

SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

WINTER '23
ARTS IN REVIEW

MC Art Beat

Visual, Performing, and Media Arts News at Montgomery College

MC
MONTGOMERY
COLLEGE



Cover photograph from artist, Ronald Beverly, titled "January Fall"
 Courtesy of Montgomery County Council and Montgomery College



Message from the Dean

DEAR FRIENDS OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE ARTS,

The beginning of the fall semester was an exciting time. Classes were back in session, the campus was bustling with eager students, and numerous activities and events were being planned. Fears about the latest variants of the Covid virus abounded, but it was largely "business as usual."

One of our hallmarks is to continuously move forward – to constantly progress. To remake ourselves. To invent, reinvent, and then to start over again. This has been especially true of our work in the classroom, where faculty members continued to experiment. New classroom content was developed and new approaches to teaching familiar classes were explored. That creativity was also manifest in the diverse artistic events that were offered during the semester.

Our creative faculty planned inspiring opportunities in the arts for our students, the MC campus community, and the residents of the greater Montgomery County area. As always, they were innovative and imaginative, offering artist talks, workshops, concerts, and theatrical productions in a variety of formats and modes, both in-person and virtually.

Our special events included a Ukrainian Culture, Music, and Dance Festival, a residency by BIG INK visiting printmakers, a multicampus theatre production, and an exhibition at the County Office Building in Rockville. It was a fantastic and highly productive semester.

Our latest challenge is that due to some facilities renovations, many of our galleries, studios, and performance spaces are closed for spring. But we persevere. In spite of everything, during the spring semester, in-person, remote, and simultaneously live and streamed events are being planned. We hope you will attend one of our arts events regardless of your preferred modality.

The Spring 2023 Arts Calendar will be out very soon. Please be sure to check our diverse schedule of in-person theatre productions, inspiring dance performances, live and streamed music concerts, compelling artist lectures, informative workshops, innovative gallery exhibitions, and other arts programming at montgomerycollege.edu/artsinstitute. Please join us at an arts event in the near future.

Frank Trezza, PhD

Dean for the Visual, Performing, and Media Arts
frank.trezza@montgomerycollege.edu

Contents Winter '23 Arts In Review

Contributors

Dr. Frank Trezza, Editor
Collegewide Dean for the Arts

Elizabeth Melanson, Writer
Professor of Art History

Katherine Hubley, Writer & Designer
Professor of Graphic Design

Kai Fang, Writer & Designer
Professor of Graphic Design

Special Thanks

Music Professor, Dawn Avery
Production Coordinator, Scott Hengen
Stage Manager, Megan Hook
Media Arts Professor, Bryan Tillman
Administrative Aide, Priscilla Walker
Sarah Silberman Gallery
Professor Amanda Miller
Montgomery County Council



The MC World Arts Ukrainian Festival
p. 6



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee *p. 14*



Library Sketchbook Project *p. 22*



Retirement of Administrative Aide, Priscilla Walker *p.28*



Big Ink *p. 34*



Art on the Walls *p. 40*

The MC World Arts Festival

ukrainian Festival

Music, Dance, Photography and Oral History from the Heart of Ukraine

Above: Gerdan - Kaleidoscope of World Music Ensemble: left to right Roman Mykyta, Kalin Kirilov, Caroline Anderson, Steve Bloom, Solomia Gorokhivska, Andrei Pidkivka. *Photo by Ashley C Neyra*

The MC World Arts Festival, now in its 20th year, has celebrated over 75 different cultures in residencies with workshops, community and student collaborations, concerts, film, dance and visual art. This past fall, the festival featured a country that's been in the news a lot lately, Ukraine.



Above: Andrei - Nai, Solomia Gorokhivska - violin, Greg Watkins- bass, Jan Knutson -guitar
Photo by Ronald Beverly

Since the invasion of their country earlier last year, Ukraine has been thrust onto the global stage, but what do people really know about this Eastern European country? With “Ukraine” being the third most searched term on Google in 2022, there seemed to be a genuine appetite from the general public to learn more; to go beyond the news headlines and blue and yellow flags on social media and discover their rich history, people and culture.

This inspired Dr. Dawn Avery, MC music professor and ethnomusicologist, to produce the Ukraine residency and create collaborative assignments with Anthropology, Photography and the Paul Peck Humanities Institute. “As an ethnomusicologist, it is especially important for me to have as many of our presenters represent their own culture and experience. Most of them are actively involved as cultural gatekeepers and specialists and are dedicated to the sustainability of their culture through both traditional and contemporary styles of art and scholarship.”

