Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero: Luftwerk
Media Arts
Chicago
www.luftwerk.net
Photo Credit: Mark Poucher

Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero met in 1999 while studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and soon discovered a shared interest in installations that transform and sculpt spaces using light, color, and texture, prompting them to found their own studio. Asked how they came up with the name Luftwerk, they reply: “We wanted to find a name that reflected how people experience our work.” Luft (air) stands for the ephemeral, immaterial, and volatile properties of their favorite material, light. Werk (work, artwork) alludes to the materiality of surfaces, structures, and methods, and defines the framework in which light and sound take shape. Their work shifts the viewer’s perceptions of space and site through light, color, and sound opening new conversations by inviting the public to experience the familiar transformed. Luftwerk has created installations at locations including the AT&T Plaza in Chicago’s Millennium Park, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House and Fallingwater, Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House, McCormick House, Barcelona Pavilion, Chicago Rooms at the Chicago Cultural Center, and recently at the Marcel Breuer designed Central Library of Atlanta.

Bril Barrett
Choreography
Chicago
https://maddrhythms.com
Photo Credit: William Frederking

Bril Barrett is a dedicated tap dancer, whose mission is to preserve and promote tap dance as a percussive art form, foster respect and admiration for the history and culture of tap, and continuously create opportunities for the art form and its practitioners. Bril Barrett has started many outreach programs in Chicago’s public schools, Park Districts and even a performing arts high school in Gary, Indiana. He ran an After School Matters Youth Tap Program for more than 10 years and has provided after school and summer jobs for more than 300 youth from underserved communities. As a Taptivist, Bril has spent many years creating an alternative to the school to prison pipeline that exists for many black and brown youth. A child can go from novice to professional without ever leaving our headquarters inside the historic Harold Washington Cultural Center in Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood. They have “Tap for Tots” (2-4), followed by “The M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy” (5-105), M.A.D.D. Rhythms Bronzeville: The HWCC Crew (which is our teen (14-18) employment program), and finally the Apprenticeship Program (18+) that funnels dancers into the Professional company placement at 21. “I am most proud of our Novice to Professional Pipeline!” says Bril.
Daniel Borzutzky
Poetry
Chicago
Photo Credit: Patri Hadad

Daniel Borzutzky is a poet and translator who lives in Chicago. His most recent book is *Written After a Massacre in the Year 2018* (Coffee House Press, 2021). His 2016 collection, *The Performance of Becoming Human* won the National Book Award. *Lake Michigan* (2018) was a finalist for the Griffin International Poetry Prize. His other books include *In the Murmurs of the Rotten Carcass Economy* (2015); *Memories of my Overdevelopment* (2015); and *The Book of Interfering Bodies* (2011). His translation of Galo Ghigliotto's *Valdivia* won the National Translation Award, and he has also translated collections by Raúl Zurita and Jaime Luis Huenún. He teaches in the English and Latin American and Latino Studies Departments at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Geof Bradfield
Music Improvisation
Chicago
www.geofbradfield.com

Geof Bradfield’s work as a composer and performer on saxophones and clarinets focuses on intersections of modern jazz and other streams of African Diaspora music, drawing inspiration from Charlie Parker, Melba Liston, Lead Belly, Shona mbira music, and Gullah spirituals. Born in Houston, TX, Bradfield has performed throughout North America, Europe, Russia, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, sharing the stage with artists such as Randy Weston, Dana Hall, Clark Sommers, Brian Blade, Anna Webber, Orrin Evans, Jeff Parker, Matt Ulery, and Ryan Cohan. His work is featured on 50+ CDs including eight albums as a leader that have garnered critical accolades from the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *NPR*. Nate Chinen describes his *Yes, and...Music for Nine Improvisers* (Delmark Records) as “an album of chamber-esque color and oft-surprising texture, because Bradfield is the sort of composer who creates room for departure.” He has received grants and awards from DCASE, IACA, Chamber Music America, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation. The Downbeat Critics Poll has named him a Rising Star Tenor Saxophonist and Arranger multiple years. Bradfield is Professor of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University and a frequent teaching artist at national and international venues.
Jo Cattell
Scriptworks
Chicago
http://thefarsightedmonkey.com
Photo Credit: Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

