

detail from *Threads of (dis)Integration*  
by Pinky/MM Bass, May 2024.

December 2024

**CENTRE FOR THE LIVING ARTS**

dba Alabama Contemporary Art Center

elizabeth elliot, Executive Director (251) 208-5660  
Chandra Brown, Board Chair

301 CONTI ST, MOBILE, AL 36602  
EIN: 63-1236563

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024**



detail from *Wataways* exhibition, work by Keysha Rivera, March 2024.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Alabama Contemporary is to support cultural production, provide space for courageous conversations that shape identity, and seed growth in the greater creative economy. We support living artists, and through our educational, public and curatorial programs advocate for human dignity and a diversity of perspectives. We strive to be a partner, resource and light in the Deep South.

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



### DEAR FRIENDS,

This last year has been a rollercoaster. We are incredibly proud of the artists and projects we were able to support, and we have embarked on major organizational change as we mount the new year as a 'Museum Without Walls' (for the interim). We have a 2025 program schedule we think will knock your socks off, and we have some really big updates to share with you soon!

We get that a transient model for a museum isn't an easy thing to wrap your head around. The way we think of it is that we are continuing to provide all the access and support for artists we've always provided, but embedded deeper in the community we serve. We will fund ambitious and thought provoking projects, we will lift up unheard voices in the community, we will support creative practices with the stewardship and care we are uniquely positioned to provide, and we will create space for courageous conversations about the world you all wish to create. We'll just be doing it in coffee shops, lobbies, vacant buildings and in collaboration with our many, many partners.

This year, thanks to your support, we proudly presented 11 exhibitions, led 61 public programs and classes, and added lines to the resume of 331 artists. We pumped \$148k directly into the pockets of artists and invested a total of \$204k into the creative economy. Looking ahead to 2025, we are more committed than ever to expanding access to innovative creative perspectives, and continuing to offer free or low-cost arts programming that uplifts and enriches our community.

Your gift today will make a lasting impact, ensuring that our community is the beneficiary of its own talent and creative prowess. ACAC is the only contemporary art museum in the state, focused on building the creative capital of the Deep South. Your investment in this place says that you believe the South has something to say, and deserves to be heard.

Thank you for being such an important part of our journey—we can't wait to share all that's in store for the year ahead!

Yours,

elizabeth elliot  
Executive Director

# EXHIBITIONS

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY  
THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



JAN 12 - APR 20, 2024

## HURRICANE PARTY

Curated by James Black & 309 Punk Project

Since the mid-1980s, Mobile, AL has been home to a growing punk cultural scene. Transitory in nature, the scene in Mobile has cycled over the decades through fleeting phases and times of burgeoning richness. Through a partnership with 309 Punk Project (Pensacola, FL), this exhibition aims to collect, archive, and preserve some of that lightning in a bottle. Supported by a series of calls for community members to donate Mobile-centric, punk ephemera, this collection represents a nearly four decade history of punk in the city.

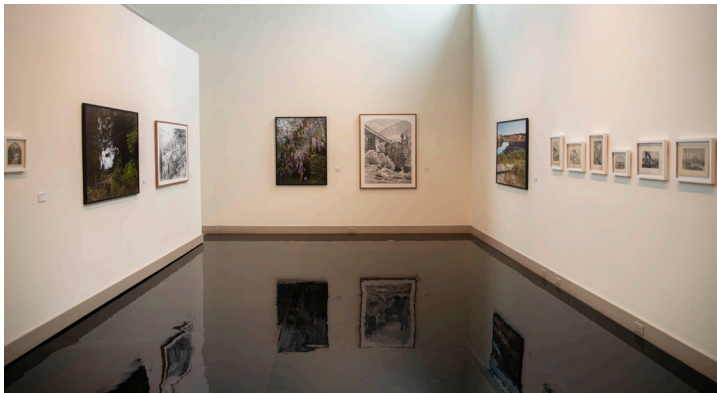


MAR 8 - AUG 17, 2024

## WATA WAYS

New work by Keysha Rivera, Trécha Gay Jheneall, and Keiaria Williams

This exhibition explores the interconnected waterbodies of the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf as fluid sites of memories and pathways for the Caribbean diasporic people. Artists Keysha Rivera, Trecha Gay Jheneall, and Keiaria Williams use textile works, installations, photography, and mixed media to represent the prevalence of water as a form of remembrance through the process of creation.



