Gigi Cammaroto

ARTIST (she/they)

@ mrc149@georgetown.edu

ABOUT

I am curious about how art can be used to support reciprocity, reconnection, and relationship to the Earth. How can we work with the Earth to create? How can we then give our art back to the Earth as a gift?

BIO

Gigi Cammaroto is a theatremaker & herbalist working at the intersection of the expressive healing arts and ecoconsciousness. She works alongside natural elements to cocreate a sense of interconnectedness with all that lives.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Deep ecology
- Expressive arts
- Therapy devised theatre

Scott Carollo

ARTIST

scott.carollo@gallaudet.edu

https://gallaudet.edu/art-and-media-design/

ABOUT

I am a graphic design professor at Gallaudet University, where I have taught for 22 years and will soon become the department director. My current research focuses on the intersection of graphic design and scientific visualization, exploring how visual communication can enhance scientific understanding and collaboration.

BIO

With over 22 years of experience as a graphic design professor at Gallaudet University, I have dedicated my career to fostering creativity and innovation in visual communication. My work emphasizes the integration of graphic design with scientific visualization, aiming to bridge the gap between art and science. As I step into the role of department director in August 2024, I am committed to advancing interdisciplinary collaboration and promoting the importance of visual literacy in both academic and professional settings.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Graphic design innovation
- Scientific visualization techniques
- Interdisciplinary art-science collaboration
- Visual communication strategies
- Creative project development

Victoria Coles

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ vcoles@umces.edu

ABOUT

Victoria is interested in using data and models to understand climate, the ocean currents, and their impact on cells to animals.

BIO

Victoria was trained as a physical oceanographer and modeler at University of Miami, Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science, did a postdoc at NASA Goddard, and then joined Horn Point Laboratory at UMCES.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Climate Change
- Microbes to Fish
- Models
- Satellite Data
- Chesapeake Global Collaboratory

Erin Crowley-Champoux

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ eacc1@umd.edu

ABOUT

Erin is an environmental anthropologist and archaeologist with research interests in human-environment interactions. Her current work involves collaborating with communities to develop climate resiliency strategies.

BIO

Her research has taken her from Peru to Ireland, examining agricultural and subsistence strategies in the past. Most recently, she has completed a postdoc researching food security and preservation strategies, working with archaeologists, food scientists, and organic farmers. Prior to that, she was a lecturer at the University of Southern Maine, teaching classes in archaeology and cultural anthropology and developing programs with local communities around cultural heritage protection in the face of climate change. Before graduate school, Erin worked as a Community Planning and Development Fellow at the Island Institute and AmeriCorps, supporting the sustainability of Maine's unbridged island communities.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Community collaboration
- Adaptive strategies
- Climate resilience
- Sustainable agriculture
- Cultural heritage

Wanda Debrewer

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ wadeb1@morgan.edu

ABOUT

Wanda is a doctoral candidate in the Urban Educational Leadership Program at Morgan State University. She is working on a dissertation proposal about young Black girls, K-3, in urban outdoor learning settings.

BIO

Wanda is a project manager with the Maryland Initiative for Literacy and Equity (MILE), a collaboration between Morgan State University and the University of Maryland. She also serves as a Teaching Assistant in the Teacher Education and Professional Development Department at Morgan State University. Wanda recently retired after 31 years of service in the Prince George's County and Baltimore County Public School Systems. She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Wilson College and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Towson University.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Early Literacy Learning and Play
- Black Girls' K-3 STEM Education
- Global Environmental Citizenship

Natasha De La Cruz

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ natasha.delacruz1@maryland.gov

ABOUT

Natasha is the State Science Policy Fellow with the Maryland Sea Grant Program. Currently, she is working on increasing Maryland's coastal resiliency across the state through the Next Generation Adaptation Plan.

