



# Congratulation to the Honors Student of Fall 2021

- Baez, Luis  
 Biaggi, Dario  
 Burnett, Bryce  
 Chavez, Juliana Alicia  
 Compton, Brandon Earle  
 Deres, Hibret Asmamaw  
 Dhara, Labiba Mahmood  
 Drury, Zachary  
 Flores-Gonzalez, Yailine  
 Garcia, Carlos  
 Godinez, Jose Antonio  
 Gomez, Hannah  
 Guzman, Evelyn  
 Harper, Camille  
 Hernandez, Joshua N  
 Hernandez, Rubyliz Maylyn  
 Jamison, Chris Brandon  
 JANI, KHUSHI MEHUL  
 Jimjimo, Munisa  
 Khan, Sakina Fathima  
 Kolska, Alicja Magdalena  
 LEWIS, JOHN L.  
 Longoria, Graciela Crystal  
 Lopez, Christian  
 Lopez, Jennifer  
 Mata, Abigail Yvonne  
 McNulty, Alexis  
 Medina, Kimberly  
 Mejia, Cintia  
 Moore, Kobe Kavon  
 Mora Ramos, Diego Andre
- Morales Foracappa, Genesis Jhoanna  
 Morales, Adrian Leonardo  
 Morales, Natalie  
 Morcillo Martinez, Marina  
 Myo, Hay Thi Khine  
 Nemecio, Emily  
 Ordonez, Izaiah Andres  
 Padilla, Cristopher Axel  
 Padilla, Eduardo Andres  
 Paniagua, Carlos  
 Patel, Atit Rasikbhai  
 Polowsky, Alexis  
 Quintana, Yadira  
 Radeka, Ivana  
 Ramirez, Francisco  
 Ramirez-Reyes, Milagros  
 Rizvi, Syeda Fatima Sunenan  
 Rodriguez, Gisselle  
 Ruiz, Erika  
 SALMAN, BERHA  
 Shah, Dimpy Ajitbhai  
 Sokolova, Yuliia  
 Trejo, Carlos  
 Truss, Maurice Antonio  
 Vala, Yash Dansinh  
 Valdez, Armani Emanuel  
 Vasquez, Ashley  
 Vo, Anh Tung  
 Weng Liang, Diego  
 YELSHYNA, OLENA

## East-West Freashman have talent!

By Kourtney Thomas, Destyne Adell  
 Photos by Cris Ochoa and the talent show participants

On November 10, 2021, our very own students of East-West conducted a Talent Show, giving our students a chance to showcase talents that they are proud of. This talent show also gave students more exposure to their small businesses if they own one. The talent show started with the art of baking. There were cookies, brownies, and cakes for everyone to enjoy. We got the chance to talk to one of the many bakers, Sade Positano. We asked her some questions and here's how it went. "Hi my name is Sade Positano and I made the strawberry jello poke cake" "Why did you choose baking and that specific kind of cake?" "Well this was my first time making this kind of cake, I chose it because it looked good."(Sade) "How do you feel about people's reaction to your cake?" "I think everyone enjoyed my cake"(Sade)



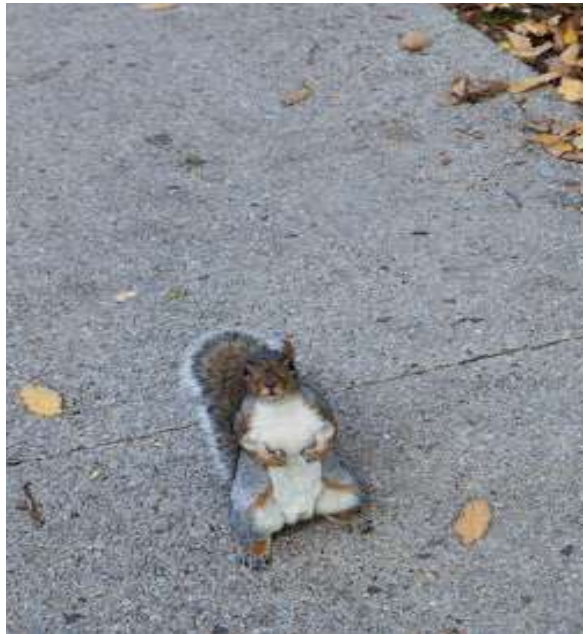
After the baking portion students walked around to observe the art that was brought in by other students, like Alicja Kolska who presented some of her watercolor art, sculptures, and portraits. We also had the chance to interview Ms.Kolska and here is how it went. "Hello, my name's Alicja Kolska and what I will be presenting today is my artwork. I do sculpture, drawings, botanical watercolors and digital art. I like to incorporate my watercolors into my digital designs. Currently my favorite technique is definitely watercolor." "What inspired you to do watercolors instead of paints, or oil paints and cray-



ons?" "I actually have used everything you can think of, but with watercolor, there is something very specific and unique to it. "It's just the way the colors work, the way they mix together, it's very translucent and very subtle so you can achieve that subtleness that crayons or oils will not allow you to have." "What do you feel about the emotions behind your art?" " The emotions behind my art, well I like to think of myself as a very happy, cheerful and just very very grateful person and flowers kind of represent that for me, there is something very graceful and happy about them when you look at







the colors and the form. It’s just very, very intriguing to paint them.”

We also interviewed photographer Carlos Paniagua. He stated “ I chose photography because it’s fun, I go to a lot of car meets and a lot of people have actual cameras and not their phones and they would show me their Instagrams and they had really nice photos and so that’s what made me decide to take it(the photos).” “I try to carry my camera everywhere I go so if I see stuff, if I see a picture I can make it look nice.”

Finally, the performers and presenters started with Mario Bernal and he presented a video edit where he combined clips from a tv show into a montage.

Then we had Armani Valdez who presented his business which is helping small businesses. He is a business development coach. In his interview we asked what made him want to become a CEO and he says “ What inspired me to start a business was to become an entrepreneur, really just not living in the confines of a paycheck. I’m a big person in believing that school, knowledge, and information is to be used to monetize, not necessarily being able to tell me ‘hey you’re gonna get paid this much in an hour you’re gonna get paid this much in a year’. I feel that my value and how much I should be paid should all be determined by my work ethic and the assets I’m able to create for myself.”

Then a wonderful poem by Joey Sakowicz talked about the very underrated brown eyes. Her poem was to uplift the people with brown eyes in a society where everyone praises blue eyes. Her exact statement when asked what inspired her was, “What inspired me was brown eyes don’t get much appreciation.”

We also had the opportunity to interview Maria Lourdes Byers, a young artist, and poet. She presented two poems from her book by the names of Daydream On Elm Street and ADHD. We asked her what her poems are about and what her inspiration stems from: she says “My poems are about my experience in the world living with trauma, and psychiatric disorders as a black, Latina, and Asian woman. And how it all just kind of comes together and brings images to my mind, horrific images as well as visions and verses which are things that I aspire to bring to life through art and through my books. So, what inspired me is basically my own experience and seeking support through my own creative expression”

Then we had the chance to listen to one very talented singer Jayla Brown and her inspiration to do music is growing up with little hope she found that singing provided her with hope. She states, “Singing gives me hope, singing gets me out my head” Jayla also said some of her singing inspirations are the Chicago artist Tink and Beyonce. She also said that singing might be her career goal so remember this name when she makes it big.

The show was amazing in general with so much talent from every student who participated, there were so many presenters we didn’t get the chance to interview them all, but a really big thank you to all the bakers, all painters & photographers, the performers, and presenters.



# The Talent Show, continued

By Jose Godinez

Xochitl Nepomuceno plays video games, likes the characters and started playing League because of it. Anime video games and Manga were her inspiration.