MAR 8 - JUL 20, 2024

## DANGEROUS LANDSCAPES

Work by Allison Grant, Curated by Teresa Cribelli

Climate Change—the largest environmental challenge of our time—is the result of a vision of progress forged in the nineteenth century when fossil fuels spurred industrialization on a global scale. *Picturesque America*, published in 1872, captured the beginning of US industrialization in lush illustrations that placed railroads and factories in expansive horizons that symbolized boundless possibility. This exhibition places these nineteenth-century views of progress in dialogue with Allison Grant's contemporary photographs of the chemical and fossil fuel industries in West Alabama.



MAY 10 - OCT 19, 2024

## THREADS OF (DIS)INTEGRATION

Work by Pinky/MM Bass & Friends

This exhibition is an anti-retrospective guided by artist Pinky/MM Bass, a pillar of the Southern art scene. Building on a long history of collaboration, Bass is creating work that both enlists and pays homage to the folk that have impacted her work and life over her long career. Featured are the work of frequent collaborators, Douglas Baulos (AL), Renée Dossett (LA), Carolyn DeMeritt (NC) and Rivers Tilley (AL); in addition to a long distance/intervention project that uses the mail to collaborate with another 20+ photographers, writers, family and friends.

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

# EXHIBITIONS



AUG 9 - OCT 19, 2024

## AS PRETTY DOES

From the Collection of The Do Good Fund

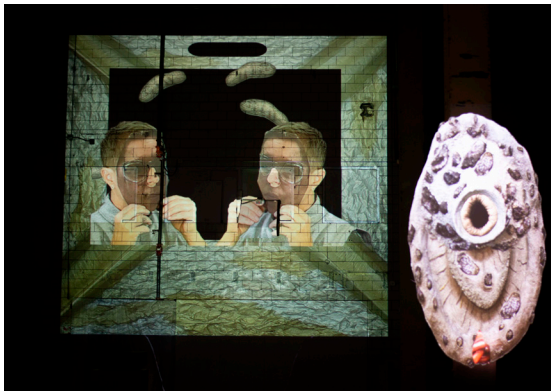
Curated by Micah Mermilliod, this exhibition celebrates ways of being, the familiar and unexpected alike. Through the lenses of eight photographers, history and modernity intersect, and the ordinary becomes extraordinary. While not always traditionally beautiful, the allure, honesty, and unpredictability found in these everyday moments resonates like jazz through humid Southern air. Featured artists include Lucinda Bunnen, Keith Calhoun, Rosalind Fox Solomon, Jill Frank, Carlos Gustavo, Betty Press, Jared Ragland, and Mark Steinmetz.

SEP 13 - OCT 19, 2024

## HORSEPOWER

New work by Cedric Smith

Cedric Smith paints the portraits that were never painted at the time. He is not reimagining history, but reinscribing an erasure. The deep reservoirs of knowledge and skill required for equine work are still rarely attributed to the folks who built the equine industry that underpinned all of western civilization. First, our ability to travel, to explore, and to accumulate wealth, and then the privileged thrill of a leisure class that creates games for the sake of furthering status – both required the expertise and effort of African Americans.



AUG 9 - OCT 19, 2024

## NON SEQUITUR

A Site-Specific Installation by Jenny Day

In this video installation, interdisciplinary artist Carrie Fonder meditates on cycles of ideas, life, and physical materials. In it, she explores entropy, the cyclical patterns of nature as well as the messiness of a lark, or unexpected turn. The term 'non sequitur' translates from Latin to mean "it does not follow." Embracing this ethos, this installation reflects fractured roving thoughts and mirrors the futile effort to 'keep it together.'



OCT 4, 2023 - DEC 31, 2025

## REMEMBERING THE AVENUE

A Satellite Exhibition at the Historic Avenue Cultural Center

*Remembering the Avenue* is a civic practice exhibition, in partnership with the Mobile County Commission and curated by Jada Jones through Alabama Contemporary's Guest Curator Program. Davis Avenue, now named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, in the 1940s-1970s was 'Black Main Street' – a hub of black-owned businesses and venues. This exhibition explores not only the history and shared memory of this once thriving community, but seeds the potential for new growth and possibility through shared dreaming.

# PROGRAMS

We packed a lot of programming into 2024. We host artists & curator talks, performances, and workshops in conjunction with each exhibition, as well as community programs that explore themes relevant to the work on our walls. Here are some highlights.