BIO

Growing up in south Florida, Natasha developed a deep love for the ocean. This passion led her to study Environmental Science at Florida State University and Environmental Law at Vermont Law and Graduate School. Through her work, Natasha aims to provide better protections for coastal communities and communities of color which are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Coastal Resiliency
- Environmental Justice
- Water Quality Degradation

Jillian Everly

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ Jillian.Everly@mail.house.gov

ABOUT

Jillian's graduate thesis incorporated non-traditional methods of information sharing including photos and poetry as a medium in which to disseminate information.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Indigenous Rights
- Fisheries Policy
- Coastal and Community Resilience

BIO

Jillian Everly is from Manassas, Virginia, USA. She graduated with a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation in 2019 from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in Anthropology with a focus on marine conservation from Idaho State University in 2023. During graduate school she worked as an intern for La Fuerza del Buzo, a Chilean based non-profit organization focused on both marine health and diver accident prevention and post-graduation, was an intern for the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in Vancouver, Canada. Her research focused on women's well-being in Chilean fisheries and Redband trout success in Idaho. She is currently living in Washington D.C. as a Knauss Sea Grant fellow with a policy portfolio of Indigenous rights and marine fisheries in Representative Mary Peltola's office on Capitol Hill. She invests her free time writing poetry and playing in the mountains with friends.

Michael Feldman

ARTIST (he/him)

@ mfeldman@mfeldman.net

https://artsconnect3.wixsite.com/theaterpolicysalon

ABOUT

Michael's Theater and Policy Salon practice pairs socially conscious works of art with policy conversations that engage activists and community. Michael serves as a creative producer and dramaturge for theater projects dealing with policy, cross-cultural, and global issues. He has been awarded multiple Fellowships and grants by D.C. Arts and Humanities Commission and HumanitiesDC. As a former cultural attaché and diplomat, Michael's experience bridges the arts, global development, and public policy worlds.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Art/theater Leveraging Change
- Art/theater Rebutting Dystopian Visions
- Art/theater Demystifying Policy Options
- Art/theater Coalitions with Think-tanks and Academia

BIO

As the Theater and Policy Salon's founder and a consultant in cultural diplomacy, Michael serves as a dramaturg and advisor for scripts and theater projects dealing with policy, cross-cultural, and global issues. Michael also serves as a judge for the Helen Hayes theater awards for the Washington region. Michael works with Washington, DC area theaters and arts institutions, communities, and Embassies to organize theater and arts events that inspire action on local and global real world issues. The Theater and Policy Salon has partnered on Salons with NYU DC in collaboration with Mosaic, Shakespeare Theater Companies (STC) as well as Ford's Theatre. Prior to the Salon's 2018 launch, Michael conceived and curated the Talk Tank series for Forum Theater's 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 seasons. Michael served as an Editorial Team Member at Createquity - a virtual arts policy think tank and online publication - through its sunset in 2017. Earlier in his career, Michael served as a director at PEPFAR (the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief) and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He served as professional staff on the Budget Committee of the U.S. Senate as part of a fellowship with the American Political Science Association. Michael served in Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, and the DRC as well as working on Central Africa, Brazil, Balkans, and European Union issues at the U.S. Department of State. Michael graduated from Wesleyan University and speaks German, Czech, French and Italian.

Cat Frederick

SCIENTIST

@ cfrederi@umd.edu

SalmonOnLand.org

ABOUT

As an Extension Agent at the University of Maryland & IMET, I am a central liaison between collaborators and industry stakeholders in salmon RAS aquaculture projects. My expertise spans project management, stakeholder engagement, and public outreach, including organizing conferences, moderating industry discussions, and developing educational resources.

BIO

Aquaculture professional with over 10 years of education and experience in collaborative aquaculture projects and extension work. I specialize in managing large grant-funded projects, collaborating in industry partnerships, and advocating for sustainable aquaculture practices.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Finfish aquaculture - Atlantic Salmon
- Institutional and Industry Collaboration
- Stakeholder Interaction
- Comprehensive Communications and Outreach

Clara Fuchsman

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ cfuchsman@umces.edu

https://www.umces.edu/clara-fuchsman

ABOUT

I work in areas of the ocean that have no oxygen. These areas, which mediate biogeochemical processes that do not occur in the oxic ocean, have been increasing, likely due to anthropogenic forcing. I am trying to understand how biological entities, including microbes, viruses, and zooplankton, mediate biogeochemical cycles in these environments. I believe this more complicated view of the system is necessary to correctly predict how it will change with a changing ocean.