Angel De La Rosa chose to exhibit this Scream painting because he made it with his sisters for Halloween: “ We’re making different types of characters”.



Berenice Correa told a short story: People were going missing in a small town, never coming back from the forest they entered, because the forest had Wendigos. A 17 year old is MC. Grandpa encountered one and stayed put so he wouldn’t die. Another character went into the forest, found the dead body of a child, ran into the forest deeper, encountered a wendigo and died.

Jederit Carrera read her poetry:  
JG: Why did you choose this?  
JC: Because it was the easiest for me. I do poetry and write short stories for personal reasons.  
JG: Are you excited or nervous?  
JC: Nervous. I dislike being the center of attention.  
JG: How long did it take to write the poem?  
JC: Took a day to produce

Jazmin Monroy presented the sculpture The Crying Lady, projecting the feelings of depression





Sports Update: Interview with Coach Posley and the Phantoms

By Del Hale

Coming out of the pandemic, The East-West’s Phantoms are more dazzling and more galvanized than ever. Creating a new place for their basketball team to shine brighter than ever before. I had to pleasure to sit with Coach Tommie Posley and fresh-man player Ahmad Muhammad, where we talk about for a year in review and what’s next for the Phantoms.

DH: Thank you so much for sitting down with me today, it is truly a pleasure. How are you enjoying the season?

TP: The pleasure is all mine, I’m very excited you were able to come down and interview me.

AM: I’m loving it, enjoying it, and just getting better and better with my teammates.

DH: It’s so cool. So let’s talk about the Phantoms, how are you and how is the team?

TP: Working with the team this semester has been such a dream come true. I’ve coached here at East-West University for the last seven years. The players are so amazing this season.

DH: Ahmad, how does it feel to be coming back into sports after graduating in a pandemic?

AM: Coming into this semester and no longer being only on zoom has been so thrilling. 2020 was a really trying time, and it’s just so cool to be back, to be able to hear the crowds and work with such an amazing team fills me with so much energy.

DH: I didn’t have the pleasure of being able to see the last game due to the fact I can’t drive, but how has the outcome been for you all?

TP: We’ve played a lot of good games. Some lost, some very close. We just got back from being on the road, playing down in Mississippi. All really good games; we lost a really good game to West College to 77 to 72. We also played against Holy Cross where we lost by one point and the buzzer rang.

DH: How do you stay motivated after losing a game? And if there’s anything you’d change from a past game, what would it be?

AM: Well, I just like to remind myself to put that behind me. That game is already over and you gotta just move to the next one. A thing that I would change from the last game is just to focus and gauge the room better than I did before.

DH: What’s been your most exciting moments, since coming back from Covid?

TP: The most exciting thing is just working with the team. The players came ready to show up and show out. They’re going to school, going to class, getting their work done. Covid came and we didn’t have any practices for a while and I think everyone has bounced back more than perfectly.

DH: Are there any star players we should know? Any honorable mentions?

TP: All of the players are playing so well. It would be hard to just narrow it down to just one person. There are no MVPs, we all play together as a team and that’s the biggest thing we’re trying to stress the most right now. We win as a team, we lose a team.

DH: That’s such a beautiful attitude to have. What’s next for the Phantoms?

TP: We have an upcoming game this Saturday with Kentucky Western and a Division One game. It’s gonna be so exciting. We have so many amazing players. We are currently looking for new players for the 2022 season. I have hopes of having an even better team in 2020.



Meet some of the class of 2025!

By: Jorge Hernandez



Name: Daniela Rodriguez  
Major: Pediatric Doctor  
Describe yourself in 3 words; intelligent , independent and unique  
What are your passions? Dancing , working out , spending time with my family and friends and listening to music.



Name: Jaime Lucio  
Major: Business  
I am optimistic, passionate, and diligent. My passions include running, guitar, and generating wealth.



Name: Evelyn Guzman  
Major: BHS: Criminal Justice and Psychology  
Passions: One of my biggest passions is helping others. I love to volunteer, I’m actually volunteering at a juvenile detention center as of right now. I also love to make baskets especially since it’s getting cold, and handing them out to the homeless. This isn’t only my passion but my calling, I know I was meant to help others.



Name: Ashley Vasquez  
Major: Business Administration  
Describe yourself in 3 words:  
Independent  
Fearless  
Outgoing  
What are your passions?  
Makeup  
Fashion  
My Dreams and Goals



## Interview with Leah Roth Barsanti

By Jorge Hernandez

### 1. Tell us about yourself (hobbies, passions, achievements, education, background etc).

I consider myself a writer, educator, and athlete. I have an undergraduate degree in English Literature from Washington University in St. Louis and a graduate degree in Writing for the Screen and Stage from Northwestern University. My career in education started back in 2015. Since then, I've taught English, theatre, and film from 3rd grade to university level. I'm also a working artist in Chicago and have completed several full-length stage plays, screenplays, and television pilots. I like to read, play with my German Shepherd Olivia Boneson, and roller skate. I also play roller derby competitively with Chicago's premiere roller derby league, The Windy City Rollers.



### 2. You're a very talented writer, playwright and screenwriter as well as an awesome educator; When did this journey of yours begin and what inspired you?

First of all, thank you. Second of all... it's funny because I feel like there were several beginnings to my writing career. I used to scribble poems and stuff on my notebooks in high school when I was bored in class, and I've always really loved reading and making up stories. But my playwriting career really started in college. I was friends with a lot of theatre kids, but I wasn't a very good actor, so I started writing plays. I liked writing them and people liked performing them, so I stuck with it. In grad school, I started screenwriting as well because there are more career options for a screenwriter than a playwright. I still do both and I still find it fun. With a creative career, you have to have fun with it because you're not always going to make much money, so the fun has to be there when the money isn't.

### 3. What/who influenced you into becoming an educator?

Somewhere in Florida there is a woman named Dr. Dwan Hunt McClain. I did my student teaching in her class at North Miami Senior High, which is part of Miami-Dade Public Schools (known as one of the worst school districts in the country). We were teaching a high-school Freshman reading intervention course. Some of our students were reading at a Kindergarten level. It was heartbreaking at the beginning, but she was incredibly tough on them, and they improved. Their lives are better for it. She inspired me, and I can honestly say that I might not still be in education if it weren't for her.

### 4. What do you love about teaching?

I love a lot of things about teaching, but one that sticks out to me is just being able to connect with young people who have the drive and idealism that I think the world needs. I try to plan my classes with a sense of civic responsibility in mind and hearing the ideas that the next generation has to better themselves and the world is really inspiring and gives me a sense of hope for the future.

### 5. What do you think of East-West University and its students?

There is a lot of passion, creativity, and talent at East/West! There is also a lot of diversity at this school, not just in terms of cultural identities but also in terms of people's experiences, mindsets, and interests. No one at East/West is just one thing. You've got basketball players who are also biology majors, pre-law students who are also singers, and poets who are also opening their own businesses. It's such a mix of people, and everyone comes together and accepts each other's differences and uses it to inform their schoolwork. As an educator, that's a really cool thing to be a part of.

### 6. Will you be teaching at East-West next quarter and/or in the future? If so, what course(s)?

Yes! In the Winter quarter I will be teaching Introduction to Film, and in the Spring, I will be teaching Film Adaptation. In both of these classes, we will watch, discuss, and write about a lot of movies, so if you're a film buff, sign up!