## ▶ **MOBILE ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL**

with 2 pre-screener programs, 1 main festival, showcasing 40+ films, with 113 attendees

## ▶ **WILD THINGS BALL**

9 performers, 3 DJs, 175 attendees

## ▶ **ARTISTS DINNER**

Serving 15 artists, 76 attendees

## ▶ **NEU DAWN 7**

Serving 23 artists, 23 costume designers, & 23 models with 500 attendees

## ▶ **PUNK ROCK FLEA MARKET**

20+ performers, 200 attendees

## ▶ **9 PERFORMANCES**

by 38 artists, 1,426 attendees

## ▶ **10 GALLERY TALKS**

4 guest curators, 14 artists

## ▶ **9 ARTWALKS**

2,604 attendees



# PARTNERSHIPS



### VERDANT FUND

The Verdant Fund is an annual project grant that funds independent artists with site-specific exhibition concepts, independent projects, or new work as it is relevant to the community we serve. An expansion of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regional Re-granting program, the Verdant Fund supports creative practice born of and within Alabama. Administered through a partnership between Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile, AL), Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL), and Space One Eleven (Birmingham, AL), our goal is to reach a broad range of artists across all geographic areas of the state and expand and support creative practice at the margins. In 2024 projects from a highly competitive group of applicants were reviewed by a panel of professionals that ultimately selected nine artists to receive up to \$7,000 in funding each, for a grant total of \$60,125. Each project is documented at [verdantfund.org](http://verdantfund.org).

### HISTORIC AVENUE CULTURAL CENTER

In partnership with the Mobile County Commission, Alabama Contemporary facilitates monthly satellite programs at the HACC, exploring the lost histories and possible futures for the Historic Avenue community.

### ARTSOCIAL

ArtSocial is a quarterly arts networking event hosted by Alabama Contemporary Art Center, Mobile Arts Council, and Mobile Museum of Art with membership giveaways, conversation, and drinks by donation. This event rotates each quarter between the host organizations.



### ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

This residency prioritizes experimentation and exploration that expands the scope of an artist's work, and benefits the community. The two-year commitment offers an artist studio space, professional development, and an exhibition outcome in exchange for outreach teaching and participation in public programs that serve local needs. 2024 AIR June Reddix-Stennis got in a lot of studio time, with a culminating project proposed for 2025.

### MUFFINJAW DESIGNS

In June 2024, our Education Studio was able to offer our first Teen Glass Blowing class with Muffinjaw Designs. Muffinjaw is a glass blowing cohort who occupied a fully-operational glass studio on our 3rd Floor.

### ODDCOLLEGE / CARTOGRAPHER RECORDS

Cartographer Records, founded by James Black and Bryan Gottshall, is a recording studio that offers robust programming commitments including a video concert series called OddCollege. As a full-service recording studio, they provide program support that seeds growth in the cultural production of the South.

GENEROUSLY  
SUPPORTED BY



# EDUCATION

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE BCBS CARING FOUNDATION & ALABAMA'S SUPPORT THE ARTS LICENSE TAG PROGRAM



## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

TEACHING ARTISTS: 8, ATTENDANCE: 127 STUDENTS

We offer evening and weekend classes and workshops for adults & teens in a variety of mediums on a seasonal basis. Led by a working artist, these classes occur in 4-, 6-, 8-week sessions, or are one-two day workshops, and are beginner level for anyone looking to expand their creative interests.

- INTRO TO WHEEL THROWING W/ JENNY WILLIAMS
- POTTERY DATE NIGHTS W/ JENNY WILLIAMS
- INTERMEDIATE WHEEL THROWING W/ JENNY WILLIAMS
- NUDE FIGURE DRAWING W/ TAZ THE ARTIST
- HOW TO PAINT W/ COLLEEN COMER
- TEEN GLASS BLOWING W/ MUFFINJAW DESIGNS
- YOGA ON THE TERRACE W/ KINDRED YOGA

## FIELD TRIPS & GROUP TOURS

21 GUIDED TOURS AND A TOTAL OF 1,194 PEOPLE

Our field trips focus on the four areas of Discipline-Based Arts Education: arts production, art history and culture, criticism and aesthetics, and core curriculum standards. We also expanded our offerings to incorporate group tours and teambuilding exercises for businesses and adult groups.

