

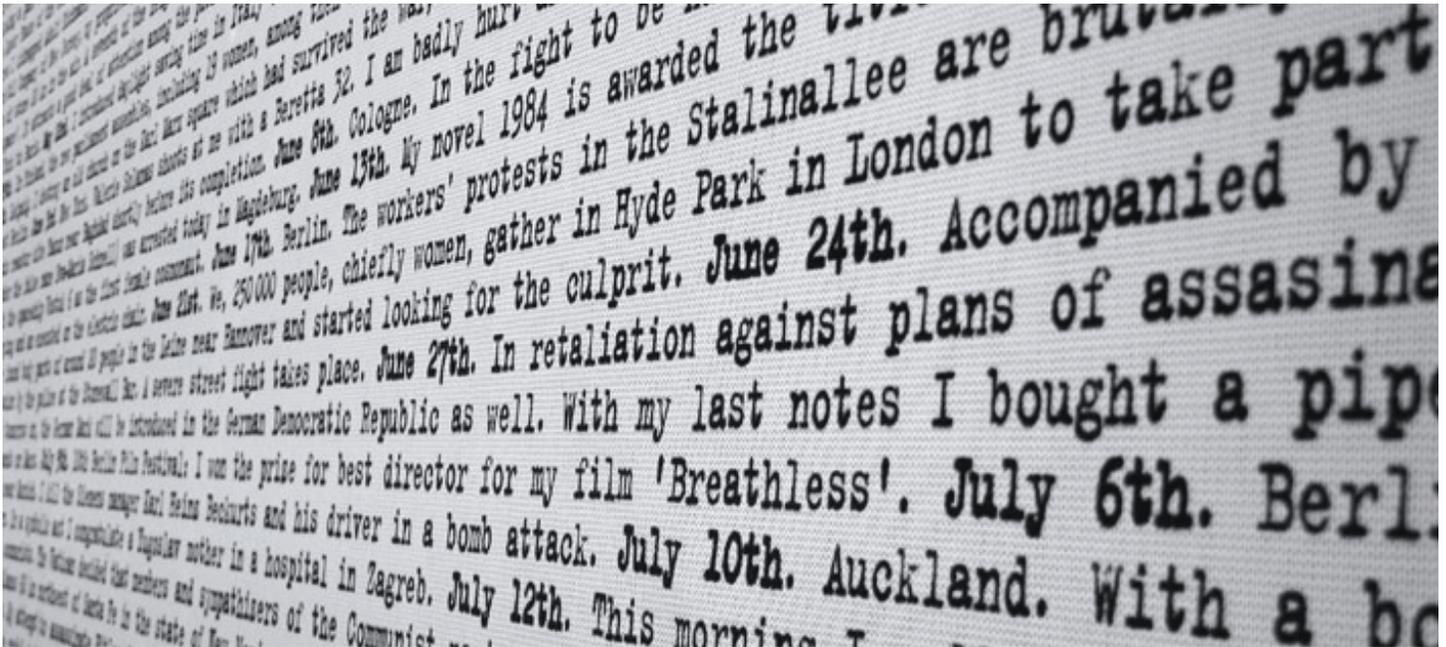
Fall Updates from the University at Albany Fine Arts Collections



ALBANY, NY (November 9, 2020) — The University Art Museum, University at Albany is pleased to announce the launch of its new Collections database, as well as new additions to the University at Albany Fine Art Collections, and a new student intern research project.