BIO

Clara Fuchsman has BA in Biochemistry from Swarthmore College, and a PhD in Oceanography from the University of Washington. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Horn Point Laboratory, which is part of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. She teaches both Ecological Genomics and Increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Environmental Science.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Marine Oxygen Deficient Zones
- Interaction of Microbiology and Biogeochemistry
- Viruses and Biogeochemistry
- Zooplankton and Biogeochemistry
- Organic Particles and Microbiology/Viruses/Zooplankton

Helen Glazer

ARTIST (she/her)

@ helen@helenglazer.com

https://helenglazer.com

ABOUT

Helen Glazer's photography and sculpture made from 3D scans are profoundly influenced by scientific insights into the physical forces that shape ecological environments, including human activity. Experiences interacting with scientists as Baltimore Ecosystem Study artist-in-residence and National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program grantee have shaped her thinking. Her current project explores the past 80 years of transformations to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, initiated by the Cold War, along with the recent impact of climate change.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Polar Environments
- Geology Shaped by Water
- Urban Ecology
- Fluid Dynamics
- Human and Nature Interactions

BIO

Helen Glazer is an artist working in photography and photo-based sculpture. A 2015 participant in the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, her solo show of that project, walking in Antarctica, has been on a five-year tour of US museums since 2022 through the Mid-America Arts Alliance (eusa.org). Her Antarctic work has also been displayed at the Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art; Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport; and Palacio de Las Aguas Corrientes, Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has received two major grants from the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, one for the Antarctica exhibition and one for her current project, a photo book in progress about Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, site of a former US air base. Photos and a sculpture from that project are part of a permanent exhibition at the Kangerlussuaq Museum that opened in 2023, funded by a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen.

MAGGIE GOURLAY

ARTIST

301-814-2415

Maggieg513@gmail.com

www.maggiegourlay.com

ABOUT

Maggie is a screenprint and multimedia installation artist who uses pattern and repetition of forms found in nature to invoke our role in the precarious state of the natural world and to remind us of its fragility. She experiments with natural pigments and dyes, recycled materials and rainwater in her practice, producing artwork which reflects the natural sources from which they are derived.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Climate change
- Water purity
- Sustainable practices
- Native ecosystem resilience
-

BIO

Maggie has exhibited widely across the United States and has most recently had solo shows at Adah Rose Gallery in Kensington, Maryland, and Montpelier Arts Center, in Laurel, MD. Her work has been shown at VisArts Rockville, McLean Project for the Arts, the DC Arts Center, CulturalDC, School 33 Arts Center, Maryland Art Place, and Institute for Contemporary Art, Baltimore, among others. She is member of Cultivate Projects, is a DCAC Sparkplug alumnus, and has been awarded purchase grants from The DC Arts and Humanities Council. She has taught art for many years at all grade levels, including as Art Department faculty at Montgomery College Rockville, and Towson University.

Maggie's interest in sustainability and learning from the natural environment has led her to artist residencies and workshops to explore using nature as a source for art materials, for instance, using invasives such as kudzu in hand papermaking and garlic mustard in dyeing. She practices ethical foraging for art materials, as well grows her own natural dyestuffs--indigo, coreopsis, marigolds, and black-eyed susans to use in her artwork.

