

2022
2023

CENTER FOR ART, DESIGN, AND VISUAL CULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	page 1
Introduction	page 2
Director's Message	page 3
Out in Public: Public art and residency programs	page 4
Attendance	page 6
CADVC Team News	page 7
Data poetics: Rap Research Lab	page 8
Contributors and Partners	page 12
Looking Back, Looking Forward	page 13

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture (CADVC) is a forum for research, exhibition, publication, and public programming in the fields of art, design, and visual culture. Founded as the UMBC Fine Arts Gallery in 1989, CADVC was established in 2003 as a CAHSS research center that expands the mandate of the academic art gallery in alignment with the rigor and interdisciplinary of UMBC as a research institution and Honors University. Historically, the Center has served as the university's principal exhibition space. Today, CADVC is a forum for scholarship, publication, and experimental engagements in the fields of art, design, and visual culture. The Center also oversees the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park and runs K-12 programs that serve Baltimore County and Baltimore City schools, among others.

CADVC serves as a forum for exploring the social and aesthetic issues of the day. The Center is committed to rethinking the relationship between art institutions and the public, placing special emphasis on

- Well-written, viewer-friendly catalog and wall texts
- Rigorously documented and researched catalogs
- Lucid application of cultural and social theory to build connections between visual culture and the society at large
- Creative exhibition and publication design

CADVC has enlarged upon and enhanced this mission by offering extensive educational outreach initiatives and publication programs, often in partnership with a variety of educational and cultural institutions. Disciplines represented through its exhibitions, public programming, and/or publications include painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, graphic design, imaging and digital art, video, film, installation, and performance art, as well as advertising, television, industrial design, architecture, critical theory, art education theory, and the study of art history and criticism.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UMBC was established upon the land of the Piscataway and Susquehannock peoples. Over time, citizens of many more Indigenous nations have come to reside in this region. We humbly offer our respect to all past, present, and future Indigenous people connected to this place.



Photos: Marlayna Desmond



Photo: Tedd Henn



Photo: Tedd Henn



Photo: Rebecca Uchill

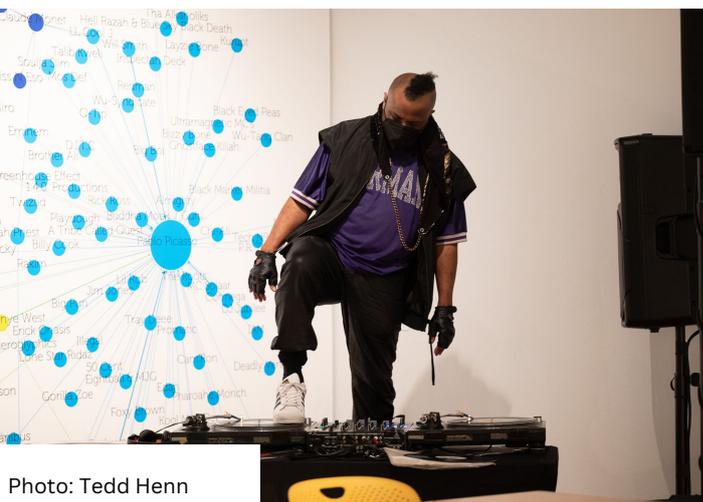


Photo: Tedd Henn

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

From welcoming incoming students to campus to bidding our graduating seniors farewell at the 2023 Visual Arts Senior Exhibition, the 2022-2023 academic year was an exciting and busy passage at the Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture (CADVC) at UMBC. During the year, we made a number of updates to our facility, launched an exploratory artist residency, produced four beautiful exhibitions, and hosted dozens of public programs, tours, visiting school groups, artistic performances, and other events.

It was my honor to join CADVC this past academic year in the position of Director and Professor of the Practice. Since then, I have had the opportunity to get to know our incredible team of staff and students, a new community of university colleagues, and a vibrant art and culture scene in the Baltimore region. In this time, I have admired the Center's dedication to the UMBC mission emphasis on inclusive excellence, and appreciated CADVC's efforts to support artistic exploration and research, to create socially- and locally-responsive programming, and to provide expansive educational public programming. We will soon be evaluating our mission statement, provided on the proceeding page. In that discussion, we will have occasion to consider CADVC's many very special capacities and programmatic offerings. I look forward to the conversations to come.

I am delighted to share this report's review of CADVC's activities during the 2022-2023 year, and to look forward to coming years of continued exploration, artistic production, learning, and sharing in community through the arts. Thank you to Mariia Usova, Graduate Assistant at CADVC, who took the lead on creating this report, helping us to share CADVC's recent activities with you.