Jo Cattell is a leading voice in the convergence of live theatre and immersive technologies. Her work has appeared at Sundance Film Festival, the BBC, Sky Television, Cirque du Soleil, and multiple US and London theatre’s. Cattell is a member of the LightPoets digital and immersive theatre collective, whose immersive graphic novel, Particle, is being developed for live performance and as an AR mobile game. She is also under commission with San Francisco State University’s Fabula(b) to adapt Shakespeare’s King Lear into an AR immersive theatrical experience. She is a 3Arts awardee, a Joan Mitchell Center Fellow, a 2021 Illinois Artist Fellowship Awardee, and a Perkins Coie awardee. Cattell was the Maggio Directing Fellow at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre, with whom she is currently collaborating with the world-renowned Electronic Visualization Lab at the University of Illinois to create Hummingbird, an immersive theatrical experience.

Salome Chasnoff
Media Arts
Chicago
http://www.salomechasnoff.com/
Photo Credit: Michelle Peterson-Albandoz

Salome Chasnoff is a filmmaker and installation artist inspired by the enlightening, humanizing and healing capacities of storytelling. She maintains a collaborative social practice and exhibition career embracing and interrogating the indivisibility of making art and making relationship. Her work features intimate, accessible voices in crafted images that showcase narrative agency. Her installations aspire to create spaces for community healing. Current works include Code of the Freaks, a feature-length documentary about the representation of disability in Hollywood cinema, distributed by Kino Lorber and Reservoir Docs; and Present Absence, a five-channel video installation made with families of people killed by Chicago police, exhibited in multiple galleries across Chicago. She has collaborated on films with a wide range of underrepresented communities including people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ youth, older sex workers, rural hospital workers and women in prison. Awards include the Purpose Prize Fellowship, Women’s eNews’ Ida B. Wells Bravery in Journalism, and 21 Leaders for the 21st Century. Chasnoff was the founding director of Beyondmedia Education and is a founding member of PO Box Collective. She teaches at School of the Art Institute, where she directs the BFA program in Art Education, and holds a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern.
Gloria Bond Clunie  
Scriptworks  
Evanston  
Photo Credit: Basil Clunie

Gloria Bond Clunie is an award-winning playwright, director, and educator. She uses story to raise questions, generate wonder, champion social justice, and celebrate history—especially African-American history. She is a founding member of the Playwriting Ensemble at Chicago’s Regional Tony Award-winning Victory Gardens Theater where her plays *North Star*, *Living Green* and *Shoes* premiered and the founding Artistic Director of Evanston’s Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre. Other works by this Northwestern University graduate (B.A. Theater, MFA-Directing) include *Sweet Water Taste*, *Smoke*, *Blu-The Musical*, *Quark*, *Buck Naked*, *Bankruptcy*, *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*, *The Last Stop on Market Street* and *A Shot#LoveStories inspired by Black Lives Matter*. Theaters presenting her work include The Goodman, Horizon Theatre Company, Triad Stage, American Blues Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theater, Children’s Theater of Charlotte, Dallas Children’s Theatre and Orlando Shakes. Awards include a Chicago Jeff, Theodore Ward African-American Playwriting Prizes, Dramatist Guild, NEA, and Illinois Arts Council Fellowships, a CTFA Medallion, a YWCA YWomen Leadership Award and the Evanston Mayor’s Award for the Arts. Currently, she is adapting *Giraffes Can’t Dance- The Musical*, *THE Hula-Hoopin’ Queen*, and inspired by her love of rollercoasters, developing *Tall Enough* for the 2021/22 Cunningham Commission at The Theatre School of DePaul University.

Jenn Freeman  
New Performance Forms  
Chicago  
[www.itspochop.com](http://www.itspochop.com)  
Photo Credit: Anjali Pinto

Chicago-based burlesque artist Jenn Freeman also known as Po’Chop uses elements of dance, storytelling, and striptease to create performances and inspire students and collaborators across the country. Po’Chop is the creator and author of the blogzine, *The Brown Pages*, and has performed at the Brooklyn Museum in Brown Girls Burlesque’s Bodyspeak, and headlined shows in New Orleans, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and New York. Po’Chop is a Board Member & Cast Member, for Jeezy’s Juke Joint, an all black burlesque revue. Po’Chop performs on Netflix’s *Easy* (Season 2), appears in music videos for songs by Jamila Woods and Mykele Deville, and creates and performs experimental dance films such as *Litany*. Jenn Freeman was recognized as a 2021 Foundation of Contemporary Art Grant for Artist recipient, selected as a 2019-2020 Urban Bush Women Choreographic Fellow and as a 2018 Chicago Dancemakers Lab Artist. Po’Chop was voted #10 Most Influential Burlesque Artist by *21st Century Magazine* and was dancer in residence at Rebuild Foundation in 2020.
Rebecca Hazelton
Poetry
Naperville
https://rebeccahazelton.com/
Photo Credit: Janet McNally