### 7. What wisdom can you share with students?

I think if I were to go back and talk to myself in college, I would tell myself to fully embrace the things that make me weird. We spend so much time trying to be the things other people want us to be, and sometimes we do actually have to fit ourselves into boxes (on resumes for example). But never lose your connection with whatever makes you unique: because that is the thing that will help you find your people and passions in life.

### 8. How and What got you into roller derby?

I got into roller derby because I figure skated in high school and played hockey in college. Then I moved to Miami to teach when I was about 22. I really missed skating-related sports, but there was not much ice down down in Florida, so I tried to get into running, which I hated and still hate. About a year into living in Florida, I was at a festival where the Miami Vice City Rollers had a booth. I talked to them, and they seemed cool, so I joined! And I'm so glad I did!



### 9. What's it like playing competitively?

Playing competitively can be really hard, especially during our main season, which takes place in the summer and fall. I have to miss out on a lot of what I guess you would call "normal" thirty-something activities because I have to stay up late for practice or get up early go to the gym and train. Derby may not be a well-known sport, but it is a very high-level full-contact sport, and if you don't train enough you will get rocked on the track. Also, we travel on our own dime because the sport just isn't big enough for the league to finance our travel. So basically, a big chunk of my time and money is going to competitive roller derby, but to me it's worth it.

### 10. What do you love about it?

My favorite thing about roller derby is the community. I could break my ankle tomorrow and not be able to play for a year (I hope that doesn't happen, but you never know), but I fully believe that the people I've met in this sport will be my friends and support system for life. We're all a bunch of weirdos, but through derby we found each other.

### 11. What do you feel and experience when roller skating?

I've been skating my whole life, so I don't really know how to answer this question. Roller skating is like walking except faster and more fun and you can do cool tricks. Also, if you fall on skates, people don't really care; but if you fall walking around (which I have done because I'm ironically very clumsy when I'm not on skates) it's way more embarrassing.

### 12. If you'd have to choose an eternal quote to live by and one that best describes you, what would it be?

This is a hard question to answer because I love quotes and it's hard for me to choose just one, BUT one that always sticks with me, especially when it comes to school and career stuff, is Samuel Beckett's quote about failure: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better." To me, this quote perfectly sums up the process of living your life as an ambitious young person: if you are doing something worthwhile, you are going to fail, probably many times. So, we should be measuring our successes, not in terms of the successes themselves, but in terms of our ever-improving failures.



# Get to know your teachers!

## Dr. Neetu Tewari

### Interview by John Lewis

1. What is your education and background? What Universities or Colleges did you attend?

I did my MS in Environmental Biology from the University of Delhi, India, and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India.

2. What do you find most interesting about water pollution?

Water is most essential for life. The rapid increase in population and industrialization has led to water pollution. Many technologies are present to treat wastewater but their high cost discourages their use of water. This calls for low-cost and efficient alternatives.

3. How long have you done research on Water Pollution? What did some of your research entail?

I did research on water pollution for about 7 years. My research was focused on investigating the feasibility of the use of waste biomass to remove heavy metals from industrial effluents.

4. How long have you worked at East-West University?

One month

5. What are some of your goals for your students? What are some of your strategies in seeing to that they succeed?

I want my students to have a very strong grip on the subject so that they can have a strong foundation and can use their knowledge successfully in their field of interest

6. How did you develop a passion for Biology and Environmental Science?

My inclination to study biology has come to me since I was a little girl. I always found amazing the diversity of life and interaction of organisms with their environment. My fascination with biological sciences led me to pursue my academics in Biology. Since then, the way forward seemed pretty obvious and interesting.

7. What are some of your goals at East West?

To help students in every possible way to achieve their aims and be successful in later life.

8. What are some of your major accomplishments and awards? What memberships are you affiliated with?

- About 30 publications and conference presentation
- 3 travel awards: different research and scientific organizations award these travel awards to outstanding research. It covers all the expenses of attending and presenting the research in the conference or meetings. I got three travels awards to present my research work at different conferences.

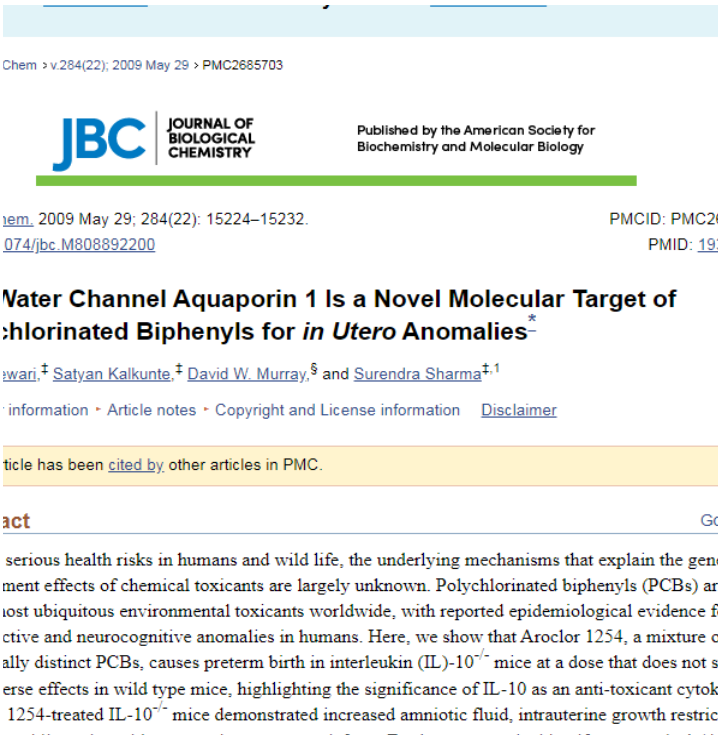
Travel award from Superfund Basic Research Program, University of Iowa, Iowa, USA, 2008

Travel award from American Society of Reproductive Immunology, USA, 2006

Travel award from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, India, 2002

- 1 best poster award: at Rhode Island research alliance Symposium, RI, USA, 2006
- Rhode Island research alliance hosts an annual symposium and my poster entitled “ Polychlorinatedbiphenyls induce preterm birth by targeting aquaporin 1 and VEGF R2 at the maternal-fetal interface: Protective role of IL-10.” won the best poster award. For the first time, my research team demonstrated one of the possible underlying reasons how environmental pollutants are causing preterm births. The research was later published as a paper, which you can read at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2685703/>
- 2 Research fellowships:I was awarded a Junior Research fellowship for two years and a Senior Research fellowship for three years by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India to carry out my Ph.D. thesis.

- Member of American Chemical Society,
- Member of American Society of Reproductive Immunology.



## My Time with Julie Zhang!

### By Del Hale

East-West is full of talented professors to learn from, and this very special professor I had the pleasure of taking their class last semester in the Spring. Last Spring, I studied in my first ever college-level Video Production class! Here’s some insight back in High School and to this day I’ve always been obsessed with film. Learning from Julie Zhangs’ video production sparked all of those feelings back into one, and today I had the pleasure of speaking to her.

Professor Julie Zhang has been working at East-West since 2000, starting as a Science teacher. Professor Zhang teaches a range of basic levels of computer sciences to more high-tech programs such as Artificial Intelligence, Python, and Java programming. But, it just doesn’t stop there! Zhang also teaches Graphic Design, Photoshop, and our favorite Video Production. “Outside of the school, I do a lot of video production myself, and for me, it feels very less stressed and relaxed to my vision.” Zhang goes on to say, “You know when I started here, I didn’t teach any digital media program, and each quarter I teach one alongside Excel and C++ which is one of the school’s most popular programs.”