Although the World Arts Festival has been a stalwart of Montgomery College’s dedication to diversity and to our wonderful students, faculty, staff and college community for over



Above: Dr. Andrei Pidkivka, Grammy Award Winner and instrument maker giving workshops on instruments of the Ukraine. Photo by Ashley C Neyra

two decades, this year was especially significant. There is always so much pride felt by the artist/scholars as they present in the context of both Traditional and Contemporary modalities, but due to the urgency of the current war in the Ukraine, they put their culture in a different context that was especially poignant and heartfelt. “I believe we experienced the critical necessity that these artists provide in keeping their culture alive and they have been doing this for decades. Experiential learning through the medium of the arts, can often be less-threatening and very much alive for audience members,” said Avery.

There was a beautiful reciprocity in the interaction between the generous sharing of the presenters and the appreciative participation by the audience. Presenters and audience were brought to tears and were inspired by the rich and beautiful culture of Ukraine.

Between the dates of October 13-27, 2022, MC welcomed a Ukraine Residency – a cadre comprised of experts and artists from music, dance, anthropology and photography backgrounds to conduct workshops, concerts and presentations for the College and the local community. Avery, organizer of The MC World Arts Festival, considered the current geo-political climate when putting together this event, “By focusing on culture, especially during this time when Ukrainian culture and people are being threatened, most of us have been struck by just how important it is to keep culture alive in our hearts, minds, spirits, and through the precious oral traditions that these artists share.”

The festival kicked off with music workshops. Traditional music of the Ukraine that included Ukrainian music, instrument construction and performance, instrumental music and songs from Ukraine, vocal techniques and styling, and their cultural settings. It was led by Grammy Award-winning Musician, Producer, educator and instrument maker Andrei Pidkivka and cultural anthropologist, educator and award-winning violinist Dr. Solomia Gorokhivska.

A dance workshop incorporating traditional Ukrainian dances was also led by Roman Muykyta (Ballet Artist and Choreographer). This was also offered during MC Dance classes and open to the public.



Above: Ukrainian Dance at MC by Roman Mykyta, Caroline Anderson, Solomia Gorokhivska -violin and Kalin Kirilov - accordion. *Photo by Ashley C Neyra*



Above: The Gerdan crew. *Photo by Ashley C Neyra*

Anthropology workshops which included oral histories with a focus on family, cultural sustainability, and wartime experiences was led by Cultural Anthropologist, Dr. Solomia Gorokhivska, who received her degree from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine. Student interviews prepared by MC Anthropology/ World Music classes followed and this lively dialogue was open to the public as well.

The fun continued with a pre-concert interview with topics determined by the presenters in collaboration with Professor Maria Sprehn's anthropology course. Students were given the opportunity to interview the

presenter(s) with questions on topics such as: the history of war in Ukraine and current issues that they are facing, along with the importance for cultural sustainability.

Photography students also got involved, with an exhibit coming this Spring 2023, which features student photographs and video from the festival.

The residency culminated with a series of events in the Rockville Music Recital Hall. Beginning in the lobby entrance, guests were met with an informative and beautiful gallery exhibit of large posters with research and photos are complete with QR links that led you to further research, live video and audio.

Soon after, the attendees were treated to a beautiful concert performance called “The Soul of Ukraine through Music and Dance.” The concert featured the Gerdan Ensemble, which incorporated Ukrainian flutes, violin, guitar, accordion, bass and drums, accompanied by 2 folkloric dancers in a performance of both traditional and contemporary works of the Ukraine.

“It was so much fun to hear Dr. Andrei Pidkivka who recorded for the recent Hobbit film, play the theme on his flute. The students loved that. Many participants have been moved to share the events with others, promote Ukrainian culture by staying in touch with the Gerdan ensemble and contributing to a variety of applicable charities,” said Avery.



Above: Andrei Pidkivka playing the Tylynka
Photo by Ashley C Neyra



Above: Solomia Gorokhivska on the violin.
Photo by Ashley C Neyra

Dr. Avery felt like the festival really connected with the students. She mentioned that students are still talking about it and many have followed up with the Ukrainian artists through attendance at local events, particularly several that have been hosted in Washington, D.C. When asked what she hoped participants took away from the festival, she said “An understanding and respect of different cultures as presented by cultural specialists from those cultures, through the very accessible medium of the arts.”

The atmosphere at the festival was electric and what made it such a success was the diversity of support from across the MC community that came together to assemble this program. A



Above: Solomia Gorokhivska, violinist, vocalist and presenter receiving flowers at the end of the concert. Photo by John Mykyta

cross-disciplinary team representing Anthropology, Dance, Photography and Music included great professors and contributors such as Maria Sprehn (Anthropology), Alice Howes (dance), Naama Lewin and Ronald Beverly (photography), Dean Frank Trezza (Visual, Fine and Performing Arts Department), Alvin Trask (Music Department), Atilla Molnar and Matthew Reese (Audio/Visual) and finally with Sara Ducey, Collegewide Chair, Integrative Studies Director, Paul Peck Humanities Institute on the final performance and live stream. “It really does take a village of brilliant, creative, civic minded students, faculty and staff to make events like these happen! And to feature the larger

“village” of the Ukraine is a great service that Montgomery College can offer!,” said Avery. She went on to say, “I have been privileged to have support for these types of scholarly art residency programs for 20-years as part of the MC World Arts Festival and I know it has not only changed the lives of the College community, especially our students, but has had extended influence on our local communities and abroad. Many of the artists have been able to develop new programs while in residence at MC and have brought them forward to other venues around the world. Many students have participated in these residencies by sharing their own culture and creating programs that reflect their own culture.”





THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MC Theatre is back and better than ever!



Above: Leaf Coneybear(Conner Halverson) falls down. Photo courtesy of Naline Damrong

A first-of-its-kind, touring production premiered last fall as the MC Theater Department set out to debut multiple performances of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE across three campuses – Rockville, Takoma Park and Black Rock.

“We do not usually move the show from one campus to another. That made this version different. Because of its scale, this play was chosen with the intent to be able to move to other locations,” said R. Scott Hengen, Production Coordinator and Technical Theatre Faculty.

The musical tells the story of six extremely unique children as they embark on their own enlightening journeys in pursuit of winning the spelling bee. Along the way, they explore personal relationships as well as their own definitions of identity. The script encourages

improv and requires several audience volunteers for each performance, allowing the actors to vary word choice and accompanying jokes, keeping the show fresh night to night!

“It was very difficult in that we were producing the show in three different venues on three successive weekends. It was very taxing to all involved. Our typical setup and rehearsal times were not only compressed, but challenging because of the adjustment to a new space,” explained Hengen.

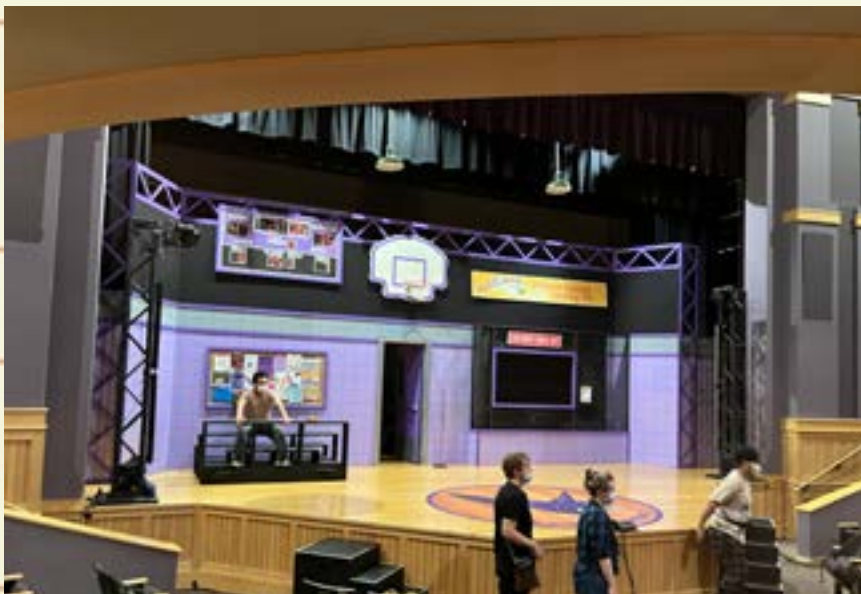
Furthermore, in the world of



Above: Marci Park(Hanna Fantom) spells a word. Photo courtesy of Naline Damrong

live theatre, COVID has been a consistent thorn in the sides of production teams for years now. With live performances shuttered or paused for a brief period, theatre goers were eager to return to live performances and the MC theatre department did not disappoint. “We wanted the community to know that the Theatre department at Montgomery College still exists, even though COVID has decimated the Theatre industry and academic departments. MC still produces quality performances even in face of challenges,” said Hengen.

The cast consisted of 14 very talented students, each at their own level of ability and pursuit towards personal goals. Their dedication to their craft was apparent in their vocal ability and stage presence; each performer shined in their own way. Although it’s hard to single out any one performer, Hanna Fantom (Marcy Park), Excel Woods (VP Panch), Kelly Mok (Chip & Carl Dad) and James McClam (Mitch Mahoney) all gave inspiring performances. Susan Rodgers’ soprano paired with Connor Halvorsen’s operatic baritone were



Above: The set in place at Black Rock, Blackrock Center for the arts. In front of the stage are Pierre Bouvery, Megan Hook, Kelly Mok and Sam Gatica. *Photo courtesy of Frank Trezza*



Above: Set loading at the Black Rock. *Photo courtesy of Frank Trezza*

powerful supporting voices for Naomi Louie’s rendition of Olive Ostrovsky in “The I Love You Song.”

“There are a few actors that will be moving on to the University of Maryland either at the end of this semester or at the end of the academic year: Sam Gatica, Naomi Louie, Julia Huh, Connor Halverson, Kelly Mok, Susan Rodgers, and Hanna Fantom,” Hengen proudly added.