Lora Harris

SCIENTIST (she/her)

harris@umces.edu

https://www.umces.edu/lora-harris

ABOUT

Lora is a professor and associate director of research at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory within the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. She is an estuarine ecologist who applies field and modeling approaches to address questions regarding restoration and climate change in a range of estuarine ecosystems. She is also committed to doing this work collaboratively with communities, especially those that have frequently been left out of mainstream science and environmental management efforts.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Coastal ecology
- Climate change
- Water quality
- Boundary-spanning leadership
- Community-based participatory research

BIO

Lora's work frequently seeks to understand how climate and management actions interact to affect water quality characteristics in estuaries and lagoons. Lora works closely with local, state, and regional agencies in both a research and collaborative capacity. She is committed to efforts that promote equity, inclusion, and justice in the geosciences through both workforce development programs and initiatives that have identified best practices for community-based, participatory research. Lora is committed to community engagement in her work, and takes just as much satisfaction in talking about water quality with a Board of County Commissioners, or listening to residents tired of pollution in their tidal creeks, as she does in giving a talk at a professional conference. She is the principal investigator for the newly launched ASPIRE program that seeks to expand the spaces and places geoscience happens through a leadership program focused on equitable exchange with communities.

Sarah Houde

ARTIST (she/her)

@ selhoude@gmail.com

www.sarahhoudepottery.com

ABOUT

Sarah enjoys creating special commissions, gyotaku, and her favorite vignette to create is Dinner at the Oyster Bar wall pieces.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Special commissions are welcomed.

BIO

Sarah has been making pottery since a class in college, where she finally figured out why she was born with large hands. She learned quickly and has continued to hone her skills. Sarah planned on working as a marine biologist, but her love of working in clay led her to make a career change. She has not looked back. Her work has evolved over the years. It is inspired by the natural environment, both terrestrial and marine. Sarah throws and/or hand builds her functional work in stoneware and some decorative work in raku clay and glazes. She uses sculpture and handmade sprig molds to create the sea creatures that inhabit her work. Sarah is known for her fish platters and oyster plates. She also presses fish, flowers, lace, shells, and other found objects into some of her creations for detail, texture and depth. These can be raku or traditionally fired. She layers glazes to add depth and color. Her oyster plates and dishes are finished with mother of pearl and gold lusters. Sarah has completed many special commission pieces, including the annual Friends of Jug Bay Jug Award. Most recently, she created the UMD Award for Excellence in Applied science.

Madeleine Jepsen

SCIENCE WRITER

@ mjepsen@mdsg.umd.edu

chesapeakequarterly.net

ABOUT

I'm a science writer communicating Chesapeake Bay science and what it means for the people who depend on the Bay or need to understand the research to make decisions.

BIO

I've studied biochemistry and journalism, and spent the last six years writing about Chesapeake Bay science through StoryMaps, articles, social media posts, photos, and video. I've also covered astronomy and physics research, and enjoy writing stories that profile people or that spread the word about neat projects.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Coastal science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- The science of effective storytelling

KATIE KEHOE

ARTIST

202-957-5697

kt@katiekehoe.com

www.main.katiekehoe.com

ABOUT

Katie is a multidisciplinary artist who works predominantly in socially engaged performance and site-specific installation, creating survival architecture, objects and wearables that dually function as props in her performances or site-specific installations. Much of her work is designed to engage the public to reflect on specific sites in relation to climate change, sustainability, and excessive waste production.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Climate Change
- Sea Level Rise
- Wildfires
- Sustainable Practices
- Reuse of Materials

BIO

Katie's work has been presented across the US and Canada, highlights include: The Hirshhorn Museum (Washington, DC), The Contemporary Museum (Baltimore, MD), Center for Maine Contemporary Art (Rockland, ME), and Arlington Arts Center's Inaugural Regional Biennial (Arlington, VA). She is a member of Cultivate Projects, Atlantika Collective, and Ecoartspace and values cross-disciplinary collaboration. Previously, working with Dr. Jagadish Shukla, one of George Mason's University's leading climate scientists, to create *Breaching Waterways* with Provisions Research Center for Arts and Social Change. And is currently working with a team of researchers at Florida State University (FSU) on the pilot initiative, *Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Rural Communities through Rural Resource Access Hubs (RRAH).*

Katie is based in Tallahassee, FL, where she is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art at (FSU). She completed her MFA from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art (Baltimore, MD).

