



# ANNOUNCING THE 2020 CREATIVE CAPITAL AWARDS

## 35 Innovative Projects Receive \$3.5 Million in Total Support

**New York, NY (January 15, 2020)** — Creative Capital is pleased to announce the selection of 35 projects for the 2020 Creative Capital Awards. Exemplars of the sort of innovative, powerful, and challenging work that Creative Capital is dedicated to advancing, these awardees will receive up to \$50,000 in project funding, supplemented by an additional \$50,000 in career development services, for a total value of \$100,000. The full list of recipients is below.

These 35 projects, by 41 individual artists, were drawn from a pool of more than 4,000 applications and selected by a nine-member, multidisciplinary panel composed of awardees from previous years, expert curators, producers, and other arts professionals. In a departure from traditional awards panels, Creative Capital's multi-step review process is not delineated by genre—the nine panelists deliberated together to select the awardees regardless of field.

“Though these artists come to us from very different backgrounds, work in different fields, and explore a wide range of subjects, they share a dedication to pushing boundaries, both ours and their own,” said **Suzy Delvalle**, Creative Capital's President & Executive Director. “We are thrilled to be supporting them and their work, and cannot wait to see these projects grow and mature to fruition.”

The projects that earned 2020 Creative Capital Awards are based in 15 different states and territories, from Louisiana to Alaska, Puerto Rico to Pennsylvania. Of the 41 artists, over 76 percent identify as people of color, 54 percent identify as women, and 12 percent as trans or gender nonbinary; two identify as being disabled. They range in age from 27 to 67.

This year's projects mark the first of a new decade, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Creative Capital. In planning for the decade to come, Creative Capital recently announced its move to a new fundraising model and the launch of a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund, evidence of the organization's continued growth and evolution in the service of artists, their work, and their communities. The organization is fortunate to receive dedicated project funding for the visual arts from the Andy Warhol Foundation, performing arts from the Doris Duke Foundation, and racial justice from the Surdna Foundation.

Drawing from the principles of venture capital to develop innovative work in the cultural sphere, Creative Capital seeks out bold, groundbreaking projects and provides the artists behind them with the tools they need to realize their visions and build sustainable careers. Since its founding in 1999, Creative Capital has supported 741 artists with nearly \$50 million in funding; professional



development opportunities; expert consulting; artist retreats and gatherings; and more, with the aim of fostering and developing artistic exchange and a thriving cultural commons across the United States.

Applications for the next cycle of Creative Capital Awards will open February 1, 2020. As part of Creative Capital's move to annual award cycles, beginning in 2020, artists will submit one full application in February with a complete budget and six work samples. This is a shift from previous years, in order to make the application process more efficient. The next group of Creative Capital Awards will be announced in late 2020, and annually at that time thereafter.

### **2020 Panelists**

Cassils | Creative Capital Awardee; Artist

Ken Chen | Executive Director, Asian American Writers' Workshop

Cina Duncan | Vice President, Film and Strategic Programming, Brooklyn Academy of Music

Carlos Gutiérrez | Executive Director, Cinema Tropical

Angela Mattox | Performing Arts Curator; Former Artistic Director, PICA

Laleh Mehran | Creative Capital Awardee; Professor of Emergent Digital Practices at University of Denver

Roderick Schrock | Executive Director, Eyebeam

Stacy Switzer | Curator and Executive Director, Fathomers

Tara Aisha Willis | Associate Curator of Performance, MCA Chicago

### **About Creative Capital**

Creative Capital supports innovative and adventurous artists across the country through funding, counsel, gatherings, and career development services. Its pioneering venture philanthropy approach helps artists working in all creative disciplines realize their visions and build more sustainable careers. Since 1999, Creative Capital has committed over \$48 million in project funding and advisory support to 596 projects representing 741 artists and has worked with more than 20,000 artists in over 800 creative communities across the country.

Creative Capital receives major support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Surdna Foundation, Lambent Foundation, Toby Devan Lewis, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Acton Family Giving, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Facebook Art Department, New York Community Trust, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Scherman Foundation, William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation, Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham, Margaret Silva, Paige West, and over 100 other institutional and individual donors.

For more, visit [creative-capital.org](http://creative-capital.org).

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## 2020 Creative Capital Awards

### **Becca Blackwell**

Brooklyn, NY  
*The Body Never Lies*  
Performance Art, Theater

*The Body Never Lies* is a solo, performance-based theatrical search for a vocabulary beyond language that expresses who we are. Through movement, martial arts, science (a heart monitor), and some fragmented texts in various languages, Becca Blackwell uncovers a new landscape for themselves and the audience to discover identity.

