MISSION STATEMENT
The John B. Hurford ’60 Center for the Arts and Humanities provides a place for inclusive and interdisciplinary programming by promoting collaborative engagement with the intellectual and artistic ambitions of Haverford College and broader communities.
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE/TWENTY-TWO YEAR IN REVIEW

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When my colleague Lindsay Reckson and I started to discuss co-leading a faculty seminar on “The Senses and the Sensible” a few years ago, we never anticipated that it would take place after a year of sensory deprivation, with most classes moving online, many college activities curtailed if not eliminated outright, and many social spaces declared off limits. The seminar began meeting in September 2021, as, for the first time in nearly 18 months, students and faculty members returned not only to classrooms and labs, but also to the live, physical being of their friends, colleagues, mentees, and mentors. As the new Hurford Center director, I watched with delight from my VCAM office as masked people dashed to their classes, film editing sessions, and maker-space workshops. In place of the previous year’s silence, the buzz of excited voices provided an ambient soundscape, waning and waxing in volume in sync with the day’s rhythms. On a particularly lucky day, multilayered, hard-to-resist aromas emanated from the kitchen, where classes and student organizations used the on-site equipment to explore the meanings of food, agriculture, and eating practices in various cultural contexts.

Alas, the document in your hands won’t provide you with any of those sensory experiences. But it will give you a strong and specific sense of what a return to semi-normalcy generated here at the Hurford Center. Nearly everything on our regular slate of opportunities for students and faculty was back: the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery exhibits, the student-curated art shows in VCAM, the Tuttle Residencies for visual artists, the reading groups, the student seminars, the in-person symposium (this year, a durational performance art event) organized by our Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Rae- gan Truax, and much more. Yet if it was a relief to be back with one another in person, it was also a time for recognizing how the crises of the previous year—the pandemic, the George Floyd murder and protests, the strike for racial justice at Haver ford—were not yet over. Physically reopening was one thing; opening up to the sense of attentiveness and understanding demanded by the present moment’s challenges was another.

Thus, two major aims of the past year were to widen the range of students and faculty who take advantage of our creative and funding resources; and to reaffirm our commitment to collaborations with groups and individuals from outside Haverford, especially Philadelphia, so that, among other things, our community does not lose sight of the larger community in which the College lives, and on which the College has always depended for its capacity to thrive.

One especially bright success emerging in pursuit of the first aim was the astute work of our new postbaccalaureate fellow, Henry Morales, a recent graduate of the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. A talented painter and gifted communicator, Morales worked with student affinity groups, particularly the Alliance of Latin American Students, to find ways the Center could both support its established cultural events and assist in developing new ones that resonate with its needs and vision. Indeed, Morales’s own solo exhibition of paintings, focused on his Guatemalan-American family, Mi Casa es Mi Casa, was a highlight of the year both for its artistic accomplishment and for its vibrancy as a touchpoint for discussions of community, race, and the lives of students of color at Haverford.

A number of programs helped us work toward the second aim: our ongoing, expanding set of summer internships; the final phase of our project with Berlin-based artist collective Slavs and Tatars, which cemented strong relationships with the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Twelve Gates Arts in Old City, and the Pew Foundation for Arts and Heritage; the aforementioned performance event, which brought to campus four queer women artists hailing from as far as Argentina; our continuing work with the illustrious Flaherty Seminar on documentary film; and others you’ll find described in what follows. One especially exciting, multidimensional project was a Tuttle Creative Residency with Musa Sulaiman a.k.a. Moses the Comic, a Philadelphia performer well-known in the Black Muslim community. The residency provided for a sustained collaboration between Sulaiman and Assistant Professor of Religion Guangtian Ha’s course on Black Muslim comedy. In addition to learning from a key practitioner about how stand-up comedy addresses religious, cultural, and political issues, students helped organize a sold-out Black Muslim comedy festival that took place in March at the eminent venue World Cafe Live in West Philly.

And yet, to return briefly to the senses, everything we did this year felt a little precarious, a little on-the-edge. That’s what happens when the world so insistently shows you its susceptibility to near-collapse. As we head into the unknown of the coming year, the Hurford Center remains committed to using its resources to turn these feelings into creative forms of insight, new and vibrant connections between people, and a greater awareness of our own blindnesses.
HCAH POSTBAC FELLOW HENRY MORALES’S PAINTING EN EL PATIO (IN THE BACKYARD) (2022), PART OF THE VCAM EXHIBITION MI CASA ES MI CASA. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.
ARTISTIC EXPLORATION AND PRACTICE

The Center supports the artistic ambitions of students, faculty, and visiting creators through the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery (CFG); Haverford’s facility for Visual Culture, Arts, and Media (VCAM); and a range of curricular and cocurricular initiatives focused on film, performance, exhibition, and more.