In September, the Museum launched a new, open-source database for cataloguing the Collections, including the display of images, video, audio, and archival documents. As the database grows, the Museum will be able to link essays, articles, and other research material to records of over 3,000 objects that comprise the University at Albany Fine Art Collections and reflect over 50 years of modern and contemporary art, including paintings, photographs, prints, drawings and sculpture by many of the most prominent artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. The Museum's new database plays a key role in advancing scholarship, research, remote learning, and virtual class visits of exhibitions and the permanent collections. It also functions as an efficient means to link deeds of gift, condition reports, loan and exhibition history, and purchase records to object records in the Collections. The new database can be accessed through the Museum's main website, and through this link: www.universityartmuseum.org

Past exhibiting artist Daniela Comani, whose work *It Was Me Diary. 1900-1999, 2002/2007*, was included in the exhibition *Courier* in 2010, recently donated an iteration of this artwork to the University at Albany Fine Art Collections. Written in the first person, Comani has typed an outsized diary consisting of 365 entries, each a reference to an event that occurred in the twentieth century including wars, assassinations, kidnappings, national disasters, discoveries, inventions, fashion firsts, and entertainment debuts. For more information on the artist, visit: www.danielacomani.net



Daniela Comani, *It Was Me Diary*. 1900-1999, 2002/2007, digital print on net vinyl, 9 ½ x 19 ½ feet, courtesy of the artist

The *Annual Exhibition by Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region* is one of the longest running juried exhibitions in the nation, rotating between the Albany Institute of History and Art, The Hyde Collection, and the University Art Museum. Each year, the participating institutions purchase artwork(s) to be added to their respective holdings. This year, the University Art Museum purchased two digital text drawings by Colin Chase with the generous support of Susan Van Horn Shipherd '64, Munir and Ellen Jabbur, UAlbany Alumni Association Arts and Culture Committee, and University Art Museum Director's Fund. Chase uses text, such as quotes, gospels, hymns, phrases, and song lines to build his compositions and to create layers of meaning and imagery. In *of cries and whispers (flag)*, 2018, Chase alternates lines of text with morse code using lyrics from "None of Us Are Free" written by Barry Mann, Cynthia Weil, and Brenda Russell, recorded by Ray Charles. The stars section of the flag is comprised of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s book title that poses the question, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* Made in 2019, *of cries and whispers (e pluribus unum #25)* juxtaposes the motto of the United States – E Pluribus Unum, Latin for "out of many, one" – with its barcode translation. For more information on the artist, visit: <https://colinchase.net>

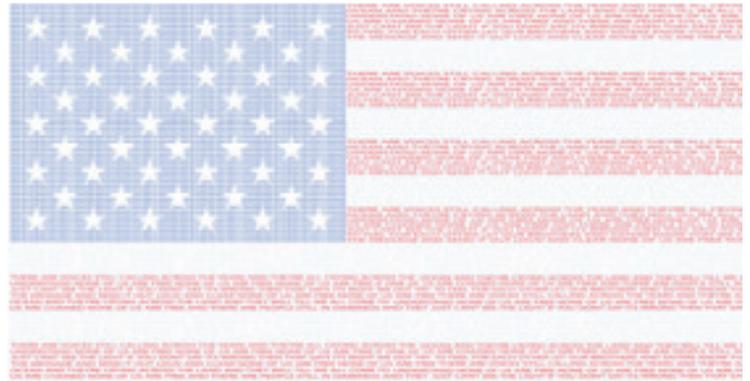
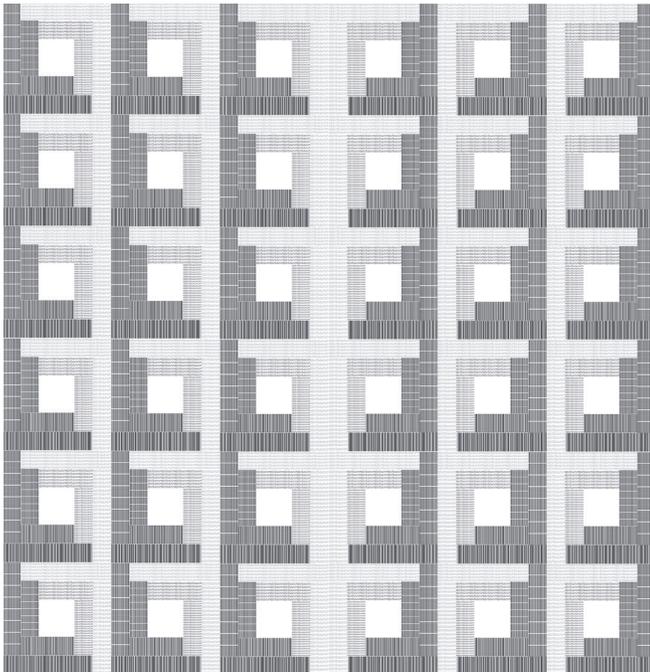
Artist Radamés "Juni" Figueroa generously donated *Tropical readymade landscape*, 2019, to the Museum's permanent collections this fall. Originally exhibited in *ACE: art on sports, promise and selfhood* in 2019, Figueroa's installation combines discarded, used sports equipment with plants as a way to give objects another life and to harness ideas of aspiration and growth. The artist's exploration of urban and natural settings of Puerto Rico is a form of connection, namely between the urban architecture and the larger story of North American occupation and the formation of Puerto Rico's culture, history, and identity. For more information on the artist, visit: <http://uvuvuv.com/artist/radames-juni-figueroa-2/>