Supporting cast included 4 understudies and ensemble

members adding to the quirky atmosphere of the set. Diamond Hill, the dance captain, brought so much life and energy into each performance, encouraging castmates to be their best by leading them in warm-ups during rehearsal and before every performance. Their dedication and flexibility proved vital as cast and crew faced frequent health and personal challenges.

An overflow of talent wasn’t only evident on stage, but behind the scenes as well. Set designer, Elizabeth McFadden, worked

tirelessly to design a set that was both lightweight and sturdy enough to travel in a single Penske truck from venue to venue each week. Despite these circumstances she somehow managed to make it safe for the actors, enticing to the audience, and conducive to the general storytelling under Lynn Joslin's vibrant light plot. Rooster Sultan, props designer, elevated the set with thoughtful touches throughout the run of the show with help from our dutiful and organized props charge, Amy Billingham.

Costume designer, Kristina Martin, created some striking pieces that added fresh dimensions to the characters and brought their designs into the modern era. The production was quite colorful and embraced the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the actors rather than sticking to some of the traditional stereotypes of other renditions.

Even with all this talent and majesty, there were some setbacks and things didn't always go as planned. The cast and crew faced some major complications during the run of the show, but the biggest obstacle was this year's flu season. They were forced to cancel the performances at BlackRock due to several cast members contracting COVID and the flu. "Our students involved in the production

were saddened with the loss of performances at Black Rock. They were already taxed with the long rehearsal process and were saddened that their depleted health condition led to the cancellation of the shows," explained Hengen.

But as they say, the show must go on, and the team did their best to create a safe and instructive rehearsal environment for the actors with the guidance of the team of directors: Ricky Ramon, Jay Crowder, and Kayla Warren.

Despite the set backs, the performances had a positive atmosphere and they were able to put on compelling shows at the Rockville Performing Arts Center and the Takoma Park Cultural Arts Center, to the delight of local audiences. "There were crowds of adoring fans waiting to meet with the actors after every performance," said Hook. In fact, "We had a number of people tell us their impressions of the show throughout the rehearsal process and run, including one audience member who'd seen the original production on Broadway and claimed to like our version better!," she added.

Although putting on an entertaining show is great, what's never lost is the understanding that these are teaching productions. Hook was



Above: Winners of the Bee. Photo courtesy of Nalinee Damrong

quick to remind, "Most importantly, the learning environment was never overlooked so that when mistakes were made, time was taken to constructively address what went wrong and how to avoid those issues in the future."

There's also the community engagement aspect that MC productions foster. Many students who attend school productions do it as part of a class assignment, but a conscious effort was also made to connect to a range of people, resulting in a production that demonstrated what a community of talented and passionate young

adults can do.

"Overall, I hope we demonstrated the value of live theatre to people who may not have had an opportunity to participate in a production like this one," said Hook. "I hope that people were able to feel something when they watched the show, that they felt connected to the community at large, and that they gained an appreciation for the challenges young people face and how the adults in their lives shape the kinds of people they grow to be."



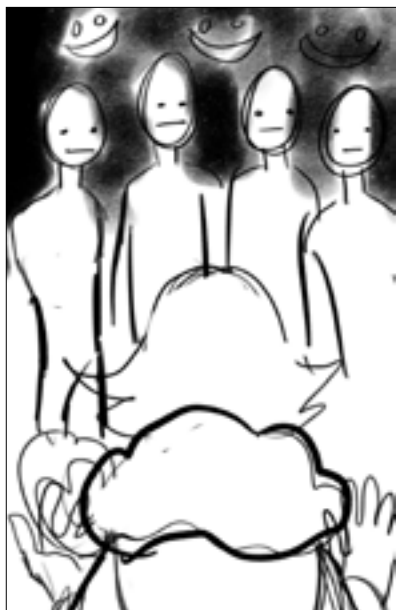
THE LIBRARY SKETCHBOOK PROJECT

From the sketchbook of
MC student Aja Cajthami



If you ask students what they'd expect to find in a library, the response you'd most likely hear is "books!" But have you ever stopped to think what kind of books get a place in the library? Typically, libraries are the home to published works, aisles upon aisles of completed literary novels and non-fictional text that have been painstakingly edited, proofed and curated.

But what about sketchbooks?



From the sketchbook of MC student Aja Cajthami



These daily journals full of incomplete thoughts, rough-sketches or streams of consciousness that represent the initial sparks of an idea. These blank slates that are filled with discovery and unbridled imagination are where artists are the most free. There is value and meaning in memorializing these works as they may provide a window into the artist's mind for future generations and are no less deserving of a place in our literary collections.

The Library Sketchbook Project, is the brainchild of Montgomery College's Professor of Illustration, Bryan Tillman. "Sketchbooks have always

been part of my teaching. This project came to me when I was talking about cross discipline projects. I've always wanted to work with the library and being able to get the students to go to the library and use their resources," said Tillman. "This project allows the students to work on a project that gets to be housed in the library to inspire future and current students. This is something that is building a legacy here at MC."

