Talking Across An Expanse

Curated by Makeda Jean Lewis-Kinuthia Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport September 2025 - September 2026

Artist Bios

Kelly Taylor Mitchell//

Kelly Taylor Mitchell (she/her, b. 1994) is an artist and educator who lives and works in Atlanta, GA where she is an Assistant Professor of Art and Visual Culture at Spelman College. Kelly's multidisciplinary practice centers oral history and ancestral memory, real and imagined, woven into the fabric of the Africana Diaspora. Her work is deeply invested in labor intensive making, slowness, and home-spun passed down processes. Working across printmaking, papermaking, performance, book arts, and textiles, her current work stems from ancestral origin points in the American South and Caribbean. Kelly's practice references and constructs mythologies that find their roots in marronage, Sankofa, masquerade, and protective gestures of the Diaspora. Kelly is the 2024 Inaugural Nellie Mae Rowe Prize Seed Awardee, a 2023-2024 BIPOC Lyndon House Arts Foundation Fellow, a 2022 Atlanta Artadia Awardee, a 2021-2022 SMFA at Tufts Travelling Fellow, the 2022 Inaugural Spelman College Affiliate Fellow at The American Academy in Rome and a 2020-2021 Working Artist Project Fellow at The Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia. She has completed residencies with The Arts & Social Justice Program at Emory University, Midtown Alliance, The University of Texas at Austin, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Women's Studio Workshop, and Atlanta Contemporary. She has taught at Rhode Island School of Design, Virginia Commonwealth University, Penland School of Craft and Dieu Donne. Her work can be found in collections such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Harvard Fine Arts Library, Duke University Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Walker Art Center Library, and publications like Burnaway, Art Papers, and Hand Papermaking.

*Chelsea Loew//

Chelsea Loew (b. 1992: Charleston, SC) is a composer and performer whose interests are rooted in emotion, humanity, nature, and interaction. Her music has been described as "beautiful, warm, soft, and sensual" with "bursts of color and brightness" (*EarRelevant*). Her works often explore the relationships (both constructive and damaging) between language, communication, and expression. Driven by a curious spirit and a desire for connection, her music is highly gestural and textural with interactive and aleatoric elements, and she frequently collaborates with artists from other disciplines.

Chelsea's music has been featured at venues and festivals including MOCA Georgia, National ACDA, National Museum of Wrocław, Musica Polonica Nova, Sacrum Profanum at Play Kraków, the Composer's Conference at Brandeis, the National SCI Composers Conference, New Music on the Point, Nief-Norf, and Cameron Art Museum. Her compositions have been performed and recorded by ensembles and musicians such as Chór Narodowy Forum Muzyki, Yarn/Wire, Popebama, Latitude 49, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Vim, Peabody Laptop Orchestra, and Tony Arnold. Chelsea has received support for her work through grants and residencies from the Fulbright Program (US-Poland), the Ellis Beauregard Foundation, and SongFest.

As a performer, Chelsea is a founding member of <u>Ensemble Decipher</u>, a modular, technology-focused experimental music group, and a core alto member of the <u>Taylor Festival Choir</u>, where she serves as composer-in-residence. She is described to possess "ethereal vocalizations reminiscent of the music of Caroline Shaw and Roomful of Teeth." (*New York Theatre Wire*)

Currently residing in Wilmington, NC, Chelsea serves as Assistant Professor at the <u>University of North Carolina Wilmington</u> where she teaches composition, upper-level music theory and aural skills courses, and orchestration. She also serves as Composition faculty for <u>Nief-Norf Summer Festival</u>. She holds degrees from Stony Brook University (PhD), Eastman School of Music (MA), and College of Charleston (BA).

Outside of music, Chelsea loves cooking, caring for her many plants, exploring the outdoors, and making ceramics.

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Maxalice Serres//

Maxalice (Max) Serres is a Queer Non-binary painter and sculpture artist living and working in Atlanta, GA. Born in Paris, France in 1989, and raised in the American south. Their practice is informed by Queer ecology, landscape studies, community building, vulnerability, the push and pull of discovering embodiment. Maxalice builds upon their artworks with softness and the belief that they have magical powers they have yet to understand.

Yoon Nam//

As a Korean immigrant in America, having lived in two countries and embracing two cultures and languages, I possess the liminal memories and narratives that irrefutably shape my identity. Both texts and images function as a mnemonic device and a pentimento in my works. At times I am advised to choose clarity and transparency. I know the cost of such clarity. I am suspicious of the historical—and cultural—currency of clarity and transparency often imposed upon immigrant identities, the consequences of choosing one over the other to assemble, cloak, and even divest one language, memory, or heritage in favor of the other. I'm not interested in composing a coherent narrative in my paintings; the images are often interrupted, erased, and revised—painted over (pentimento)—to obscure and impede our incumbent drive for the comfort of transparency and knowledge. My paintings tell stories in the vernacular—I speak what I know over and over, neither polished nor substantial in style or tone, yet always faithfully nostalgic. Sometimes I am struck dumb by nostalgia, unable to take a single step forward, but when the surprise occurs, whether by chance or practice, I am entranced by the ambivalence of nostalgia, how the wonder of going away beckons the pain of seeking the way back home—and possibly, on the way, following the light of a deeper place.