I went on to ask Professor Zhang about how it feels to be back on campus after the global pandemic, leaving zoom behind, and if there’s a change in the students she sees now. Zhang went on to say “I thought Zoom was very helpful when studying and talking about a digital media program. Although many students hated it at times, I enjoyed it but it does feel good to be back on campus and to see everyone from beyond the computer screen.”

With 2022 approaching, I ask Professor Zhang, what is she the most excited for? Her answer was, “I’m just hoping the pandemic is over! Wearing the masks can be so difficult at times. I haven’t been back to see my father in China since the whole pandemic started. I miss him so dearly.” A feeling we all know too well. Topping off the interview, I ask Julie one final question. Do you have any advice for the incoming freshmen, to which she replied “*Just come to class!*”





# How to apply for Scholarships & Work Studies at East-West University: An Interview with Cesar Campos

By John Lewis and Jorge Hernandez



JH: How do I apply for Scholarships?

CC: There are two scholarships which East-West issues automatically; you do not need to apply for them. They are need-based and merit-based. We issue merit-based first. For new students, we check their GPA and SAT scores to determine if they qualify for merit-based scholarships. For continuing students, we determine based on their cumulative GPA, which is also merit-based. We do need-based, as needed, but we like to issue merit-based first.

JH: What financial aid is available at East-West?

CC: We offer Grants, Scholarships, Student Loans, and Federal Work-Study.

JL: Can you tell me about any other scholarships at East-West?

CC: We have the Institutional Academic Scholarship which is a maximum award of \$6,030. We have the Continuing Education Scholarship which is an award up to \$5,025, we have the Graduation Incentive scholarship which is an award up to \$1,200, The Merit 5 which pays \$1,500 (student must maintain 3.5 or higher), The Merit 3 scholarship which pays up to \$1,000 (student must maintain a 3.0), we have the high school scholarship which is merit-based, and the Transfer Merit Scholarship.

JH: Are these scholarships renewable?

CC: Yes.

JH: What options are available if I don't receive enough aid?

CC: For need-based continuing and new students, we assess the income of parents and or themselves, the number of people in the household, and how many people are going to college in the household. They can also apply for Parent PLUS Student Loan or an independent private student loan.

JH: If I don't apply for financial aid this year, will that affect my eligibility for receiving student financial aid in the future?

CC: No. Always apply for financial aid.

JH: If I win a scholarship, do you reduce my financial aid package?

CC: In the order that it is financially processed, we first use grants and scholarships, and last we do loans. The more scholarship you get, the less you get to borrow.



## Entertainment!

By Del Hale

I love working in the entertainment business. I have been working as a curator all over Chicago since the age of 19. I love being backstage, seeing the lights come up, the planning and seeing my overall idea come to life moments before the entire party lights up. In the long run, I also see myself making a handful of books and maybe working as a teacher in the long run! To be able to share my knowledge over the things I love, connect it with students who

could think exactly like I once did, and challenge their thought process and have something to just think and ponder about.

At the beginning of 2020, I worked at Biz3, a publicity company known for breaking unknown artists and advancing the established with dynamic publicity campaigns spanning magazines, blogs, socials, TV, and brands. Some artists represented by Biz 3 are Daft Punk, Skrillex, Migos, and Megan Thee Stallion. Working for Biz 3 consisted of compiling press clipping/pick up for publicists, drafting press releases, creating/updating EPKS, tracking artist tour press, co-managing company social media w/ other interns, and just overall/general office help.

When I worked for Red Bull and Smartbar, I curated a day-to-night Livestream during the pandemic for 3 months with some of my creative partners. We curated a 12-hour day-to-night musical and performance live stream with the help of drag performers and deejay artists all over the United States. Worked efficiently in streaming services like OBS, Zoom, and Mixcloud/Twitch and helped raise over 7k to donate to organizations and charities like Molasses Chicago, Save Our Stages, Afrojack, and Little Village Solidarity Network.

Lastly, when I worked for Traklife LA. I worked remotely for the Music Intern program where we created general and lifestyle music playlists on Spotify and Soundcloud featuring new and emerging artists, maintained a regular update schedule of music on each playlist, and researched undiscovered music and artists from across the globe that are worthy of being highlighted and played.

When I first started at East-West, I studied psychology. A year or two in the program, I realized how strong my voice was. How imaginative it could be at times. At times pointed, sometimes soft and gentle. The range of expressions in my work made me quite passionate and desperate to get to know who that person was. Boy oh boy, look where it placed me. Passionate and happier than ever. Now, it's been two years, I'm close to graduating and I have never looked back since. I want to write for the rest of my life. It's the thing that brings me so much joy, and I feel as if I'm good at it too! From writing short essays, skits, personal journal entries, poetry, scripts, or songs. I want to express a range and love for writing because I feel as if I have something to say. My voice is the strongest thing about me, and I have no voice if I don't speak my mind.

In the next five years, I see myself as a superstar. Working all over the world doing the things I love. Whether I'm making movies, music, or writing my days away. I see myself, emerging, thriving, and shedding my skin. I see myself living overseas, preferably in London or Berlin. I also see myself attending a graduate writing program in London. I've always felt like a big fish in a small pond, and I see myself stepping outside of the pond that I've outgrown.

My passions are film, music, writing, and curating. I am constantly inspired by the films I've watched from David Lynch to David Croenberg. Before I worked as a musician I've always wanted to explore working in Film. When I was in high school, I even made my own homemade drama tv show with my twin sister and all her friends. Music has been a part of my life before I could even talk, I would listen to every single song that was on my family's computer. It's the thing I explore even when I'm alone, for other people it's new video games or even tv. And for me, it's all about the music. Curating is also a thing that I have done for years, and lately I have seen a lot of success from it. I now have 4 residencies of my own nights. Empty Bottle, Berlin, Blind Barber and Punch House. People in Chicago really respect my vision and I feel very blessed to have so much to show for it and maybe then more.



## Scholar Section

### Good to Know info: How to Save Money Through CLEP and Proficiency Exams

By Iva Brooks

There is an important money-saving page of the EWU school catalog; the same information is often communicated at other colleges' and universities' websites and catalogs-- don't overlook it!

East-West University grants credit for proficiency examinations such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP):

CLEP is an exam which assesses knowledge typically learned during a college course. It costs \$89 per exam. If you already have good knowledge before taking a college class, CLEP assessment can save you time and money: you can transfer CLEP results as courses in history, psychology, math, intro to marketing, college composition, literature, Spanish, etc. The CLEP website lists the courses to test; however, an academic institution may have provisions -- check with your Program Director before taking CLEP.

Check the CLEP website for more information on testing sites/remote testing proctors. <https://clep.collegeboard.org/>

To prepare for a CLEP exam, there are testing and proficiency resources such as [www.modernstates.org](http://www.modernstates.org) that offer self-study course material. Moderstates.org also issues CLEP vouchers if/when applicable.



### It's All About the Design!

By Del Hale

It's all in the design! Today, I had the pleasure to visit the Third Graphic Design Competition, an annual contest where the students of East-West University got the chance to show off their graphic design chops. Each student is allowed to



### Banned Books

By Dr. Adams

Dr. Adams' freshman classes celebrated Banned Books Week, September 26 - October 2, by watching the banned and challenged movie, "The Hate U Give".

After the movie and some lively discussion, the class divided into groups; each group chose a theme, decided on a thesis statement, and wrote a group essay.

Writing a group essay was a new experience for most of the students and their thoughts about the experience were mixed. Everyone did agree that being organized and working together was very important. Even those students who admitted to doing it, said that procrastination was bad. Group members who were absent too frequently to contribute to the group essay wrote the essay on their own. The majority of the students stated that they enjoyed, or at least, learned from the experience making it likely we will be doing this again.



submit a graphic design of their own to win a prize of \$50 each. Every year there's strong competition and this time around it's even stronger. From designs that range from simple abstracts of swans in palm trees to bright bold pop art that catches your eye once you walk into the Lounge. Out of 40 submissions, two students reigned supreme as the winners, Alexis Polowsky and Alicja Kolska!