REBECCA UCHILL

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ART, DESIGN,
AND VISUAL CULTURE
JULY, 2023

OUT IN PUBLIC: PUBLIC ART AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

BY MARIIA USOVA

In the 2022-2023 academic year, UMBC's Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture experienced a bustling and diverse array of events and programs. Serving as a forum for discussion and fostering intellectual community, CADVC extended its offerings beyond exhibitions, encompassing public art endeavors, artist residencies, and various other initiatives.

The public events and programs curated by CADVC in 2022-2023 embraced a dynamic range, including but not limited to lectures, interdisciplinary panel discussions, participatory artworks, and an assortment of other activities. Among these, CADVC's new pilot artist residency program and a limited public art program series both offered public opportunities for exploration and inquiry, inviting audiences to witness the evolving and unfolding creative process of artists and curators.

A highlight of the year's activities was the launch of an exploratory art research residency intended to allow artists and their interdisciplinary collaborators to take advantage of scholarly resources and to build partnerships at UMBC and in the Baltimore region. These exploratory residencies maintain open-ended outcomes, and present artists with opportunities for creative research through workshops, participatory artworks, and other developing projects.



Design rendering of amphitheater projection concept by Michelle Bowers

During her residency, artist Tomahsi Jackson discussed the history of National Endowment funds and their impact on the built environments of alternative art spaces with faculty in the departments of History and American Studies. This research draws upon Jackson's existing "Pedagogy Study Hall" project. Jackson will return to CADVC to continue this research for future publication.



"When Public Art is More than Sculpture" panel, organized by UMBC IMDA alumna Rahne Alexander Photo: Tedd Henn

In the coming year, artist Levester Williams will join the pilot residency program with a project documenting the quarrying of Cockeysville marble, and the use of this material in the built environment of Baltimore. Williams initiated this research with archival research in the spring of 2023. The AIR program is currently sponsored by the UMBC Dean's Office "Big Ideas" initiative, and all of the CADVC residency artists are involved in public programs open to UMBC students and other audiences.

In another new program series, CADVC also hosted public discussions aimed at exploring potential future public art activities on campus. With the generous support of the Maryland State Arts Council's (MSAC) public art planning grant, CADVC organized a series of free and inclusive events. On February 25, 2023, the Center hosted "When Public Art is More than Sculpture," a conversation featuring four pillars of Baltimore's cultural landscape, including painter and environmental engineer Se Jong Cho, poet and educator Sylvia Jones, and public artist Graham Coreil-Allen. The public discussion was convened and facilitated by curator, artist, and IMDA alumna Rahne Alexander, and explored questions about environmental sustainability and the ways artists engage with the public.

The following month, Teri Henderson, Arts and Culture Editor of *Baltimore Beat*, returned to speak with Alexander about the interrelations between public art, curation, and collaboration, connecting these activities with her professional work and her groundbreaking 2021 book "Black Collagists."

This series of programs was conceived as part of CADVC's research into the presentation of new public artworks on campus, particularly in an amphitheater space adjacent to the gallery's location in the Fine Arts Building. Specifically, CADVC is evaluating the feasibility of video art presentations in that space. In extending presentations to high-traffic public spaces on campus, this endeavor seeks to invite audience engagement and convivial interaction. The MSAC-sponsored planning initiative, "Amplifying Public Art," culminated in a multi-part technical evaluation that will inform planning in the upcoming year.

CADVC currently acts as the cultural steward of a campus public greenspace, the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park, sponsored in collaboration with NatureSacred foundation. This unique park, tucked away in a site across the main campus, is a site for contemplation and education. With the new residency and public art programs described here, CADVC seeks to expand its public art programming through extended art presentations and other programmatic offerings in its immediate campus surrounds.

These examples of new art production and presentation beyond our gallery walls illustrate the Center's role as a forum for fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between artists, scholars, and community members, and as a forum for exploring works and ideas in-progress in public. CADVC looks forward to continuing to convene a dynamic and inclusive community of artists, scholars, and thinkers in conversations that animate the imagination and cultural life of UMBC and the Baltimore region.