Professor Tillman initially approached the library about a year ago proposing a collaborative project between Montgomery College's library and the students in his Illustration 1, 2 and



From the sketchbook of MC student Aja Cajthami

“Many people come and go through these halls, but this is something that will allow for people to see what they were able to accomplish while they were in school and see just how far the students have gone once they leave MC.”

–Bryan Tillman

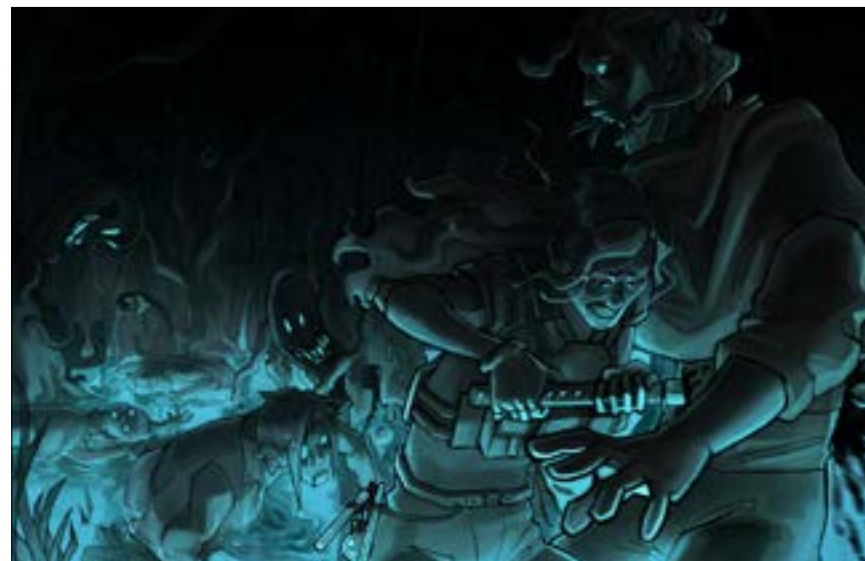
3 courses. The students would gain the opportunity to showcase their work and in turn bring about more awareness to the library, shining a light on the arts that are housed there.

Although the project has only been a part of his curriculum for a year, he couldn't be more pleased with the initial results. “I think that the reception for this project has been pretty well received. The students seem to love the idea of being able to be part of a school-wide project that gets to be seen by all and can be used to inspire others to be creative,” said Tillman.

The ability for current students to see the work of former students who have taken the classes is very inspiring. But Tillman is quick to point out that before they can earn a place in the hallowed halls of the MC library,

they must first complete an entire sketchbook, which is no easy task. “It is a challenge to finish an entire sketchbook in one semester and as the students go from Illustration 1 to illustration 2 to illustration 3 the page count goes up. Thus, making it harder and harder each semester.” Students will often complain about how challenging it is, because it takes dedication and discipline. “They forget to draw in it every day, but by the end of the semester they are feeling a sense of accomplishment and are happy that they are going to be featured in this project.”

When asked what his aspirations are for this project, Tillman speaks to the practical applications of such an endeavor and how it can be used as a tool to help boost enrollment at the school. “I am truly hopeful that once



From the sketchbook of MC student Jennifer Claudet

we have a couple more sketchbooks on hand that we will be able to use this Sketchbook project in conjunction with Admissions so that when future Media students tour the campus, we can actually show them the process, not just the finished work, which might be a bit intimidating, but the process it took to get to some of the fantastic, finished work that is on the walls.”

As far as the potential impacts of this project on future generations, Tillman reflects about the sense of Legacy that is here at MC. “Many people come and go through these halls, but this is something that will allow for people to

see what they were able to accomplish while they were in school and see just how far the students have gone once they leave MC.”

He pauses, and adds, “For me this is very inspiring to know that students will be able to actually see what those who have come through the same classes had to do, how good they were, and just how great they became. This should inspire future students to push even more, as they too want to be seen as inspiration.”



PRISCILLA

WALKER

RETIRES





Priscilla Walker,
Administrative Aide in the
Visual and Performing Arts
Department at Takoma
Park/Silver Spring, retired
this October after 21 years
at Montgomery College.

Among her many extraordinary qualities, Ms. Walker's dedication to the College's students was remarkable. As the longtime advisor to the African Student Association and the supervisor of her department's student workers, she was a role model and mentor to generations of MC graduates. She was also beloved by her colleagues, who treasured her deep institutional knowledge and ability to handle any situation with grace and efficiency. Everyone who visited the department valued her kind and welcoming presence, and she will be missed by all.