Radamés “Juni” Figueroa, *Tropical readymade landscape*, 2019, sneakers, basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, dirt, and plants

What Ralph Ellison and Romare Bearden teach us about art + activism today, newly-featured on the Collections website, is an illustrated essay project by Sydney Pennington '23, Milton and Sally Avery Social Media and Marketing Intern. Pennington’s research centers on a letter from Ralph Ellison written in 1968 to founding Museum Director, Donald Mochon, in which Ellison expresses trepidation on writing his first-ever piece about art for the Museum’s exhibition, *Romare Bearden Paintings, and Projections*. Pennington recently stated, “I was given the opportunity to broadcast the discovery of Ralph Ellison’s letter prior to many of the tumultuous events that have happened this year. Amidst all the chaos, working on this web story provided me with a source of stability. Reading Ellison’s writing and his description of activism and art from both Romare Bearden’s perspective and his understanding of it helped me find my own form of activism.” In addition to her essay, Pennington is researching and developing a PowerPoint presentation to be added to the Museum’s library of presentations that connect its exhibitions and Collections to a range of topical subjects. To view the illustrated essay, visit: <https://www.albany.edu/museum/ellison/>

The recent additions of artwork by Comani, Chase, and Figueroa, as well as the correspondence between Ralph Ellison and Donald Mochon, are housed in the Museum’s Collections Study Space, located down the hallway from the Museum in the Fine Arts Building on UAlbany’s Uptown Campus. The Collections Study Space is a multi-functional facility which safely holds the Collections and serves as a teaching and exhibition space that is accessible to students, faculty, staff, and members of the community by appointment.



Colin Chase
of cries and whispers
(*e pluribus unum* #25), 2019
Digital text drawing on rag, archival ink
32 x 32 x 2 inches

Collection of University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York on behalf of University at Albany Foundation
University Art Museum Purchase Award
Supported by Munir and Ellen Jabbur, UAlbany Alumni Association Arts and Culture Committee, and University Art Museum Director's Fund

Colin Chase
of cries and whispers (flag), 2018
Digital text drawing on rag,
archival ink
36 x 20 x 2 inches

Collection of University Art Museum, University at Albany, State University of New York on behalf of University at Albany Foundation
University Art Museum Purchase Award
Supported by Susan Van Horn Shipherd '64, UAlbany Alumni Association Arts and Culture Committee, and University Art Museum Director's Fund

Museum Hours: For the most up-to-date information on hours and visitor guidelines, please visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum, or call (518) 442-4035.

Contact: museum@albany.edu or call (518) 442-4035

About the University at Albany: A comprehensive public research university, the University at Albany offers more than 120 undergraduate majors and minors and 125 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, engineering and applied sciences, informatics, public administration social welfare, and sociology taught by an extensive roster of faculty experts. It also offers expanded academic and research opportunities for students through an affiliation with Albany Law School. With a curriculum enhanced by 600 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.

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