SUSAN MAIN

ARTIST

301-943-4190
susanl.main@gmail.com
susanmain.net, cultivateprojects.net, meetinggroundprojects.org

ABOUT

Susan Main is a multi-disciplinary artist, curator, and educator who uses systematic and chance explorations of landscape, light, and language to examine attention, perception, and change. Her practice spans a broad range of media and approaches including video, drawing, painting, photography, documentation, installation, curation, and collaboration. Her work draws simple boundaries in time and space as a way to investigate the shifting conditions of natural phenomena and individual/social concentration.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Land, place, and *the commons*
- Sustainable Practices
- Land and land use practices
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Cultural exchange

BIO

Main has presented her work locally, nationally, and internationally. She is the founder of Cultivate, a platform that brings together an evolving collection of artists driven by investigations of land, place, and *the commons*. She co-instigated with artist MJ Neuberger the collaborative project *Meeting Ground* that invites artists and non-artists to center the ground as shared space for co-creation, re-imagination, and care.

Recent awards and grants include: a Washington Project for the Arts Wherewithal research grant (2020) funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (for Meeting Ground); a Project: Soils Residency at SWALE House on Governor's Island, New York; and a residency at Artist House at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Main curated numerous exhibitions as the former Gallery Director and Curator at the Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts (VisArts) and is currently a consultant with the center. She oversees Cultivate's La Baldi Residency an international residency for artists, writers, and researchers exploring expanded notions of landscape in Montegiovi, Italy.

She lives and works in the Washington, D.C. metro area, Montana, and Italy.

Kerry McClaughry

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ kerrymcc@umd.edu

ABOUT

Kerry is a lawyer who concentrates on environmental law and policy issues. She is especially interested in issues facing water treatment, usage, and coastal communities in the Chesapeake Bay

BIO

Kerry is currently the Law and Policy Fellow with MDSG and the Agricultural Law Education Initiative, where she is working on a Symposium on Coastal Adaptability and Climate Change. Kerry graduated from Maryland Carey Law with a J.D. and a Certificate in Environmental Law. Kerry presented a paper on expanding NPDES permits to unregulated nonpoint source runoff at the 2024 Chesapeake Bay TMDL Symposium while working in the Environmental Law Clinic. While in law school, Kerry worked with the Severn River Association, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Agricultural Law Center, and the Chesapeake Legal Alliance. Kerry graduated from Juniata College with a bachelors in Environmental Science.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Environmental Policy
- Climate Change
- Environmental Justice
- Clean Water Act Permitting
- Water Resource Management

Murat Cem Mengüç

Artist

917 808 6049

mcmenguc@protonmail.com

mcmenguc.com

ABOUT

My work focuses on urban and rural agriculture and climate change. My overall interest is anthropocene as an epoch during which human beings are becoming more aware of their environmental impact, changing their idea of nature and how this change is transformation their aesthetics of landscape oriented art. Within this context, I am particularly drawn to agriculture as a creative process, a tool to reconnect with the land and a survival mechanism that is employed to face climate crisis.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban vs rural spaces

Farming (soil, water, air, weather)

Food apartheid and food equity

BIO

Murat Cem Mengüç is an artist, writer and historian (phd in history of Middle East) whose works appeared in solo shows, group exhibitions and numerous publications. He is the founder of Studio Teleocene and a member of the Cultivate Projects, a platform for a contemporary redefinition of landscape. He is currently an Environmental Justice Fellow at the Social Art and Culture in Washington DC, sponsored by Aspen Institute, where he works in collaboration with the Ward 8 community of urban farmers and activists to empower community farmers who are fighting food apartheid. Mengüç lives and grows food in North Potomac, Maryland, at the intersection of the Potomac River and the Seneca Trail, the ancestral home of the Piscataway Indian confederacy.

Fredrika Moser

SCIENTIST

@ moser@mdsg.umd.edu

ABOUT

I'm interested in how climate change is affecting communities and the landscapes they inhabit. My other interest is in how to include voices and communities traditionally excluded from environmental conversations and action. But mostly, I'm an administrator.