Rebecca Hazelton is an award winning poet, writer, critic, and editor. Her first book, *Fair Copy*, won The Journal/Charles B Wheeler Prize, from Ohio State University Press. Her second book, *Vow*, was an editor’s pick from Cleveland State University press. Her most recent book of poetry, *Gloss*, was published by the University of Wisconsin-Madison University Press, and was a *New York Times* “New and Notable” pick. Her literary criticism has been published in *Poetry*, and her teaching articles have been featured on the Poetry Foundation’s Learning Lab. She is the co-editor, with poet Alan Michael Parker, of *The Manifesto Project*, a favorite of poetry classrooms. Her poems have been published in numerous literary journals and national magazines, such as *Poetry, The New Yorker, The Nation, and Boston Review*. Widely anthologized, her work can be found in high school textbooks, the *Pushcart Prize anthology* and *Best American Poetry*. She has been awarded the Discovery/The Nation prize, the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellowship, and residencies at VSC, VCCA, and the Sewanee Writer’s Conference. She is currently at work on a new book of poems centered around American masculinity and the role of the “husband” in contemporary marriage. She is also working on experimental essays about rape culture, toxic masculinity, the #metoo movement, and bisexuality.

Ayako Kato
Choreography
Chicago
https://www.ayakokatodance.com/

Called “moving everyday sculptures, artfully cast in naturalness” (*Luzerner Zeitung*, Switzerland), Ayako Kato founded Ayako Kato/Art Union Humanscape in 1998 and is active as a choreographer, dancer, and educator. Collaborating with more than sixty musician-composers, she has toured throughout the US, Japan, and Europe. Her work was recognized as Best of Dance by the *Chicago Tribune* and SeeChicagoDance, and highly acclaimed by the *New York Times, Village Voice*, and *Chicago Reader*. *Newcity Stage* also chose her as one of the “Fifty People Who Really Perform For Chicago”. Her work embodies the principles of *furyu*, Japanese for “wind flow”, cyclical transformation in nature. She has been supported by High Concept Labs fellowships, a Links Hall Co-MISSION program, 3Arts Residencies at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, California, the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France, a 3Arts Award, the Meier Achievement Award, the Reva & David Logan Foundation, the Walder Foundation, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Chicago Moving Company, a Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist Award, Constellation, Experimental Sound Studio, Elastic Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, the MCA Chicago, and the Chicago Park District which will present her work *Inception: ETHOS Episode II* at South Shore in October 2021.
Kathleen Keane
Music Improvisation
Chicago
www.kathleenkeane.com
Photo Credit: Peter Ogan

Kathleen Keane is an internationally acclaimed master artist with tremendous talent and versatility. A multi-instrumentalist (whistles, flute, fiddle, and button accordion), vocalist, composer, and instructor, she is one of the finest exponents of the Irish music community in Chicago. Her potent combination of musical dexterity and unique improvisational skills make her an accomplished stage performer and recording artist. She has graced stages all over the world with numerous ensembles, most notably the Irish rock band the Drovers, with whom she recorded two critically acclaimed albums, and Titanic band, Gaelic Storm. She composed, sang, played and arranged for their album *Tree*, earning the #2 position on the Billboard World Music Chart. Kathleen was commissioned to compose for Windham Hill’s Celtic Christmas Silver Anniversary album which reached #1 on the Billboard World Music Chart. She received the honor of recording a track with jazz legend Dave Liebman (Miles Davis Band) where her conversational improvisational skills with Liebman are unprecedented. Her musical sounds can also be heard on motion picture soundtracks (*Backdraft, Road to Perdition, Cinderella Man*). Kathleen founded the Keane Academy of Irish Music and continues to mentor the next generation through private tutoring and master classes at universities.