Before arriving at MC in 2001, Ms. Walker earned a BA in Communication, Languages, and Literature from the University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. She held positions at the African Development Bank, the Maritime Conference of West and Central African States, and in the office of the Vice President of Sierra Leone. At MC she has served on the College's Governance and Staff Compensation Committees and its Student Services and Success Council. She was the chair and co-chair of the

Staff Enrichment Day program, the lead usher for the College's commencement ceremonies in 2016 and 2017, and a member of the Montgomery County Executive's Advisory Council for African Affairs. Ms. Walker, who earned a degree from MC in 2003, was recently elected to the College Alumni Association's Board of Governors.

Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Walker is most known for her work with the African Student Association. As the club's advisor for 20 years, she instituted and organized its popular annual African and Afro-Caribbean Cultural Nights, which included fashion shows, music, poetry, and dance. Proceeds from these events went to the MC Foundation to fund scholarships for international students. She guided the organization's

community outreach efforts as well, helping to create relationships with area elementary and high schools to organize tutoring and other service projects. In recognition of her work with the Kuumba Preparatory School of the Arts in Washington, DC., she was invited to sit on an accreditation advisory panel and was presented with the "Woman of Impact" Award to honor her "impact on the African-American Community, and...selfless service to the development of African-centered history, education, culture, entrepreneurship, and arts through life and work."

In the Visual and Performing Arts Department, students in need of advice knew to look for Ms. Walker. Professor and current Chair, Dr. Norberto Gomez cherished Ms. Walker's ability to answer

“She has been here since the creation of this department. She's seen the whole thing grow since the beginning and has been a big part of it.”

even the most complicated questions. Whether the issue was academic or personal, Ms. Walker was known for listening carefully and patiently and pointing students in the right direction. Her deep understanding of the College and its

resources meant that she was the first person students (and colleagues) turned to for help. Because she was trilingual, she also became known as a mentor to the College's French and Krio-speaking students.

"Her student aids loved her," remembers Chrissie Jones, a friend and retired Administrative Aide in the English and Reading Department. "She encouraged them not only to be disciplined workers, but to dream big and succeed." In a letter written by her student staff in support of her nomination for the Staff of the Year Award in 2017, they praised her commitment, organization, and "remarkable patience," calling her "a role model for how all of us should contribute to the community...She loves people, works hard, and always tries to lift the

spirits of those around her," they wrote, concluding that it was "truly a privilege" to work for her. While her students remember her kindness, her colleagues were impressed by her ability to hold her assistants to a high standard and train them to handle the many demands of her office.

Ms. Walker's advice also proved invaluable to the department's faculty and staff. She took the job of orienting new hires seriously and played a vital role in the transition from one chair to the next. "Priscilla is detail-oriented and thorough like no other person I have worked with. She keeps track of everything, from contracts to teaching assignments to figure model schedules to student worker activities. And she does all of this with precision and professionalism," says former Chair and Professor Megan Van Wagoner. "She is a wellspring of knowledge of College policies and procedures. When I served as department chair," says Professor Emerita Ellen Mansueto, "Ms. Walker was my most important advisor." "She was a great advisor and mentor to me," agrees Dr. Gomez, who credits Ms. Walker with providing much-needed continuity and institutional knowledge to the department. "She has been here since the creation of this department. She's seen the whole thing grow since the beginning and has been a big part of it." Having enumerated the many ways that Ms. Walker has contributed to the department, Van Wagoner says, "But this is just the job. She is good at doing her job. What sets Priscilla apart is the amount of time and care she puts into helping other people succeed."



Above: Priscilla Walker, Administrative Aide.



Above: Priscilla Walker, Administrative Aide.

Rockville Art Department's
A.I.R. Program Welcomes

BIG *Ink* VISITING PRINTING PROGRAM

Printing: Oct. 4th & 5th, 10am-4pm

Exhibition: Oct. 10th - 27th

Closing Reception
Oct. 27th, 11am-1:30pm



BIG INK Supersizes Printmaking at MC

For two days this October, BIG INK's Visiting Printer Program transformed the Sarah Silberman Gallery into a hive of activity as students and artists gathered to print giant woodcut blocks on BIG INK's supersized printing press, "the Big Tuna."



BIG INK is a highly regarded educational printmaking program that travels to colleges, museums, and art centers across the country to train and assist students, artists, and the public in the unique process of making monumental woodcut prints. With the ability to print blocks as large as eight feet in length, the Big Tuna eliminates the many obstacles faced by printmakers wishing to work on a large scale and is the only oversized printing press designed for routine travel.

MC welcomed BIG INK as part of its Collaborative Artist-in-Residence program. Offered in the fall and spring semesters, these three-week residencies allow students to work directly with professional artists to create artworks for public exhibition in the Silberman Gallery or on one of

MC's campuses. In the ten years of the program's existence, 185 classes and over 3200 MC students have had the unique opportunity to collaborate with contemporary artists from around the world.

MC art students from several design and printmaking classes prepared for BIG INK's visit by completing the program's online master class. This in-depth tutorial was designed to train everyone, from novices to experienced printmakers, to carve and print oversized woodblocks. Students learned about topics including carving substrates, image transfer, creating carved textures, fixing unwanted marks, utilizing power tools, and more. In addition to MC students, distinguished guest artists were invited to participate in the printing event and subsequent exhibition.