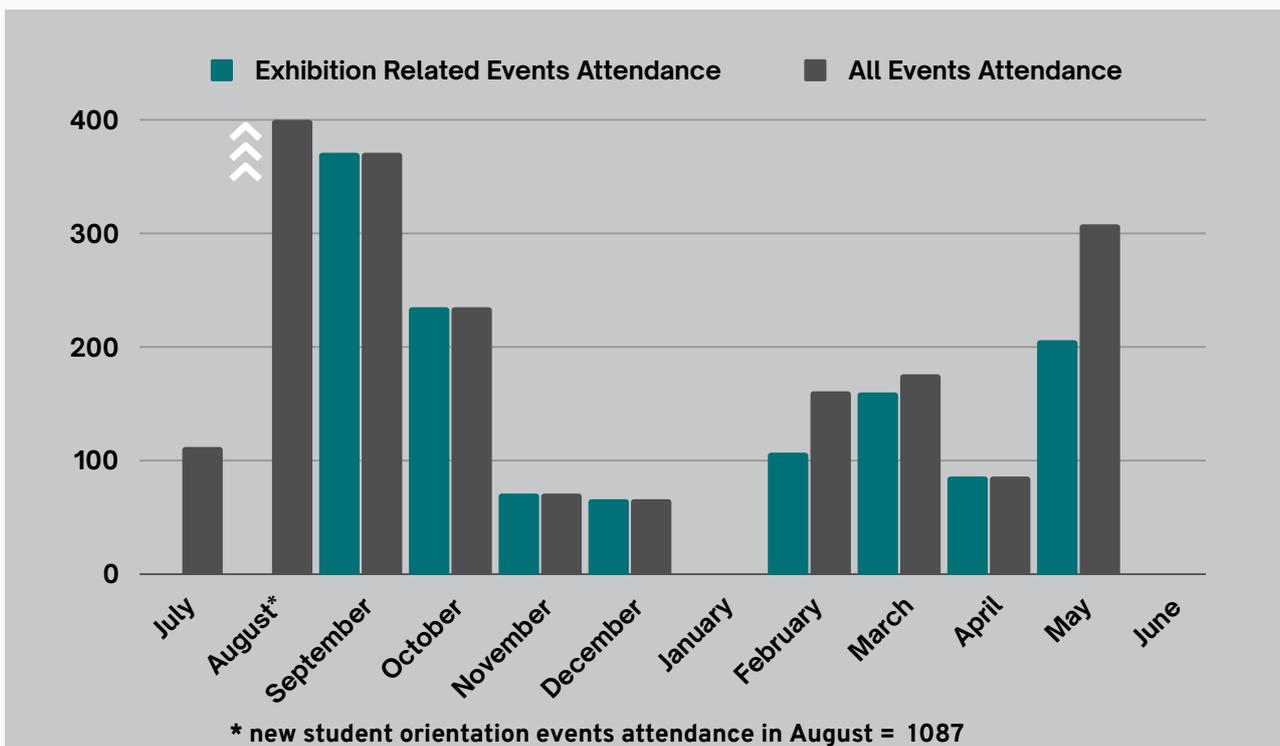
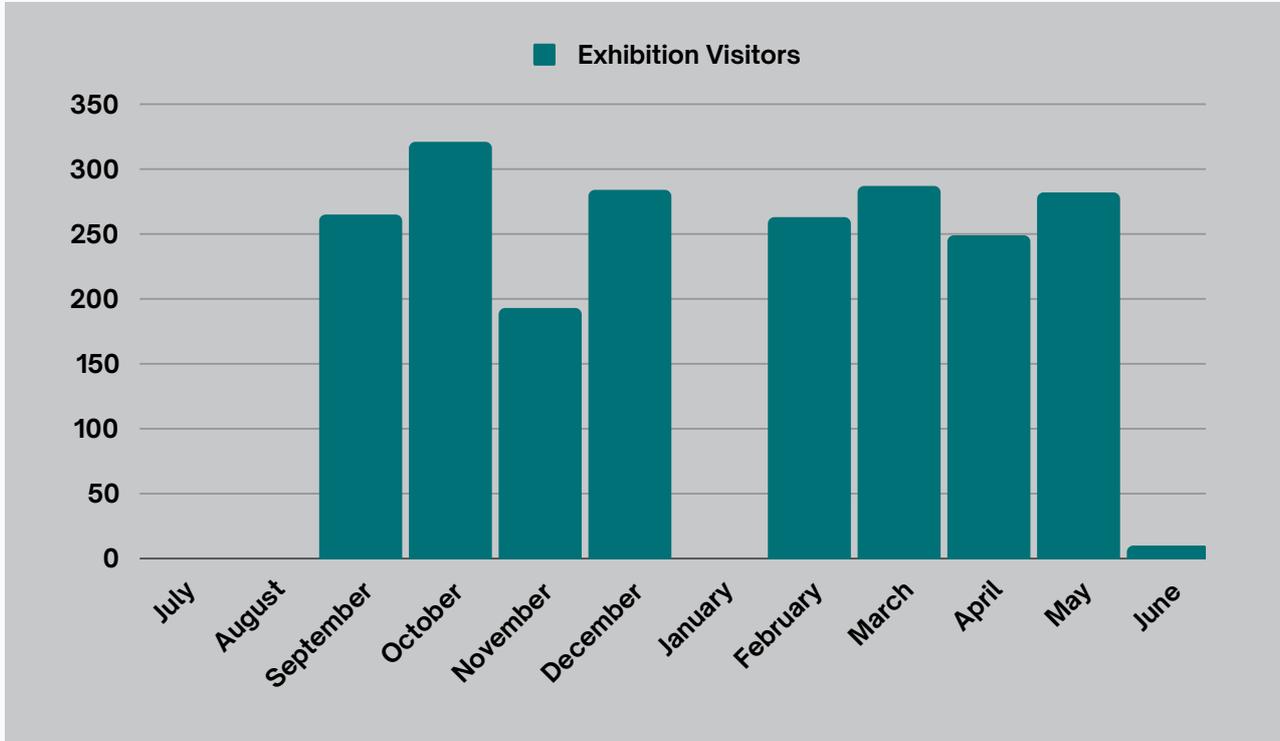