Li-Young Lee
Poetry
Chicago
Photo Credit: Donna Lee

Li-Young Lee is the author of several collections of poetry: *Rose, The City in Which I Love You, The Winged Seed, Book of My Nights, Behind My Eyes*, and *The Undressing.*
Kenny Lewis
Music Improvisation
Calumet City
http://kennylewisonvoice.com/
Photo Credit: Jason McCoy Photography

Kenny Lewis founded Kenny Lewis and One Voice, a national gospel recording artist, in 1999. Kenny Lewis released his first national project in 2000 entitled The Bridge on Marxan/Malaco Records. Since then, he’s released four additional albums. His latest release Undefeated was released on November 20th, 2020. It debuted #3 on Nielsen’s Current Gospel Album’s Chart and it features Charles Jenkins, Sunday Best finalist Tiffany Andrews & Michael Lampkin, Brigette Hurt and Chicago Mass Choir’s lead vocalist “Lemmie Battles”. The first single “Undefeated” debuted at #4 on Billboard’s Single Chart and was on Billboard Gospel Airplay Charts for several months. The album is currently also nominated for gospel music highest honor, A Stellar Award.

Rebecca Makkai
Prose
Lake Forest
http://rebeccamakkai.com/
Photo Credit: Susan Aurinko

Rebecca Makkai’s latest novel, The Great Believers, was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award; it was the winner of the ALA Carnegie Medal, the Stonewall Book Award, the LA Times Book Prize, the Clark Fiction Prize, the Midwest Independent Booksellers Award, and the Chicago Review of Books Award; and it was one of the New York Times’ Ten Best Books of 2018. Her other books are the novels The Borrower and The Hundred-Year House, and the collection Music for Wartime – four stories which have appeared in The Best American Short Stories. Rebecca is on the MFA faculties of Sierra Nevada College and Northwestern University. She is Artistic Director of StoryStudio Chicago.
Eric Mandat
Music Composition
Carbondale
https://www.ericmandat.com/
Photo Credit: Brittany Faith Photography

For more than 40 years, clarinetist/composer Eric Mandat has been on the leading edge of clarinet extended techniques explorations, particularly multiphonics, microtones, and timbral modulations. Through his work with extended techniques, Eric has developed a deeply personal artistic expression as a performer and composer, and he is recognized worldwide as one of the foremost authorities on clarinet extended techniques. Eric tours regularly as a concert soloist, performing his works throughout the world. He was a member of the Chicago Symphony’s MusicNOW ensemble for 15 years, and he performs regularly in solo and small group improvisation contexts. Eric’s solo compositions have become staples in the repertoire of adventurous clarinetists throughout the world. He has received numerous awards and honors for his innovative solo and chamber music works featuring clarinet, and he has been awarded artist residencies at the Ragdale Foundation and at Brush Creek Center for the Arts. Celebrating his 40th year at the Southern Illinois University School of Music, Eric currently serves as Visiting Professor of Clarinet and Distinguished Scholar. In 1999 he received the SIU Outstanding Scholar Award, the university’s highest honor for research/creative work. Eric is a Buffet-Crampon USA Performing Artist and Clinician.

Adelheid Mers
New Performance Forms
Chicago
http://adelheidmers.org

Adelheid Mers is a visual artist who works through 'Performative Diagrammatics', a practice that emerges from co-creation with volunteers, often interdisciplinary artists and musicians, recruited through open calls. Developed in her Chicago studio or at residencies, game-like projects revolve around core questions, such as "How do you work?". They are then presented as facilitated, public workshops, bringing participants into playful exchanges with each other by validating own ways of making sense. Recent international collaborations are with the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, the Bauhaus University, Weimar, and Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC. Locally, Mers has exhibited and performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Hyde Park Art Center, and many other venues, and worked on projects with 3Arts and the South East Chicago Commission. Public Art installations are part of the Millennium Park Welcome Center and the West Humboldt Park Public Library. Recent publications include texts for Global Performance Studies, and the International Journal for Performance and Digital Media. Educated at the Kunsthakademie Düsseldorf and the University of Chicago, Mers is chair of the department of Arts Administration and Policy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and currently co-leads the working group Performance & Pedagogy at Performance Studies international.
Mary Anne Mohanraj
Prose
Oak Park
http://www.maryannemohanraj.com