### **Jibz Cameron & Sue Slagle**

Los Angeles, CA & Frederick, MD  
*Titanic Depression*  
Multimedia Performance, Performance Art

*Titanic Depression* is a multimedia performance with live animation starring Dynasty Handbag, alter ego of artist Jibz Cameron. Using the 1997 film *Titanic* as a departure point, the work addresses issues of class, gender roles, gratuitous wealth, and the environmental impact of climate change.

### **Eisa Davis**

Brooklyn, NY  
*The Essentialisn't*  
Performance Art, Multimedia Performance

*The Essentialisn't* troubles expected narratives of the diasporic black feminine and questions the artist's relationships to performance and captivity. The work utilizes an innovative combination of song, electronic sound, movement, everyday objects, and reanimated modernist figures from the Harlem Renaissance to cultivate a practice of presence and sovereignty.

### **Mercedes Dorame**

Tijuana, Mexico  
*Eclipsing Shadows—We'aashar Moyookmok*  
Installation, Photography

Mercedes Dorame creates an immersive installation addressing contemporary interpretation of Native Tongva ceremony and our relationship to celestial movements, eclipses, and solstices. The installation includes the creation of a semi-enclosed, domed immersive space, recordings of Tongva music, photograms, and cast concrete sculptures.

### **Marcia Douglas**

Boulder, CO  
*Genuine Herstory: Documythographies*  
Literary Fiction, Literary Nonfiction

*Genuine Herstory: Documythographies* is a three-volume, hybrid, and cross-genre writing project culminating with a performance installation. Exploring

### **Beka Economopoulos, Jason Jones & Judith LeBlanc**

Vashon, WA; Vashon, WA & New York, NY  
*The Natural History Museum Presents: The Supreme Court of Red Natural History*  
Artistic Activism, Cultural Organizing



themes of African diasporic fugitivity and migration, this project layers fiction, poem essays, memoir, visual and material documents, and voicescapes—altering and inscribing, in an effort to excavate and rechart history.

### **Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi & J Mase III**

Seattle, WA & Washington, DC

*The Black Trans Prayer Book: A Performative Documentary* Performance Art, Experimental Film

*The Black Trans Prayer Book: A Performative Documentary* explores the lives, reflections, performances, and spiritual journey of the contributors to the Black Trans Prayer Book—a collaborative text, co-edited by J Mase III & Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi, that explores the healing needs of Black trans people.

### **Ebony Noelle Golden**

New York, NY

*Jubilee 11213*  
Performance Art, Cultural Organizing

*Jubilee 11213* is a multi-generational cultural organizing and community theatre collaboration that advances civic action and creativity practiced at the founding of the Weeksville community.

### **Steffani Jemison**

Brooklyn, NY

*In Succession*  
Video Art, Installation

In 1900, The New York Times reported that six “tramps” formed an acrobatic pyramid, cut a hole in the ceiling,

*The Natural History Museum* is an ongoing art intervention that unleashes the power of museums, motivating them to act not as shrines to a civilization in decline, but as agents of change. This new exhibition assembles a collective of accusers within an authoritative architecture to put natural history on trial.

### **Tonya Foster**

San Francisco, CA

*Monkey Talk*  
Poetry, Multimedia

Combining poetry, dialogues, fictive FBI records, and non-fiction prose, *Monkey Talk* follows a 20th Century artist-philanthropist relationship that is being tracked by government surveillance and a young scholar's curiosity. Focused on the ways that artistic creations act as monitors and are also monitored, the multi-volume project tracks parallel, contesting conversations around race.

### **Randa Jarrar**

Los Angeles, CA

*Lunch At Guantanamo*  
Literary Fiction

Randa Jarrar's newest book is a semi-satirical, fantastical novel set in 2045 Guantanamo Bay, inspired by and updating "The Penal Colony," the short story by Franz Kafka. The book envisions a utopic queer future—one that offers its inhabitants peace, liberation, and justice.

### **Tyehimba Jess, Yahdon Israel & Janice A. Lowe**

Brooklyn, NY

*Olio*  
Poetry, Musical Theater

*Olio* is a live musical production of the Pulitzer-prize winning book of poems of the same title, presenting the



and escaped from the Middlesex County Jail in New Jersey. Working with trained and untrained actors, this body of work considers the precarious and resistant figure of the acrobat.

### **Nikyatu Jusu**

Gaithersburg, MD

*NANNY*

Narrative Film, Experimental Film

In this narrative feature film, Aisha is an undocumented nanny in New York City caring for the privileged child of an Upper East Side family. As she prepares for the arrival of the child she left behind in her native country, a violent presence invades her reality, jeopardizing the American Dream she has so carefully constructed.