## SUMMER ART CAMPS

TEACHING ARTISTS: 10, ATTENDANCE: 58 STUDENTS

We offered five weeks of art camps that provided an opportunity to discover the transformative effect of contemporary art. In these camps students experiment with ceramics, mixed media, drawing and illustrating, painting, and collage

- ART SAMPLER
- WATERCOLOR, CLAY, & BUBBLES
- CARICATURES IN CLAY
- THEATRE & COSTUME MAKING
- SOYNIKA'S ART CAMP

## ROVING FIELD TRIPS

ATTENDANCE: 364 STUDENTS, 21 TEACHERS

This program uses video interviews with artists produced by ACAC in free monthly and summer programs at Public Libraries in Mobile, Semmes, and Washington Counties. Included are art activities that integrate math, science, and history to incite deep understanding. In the fall of 2023, we took this program into the public school system and included both English & Spanish instruction for schools that serve predominately Lantinx students.





## FOUNDATIONS, MUNICIPAL, & BUSINESSES

Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts  
 National Endowment for the Arts  
 Alabama State Council on the Arts  
 City of Mobile  
 Mobile County Commission  
 BCBS The Caring Foundation  
 PNC Bank  
 Alabama Humanities Foundation  
 Ben May Charitable Trust  
 Nan Altmayer Charitable Trust  
 Mary Josephine Larkins Foundation  
 The C.D., Helen, & Jeff Glaze Foundation

EA Klass Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation  
 Tall Architects  
 Realand Title  
 Cathead Distillery  
 Lywe Strategies  
 Shell Health  
 South Alabama Regional Planning Commission  
 S&P Global  
 Red Mountain Garage Doors  
 Nova Espresso  
 B'Bobs  
 Renaissance Hotels

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 Alan Rothschild  
 Stephen Savage  
 Pinky/MM Bass  
 Daryn Glassbrook  
 Bernard Eichold  
 Laura Anthony  
 Dolores Ward

# BY THE NUMBERS

\*Full budget available upon request\*

- ▶ **\$765K**  
Operating Budget
- ▶ **\$275K**  
Local Grants
- ▶ **\$100K**  
National Grants
- ▶ **\$67K**  
Regional Grants
- ▶ **\$65K**  
Events & Programs
- ▶ **\$62K**  
Individual Giving
- ▶ **232K**  
Web Visits
- ▶ **8,172**  
visitors (in-person)
- ▶ **7,427**  
Facebook followers
- ▶ **7,242**  
Instagram followers
- ▶ **331**  
Artists served
- ▶ **248**  
Members
- ▶ **68**  
Public programs
- ▶ **34**  
Teaching artists



*Genetics: Wave of Compression*  
Music Box  
Pinky/MM Bass  
from the exhibition *Threads of (dis)Integration* (May 2024)

# STAFF & BOARD



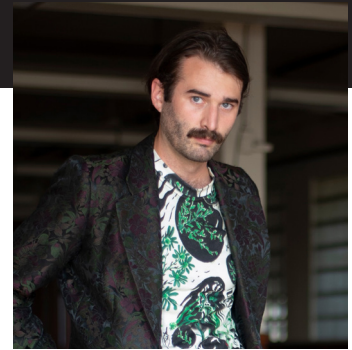
**elizabeth elliot**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



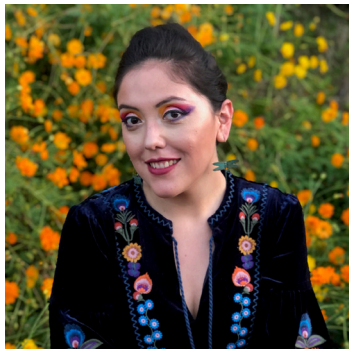
**Glenn Robertson**  
DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING



**Allison Schaub Skoda**  
CURATOR



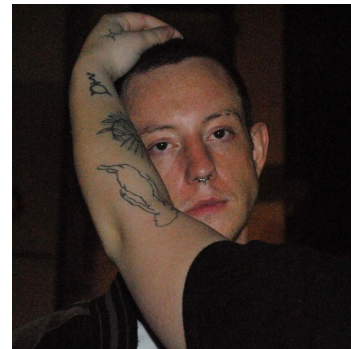
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CURATOR



**Pame Cevallos Amores**  
CURATOR OF EDUCATION



**Tyrese Bess**  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
OPPORTUNITIES & ADMIN



**Garrett Grimes Timme**  
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