Tomashi Jackson meets with Dr. Beth Saunders, head of special collections, in the UMBC Albin O. Kuhn Library



Levester Williams visits the Maryland Center for History and Culture archives
Photos : Rebecca Uchill

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE, 22-23 ACADEMIC YEAR



CADVC TEAM NEWS

2022-2023 was a banner year for CADVC's team! We celebrated many accomplishments and transitions together. Here is a small selection of our activities:



Ahlam Khamis (left) and Ghazal Mojtahedi (right) offer introductory comments at the 2023 Visual Arts Senior Show



Janet Magruder at the 2022 Staff Awards Ceremony.
Photos: Rebecca Uchill

Jules Chang, gallery attendant, organized a CADVC foyer exhibition focused on the history of *Bartleby Creative Arts Journal*, a student-run arts and writing publication founded in the 1970s at UMBC. Jules is a Senior Editor at the publication.

Sandra Abbott celebrated her 15-year anniversary at UMBC. In December of 2022, she was featured in "Get to Know a Retriever" in *UMBC Magazine*. Sandra was also selected by the Maryland State Arts Council to serve as a jury panelist reviewing Maryland public art commissions.

Janet Magruder celebrated her 30-year anniversary at UMBC. Following a storied career, which included service to the Classified Senate, Review Committee, and Executive Committee of the Council University State System, Janet retired in September, 2023.

Ghazal Mojtahedi and **Ahlam Khamis**, Graduate Assistants and MFA students in the IMDA graduate program, were co-curators of the 2023 Visual Arts Senior Exhibition at CADVC. They worked closely with dozens of students to present a thoughtful display of work across a range of artistic media.

Mitchell Noah exhibited his work in a two-person exhibition *Heat Rush*, at the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower. He offered visiting artist presentations at Salem Community College, and was featured in the podcast "This is Not My Magnum Opus" discussing his approach to glassblowing. In summer, 2023, Mitchell relocated with his family to Okinawa Japan.

Rebecca Uchill joined CADVC at the beginning of the academic year. Outside of CADVC, she published a number of individual and collaborative texts, including "'Strong Modernism' and its Global Others" with Dr. Tatiana Flores in *The Barnes at 100: Dialogues on Education, Installation, and Social Justice*, and "Why We Never Visited Michael Heizer's City," with Dr. Ana María León, in *Hyperallergic*.

Mariia Usova became the first student in UMBC's history to receive a research grant from the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in the first semester of her first year. At CADVC, she ran an interdepartmental evaluative assessment focused on a website redesign. She also is the primary editor and designer of this annual report.

DATA POETICS: RAP RESEARCH LAB

BY MARIIA USOVA

As hiphop celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023, CADVC became a forum for exploring the genre's artistry and intersections with new technologies. *Rap Research Lab*, an exhibition of works by faculty fellow Tahir Hemphill curated by Rebecca Uchill, showcased the interplay between hiphop, data visualization, and aesthetic poetics.

Rap Research Lab celebrated hiphop's rich cultural history and artist Tahir Hemphill's extensive research and technological production, including his massive database of rap lyrics, the Rap Almanac. The Center was converted to a laboratory space for the duration of the exhibition, hosting classes, being a site of new art production, and displaying Hemphill's interactive research-based installations including an AR atlas of locations in rap lyrics and an AI lyric-generating rapbot. The exhibition also featured Hemphill's evolving body of multimedia artwork including the photographic and sculptural series "Maximum Distance, Minimum Displacement" and the kinetic sculpture "Visualization of Authority."