### **Jasmin Mara López**

New Orleans, LA

*Silent Beauty*

Documentary Film, Installation

*Silent Beauty* is a personal documentary about Jasmin López's family's history with child sexual abuse and a culture of silence. The work extends as an audio visual installation that features the voices of dozens of survivors—adults and older children with parents—that have reached out to the artist to share their stories.

### **Cannupa Hanska Luger**

Glorieta, NM

*Future Ancestral Technologies*

Multimedia Performance, Experimental Film

*Future Ancestral Technologies* is an Indigenous-centered approach to making art objects, video, and performance with the intent to influence global consciousness using creative storytelling to radically reimagine the future. Moving science-fiction theory into

lives of African-American creatives from the Civil War to World War I.

### **Jesse Krimes**

Philadelphia, PA

*Mass Incarceration Quilt*

Multimedia, Artistic Activism

*The Mass Incarceration Quilt* series focuses on rendering visible people and perspectives hidden by the criminal justice system. Using a variety of participatory art practices, the project aims to reframe public narratives that perpetuate mass incarceration, humanizing those whose lives are bound up in the criminal justice system.

### **John W. Love, Jr.**

Charlotte, NC

*The Cathedral of Messes*

Installation, Performance Art

*The Cathedral of Messes* is the scene of a crime: a mystic has assassinated his inner saboteur. Crystalline enshrined shoes and body parts of sculpted black salt float in a sea of video, literature, and performance in an installation dedicated to obliterating a virus known as shame.

### **Jarrett Mellenbruch**

Roeland Park, KS

*Redwood Preserve*

Ecological Art, Social Practice

*The Redwood Preserve* is a land art and social enterprise project to restore the ancient Californian redwood forest obliterated by logging in the 19th and 20th Centuries. The nature preserve would revive biodiversity in the region, while its trees combat climate



practice, this methodology conjures innovative life-based solutions that promote a thriving Indigeneity.

### **Amitis Motevalli**

Los Angeles, CA

*Golestan Revisited*

Artistic Activism, Data Visualization

*Golestan Revisited* is a multimedia, internationally-accessible online database created to research, reclaim, and rename roses transplanted to Europe during the Crusades from the South and West Asian and North African region (known as SWANA), to symbolize and commemorate women, girls and femmes killed—often while captive in the wars against “terror” and/or by reactive Islamist occupations.

### **Papel Machete**

San Juan, PR

*On the Eve of Abolition*

Puppetry, Theater

Papel Machete proposes a bilingual play in Spanish and English that tells the speculative fiction story of the last prison in the U.S. Using letters from incarcerated people, prison radio shows, puppets, masks, music, and picture storytelling, they present events preceding the final day of the last prison, and the movement which made abolition a reality.

### **Kamau Patton**

Chicago, IL

*Tel*

Installation, Poetry

*Tel* is a platform for performance, study, and contemplation that will question how the nature of

change by pulling large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

### **Mark Nowak**

Canaan, NY

*Worker Writers School: Mobile Unit*

Poetry, Social Practice

*Worker Writers School: Mobile Unit* (WWSMU) expands Mark Nowak’s ongoing, twenty-year project of bringing poetry workshops directly to the working class. Like bookmobiles or food trucks, WWSMU visits laundromats, street corners, restaurants near construction sites, bus stops, and other locations that workers frequent to offer brief, intensive poetry writing classes.

### **Diane Paragas**

New York, NY & Brooklyn, NY

*The Three Lives of David Wong*

Documentary Film, Puppetry

Through a mixture of recreation puppetry, archival interviews, and verité, *The Three Lives of David Wong* documentary film tells the story of an undocumented Chinese immigrant wrongfully convicted of murder, and the group of activists who came to together to rally for his freedom.

### **jumatatu m. poe**

Philadelphia, PA

*terrestrial*

Dance, Multimedia Performance

*terrestrial* is a multimedia performance installation with choreography by jumatatu poe that stems from majorette lines that became popular at historically Black



memory has changed in relation to the encroachment of cyberspace, telematics, and transmission technologies. The project name refers to the archeological term for a mound formed by the accumulated remains left by communities occupying a site over time. *Tel/is* experienced through a myriad of disciplines: past iterations have been presented as transmissions, walks, conversations, engagement with archives, and a publication series.