*Caleb Jamel Brown//

Caleb Jamel Brown (b. 1993) is an interdisciplinary artist and plumber from Atlanta, GA, currently based in Bedstuy. Brown works in photography, installation, printmaking, sculpture, painting, and video. Obsessed with intersections of Black American material culture, representation through abstraction, clothes, visual vernacular, hand-me-down garments, knick-knacks, and kitschy décor. Giving his work a devotional quality where the past and lives of elders are preserved and celebrated through objects and artifacts. The utilization of abstraction and vernacular as the foundation for larger cultural narratives is at the core of Brown's practice.

Caleb is a 2022 Working Artist Project recipient and a 2020 Mint Leap Year Fellow. Caleb holds a BFA from Valdosta State University and has participated in residencies throughout the United States and abroad, including Shandaken: StormKing, New Windsor, NY; Mass MOCA; PATA, Lodz, Poland; Proyecto Ace, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Coleman Arts Center, York, Al; Aviario, Portugal

Sayma Hossain//

My work delves into the endless potential of recyclable materials, pushing the boundaries of traditional textiles and exploring their versatility. Raised in both Bangladesh and Georgia, I was shaped by the contrasting environments, which instilled in me a deep awareness of resourcefulness and the environmental impact of waste. These influences are central to my practice as I integrate sustainability into every piece. Drawing from the techniques of sewing, crochet and weaving techniques I create works that range from intricate tapestries to immersive installations. Through textiles, I examine themes of transformation, resilience and sustainability, using these materials to convey the cyclical nature of life and our collective ability to reshape and reimagine the world around us.

Iman Person//

Iman Person moves through worlds—visible and hidden, remembered and forgotten, modern and ancestral. Her work is a ritual continuously in motion, an evolving archive shaped by the contributions of community, material explorations, and ancestral technologies. She merges earth, video, sound, and scent as a path to ritual, re-rooting individuals to themselves, their histories, and the natural world. A

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Jamaican-American interdisciplinary artist and cultural anthropologist. Her work transcends Western notions of linear temporality, offering a fluid perception of time and memory through the body, migration, and cosmological references.

Iman cultivates portals for reflection and collective healing, inviting audiences into currents of ancestral knowledge and contemporary existence. Her work disrupts the traditional view of technology as a fast-moving, logic-driven force, instead presenting it as a eco-somatic experience—one that enmeshes the user within the rhythm of nature rather than superseding it.

Through altar-making, Iman bridges the past and present, fostering a re-emergence of rituals that reconnect the body to cyclical time. Her works are deeply inspired by the Bakongo Cosmogram and the Yowa/Dikenga Cross, symbols of interconnectedness and cosmic balance. These works serve as spaces where audiences can reconnect with history, land, and spirit, offering moments of reflection and engagement with the unseen forces that shape us.

Camisha Butler//

Camisha Butler is an Atlanta-based textile artist/educator. Her work is informed by Neo-Luddite philosophy and the act of preserving and promoting the traditional craft practices of the ancestors. A natural storyteller, she uses a colorful joyful aesthetic to communicate social commentary and autobiographical reflections through craft-based medias such as weaving, applique, embroidery and handbuilding pottery.

*Mo Costello//

Mo Costello (Seattle, 1989) is an artist and educator drawn to the social life of objects. Mo's working practice revolves around the maintenance of small-scale, community supported infrastructure for the visual and performing arts. Curatorial and studio-based efforts emerge - and often converge - from within this ongoing commitment to place-based inquiry and infrastructures of care. A recent recipient of residencies from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2022), Denniston Hill (2024) and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts (2024), Mo lives in Athens, GA.

Logan Lynette Burroughs//

Logan Lynette Burroughs' visual poems focus on Black existence, especially in the South. Through filmmaking and photography, Burroughs tenderly documents the intricate intimacies of the Black community through a queer lens. They received their bachelors in Fine Arts with a focus in Photography in 2021, but have been in a variety of exhibitions before then. In 2018 they made their body of photographic work, *Adornment Series*, exploring rituals kept and passed down, beyond post-colonialism. In 2019, they expanded their photographic practice to include video work. In 2020, Logan made their first video composition, *Spirit never dies, only transitions.*, which has been in a number of film festivals and was Oscars qualifying. Recently they've shown two video works, *to heaven* and *Deep Waters* at the North Carolina Museum of Art and South Eastern Center of Contemporary Art.

^{*}The collaborative work between Kelly Taylor Mitchell and Chelsea Loew, 'A Homegoing', 2024, was originally slated to be included in this exhibition, but was removed due to installation constraints. Viewers can access a video of Loew's original composition, performed by ensemble vim, alongside Mitchell's large-scale handmade paper quilt component here.

^{*}All artist names are direct links to their websites, excluding Caleb Jamel Brown.

^{*}For Mo Costello, any sales or exhibition inquiries should be directed to April April Gallery.