Through interactive demonstrations, engaging discussions, and curated experiences, the exhibition invited audiences to explore both hiphop and data visualization overall. Hemphill and CADVC organized a series of public events to complement the exhibition, such as a curated DJ set with CX KiDTRONiC and a series of Saturday pop-up tours by the artist. CADVC also became the center of operations for "Mappers Delight," a middle-school curriculum designed by Hemphill. Educational visits were offered free of charge to area public middle school students from Baltimore City and Montgomery counties, with students from 56 middle schools and 35 high schools visiting CADVC and engaging with the curriculum.

UMBC students also participated as key collaborators. CADVC Graduate Assistant Ahlam Khamis adapted the "Mapper's Delight" curriculum for public school visits. Hemphill taught his Spring 2023 course, "IRC Fellows Topics in Art and Technology," in the gallery, where undergraduate students worked with the artist to generate new artworks and visualizations. CADVC also co-hosted a Robot Arm Demo event in collaboration with the lab of Dr. Foad Hamidi, UMBC Human-Centered computing, with the involvement of students Erin Higgins and Jamie Iranian.



Photos: Tedd Henn

Hyperallergic critic Dereck Stafford Mangus visited the session, and remarked:

The innovative use of new media in *Rap Research Lab* is apropos its subject. Hip hop music, perhaps more so than any other genre, is inherently linked to the machine.... Hemphill's data-fed, human-curated robotic arm recalls that of the DJ scratching a record or breakdancers doing "the robot," and personifies the close relationship between human and machine found throughout hip hop. *Rap Research Lab* doesn't simply respond to its subject; it expands and complicates the culture and history of hip hop for both the well-versed and the uninitiated.¹

Rap Research Lab showcased new creative works at the intersections of research, design and art, including interactive AR and AI technologies. This exhibition focus aligned with CADVC's goal of being a forum for artistic exploration and research. The exhibition was also an effective and necessary catalyst for new developments in publication accessibility at CADVC.

The limited-edition artist booklet that associated with the exhibition was also posted online as a free, open-access, downloadable digital book, with alt-text embedded image descriptions.

Rap Research Lab accomplished real creative embrace of new genres and formats, and new opportunities for the production of artistic works. The exhibition also successfully offered a range of educational public programs.

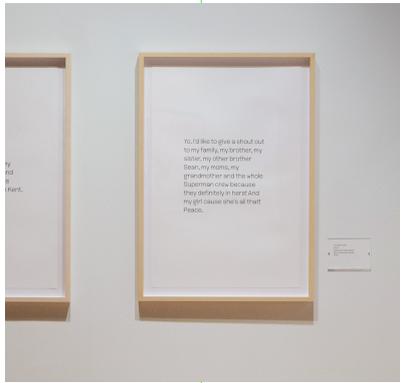
Hemphill's work at the *Rap Research Lab* exhibition aligned with CADVC's multi-pronged stature as research center, exhibition space, educational and public program provider, and publisher in the fields of art, design, and visual culture, and is a valuable addition to the center's efforts. The exhibition was made possible through the generous support of sponsors as PNC Bank, the Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore County Commission on the Arts and Sciences, and the CAHSS Dean's Office.

An excerpt from the exhibition booklet, designed by Andrew Walters, is presented on the following page.

1. Dereck Stafford Mangus and Dereck Stafford Mangus, "Hip Hop and the Machine," *Hyperallergic*, March 6, 2023, <https://hyperallergic.com/806083/hip-hop-and-the-machine-rap-reaserch-lab-tahir-hemphill/>.