PERFORMING PAST-PRESENT: TRANSFORMING REENACTMENT
Curated by Sally Berger, the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery exhibition Performing Past-Present: Transforming Reenactment featured work by four contemporary artists—Sharon Hayes, Jennifer Karady, Dread Scott, and Marisa Williamson—who re-present historical issues, art, and events using conceptual, theoretical, and performance methodologies. Rooted in community and collaboration, their work transforms our understanding of and responses to history, politics, trauma, sexuality, and identity.

Cosponsored by the Distinguished Visitors Program, VCAM Media & Makers Series, the Visual Studies Program, and Haverford College Libraries.

STRANGE TRUTH 2022
Organized by Visual Studies faculty Vicky Funari and John Muse, this year’s iteration of the long-running Strange Truth series explored the nonfiction imagination in the films of Vivian Kleiman, CJ Hunt, Darcy McKinnon, and Marlon Riggs. Monique Scott (Museum Studies, Bryn Mawr College) and Theresa Tensuan (Writing Program) moderated conversations with the filmmakers during screenings of No Straight Lines and The Neutral Ground, organized in partnership with Bryn Mawr Film Institute.

hav.to/strangetruth

THE TRI-CO FILM FESTIVAL
The Tri-Co Film Festival annually showcases exemplary film and media work by students at Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore Colleges in partnership with Bryn Mawr Film Institute. Created by Aby Isakov ’24, Reesha Gandhi ’24, and Faryal Khan ’22, the documentary Nomad follows an anonymous artist of the same name in Germantown, Philadelphia, whose artwork has been stirring up important conversations in the neighborhood. The film won both a juror award and the audience choice award at this year’s festival.

THE ART OF HEALING: HEART AND HOME 2022 VCAM STUDENT EXHIBITION
Curated by Izzy Ray ’23 and Jalen Martin ’23 along with assistant curators Eryn Peritz BMC ’25 and Michaela Richter ’25, this year’s student group exhibition featured over 30 Bi-Co artists who variously center art-making and sharing as cure and refuge.

STUDENT ARTS FUND: WHRC RADIO
The recipients of one of many HCAH Student Arts Fund grants this year, Shayleah Jenkins ’22, Natalie Kauffman ’22, Sarah Mastrocola ’23, and Natalie White ’23 purchased equipment to help restart the College’s WHRC Radio Station, set to relaunch during the 2022-23 academic year.
Touching—A close shave—Hitting close to home

Feel it upside down.  
What does it make you think of?
HCAH annually sponsors an array of seminars, courses, reading and working groups, symposia, and other more informal gatherings, variously designed to bring new voices to campus and to engender often surprising, interdisciplinary conversations among Haverford students, staff, and faculty.

**2021-22 Faculty Seminar: The Senses and The Sensible**

**Leaders**

LINDSAY RECKSON (ENGLISH) & GUSTAVUS STADLER (ENGLISH)

**Participants**

GUANGTIAN HA (RELIGION)

EMILY HONG (ANTHROPOLOGY, VISUAL STUDIES)

CHRISTINA KNIGHT (VISUAL STUDIES)

JIA HUI LEE (ANTHROPOLOGY, MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW)

AVA SHIRAZI (CLASSICS)

A deep-seated presumption underlies the notion of modernity in the West: that the connection between technology and modernization inheres in ever-increasing focus of the individual senses in isolation from one another. This seminar explored the history of this notion and, in particular, how it shapes aesthetics, politics, theories of mediation, understandings of ethics and care, and everyday life more generally. Members considered how this happened, whose interests it serves, what possibilities exist for different understandings, and what alternative approaches might achieve. The group explored, collectively, what Jacques Rancière describes as the “distribution of the sensible,” or the conditions that determine what is possible for the senses to perceive. In dialogue with scholars from across the disciplines, they examined various challenges to Enlightenment taxonomies of sensory experience and to the support they provided for a wide range of imperialist and colonial projects.


Led by Maggie Zhang ’24, the seminar “Communication Disorders in Context: What Do We Know About Aphasia?” focused on the study and treatments of speech sciences in a wider social context, including a comprehensive overview of basic aphasiology. The seminar “How Artificial Intelligence Is Dividing Us Today, and How Terminator Might Kill Us Tomorrow,” led by Keeton Martin ’22 and Harry Taussig ’22, explored the growing role artificial intelligence plays in our lives.