BIO

I have been the Director of Maryland Sea Grant for 12 years. I have a PhD in marine science and my research prior to becoming Director focused on sedimentology, geochemistry, invasive species, and advancing diversity in the marine sciences.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion
- temporal and spatial sediment movement
- collaboration, coordination, cooperation, action
- climate change, communities, interactions

Maile Neel

SCIENTIST

@ mneel@umd.edu

ABOUT

Maile is a conservation biologist who has conducted research on endangered species and submersed aquatic plants in the Chesapeake Bay for most of her long career. Her passion for the natural world extends to using dyes and pigments from plants and animals to dye fibers, and teaching others the science and art of these age-old traditions.

BIO

As a professor at University of Maryland - College Park since 2003, Maile's research goal has been to understand how to conserve all types of biological diversity, from genes to ecosystems. To do so, Maile integrates approaches from population genetics and population, evolutionary, and landscape ecology. She employs field study, experiments, DNA-based techniques, sophisticated statistical analyses, and high-throughput computing. In some cases, Maile studies individual species to understand biological responses to human-caused impacts, especially habitat loss and fragmentation. In others, she builds and analyzes large, cross-species databases to identify if conservation approaches are effective. Maile has had a dye practice since 1998 and has practiced metalsmithing since 2018. Both artistic endeavors bring a balance to her scientific career. Teaching a course on natural dyes since 2021 has provided Maile to work with science and art students in the same room and to watch their worlds enrich as they interact and collaborate.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Conservation and Landscape Genetics
- Conservation Biology
- Native Plant Biodiversity
- Evolutionary Biology
- Sustainable Natural Dye Practices

MJ Neuberger

ARTIST (she/her)

@ mjneuberger1@gmail.com

mjneuberger.com
meetinggroundprojects.org

ABOUT

MJ Neuberger's interests include environmental justice, health impacts of disparate access to natural resources, neurodivergence. It also includes safe access to and haptic and sensory engagement with the natural world as tools for integrating trauma in communities and individuals impacted by environmental, social and economic injustice.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Environmental justice
- Public lands and open space
- Disparate access to natural resources
- Trauma integration and the natural world
- Decolonial environmental initiatives

BIO

MJ Neuberger's artwork explores the nature world as witness and tool for decolonial embodiment. As artist in residence at Creative Alliance, she earned acclaim for a large-scale solo exhibition in 2023. As co-founder of Meeting Ground projects, she was awarded a grant for public facing works by the Washington Project for the Arts. Organizing interdisciplinary collaborations as founder of the Great Wide Open, Neuberger also serves on the board of directors of Social Art and Culture which uses the arts to advance environmental justice in marginalized communities. She has presented projects internationally through the Urban Soils Institute, at Washington University in St. Louis and the Media Architecture Biennial, as well as at SWALE House, Art Resources Transfer, A Gathering of the Tribes, the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture, and the Tephra Institute. She teaches at the School of Art at the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Samantha Panchèvre

ARTIST (she/her)

@ samanthapanchevre@gmail.com

https://samanthapanchevre.com/

ABOUT

San Antonio native working in freelance film/TV production in Los Angeles, CA; producer looking to get into sustainability consulting, social impact filmmaking, and environmental storytelling.

BIO

Samantha (aka “Solarpunk Sam”) is a proud San Antonian, now based in LA after studying international energy and environmental affairs at Georgetown University. She is turning her lifelong love of movies, 10+ years of environmental organizing experience, and three years of corporate finance research experience into a career in social impact entertainment. As a freelance film/TV producer, she aspires to use solutions-oriented storytelling to inspire optimism and mobilize action for a more sustainable tomorrow for all.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Environmental filmmaking
- Circular economy
- Sustainable cities, urbanism
- Urban ecology, mass transit
- Business decarbonization

Sumira Phatak

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ sphatak@unm.edu

in/sumiraphatak

ABOUT

Sumira was thrilled to return to the Land of Enchantment as a postdoctoral scholar in the Matthew Campen Laboratory at UNM. Here, she is united with the group's mission to investigate the impact of common environmental exposures (wildfire smoke, metals, and plastics) on health and aging. Additionally, as an IRACDA ASERT Fellow, she has a teaching appointment in collaboration with minority serving institutions across New Mexico.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Nutrition & Functional Foods
- Transgenerational Inheritance
- Metabolic Disorders
- SciComm
- Sustainability