Mary Anne Mohanraj is author of A Feast of Serendib, Bodies in Motion, The Stars Change, and twelve other titles. Bodies in Motion was a finalist for the Asian American Book Awards, a USA Today Notable Book, and has been translated into six languages. Other recent publications include stories for George R.R. Martin’s Wild Cards series, Perennial: A Garden Romance (Tincture), stories at Clarkesworld, Asimov’s, and Lightspeed, and an essay in Roxane Gay’s Unruly Bodies. She’s received a Locus Award for Community Service, a CFW Breaking Barriers Award, a prior Illinois Arts Council Fellowship, and more. Mohanraj founded Hugo-nominated and World Fantasy Award-winning speculative literature magazine Strange Horizons and serves as Executive Director of both DesiLit (desilit.org) and the Speculative Literature Foundation (speclit.org). The SLF’s most recent project is a podcast she co-hosts, Mohanraj and Rosenbaum Are Humans, which explores literature, culture, and community. Mohanraj founded and served for ten issues as editor-in-chief of Jaggery, a South Asian literary journal (jaggerylit.com), which she continues to publish. She is Clinical Associate Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and affiliated faculty in Global Asian Studies. She was recently elected to the Oak Park-River Forest D200 school board.

Victor Pichardo
Music Composition
Chicago
https://sonesdemexico.com/
Photo Credit: Frankie Marcial

Victor Pichardo is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and folklorist from Mexico City. Since 1994, Victor is founder and music director of Chicago’s Sones de Mexico Ensemble. With Sones de Mexico, Victor has been nominated for the 2007 Latin Grammy and 2008 Grammy, performing at the Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, The Chicago Symphony Center, and the Millennium Park of Chicago. Victor is the pioneer of Mariachi educational programs in Chicago since 1994. He has collaborated several times with the Goodman Theatre of Chicago as music director as well as the Mexico Beyond Mariachi theatrical company of New York City. His compositions, arrangements and orchestrations have been performed and recorded for several orchestras and ensembles including the Chicago Sinfonietta, The Oak Park Symphony, Orquesta Tipica of Mexico City, and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Mexico City. In 2008 his composition “Alegoria Yaki,” was awarded the Oak Park Symphony Walter Horban first prize. Pichardo has been invited to collaborate in the Chicago Latino Music Festival since 2006.
Peg Shaw  
Media Arts  
Mahomet  
https://www.pegshaw.com/  
Photo Credit: Della Perrone  

Peg Shaw is an interdisciplinary artist incorporating video, sound, photography, and mixed media within layered site-specific installations. Profoundly personal and politically aware, her work addresses "how we can connect across time and space, be so moved by an experience that isn't ours, and truly care for people we will never know > floating on a membrane of what we have been given, hovering just below what we have to give." Born in Oak Park, IL, she received an MFA in Photography from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a BFA in Painting from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her work has been shown nationally, including solo exhibitions in Chicago and New York, and has won numerous awards in photography and video, including awards from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, 40 North Champaign County Arts Council, and Arts Midwest/NEA Regional. She is a Professor in Photography/Video at Parkland College in Champaign, IL. She received an Illinois Community College Trustees Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Award, and currently serves on the Giertz Gallery Advisory Board. She lives in the woods with her family in a timber-frame home they built by hand, where she is a shy drummer that only makes noise in her basement.  
IG: @pbshaw

Augusta Read Thomas  
Music Composition  
Chicago  
http://www.augustareadthomas.com/  
Photo Credit: Anthony Barlich

Thomas’ music is nuanced, majestic, elegant, capricious, & colorful – “it is boldly considered music that celebrates the sound of instruments and reaffirms the vitality of orchestral music.” (Philadelphia Inquirer) Her impressive works embody unbridled passion & fierce poetry. The New Yorker called her "a true virtuoso composer." Critic Edward Reichel wrote, "Thomas has secured for herself a permanent place in the pantheon of American composers of the 20th & 21st centuries. She is without question one of the best and most important composers that this country has today. Her music has substance, depth, and a sense of purpose. She has a lot to say and knows how to say it —and in a way that is intelligent yet appealing and sophisticated.” Thomas is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Former American Music Center Board Chair, currently she serves on, and has leadership positions, on many boards and is a very generous citizen in the profession at large. She is University Professor at the University of Chicago. The longest-serving Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony, for Barenboim and Boulez (1997 through 2006,) her residency culminated in the premiere of Astral Canticle, one of two finalists for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize.
Dan Visconti
Music Composition
Algonquin
www.danvisconti.com
Photo Credit: Fifth House Ensemble