Photo: Tedd Henn



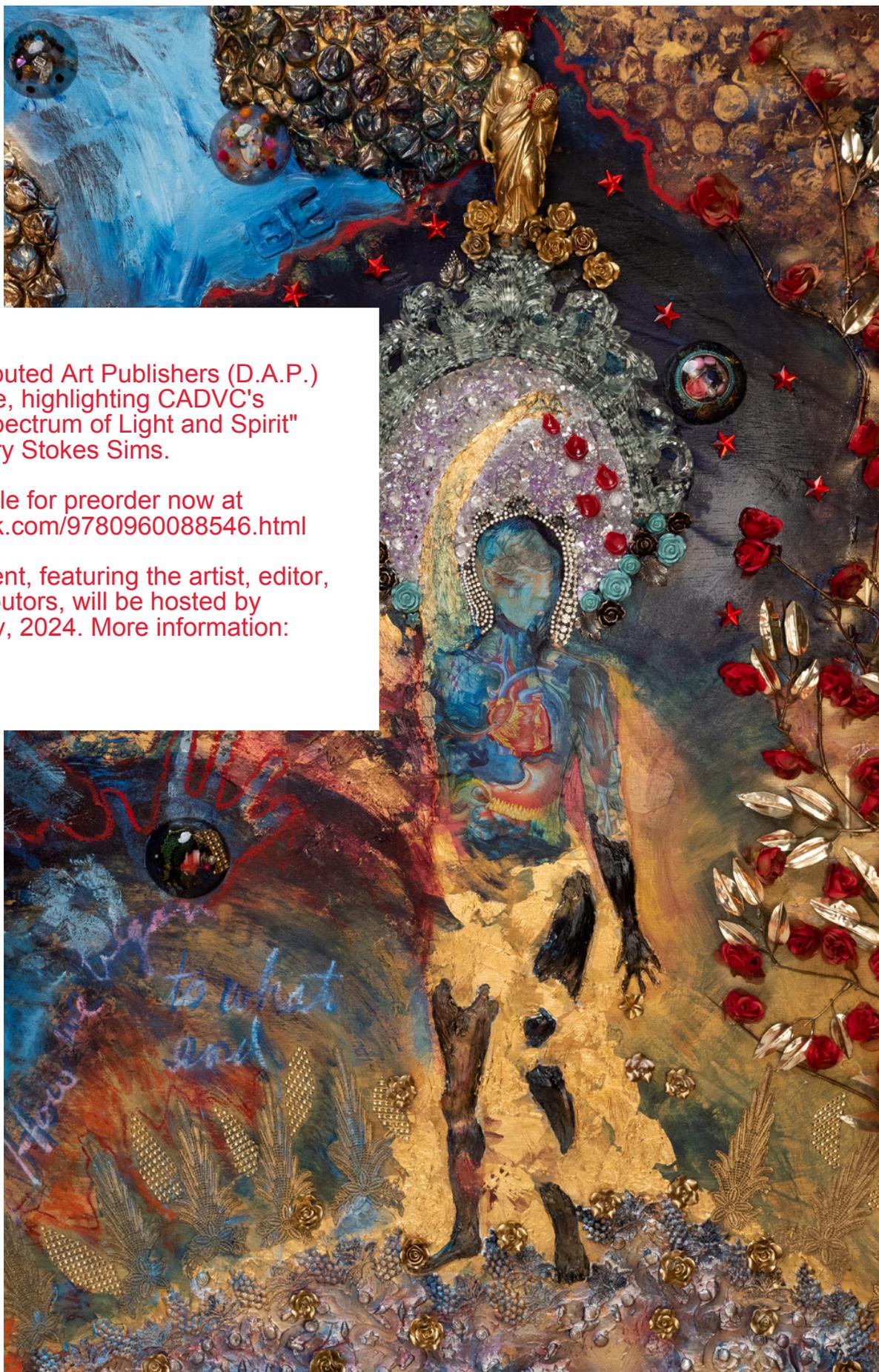
"TAHIR HEMPHILL: RAP RESEARCH LAB" AT CENTER FOR ART, DESIGN, AND VISUAL CULTURE, UMBC. JANUARY 30-MARCH 18, 2023. EXHIBITION IMAGES. PHOTOS: TEDD HENN.

Midwinter Highlights

Excerpt from Distributed Art Publishers (D.A.P.) midwinter catalogue, highlighting CADVC's "Oletha DeVane: Spectrum of Light and Spirit" edited by Dr. Lowery Stokes Sims.

The book is available for preorder now at <https://www.artbook.com/9780960088546.html>

A webinar book event, featuring the artist, editor, and multiple contributors, will be hosted by CADVC in February, 2024. More information: cadvc.umbc.edu



Oletha DeVane, *Sirius-Asteria*, 2020. Glass, fabric, acrylic, wood, paper, 46 x 36 x 3". Photograph by Mitro Hood. From *Oletha DeVane: Spectrum of Light and Spirit*, published by UMBC. See page 15.

CONTRIBUTORS AND PARTNERS

CADVC thanks the staff, students, faculty, colleagues, partners, consultants, benefactors, and contributors who make our programs run. The following is only a partial list of our many supporters and partners:

CADVC exhibitions and programs in 22-23 were made possible by generous support from PNC Bank; the Dean's office of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, UMBC; the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences and the Citizens of Baltimore County; and the Maryland State Arts Council, funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts. We thank Emily Sollenberger, Program Director for Arts Services at MSAC, for her special guidance this year. CADVC also benefited from generous donations from Joyce J. Scott, Dave Farace of the McDonogh School, and two anonymous donors.

