience the web component of the work [online](#), and catch the recording of Heather's [conversation](#) with fellow artist Chelsea Manning for the Walker Art Museum. The talk accompanied an exhibition in which Dewey-Hagborg's work was featured through April 11, [Designs for Different Futures](#).

Announcements:

Commencement 2021 Speakers

Darren Walker, president of the [Ford Foundation](#), will be the 2021 commencement speaker will be the [2021 commencement speaker](#). The Senior Speaker will be **Soumya Rachel Shailendra '21**, who studied drama and literature. Music faculty member **Michael Wimberly** will be the faculty speaker during the Conferring of Degrees on Saturday, May 29, at 10:00 am. You can join in celebrating the Class of 2021 in [our virtual celebrations](#), and [share words of encouragement or congratulations](#).

Bennington Connects

We will soon be launching improvements to our online alumni network, [Bennington Connects](#). To this point, it has served as a directory, but updated functionality will include mentoring, listing jobs, creating groups, and networking communications directly through the site. This will be a great resource for both alumni and students. Look for more information in your inbox in the coming weeks, and send questions to alumnirelations@bennington.edu.

Force

Salem Art Works presents its [upcoming exhibition](#), entitled *Force*, at Southern Vermont Arts Center (SVAC) in Manchester, VT. The exhibition features works from Executive Director of Salem Art Works **Anthony Cafritz '85**, **Jordan Becker '06**, **Walter Dunnington '84**, **Sanford Mirling '04**, and **Enid Sanford P '85**. Works will be on view in the Elizabeth de C. Wilson Museum galleries from May 8 - June 27, 2021, with a closing reception to be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021. Almost 50 different artists will be included in *Force*, which will encompass sculpture, painting, prints, mixed media, glass, ceramics, and more.

Bennington Fund Spring Challenge

In case you missed it, we recently launched the 2021 Bennington Fund Spring Challenge: **for every 100 donors to the Bennington Fund between now and June 30, an anonymous donor will give \$50,000 to the fund!** A gift of any size makes a difference—the act of giving is just as important as the amount of the gift itself. The Bennington Fund supports scholarships, campus renewal, COVID-19 relief, our incredibly talented faculty, and all aspects of campus life. [Will you be one of the first 100 donors to join the challenge with your gift today?](#)

Faculty Retirements

This spring, Bennington will bid farewell and good luck to four faculty members as they embark on well-deserved retirement. **Barry Barlett** (ceramics), **Andrew Cencini** (computer science), **Bruce**

Williamson (music) and **Kerry Woods** (biology) are all in their last term teaching. If you'd like to wish them well or share a memory with them, [please submit](#) by May 15.

New Leadership

[Dr. Alfredo Medina](#) has been appointed the new Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and College Diversity Officer following a national search led by Spelman Johnson. Medina is currently serving as the Executive Director, Office for Public Engagement and Associate Director, Office for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Albany. He previously served as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Risk Management and Compliance at Siena College. Medina will join the College on June 14.

Brian Michael Murphy, media studies faculty and director of the MFA in Public Action, will serve as the new Dean of the College, and **Noelle Murphy**, Assistant Dean for Academic Services, will serve as Associate Dean of the College. **Sarah Harris**, current languages faculty, has been appointed Dean of Faculty, working with the Provost and members of academic leadership to provide faculty with support for their teaching, advising and professional work. Their combined expertise and experience at Bennington will provide critical insight and continuity during this exciting time of transition as we welcome a new Provost.

We are so thrilled to announce these additions to the College, and look forward to all the great collaborations and leadership they will provide in the upcoming years.

Events:

May 19 | *Fierce Poise*: Book Event | Virtual Event

[Join](#) Bennington College President **Laura Walker** in conversation with **Alexander Nemerov**, author of *Fierce Poise: Helen Frankenthaler and 1950s New York* and **Lise Motherwell '77** about the book and their Bennington connections.

May 25 | *A Contemporary Vision*: Alumni Preview | Virtual Event

Lisa Thomas, Director of Fine Art at STAIR, [will host](#) a Bennington community exclusive preview of selected works from the Bucksbaum Collection, ahead of the June 2nd auction.

June 2 | *A Contemporary Vision* | Virtual Event

STAIR Galleries in Hudson, NY [hosts](#) an online auction of contemporary paintings from the collection of Melva Bucksbaum to benefit Art for Access.

Through June 3 | *Taxilandia* | New York, New York

[Explore](#) the past and present of Bushwick in an AV installation across five storefronts. While walking the neighborhood, guests will take in the sights, sounds, and history of the barrio. Co-created by **Modesto Flako Jimenez '06**.

Through June 5 | *Kinship: The Inspiration of Artistic Connection* | Poughkeepsie, NY and Virtual

Philemona Williamson '73 is one of 22 artists featured in [this exhibit at the Arts Mid-Hudson Gallery](#), inspired by the deep connections artists experience in their lives.

Through June 30 | *The Walls* | Virtual

Marguerite Feitlowitz's translation, from the Argentine Spanish, of Griselda Gambaro's *The Walls*, is included in "Around the World in 80 Plays," a radio-drama series co-produced by Soulpepper Theatre in Toronto and the Canadian Broadcast Company (CBC). *The Walls* is [available](#) through June 30.

Bennington College | Office of Alumni Relations

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