Dan Visconti composes concert music infused with the directness of expression and maverick spirit of the American vernacular. His compositions often explore the rough timbres, propulsive rhythms, and improvisational energy characteristic of jazz, bluegrass, and rock—elements that tend to collide in unexpected ways with his experience as a classically-trained violinist, resulting in a growing body of music the Plain Dealer describes as “both mature and youthful, bristling with exhilarating musical ideas and a powerfully crafted lyricism.” In addition to collaborating closely with his fellow Fifth House Ensemble artists, Dan’s commission credits include works written for the Kronos Quartet, Da Capo Chamber Players, Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic, Silk Road Ensemble percussionist Shane Shanahan, soprano Tony Arnold, and many others. New music supergroups such as eighth blackbird and orchestras including the Albany Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra have also performed Dan’s works around the world at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, London’s Barbican Theatre, and Sydney Opera House. Dan’s music has been recognized with the Rome Prize, Berlin Prize, and awards from the Fromm Foundation, Naumburg Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Valerie Vogrin
Prose
Moro
www.valerievogrin.com
Photo Credit: Howard Ash

Valerie Vogrin’s collection Things We’ll Need for the Coming Difficulties was awarded the Spokane Prize for Short Fiction (Willow Springs Press, 2020). She is the author of the novel Shebang, and her short stories have appeared in journals such as Ploughshares, AGNI, Hobart, Memorious, Zone 3, and The Los Angeles Review as well as in 2011 Pushcart Prize XXXV: Best of the Small Presses, The Best Small Fictions 2015, and New Stories from the Midwest 2020 (forthcoming). Her work has been supported by residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Valerie received her MFA from the University of Alabama. She’s a professor of creative writing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She lives with her husband, dog, and cat on a tiny unnamed lake in Moro, Illinois.
Deke Weaver
New Performance Forms
Champaign
https://www.unreliablebestiary.org/
Photo Credit: Scott Wells

Deke Weaver’s life-long project, The Unreliable Bestiary, is producing a performance for every letter of the alphabet, each letter representing an endangered animal or habitat. These events urge audiences to think about the relationships between the human imagination, the catastrophic loss of habitat/biodiversity, and climate change. His interdisciplinary work has been presented in venues such as Sundance Film Festival, NY Video Festival (Lincoln Center), Berlin Video Festival, PBS, Channel 4/UK, MOCA/LA, Chicago Humanities Festival, Links Hall, Dixon Place, HERE, the Moth, Goat Farm Arts Center, Roulette, Judson Memorial Church, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 21c Museum Hotels, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, livestock pavilions, barns, forests, prairies, and living rooms. A Guggenheim Fellow and Creative Capital grantee, a resident artist at Isle Royale National Park, MacDowell, Ragdale, Taft-Nicholson Environmental Humanities Center, Ucross, and Yaddo, he has been awarded grants from the cities of San Francisco and Urbana, the states of New York and Illinois, and other public and private foundations. Weaver is a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with appointments in the School of Art & Design, the Department of Theatre, the Department of Dance, and faculty affiliation with the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies.

Yuge Zhou
Media Arts
Chicago
http://yugezhou.com/

At the age of five, Yuge Zhou became a household name in China as the singer for a popular children’s TV series. Yuge came to the US a decade ago to earn a degree in computer science and subsequently moved into video art and installations. Motivated to transform herself into a hybrid of two cultures, Yuge’s work addresses connections, isolation and longing across natural and constructed urban spaces as sites of shared dreams. She creates immersive experiences through digital collaging and sculptural reliefs. In addition to her art practice, she also directs and curates the 3300-square foot 150 Media Stream, a uniquely-structured public digital art installation in Chicago. Yuge has exhibited nationally and internationally in prominent art and public venues and is currently an artist at NEW INC, New Museum’s art and technology incubator. Recent awards include the 2021 SPARK grant from Chicago Artists Coalition, 2021 Individual Artist Program Award from the City of Chicago and Honorary Mention in the 2020 Prix Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria. Her work has been featured in various publications such as the New York Magazine and The Atlantic Monthly. Yuge holds a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a Master of Science from Syracuse University. Instagram: @yugezhou