Below I got the chance to talk to both of our winners and ask them a little more about the artist statement of their winning piece! Here's what they had to say.

*I am very passionate about graphic design and drawing directly on my computer, but I also very much love painting traditionally and then digitizing my paintings to incorporate them in my designs. The piece I submitted for the competition involves my watercolor paintings. I think that this mix-of traditional and digital art- allows very unique and interesting effects. I find a lot of inspiration for my projects in nature, therefore a lot of them involve elements like plants and animals. I want my designs to be interesting, vivid and intricate. I want them to evoke positive emotions and to let you relax and lose yourself for a minute or two in a beautiful imagined wonderland. - Alicja Kolska on "Flamingo Paradise"*

Alexis Polowsky "Lion King"

"Evoking emotion is key." - Alexis Polowsky





# Poetry Corner

## DOVE

By Maria Lourdes Byers

true happiness  
not joy, ecstasy, pleasure  
or pain  
tension, release  
say the Lord’s name in vain  
for i am a maggot  
thumbing thru my own brain.  
and if i could fly  
i’d go into the sun  
so i could rule the world  
answer to no one.  
you’d be at my side  
wailing, get on your knees  
the camels will go blind  
when they can no longer seize  
but if this all happens  
i’ll never find love  
and send the world bleeding  
on the back of a dove.



Artwork by Maria Lourdes Byers

## Your Eyes By Joey Sakowitz

Hey you  
You with the brown eyes  
Have you ever not liked your eyes for not being blue?  
For not being the ocean eyes that people sing about?  
Well your eyes  
Are so much more than brown

I have always thought of my eyes  
As a rotten fruit color  
“No” a lover once said “like your first good cup of coffee in the morning”

Your eyes  
Are Chocolate covered suns  
Plucked off the vine  
And devoured by my eyes, my heart  
Dancing in the beams of gold in your iris

Your eyes,  
Are Mahogany seats for the soul  
A place to call home,  
Put my feet up  
And rest

Your eyes  
Are Autumn leaves changing in the sun  
Brighter and darker  
Rivers of walnut  
leading into flourishing shades  
of mocha

Your eyes  
Are Like Tree bark, with your  
strong gaze  
The structure that holds me up

Carob  
and cedar

Sepia  
and sienna

Your eye color  
Comes from the earth  
Soil made for growth



## Who Am I By Frida S. Ibarez

One step ,  
two step ,  
three  
Look around . Who is I ? Who is me ....  
Introducing the new the old the collaborative distinction of who I was , who I am , and who  
I’m meant to be .

—— Mexicana brown roots American  
Look into my eyes , ouuu I see skeleton ... arroz blanco , arroz yellow , frijoles a la Olla .  
Mami screaming in the kitchen , cuttin up cebolla .

I don’t know a lot about myself . I’m still yet to learn , to grow , and persevere.

I’m a down chi chica , with a little spice of mean mug , and a little bright sonrisa. Got my  
goals and plans written , estresada but still livin’

Mi familia got me tight , each and one raised me right.

I’m golden, an ambitious woman....  
You can’t handle this....  
The glamour the glitz , I got a story , a dream to unfold ....  
You see it in my tears , you hear it in my  
voice . I got it in my soul ...

Dangerous as it gets. Make you whole /  
complete you . But break your heart / it  
kills you .

I am woman ,  
I am free  
I am loud  
I am me ....

I am Latina ,  
I am brown  
I am strong  
I am beautiful  
I am me ...

I am ambitious  
I am more than enough  
I am intelligent

Yo soy





# On Defunding the Police

By Devin Green

It’s the 25th century and the newborn babies are handcuffing criminals. Civilians are responsible for protecting themselves. Every single authorized police officer badge has been burned all throughout America. War is igniting between multiple blocks in the streets because of envy in between territories. The entire country of America had a trial hosted in space to argue the defunding of police. There were five hundred thousand jury duty placements, which included twenty five percent of the races who were Black, White, Mexican, and Asians. 75% percent of the jury had to rule in favor of the policeman, in order to not defund them. Sadly for the men in blue jumpsuits, that percentage wasn’t met, so June 3, 4521, the entire police of the United States were defunded.

Now that all these police officers weren’t on duty and held to a standard, they were targeted, and had to find protection. Although there was less oppression and racism from cops towards colored people, there it was a lot more havoc than before. Now that there is no protection from police, it is now survival of the fittest. The rate of robbery and murder has skyrocketed because of the absense of protection to the public. Now all the criminals have taken advantage and have made a prominent difference. With all this change in society, everyone has realized the importance of the police. The strife is that how or how many people will come aboard to rewrite the defundment of the police. The citizens who were adamant about having police present again went and conversated with the families, who dealt with a murder and convinced them to come aboard. So once again they hosted a retrial which again required 75% in favor of the police. You will never believe the outcome and results! There was exactly 74% of the jury who voted in favor of the police, which wasn’t enough. So the United States of America were stuck with no police officers until it was blown up in 4801.