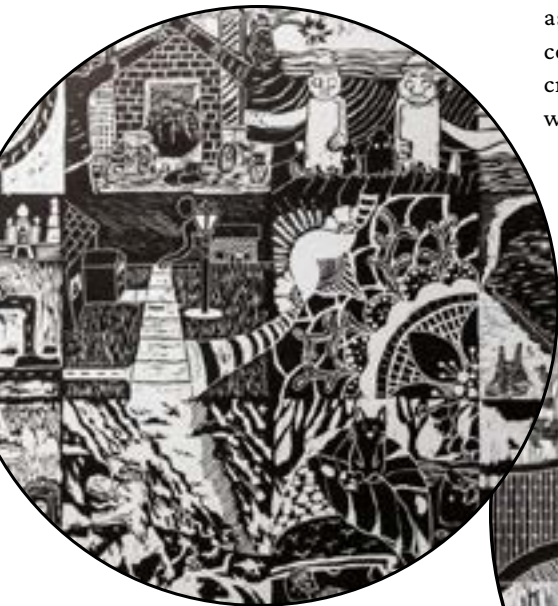
[BUCK!](#), [Hannah Cohen](#), [Jun Lee](#), [Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann](#), [Steven Munoz](#), [Mia Eve](#), [Justyne Fischer](#), [Ariston Jacks](#), [Eve Stockton](#), Mauricio Athié, and [Nilou Kazemzadeh](#) carved woodblocks and printed monumental works during the residency.

In early October, "the Big Tuna" was installed in the Silberman Gallery for a two-day printing event attended by students, artists, and the public. The MC community was invited to watch as BIG INK guest printers guided the students and artists in the distinct printing process required to create works on a monumental scale. Professors were invited to bring their classes to the gallery to observe the event and try their hands at

printmaking on a tiny press provided by BIG INK for the occasion. When the prints were complete, they were exhibited in the Silberman Gallery.

Professor Amanda Miller's Global Woodcut Printmaking students worked together to choose a theme for their integrated design. In *A Literal or Metaphorical Journey: We All Bring Our Own Story*, each student carved a square block with points of connection to neighboring squares to form a unified design with diverse subjects. Professor Michael Sellmeyer's 2D Design students explored positive and negative space and used line to show movement in their multipaneled abstract print. In Professor Kevin Bowman's 2D Design class, students arranged individual self-portraits into a composite class picture. Professor Judy Stone's 2D Design class worked with themes of "circles of life" and ecology. Students contributed a forest icon, patterning, and texture to individual blocks with pre-carved circle overlaps. The circles were intentionally varied in scale and line weight, symbolizing the variety of paths the students' lives will take. While no two circles share the same path, they overlap, collide, and rotate in harmony. Their final work, which measures 40"x80", was called *Nature Icons*.

Eve Stockton, a Princeton and Yale-trained architect-turned-printmaker, created *Falls I*, a compressed and abstracted view of Nova Scotia's Beulach Ban Falls, for the BIG INK event. Stockton is known for creating dynamic, graphic images based on her close observations of nature and eclectic scientific interests. Her large-scale woodcut prints are regularly exhibited nationally and internationally and have been reproduced in publications including *Nature Genetics* and *Home and Design* magazines. A longtime member of the Washington Print Club, she knew about BIG INK's work, and was thrilled to have the chance to work with them at MC.



Work by Professor Miller's Woodcut Printmaking Students

Also in attendance at the printing event was MC alumnus Mauricio Athié. Athié earned an AFA in Studio Art and an AAS in Animation at the College after retiring from a 40-year career as a chemical and environmental engineer. His experience as a Senior Environmental Specialist for the International Finance Corporation informs his work, which focuses on sustainability, materials and practices with low environmental impact, and the power of participatory art to enhance environmental conscience. He is currently completing a MFA at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, with a thesis entitled "Sustainability in the Language of Visual Arts." Last spring, as part of his thesis research, Athié collaborated with MC students to create a 30-foot-long woodcut print which was installed outdoors on the



Work by Professor Stone's 2D Design Students

A student works on BIG INK's supersized printing press called, "The Big Tuna."



companion planting. Like

Rockville campus. Passersby were invited to walk on the paper "carpet," titled *Quebranto/Brokenness*, knowing that with each step they were trampling something precious. The work was meant to encourage participants and viewers to consider the fragility of nature and the irreversibility of its destruction. (For video of the event and more images of the work, visit the Rockville Art Department's Instagram page @mcart_rockville).