**2021-22 Reading Groups:**

**Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit**

**Leaders**

BENJAMIN BERGER (PHILOSOPHY) AND MOLLY FARNETH (RELIGION)

**Black Comics**

**Leader**

LUIGIE ALEQUIN ’22

**Biosecurity and Global Pandemic Preparedness in the 21st Century and Beyond**

**Leader**

NATHAN MAYA ’25

**Biology Reading Group**

**Leader**

FOEN PENG (BIOLOGY)

**Bryn Mawr and Haverford Effective Animal Advocacy**

**Leaders**

JACLYN JI BMC ’22 AND HARRY TAUSSIG ’22

**Point of Q**

**Leaders**

DENIZ GONEN ’23 AND GRAYSON TOOLE ’23

**The Subaltern Speaks Back**

**Leader**

NAMEERA BAJWA ’22

**Faculty-Staff Reading Group: Science Fiction**

**Leaders**

SARAH HOROWITZ (LIBRARIES) AND DEBORAH ROBERTS (CLASSICS, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE)
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Still from The Contest of the Fruits, the original animated film created by artist collective Slavs and Tatars as part of The Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery exhibition of the same name. Still courtesy of Slavs and Tatars. Original support for The Contest of the Fruits was provided to The Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Philadelphia.

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO US?  与其如此同我等妄语?
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Hurford Center is connected to Philadelphia across a variety of programs, and seeks to initiate and sustain collaborative partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally.

THE CONTEST OF THE FRUITS

This year, the Center completed The Contest of the Fruits, our multiyear collaboration with Berlin-based artist collective Slavs and Tatars, Philadelphia art gallery Twelve Gates Arts, and the Philadelphia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Philadelphia), concluding with the online event series The Contest in Context. Initiated by Guangtian Ha (Religion), the project featured the debut of an exhibition at the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery featuring an original, animated film; the release of the book The Contest of the Fruits from MIT Press; and a host of in-person and virtual programs. The Contest of the Fruits was supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. exhibits.haverford.edu/thecontestofthefruits

THE MUSLIM KINGS OF COMEDY

Sponsored by the Hurford Center, Guangtian Ha (Religion) co-taught the course “From Malcolm X to Dave Chappelle: Islam, Humor, and Comedy in America” with Philadelphia comedian Moses the Comic, tracing the history of African American comedy in relation to the civil rights struggles and politics of African American Islam. In conjunction with the course, the pair organized The Muslim Kings of Comedy, a sold-out comedy showcase with Philadelphia partner World Café Live, featuring some of the top international Muslim comedians in the halal industry.

BLACK ECOLOGIES

Organized by Tajah Ebram (Writing Program), the four-part Black Ecologies Workshop Series centered the knowledge, traditions, and practices of local Black land- and nature-based practitioners, organizers, and scholars. Partners included Pili X, coordinator/organizer, West Philly Peace Park; Stanley Morgan, urban farmer and organizer, Urban Creators; and Tiffany Johnson-Robbins, Clinical Herbalist, Raw Food Educator, and Ethical Wildcrafter.

Cosponsored with the Committee for Environmental Responsibility, the Bi-College Department of Environmental Studies, Havefarm, and the Haverford College Arboretum.
STUDENT SUMMER PROGRAMS

Each summer, the Hurford Center funds over twenty students to pursue an array of local, national, and international internships and fellowships. Many of these programs—Philly Partners, Self-Designed Internships, Research Fellowships, and more—build on long-standing partnerships with arts and cultural organizations; others give students the opportunity to create their own summer experiences.

SUMMER DOCULAB 2022: A-DOC IMPACT LAB
A-Doc Impact Lab was a ten-week partnership between Haverford and the Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc), a network of 1,000+ film professionals that works to increase the visibility and support of Asian Americans in the documentary field. Convened by Emily Hong (Anthropology, Visual Studies), the lab focused on impact producing, a strategic practice that mobilizes filmmaker-community partnerships to bring about change by shifting cultural narratives, changing attitudes and behaviors, activating grassroots movements, and targeting power-holders. Student fellows Erica Kaunang ’22, Jalen Martin ’23, Naren Roy ’23, Yuriko Zhang ’25, and Sophia Wan ’23 spent the summer learning about impact production and working on the films Mai American (dir. Kevin Truong), Liquor Store Dreams (dir. So Yun Um), and Above and Below the Ground (dir. Emily Hong).

SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
English, international studies, and Spanish major Athena Intanate ’23 spent the summer researching food in diasporic Asian-American families and how it relates to cultural and linguistic retention in those communities. Classical languages and comparative literature double major Celine Pak ’23 considered tragedy as a subversive mode of storytelling to pursue a queer/feminist reading of ancient Greece’s tragic mothers in preparation for her senior thesis.

PHILLY PARTNERS AND SELF-DESIGNED INTERNSHIPS
One of the four Philly Partner interns, psychology and fine arts major Lily Rokita ’24 worked with PA Humanities this summer on their new archival acquisitions. Independent dance major Liana Wilson-Graff ’23 used a Self-Designed Internship to work with choreographer Nia Love.
VERÓNICA PEÑA IN HER DURATIONAL PERFORMANCE ART PIECE. GLIMPSE AT THE SKATE HOUSE AS PART OF THE HURFORD CENTER'S ON DURATION SYMPOSIUM, ORGANIZED BY RAEGAN TRIAX. PHOTO: PATRICK MONTERO.
RESEARCH AND CURRICULAR EXPERIMENTATION

The Hurford Center plays an important role in infusing the College with fresh intellectual and pedagogical perspectives through curricular grants, research support, and postdoctoral fellow course offerings and programs.