Support and collaborative partnership within UMBC were provided by numerous colleagues, including Julie Sayo, Assistant Professor, Kelley Bell, Graduate Program Director, IMDA program, Tahir Hemphill, Faculty Fellow, Christian Valiente, Program Manager, Beth Yashnyk, Program Specialist, John Roemer, Business Services Specialist, and James Smalls, Chair, of Visual Arts; Denise Meringolo, Professor, Department of History; Tamara Bhalla, Chair, Morgan Dowty, Program Management Specialist, Sarah Fouts, Assistant Professor, and Nicole King, Associate Professor, American Studies; Gloria Chuku, Chair, Africana Studies; Foad Hamidi, Assistant Professor, with Erin Higgins, and Jamie Iranian, students, Information Systems Department; Jamie Gurganus, Lecturer and Associate Director of STEM ED Research Engineering and Computing Education Program, and Director of the Center for Integrated Research, Teaching, Learning, Mechanical Engineering; Lee Boot, Director of the Imaging Research Center; Kimberly Moffitt, Dean, Preminda Jacob, Associate Dean, Eva Dominguez, Assistant Dean, and Cael Mulcahy, Director of Operations, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Greg Simmons, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Courtney Hobson, Program Coordinator, and Jessica Berman, Director, Dresher Center for the Humanities; Amy Barnes, Program Coordinator, Felipe Filomeno, Associate Director, and Christine Mallinson, Director, Center for Social Science Scholarship; Tom Moore, Director of Arts and Culture, Marlayna Demond, Photographer, and Corey Jennings, Video Producer, of the Office of Institutional Advancement; Lynn Cazabon, Director, CIRCA; Jared Christensen, Gallery Assistant, and Beth Saunders, Curator, Albin O. Kuhn Special Collections; Lenn Caron, Administration and Finance; Christopher Tkacik, Sr. Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Stephanie Lazarus, Accessibility Manager and Campus ADA Coordinator, Department of Accessibility and Disability; and Michelle Lovejoy, Program Management Specialist, and Michael Pound, Director, Environmental Safety and Health.

In addition to the contributors to our exhibition programs discussed elsewhere in this report, we want to especially thank Rahne Alexander, IMDA alumna and program curator, and Kelley Bell, Professor, and Kathy O'Dell, Associate Professor Emerita, advisory group members, for their contributions to our Public Art Planning program series.

Special thanks are also due to Symmes Gardner, former Executive Director of CADVC, for his assistance during this transitional year.



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

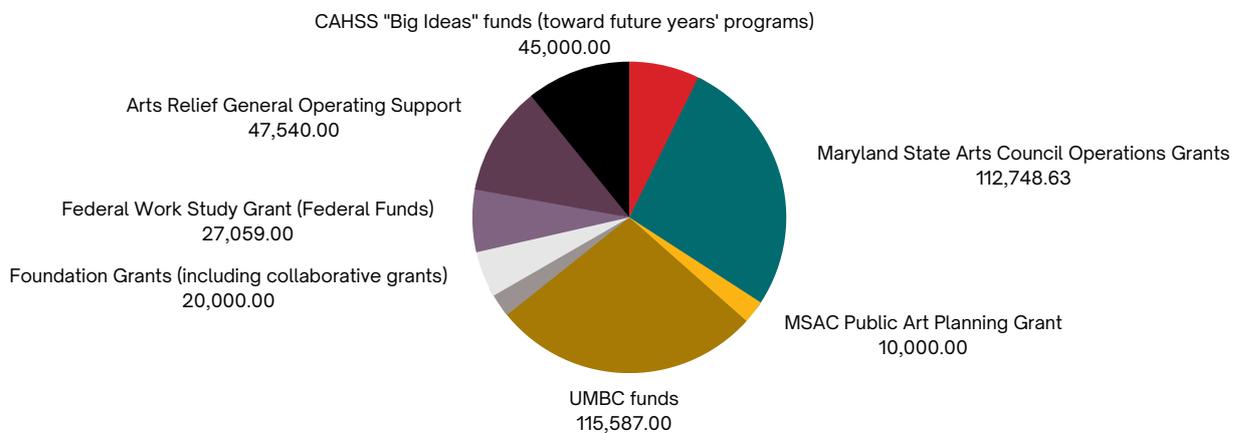
CADVC is supported by a variety of sources, both internal at UMBC and external through grants, foundation funds, revenue, and private donations. Donations to the CADVC Foundation support our groundbreaking activities and future growth. Some of our activities and plans are described here.