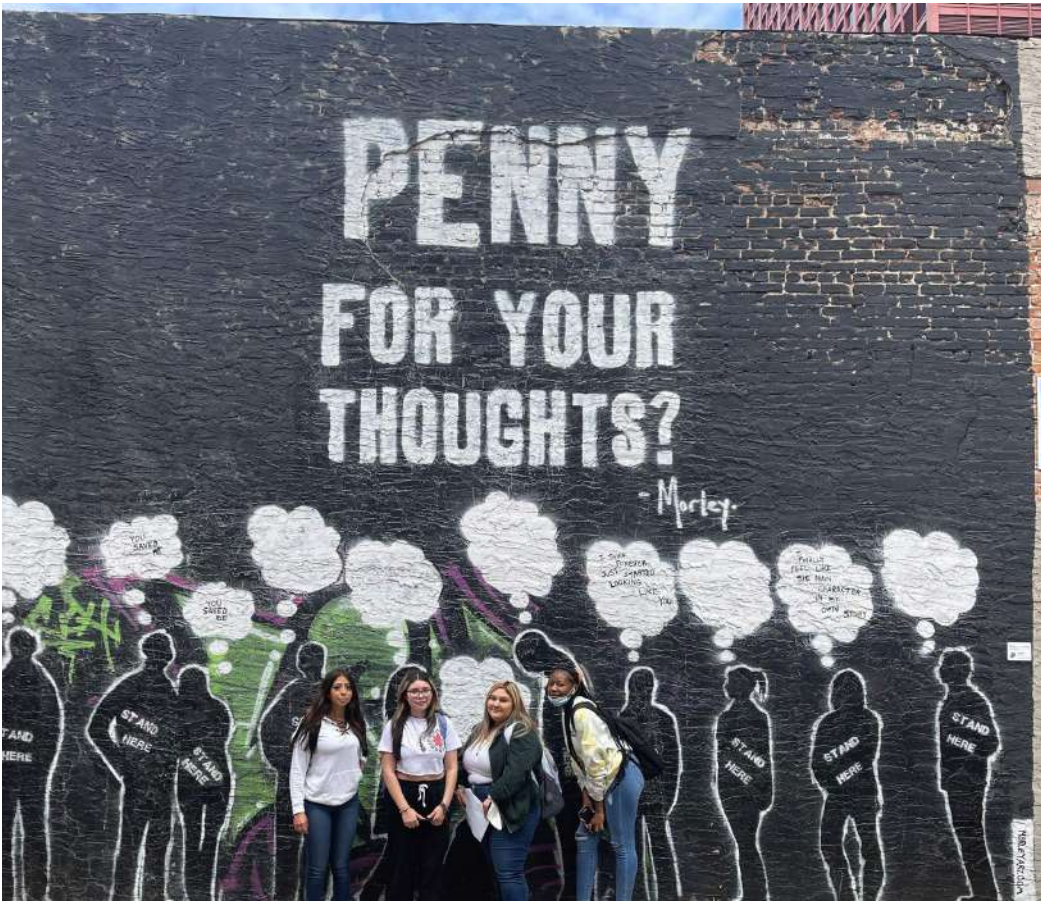


# Wabash Arts Corridor

By Dr. Adams

Who would have thought that there was so much art right outside of our door? Described as “Chicago’s living urban canvas” due to its ever-growing number of large-scale mural installations and collaborative projects, the Wabash Arts Corridor (WAC) was founded in 2013 by Columbia College Chicago staff, community members and local business owners. From 2016-2019, under the direction of chief curator, Neysa Page-Lieberman, the Wabash Arts Corridor began a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion featuring large collections of women artists and artists of color.

Since the beginning, Dr. Adams’ has made it a tradition to invite her students to take the walk. East-West University is at the heart of the Wabash Arts Corridor (WAC), which goes from Van Buren to Roosevelt, framed on the east by Michigan Avenue and on the west by State Street. For more information about WAC and a free self-guided map: <https://wabashartscorridor.org/wac-map/>



Newspaper Developer - Joshua Bengochea



East West University, 816 S. Michigan Ave.

*East/West University and the Phantom Press, encourages its readers to express their views in letters to us. All letters must include the writer’s full name, complete address and telephone number. The selection letters*

*East/West University makes no warrenties or representations as to the accuracy of the content and assumes no liability or responsibility for any error or omission in the content. East/West University is not responsible or liable for any claims made in advertisements or classifieds. Any ques-*

*Copyright 2021 The Phantom Press. All rights reserved as to the content.*



# For the WNDR Museum, it's a big and brighter new world!

Del Hale, Alicja Kolska and Jayla Brown

Last Thursday, me and my colleagues had the pleasure of visiting the WNDR Museum. Smacked dabbed in the middle of Fulton Market and West Loop, the WNDR museum sparkles and shines with its sleek prosper and playful interior. WNDR Museum reimagines the traditional museum experience through interactive, immersive experiences from artists, collectives, and studios locally and globally.



They wrapped its walls with inspiring and bright works that follow inspiring technology and artwork that range from spirituality, being in the right place at the right time, believing in yourself, and the wonder behind the talent and magic you have inside of yourself. Works like “WNDR Light Floor”, they made a light floor of 100s of motion-sensored LED panels which changed every step you took, and “Try To Get Higher” an interactive piece by WNDR and Andy Arkley designed with 16 lit arcade buttons that direct synchronized music and animation sequences in any fashion you choose, and when visiting we found these interactive pieces so joyful, and truly electrifying.

WNDR is also home to most notable works like Yayoi Kusama’s Infinity Mirror Room, a full room piece where a large mirrored room with stainless steel balls suspended from the ceiling and arranged on the floor, and Keith Harrings’ “Untitled FDR NY #23 and #24”, a piece that’s a part of an expansive mural Haring made on the FDR Highway, Manhattan, New York in 1984. Spray painted enamel on a stretch of highway that ran nearly 300 feet tall.

While wandering around the WNDR Museum, we had the pleasure to ask one of WNDR Museum’s creative curators, Ashley Vogul, a handful of questions of our fancy.

DH: I noticed how the show follows a theme of subversive technology in art, and how much of a part does that play into the Museum

AV: When we were founded in 2018, our original theme was science and art, which we kind of grown away from but heavily embraced. What was your favorite part may I ask you?

DH: I would have to say, “Try To Get Higher” Andy Arkley. How did that come about exactly?

AV: So, we found his work and loved it because of how it utilized sound, cultures, and light, and were just completely fascinated by it. We’re so lucky to have that piece here. We’ve had it before we shut down in 2020 due to the pandemic, which we moved it around and attached the mirrors, which I think adds more of a dynamic to it now.

DH: Yeah, like most of the sounds that are featured in that piece are quite bright, fuzzy, and animated in sound. It has a certain color to its shape, and you can almost feel it.

AK: I was wondering what it takes to gather a certain project team for this showcase?

AV: Well so, we have a curation team. I’m the lead of its team, we are constantly keeping up to date with what’s around us, and the newest technologies and how we can bring it into WNDR so our audience is constantly curious.

AK: What are some of the technologies that are used daily?

AV: Each one is different but motion sensors, candid cameras, projectors, audio, and everything is programmed to be heavily digital.

AK: How many people are involved in WNDR?

AV: It’s a small team and depends on the project but it usually ranges from 2 to 5 people.

AK: I wonder how long Yayoi Kusama’s Infinity Mirror Room will be around here? Is it here permanently? I’ve been to one of her showcases in Boston, and it was very impressive. It feels like I was transported right back to the showcase.

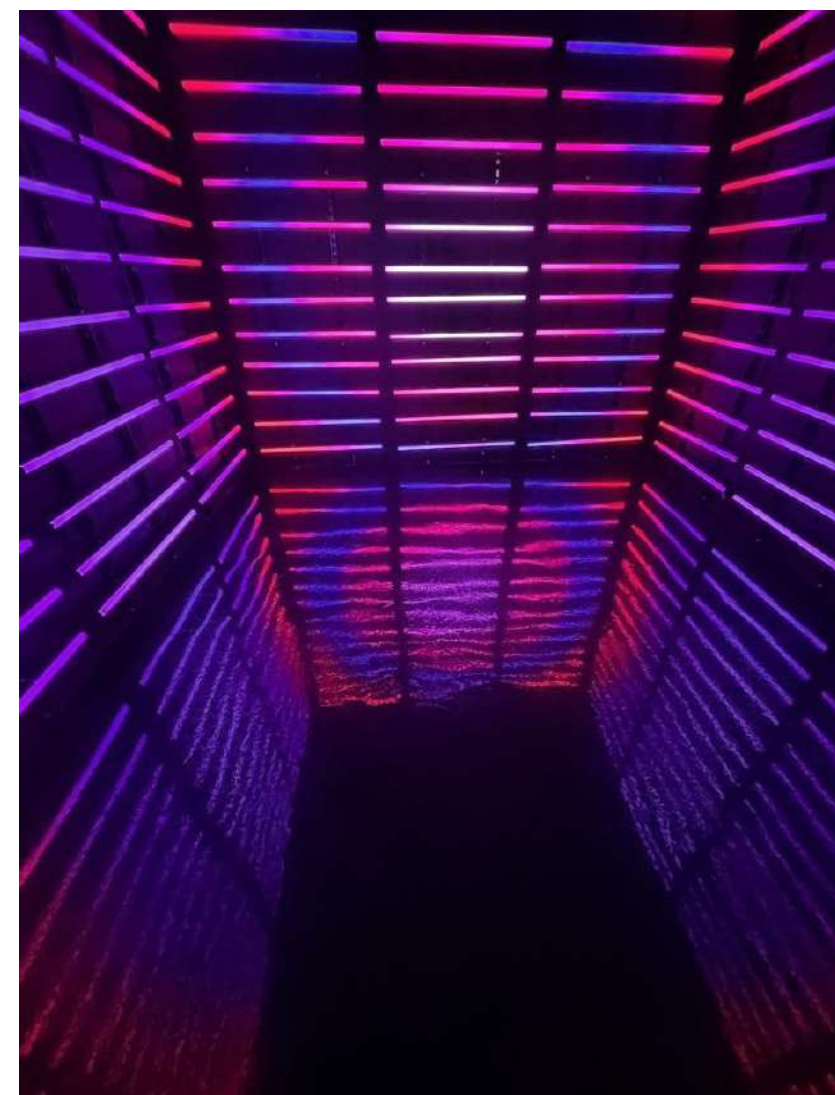
AV: Well, we’re constantly evolving. This one is on loan and has been here since the very beginning. It’s not specifical if it’s gonna be here forever but this one is made from the series of five works she did for the Mirror Room. This is the only one in Chicago which is super fun.