For the BIG INK event, Athié created a work called *Entrañable*. Meaning "endearing," "beloved," "deep," or "profound," the word also suggests power or gutsiness through its root in the word "entrañas," which means "bowels" or "insides." The seemingly abstract image is, in fact, an enlarged view of the interior of a squash. The "ethereal landscape," as Athié calls it, is a reference to one of the three main crops planted by Indigenous people of the Americas. Called "the three sisters" because they nurture each other when planted, maize, beans, and squash, represent a highly sustainable farming method called

much of his work, the image is an expression of the wonder and hope Athié feels for nature, even in the face of its degradation.

The BIG INK residency was unique in bringing so many guest artists to campus at once. Athié was impressed, noting that "one seldom sees such a collaboration between artists and students," even at the Master's level. He praised the "extraordinary quality" of the student work and the accessibility of the printing event as well. Stockton commended BIG INK for its innovative and generous efforts at artistic outreach, noting the engineering feats inherent in creating a traveling press, and calling the printing event "an engaging and rich experience for everyone involved."



Montgomery County Council and Montgomery College Inaugurate “Art on the Walls”



This December, the Montgomery County Council and Montgomery College celebrated the inauguration of their “Art on the Walls” initiative.



Ronald Beverly, *Aurora #2*

The collaboration began three years ago when the Council, eager to beautify their offices and provide a space for county artists to show their work, approached the College with the idea of a student art competition. It was decided that MC students would submit work to a panel of faculty judges and the Council would provide cash prizes and display the winners' work in the Council Office Building in Rockville. Committees were formed, themes were proposed, and faculty judges were appointed before the COVID pandemic derailed the plan.

When it was finally revived last summer, Laurie Mintzer Edberg, Esq., Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of Councilmember Sidney Katz, and Council IT Adviser, Dr. Costis Toregas took the lead at the County Council and Dr. Frank Trezza, Dean of the Visual, Performing, and Media Arts, gathered his MC team. As the committees regrouped to plan the competition, Professor Ronald Beverly and John Hoover, both from Rockville's Department of Media Arts and Technology, graciously agreed to lend their own work for the initiative's first exhibition. Jeff Osbourne, Lab Coordinator in the Rockville Art Department, installed a new hanging system in the 4th and 6th floor halls and conference rooms of the County Office



Photograph by John Hoover

Building, and the artists installed their work.

[Ronald Beverly](#) is a photographer, digital imagist, and professor at Montgomery College. His photographs have been exhibited at the MGM National Harbor Heritage Collection in Prince George's County; the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Missouri; the PH21 Gallery in Budapest, Hungary; and many other venues. A recipient of the Individual Artist Award from the Maryland State Arts Council, he has presented at conferences and colloquia nationwide. Among the publications that have featured his work are *Capitol File* magazine and *The Washington Post Magazine* Millennium Issue. For Art on the Walls, he sent a variety of work, “from the literal to abstractions emphasizing light, form and texture with nature, objects and movement.”

They represent his development as a photographer from his earliest to most recent work.

[John Hoover](#) is the Instructional Lab Coordinator (as well as an alumnus and former instructor) in the Department of Media Arts and Technology. He is a freelance and assignment photographer specializing in portraits, travel, and



Ronald Beverly, *Railroad Underpass*

architectural photography. Before arriving at MC, he was the Director of Photography at The Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts (VisArts), a non-profit community arts center in Rockville. He is the recipient of the Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Award from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council. For Art on the Walls, he decided that “architectural images would be a good fit, symbolizing the strong and important work of the County Council...and informed by the

idea that magnificent architecture goes hand-in-hand with a strong society.” He grouped some images “by color and tone, while others were chosen for impact in a certain location.”

The opening of the exhibition was celebrated on December 6, with a well-attended Gallery Walk through the halls of the Council Office Building. Beverly and Hoover were on hand to talk about their work and answer questions from the crowd of Councilmembers and staff. For video of the event, [click here](#).

Both artists expressed their pleasure at supporting new ways to showcase the work of MC students. “Collaborating with the Montgomery County Council to place artwork in the council building is a brilliant idea that helps to promote the Media Arts & Technologies Photography Department at Montgomery College



John Hoover, *Eternal Love*



Ronald Beverly, *Autumn Sunset*

as well as the excellent instructors and staff,” says Hoover. During the Gallery Walk, he answered questions about the photography program at MC, noting the College’s small class sizes, world-class instructors, and high-quality equipment. “It’s just an amazing program...and our students are well-received and well-placed in positions when they leave the College,” he said.

Opportunities like this, for students to gain professional experience and exhibit their work in a public setting, are key to the program’s continued excellence. Added Beverly, “The goal and mission of the College is always to be inclusive of supporting

and engaging with the community... This particular project provides an opportunity for collaboration with our program, giving faculty and students a venue to showcase the quality of work we can produce. As a result, future activities can be developed to nurture and inspire our students as a way to be

recognized for their efforts while giving them an insight on how the industry works. I wanted to be part of that experience.”

The first annual Art on the Walls student art competition will be held next fall. It will be open to all MC students and include all media.



Photograph by John Hoover



Follow the Arts at MC!

MC



@VPMAatMc



@montgomery_vpma