ON DURATION
Curated by HCAH Postdoctoral Fellow Raegan Truax, the 2022 Mellon Symposium On Duration brought together durational performance artists Marilyn Arsem, Sarah Cameron Sunde, GOODW.Y.N, Verónica Peña, and Truax herself for a week of creative research and public praxis. Investigating process and the caesural possibilities opened by not knowing what will happen in advance of the event, the artists time traveled, bent time, critically wasted time, forgot time, suspended time, found time, and made and unmade time, culminating in a 24-hour live durational performance across Haverford’s campus.

hast.to/onduration

ON COMMUNITY-BASED ART AND CATASTROPHE
Hosted by Joshua Milton Moses (Anthropology, Environmental Studies), artist Adriene Jenik staged a series of projects at Haverford, including “On Grief and Transformation,” a lecture at Philadelphia’s Slought Foundation; “Climate Future” ECOTarot readings for the Haverford community; and “On Community-Based Art and Catastrophe,” a roundtable discussion with Jenik and artists Li Sumpter and Tal Beery.

ALL THAT WE ARE WE CARRY WITH US: STORIES AND POSSIBILITIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN ORGANIZING
Erica Kaunang ’22 used a research stipend to create a 60-page zine as her senior thesis, focusing on the experiences of Southeast Asian communities in Philadelphia and Queens, New York. The project traced Southeast Asian communities’ histories and personal stories to not only understand what community organizing looks like now, but also conceptualize a framework for radical Asian American activism.

FACULTY FELLOW COURSE OFFERINGS
The Center’s three faculty fellows offered a range of courses during the 2021-22 academic year.
- Jia Hui Lee (Anthropology): Sensing Beyond the Human; Critiques of the Human from Africa
- Young Su Park (Health Studies): Cancer Narratives; Race and Political Economy of Infectious Diseases
- Raegan Truax (Visual Studies): Introduction to Performance Studies; Untimely Art & Performance
BREAKING THE RULES

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL LA GALA EVENT, ORGANIZED BY HAVERFORD'S ALLIANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDENTS (ALAS) AND OTHER TRI-COLLEGE AFFINITY GROUPS. PHOTO: JINGZHE JIANG '25.
BREAKING THE RULES

The Center serves as a laboratory for testing out new ideas that go beyond our regular roster of grants and programs. Some of these initiatives are one-time projects; others go on to become continuing programs at the Center or the broader College.

LA GALA
The Hurford Center sponsored musicians, dancers, and other performers at this year’s Tri-Co La Gala, an annual celebration of Latinx culture organized by the Latinx-serving affinity groups at Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore Colleges.

GRASE IS BURNING: DRAG & HOUSE BALL
The Hurford Center supported the Center of Gender Resources and Sexual Education (GRASE) in reviving Haverford’s annual Drag Ball, cosponsoring performances by prominent Philadelphia Queer, Trans, Black, and Brown drag artists curated by Icon Ebony Fierce.

HUMAN ORIGINS
Levi Raskin ’24 visited Northern Kenya to excavate fossils of early humans. Working at a site approximately two million years old that includes some of the earliest evidence of material culture, Raskin hopes that this project will better describe the earliest culture and through that, explore what made us human.
INSTALLATION VIEW OF WHAT I'VE BECOME, A VCAM INSTALLATION STAGED BY ALEXANDRA IGLESIAS '21 IN COLLABORATION WITH ALICE HIU '21 AS PART OF SUMMER DOCULAB 2021, "FOR, WITH, AND AGAINST THE CAMERA, PERFORMANCE CINEMA." PHOTO: PATRICK MONTERO.
STAFF

Gustavus Stadler
Koshland Director
The William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor; Professor of English

James Weissinger ’06
Associate Director
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FELLOWS

Jia Hui Lee, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Young Su Park, Visiting Assistant Professor of Health Studies; ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow in Medical Humanities

Raegan Truax, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Visiting Assistant Professor of Visual Studies

2021–22 STEERING COMMITTEE

Vicky Funari (Visual Studies)
Hedy Goodman ’23
Jalen Martin ’23
Alex Molot (Institutional Advancement)
Luis Rodríguez Rincón (Spanish)
Zainab Saleh (Anthropology)

HCAH STUDENT STAFF

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Jared Bishop ’24
Reesha Gandhi ’24
Aby Isakov ’24
Shayleah Jenkins ’22
Umika Pathak ’25
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CFG STUDENT STAFF

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