### **randy reyes**

Oakland, CA

*Encuentro 33: LINE/AGE / Queer Neuro-Cognitive Architectures Hidden in Plain Site(s)*

Dance, Social Practice

*Encuentro 33* is a multiphase project created in partnership with a core group of Black, Indigenous, First-Generation, Queer, Trans Artists of Color in the Bay Area, nationally, and abroad to develop a series of performances centering ecology, lineage, and ritual through a choreographic lens. These works provide infrastructure for bringing reyes' vision of opening La Escuela de Corporealidad y Artes Sutiles to fruition.

### **Nathan Shafer**

Anchorage, AK

*Wintermoot*

Multimedia, Social Practice

*Wintermoot* incorporates social practice, augmented reality, graphic novels, and digital humanities to form a series of interconnected epic tales of supernatural people from all over Alaska, spanning several generations. As both a mobile app and augmented graphic novel set in an alternate history Alaska, the work tells the stories of characters created in collaboration with other Alaskans, bringing together over 30 languages and cultures.

universities. Inspired by the hot brown granules in both desert dirt and beach sand, *terrestrial* is a rigorous imagination of Black humans as earth, epic, and finite.

### **Rodrigo Reyes**

Oakland, CA

*Untitled Rodrigo Reyes Documentary*  
Documentary Film

Set in rural California, director Rodrigo Reyes's documentary is moving portrait of the unlikely friendship of two Mexican migrants, told within the frame of the dramatic the clash between systemic forces and personal choices that envelop young, incarcerated men of color in America. This film combines a vibrant exploration of the cinematic form with a strikingly intimate portrait of the fault-lines in our society.

### **Tamara Shogaolu**

Amsterdam, Netherlands

*Queer in a Time of Forced Migration*

Multimedia, Animation

*Queer in a Time of Forced Migration* is an animated transmedia series that follows the stories of LGBTQ refugees from Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia across continents and cultures from the 2011 revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa region to the world today.

**jackie sumell**

New Orleans, LA

*The Prisoner's Apothecary*

Artistic Activism, Social Practice

*The Prisoner's Apothecary* is a travelling project and community-driven strategy dedicated to education, harm-reduction, and healing. An extension of the Solitary Gardens, this project grows plant medicine in collaboration with incarcerated individuals and distributes it to affected communities nationally. The Prisoner's Apothecary facilitates the healing potentiality of people we are systematically taught to condemn.

**Wendy S. Walters**

New York, NY

*A Dead White: An Argument Against White Paint*

Literary Nonfiction

*A Dead White* is a book-length polemic against the use of white paint in both interior and exterior spaces. The argument will wind through a wide selection of works in architecture, manufacturing, art history, and consumer culture, engaging narratives related to its effect in the lived environment.

**Angela Washko**

Pittsburgh, PA

*The Uncasted Queen and Her Progeny*

Games, Digital Media

*The Uncasted Queen and Her Progeny* is an experimental, narrative video game about a legendary drag queen in a post-industrial American city and her many years spent auditioning for competition-based reality television show RuPaul's Drag Race. The game presents an underrepresented perspective on reality TV's impact on the queer performance community and explores the question: what happens to the people who get left behind when subversive subcultures go mainstream?

**Jawwaad Taylor**

Houston, TX

*Start With Self*

Sculpture, Musical Performance

*Start With Self* is a sonic stimulation and visual art piece based on scientific research on how certain frequencies stimulate endorphins in the body that lessen pain and relaxes the mind. Jawwaad Taylor's project is based on his research and experience with sonic healing as a sickle-cell anemia survivor.

**Stephanie Wang-Breal**

Brooklyn, NY

*Florence from Ohio*

Documentary Film, Video Art

*Florence from Ohio* is a real-life, genre twisting film about an immigrant Chinese woman, Florence Wang, and her first-generation daughter, Stephanie Wang-Breal. Told through the lens of Florence's St. John Knitwear suits, mother and daughter collectively reimagine and embrace their generational ideas of motherhood, feminism, racism, and assimilation.

**Nia Witherspoon**

Brooklyn, NY

*Priestess of Twerk*

Theater, Multimedia Performance

Inspired by the "bad bitches" of hip hop, the reproductive justice movement, and the sacred sex workers that graced Egyptian temples, *Priestess of Twerk* is a black feminist temple of pleasure that presents women, queer, and trans-folks of color with opportunities to re-encounter their sexualities through the lens of the sacred, increasing bodily autonomy, and dispelling toxic masculinity.





## **Dorian Wood**

Los Angeles, CA

*La Hill*

Musical Performance, Performance Art

For over 30 years, Dorian Wood's Costa Rican-Nicaraguan grandparents owned a two-story house in South L.A., where they raised three daughters—among them, Wood's mother. *La Hill* is a cantata that spans the family's history from room to room.