CADVC runs an award-winning publications program, which we wish to expand for greater public impact. We recently renegotiated our distributor and contributor contracts to allow CADVC publications to be published online in open-access digital formats, which will incorporate embedded alt-text descriptions for greater accessibility and public impact. We are working with an interdepartmental team on a new website to allow creative intermedia publication. Our exploratory artist residency program (AIR) invites artists with research inquiries that are Baltimore-region specific or specific to academic activities at UMBC to create new work. The AIR program is currently sponsored primarily through our College's Dean's Office. We hope that future cycles will receive outside funding and grow to be financially sustainable. To this end, CADVC is currently involved in a Tremaine Foundation "Peer Network" grant explicitly focused on artistic research and dissemination of artistic ideas between venues.

We intend for a subsequent Tremaine grant to sponsor future artistic research at CADVC. We will evaluate the AIR program following the initial three-year pilot. CADVC stewards a cultural greenspace on campus, known as the "Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park," which receives sponsorship from the NatureSacred foundation. A Charlesmead grant is funding curriculum development in this space. We are planning to generate a new strategic plan for the Park's programs following an upcoming series of research endeavors.



Contributions and Monies awarded for CADVC Operations, Fiscal Year 23*



*as of July 13 2023 reporting

CADVC TEAM

CADVC core staff, 22-23:

Sandra Abbott
Janet Magruder
Mitchell Noah
Rebecca Uchill

CADVC special staff, 22-23:

Catherine Borg
Besan Khamis
Adam Droneburg
Sadaf Rehman

CADVC Graduate Assistants, 22-23:

Ahlam Khamis
Ghazal Mojtahedi
Mariia Usova

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Amy Teschner

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Jae Vargas

CADVC volunteer:

Melina Cavathas

Lighting Design:

Brian Jones

Photography:

Marlayna Demond
Tedd Henn
Mitro Hood



Photo: Rasaan Hammond



Photo: Marlayna Desmond



Photo: Mariia Usova



Photo: Rebecca Uchill

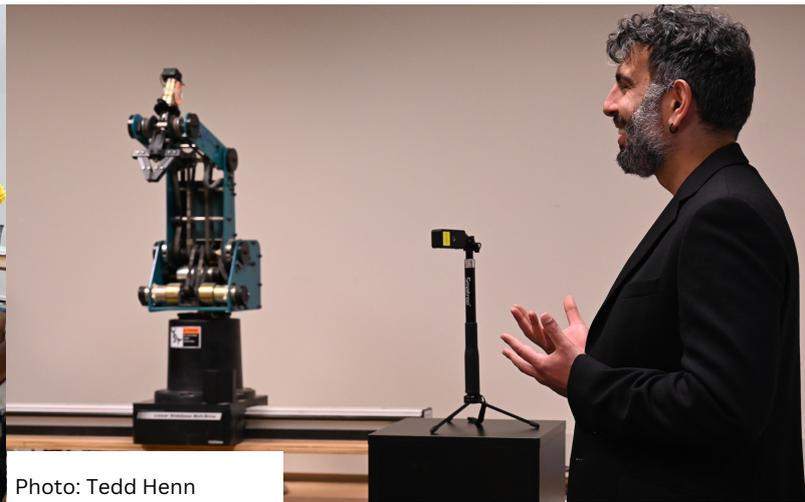


Photo: Tedd Henn



Photo: Rebecca Uchill



Photo: Rebecca Uchill



Photo: Tedd Henn

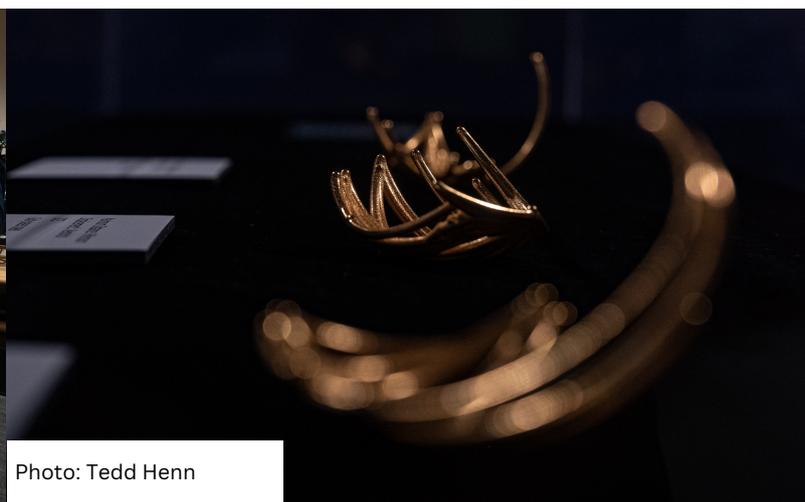


Photo: Tedd Henn