JB: Has any of the artwork touched you sentimentally?

AV: “I Heard There Was a Secret Chord”, by Daily Tous Les Jours. It’s a metaphysical connection between them through a sensory experience. At the heart of the work is a virtual humming choir powered by online data, where the number of voices fluctuates according to how many people are listening to the song right now. We installed it right after the pandemic and before we opened our doors, and just sitting there by myself was just so powerful. It follows an incredible song, and just really touched me.

JB: For my last question, I wanted to ask if you guys plan to expand nationwide.

AV: Three words, I hope so!





Running is good for humans in many ways. It can be good for mental health, physical health, exercise, and to relieve stress. And sometimes, it can be for a rewarding experience and towards a charity cause. Some running events go for 3K, 5K and even 10K. However, East-West student, Viridiana Castillo,

ran a race for 15K. Viridiana Castillo ran The HotChocolate 15K race. This race supports the mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The event collects money and with the money collected from the event, it goes towards St. Jude mission. Their mission? To help put an end to childhood cancer and terminal diseases that some children often have to face. According to stjude.org, their most recent research findings helped them strategize a plan by stating, “St. Jude and World Health Organization announce a five-year collaboration to transform cancer care on a global scale by curing at least 60 percent of children with six of the most common kinds of cancer worldwide by 2030.” We are nine years away from at least 60% of children who are affected by cancer to become cured. In all, we thank not only the researchers and scientists who are behind the organizations, but people like Viridiana Castillo, who make the cure for cancer possible.

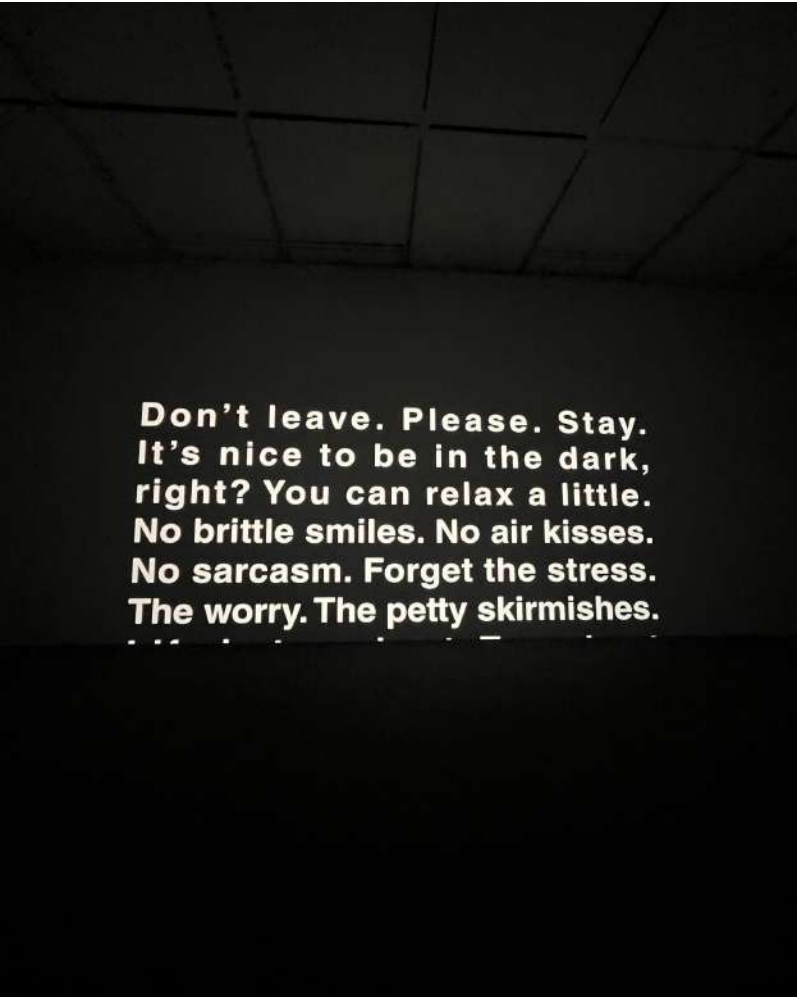
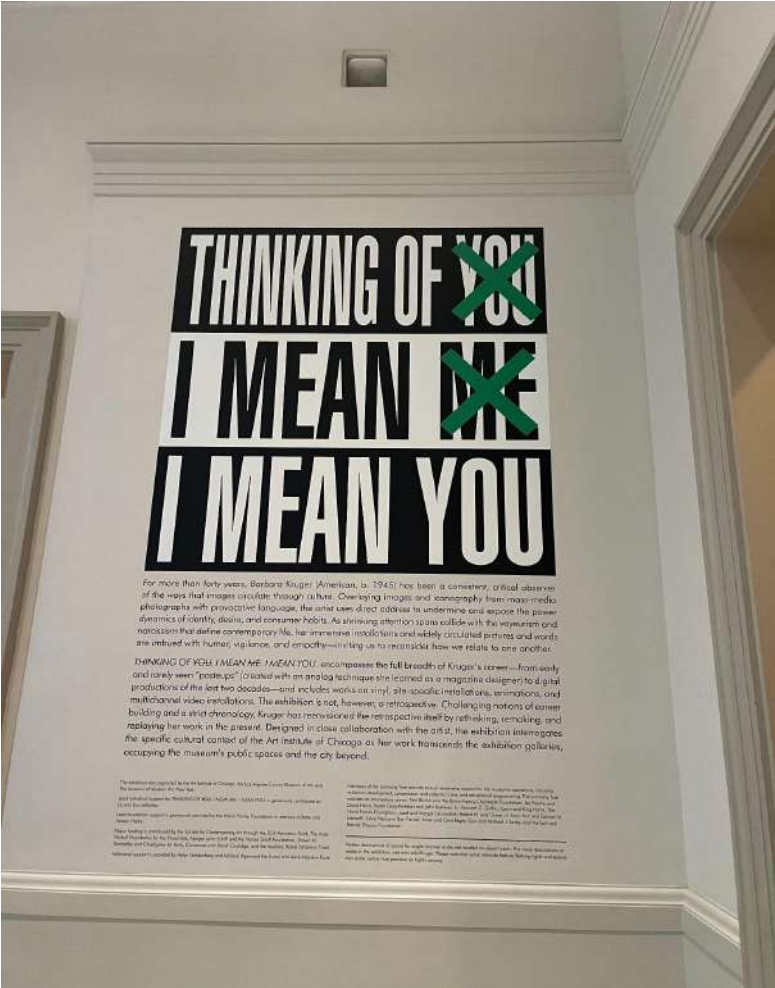
# Run for Charity

By Jorge Hernandez



## “Thinking of You, I mean me, I mean you “: A review

by Del Hale



I



Along with my break after class, my friend Brody texted me and asked if I would want to go to the Art Institute. It’s been quite some time since the last time. Back in 2020, I saw the works of Vaginal Davis to Bisa Butler. I agreed, embracing the opportunity to explore and see new art all around me. went in with little intention of what to expect and who I’d want to see, but boy was I wrong.

While strolling over the Institute, I noticed there was an exhibit for a sign I’d seen all over town, “Thinking of you, I mean me, I mean you.”. The sign is big and bold with green x’s covering the “you” and “me”. I’ve always thought this billboard was quite interesting whenever I would cross it. Speaking boldly about heartfelt feelings over infatuation, trying to hide and take back its sensitive words.

The artist at hand is Barbara Krueger, an American conceptual artist, and collagist from New Jersey, associated with the Pictures Generation. She is most known for her collage style that consists of black-and-white photographs, overlaid with declarative captions, stated in white-on-red Futura Bold Oblique or Helvetica Ultra Condensed text.

THINKING OF YOU. I MEAN ME. I MEAN YOU, employs direct address, as well as humor, vigilance, and empathy, to expose and destroy the power dynamics of identity, desire, and consumerism, combining images with provocative text. Her immersive works and widely disseminated photographs and texts invite us to reevaluate how we relate to one another as our attention spans diminish and the voyeurism and narcissism that define contemporary life converge.

If you’re ever looking for something bold and fascinating to watch, this is a show you don’t want to miss. If you’re a student and Chicago resident, you can get a discount to see the show starting November 29th-December 17th.



# Blue Man’s Group Show

By Alicja Kolska and Khushi Jani



times, while performing we get a little dizzy because of the masks but we never complained about it because there are so many worse things going on in this world right now.

Khushi: Since we are all in a pandemic, was it challenging to generate audiences to come back and resume the production?

Brett Tressant: Yes, all parts of the process have been challenging. We were not doing this for almost 15 months and then - slowly coming back trying to judge audience appetite - figuring out which policies to follow for safety. It was challenging, but also humbling at the same time. Reaching out for collaborations, public health, and lots of different people definitely helped.

Khushi: How has the relationship with the audience been impacted due to COVID?

Tom Galassi: We miss interacting with people especially after the show. It leaves us sad that we cannot do random meet and greets. We love taking photos and even talking to people after the show. We miss letting people tell us how the show made them feel, whether it was sad, inspiring, or funny. Yes, we definitely miss the personal relationship they shared with the entire group.

Alicja: Bringing people together--- it does feel like a part of the BMG Show!

Tom Galassi : Yes, we are trying, in an abstract way, in a new language - which is so unique to BMG- to bring the audience together. We are freaking you out, and by the end of it, it’s “cool”. You are laughing with people you don’t know.

Brett Tressant: It’s about confiding what’s the same about all of us. There’s no handbook that says what to do to connect all of us. That’s the fun part of it.

Alicja: Is the show specifically designed to induce certain emotions in the public? And has somebody ever told you - as I am about to right now - that the show was actually very sad to them? For me, it brought about many sad conclusions about our society, and how much loneliness there is in a world so full of people.

Tom Galassi: Yes. I’ve had people coming to me crying. Before the covid times, and hopefully after, we meet the audience in the lobby and take pictures and sometimes people are crying.

Alicja: What made me sa, was how the show commented on, in a very indirect and abstract- yet deliberate way, on topics like overexposure to social media, manipulative advertising, speed dating---and what was seemingly funny at the first glance, I found it very thought provoking. Very impressive.

Tom Galassi: Thank you. Yes, one of the best things we can do is to disarm people. To give you an excuse to let your guard down. And here’s the problem with the masks too--- I think before the masks the audience felt more connected with each other.

Brett Tressant: But you know what’s cool about the masks? We started to realize that the audience is a lot like us now, because we don’t open our mouths at all also! It’s communicating with eyes, and I think people have learnt that more so than before!

Alicja: Right! You are not talking at all - that, and the blue color! What was the idea behind the colour? Is it meant to be associated with stoicism and sadness?

Tom Galassi: No! Not at all. There’s a lot of different origin stories, but basically, one of the guys who helped create this character had a dream when he was a kid, that he had blue friends; and it just works! Sometimes things just work and that was one of these things. Also, there is universal warmth to this colour - the ocean, the sky - we are surrounded by it, it’s natural. That’s my favorite colour. It has always been. So THAT’S why that’s the best colour [laughs].

Alicja: What does it take to become a Blue Man? is there any advice you would give to someone who aspires to become an actor?

Brett Tressant: He was born that way! [interviewees and interviewers laugh]. It takes a lot of practice. The biggest thing I’ve learnt is really just to ask questions. We really need an exchange of ideas. For everybody who wants to be in entertainment, it really starts with asking questions.

Jeff Quay: Yes, I would phrase it: don’t be afraid to be curious and to show it!

Brett Tressant: Right! And in life, you know, no one is more boring to me than someone who is not curious. Hey, if someone is not curious I don’t mean to put you down! [interviewees and interviewers laugh] To me that’s what life is made of, and that’s the essence of his character [looking at Tom Galassi], just this curiosity in not knowing. There’s an over-emphasis in society placed on knowing.

Jeff Quay: And don’t be afraid to be wrong, that’s part of it!

Tom Galassi: Yeah, I have to risk every single time that I perform in front of many people --- you know there’s risk involved in this show, putting yourself out there. After every show the three of us talk and exchange suggestions for each other. Any time somebody has a suggestion for me, I just try it! There is no reason not to. It doesn’t mean I’m bad - I want to continue to learn and I want to experience what someone else experiences, that I might not see.

Brett Tressant: The theatre world is notorious - the real theatre world is notorious - for having egos and prima donnas, and that is something ---- it just CAN’T happen in this show. That’s not what the character is, and it is not what our culture of the show is like.

Jeff Quay: It’s just always interesting to be with people who are not judgmental and are curious. THAT’S what breeds creativity.

Tom Galassi: For me, personally, to develop my character I watch my cat. No ego, no judgement. He is just like: “Oh, I want that!”-one thing at a time-“I’m gonna go get that!”. And he just loves us, all the time, even if he is like “Give me my treats!”- you can see that he loves me but he just wants his treats. So there’s all of that within this innocent creature. To tap into THAT, I think, it changes our lives, I think for the better.

Alicja: That is such a nice reflection, especially for a happy cat owner like myself [laughs]. The show is a lot about improvising within frames of a script. So, I wonder, has something ever happened in the middle of the show that made you think “what do we do now?”

Tom Galassi: So, we brought people on stage for the last version of the show. One lady was so scared she took one of the plastic butter knives that were there and started stabbing me pretty hard in the chest. [interviewees and interviewers laugh] First, I look at the guys and I don’t know what to do, so I think: “I’m gonna take her back!” - Jeff caught it - we take her back, without shaming her, because she is terrified - we put her back- the music slows, feels good - we bring another person on stage. Just things like that happen.

Alicja: Well, that was extreme, I wasn’t expecting that.

Tom Galassi: Well, that was a mild story, we have more [laugs].

Alicja: To finish off our interview we would like to intrigue our readers a little bit without spoilers. So, I will ask that way: how did the scene involving you not getting a gag reflex, while an average person would, come about? Was it pre-recorded? We could not believe our eyes!

Tom Galassi: We don’t know --- [laughs loudly]. And we usually do it to an audience member, that was one of the COVID things! We usually pick an audience member. And this time we couldn’t do it to somebody else’s mouth so we had to do it to ourselves [interviewees and interviewers laugh].

Alicja: Thank you so much for having us and taking the time to talk to us, the show was an extraordinary experience!