BIO

Sumira Phatak pursued a baccalaureate in biology at Northeastern Illinois University and doctorate in toxicology at Utah State University. The focal point of her dissertation was to understand the transgenerational impact of the Western dietary pattern on colorectal cancer, the epigenome, and microbiome. Other work included investigating dietary interventions with functional foods or micronutrients and evaluating the synbiotic fermentation potential of prebiotic whole food powders with lactic-acid producing probiotics. She then screened proposed environmental obesogens commonly used in food packaging during a postdoctorate at UC Irvine. Subsequently, she accepted a regulatory role in nutraceuticals as a nutritional toxicologist. Other prior experience includes exotic and companion animal nutrition, and wildlife biology- which previously brought her to the Four Corners area studying bubonic plague in Gunnison's prairie dog. She is an active member of several professional groups, where she pursues interests in science communication while promoting inclusive excellence. Having an appetite for adventure, she also an avid outdoor enthusiast, experimental foodie, and aspiring artisan.

Annie Schatz

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ kschatz@umd.edu

ABOUT

Annie is the Aquaculture Projects Coordinator at Maryland Sea Grant currently working to build capacity among NOAA and various coastal-ocean groups and the aquaculture industry to ultimately increase sustainable aquaculture production in the U.S. Her scientific interests are marine invertebrate ecophysiology, sustainable aquaculture, climate change (specifically ocean acidification), collaborating/inclusivity, and outreach.

BIO

Annie joined MDSG after completing her Ph.D. in 2023 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science studying the potential effects from climate change on the early life stages of the eastern oyster physiologically. Through her graduate research she learned a lot about the oyster aquaculture industry in Virginia and became interested in aquaculture more broadly. Prior to her Ph.D., Annie got her bachelors degree in Biology from Pitzer College, part of the Claremont Colleges in California, studying the effects of thermal stress on adult barnacles. In between her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Annie participated in two AmeriCorps programs in Boston, MA working at Match Charter High School and in Burlington, VT working on green stormwater infrastructure at Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Aquaculture
- Marine invertebrates
- Climate change
- Ecophysiology
- Early-life stages

Elzbieta Sikorska

ARTIST

301 434 2385

erpettit@yahoo.com

www.elzbietasikorska.com

ABOUT

Elzbieta Sikorska, an independent multimedia artist focused on studio art, has always been drawn to nature as her primary focus. Over her lifetime, she has worked in various media, but for the last twenty years, she has concentrated on works on paper, printmaking, papermaking, and drawing on collaged paper. Her recent work, inspired by observation, history, and literature, delves into the visible and the invisible in the landscape: memory, patterns, and information coded in nature that are not immediately accessible to our perception.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- History of landscape and land use
- Environmental degradation
- Expanded understanding of soil, land, and landscape

BIO

Sikorska was born in Warsaw, Poland, moved to the US about 30 years ago, and settled in the DC area a few years later, where she still lives and works.

She has been an active artist for most of her life, exhibiting her work nationally and internationally. Her works are in many collections, including the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC, the National Museum in Krakow, Poland, the National Museum of American Art in Washington, DC, and the Washington DC Art Bank.

Sikorska also received numerous grants and awards, including those from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, MD, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Franz and Virginia Bader Fund, Washington, DC.

She has participated in numerous residencies and collaborative projects, including a Keyholder Residency at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, MD, where she worked for several years, and the Printmaking Collaboration Project at Great River Arts Institute in Bellows Falls, VT.

Lynn Silverman

Artist

410-889-6604
lsilverman@mica.edu
lynnsilverman.com

ABOUT

Two main threads, process and place, are at the core of Lynn Silverman's photographs and videos. On the one hand, the generation and conveyance of energy is a fundamental concern in her work. Harnessing the light to forge connections between different situations, she is aware of the transformative power of light to explore more nuanced relationships between light and dark, outside and inside, nature and culture.

Landscape and the relationship humans have with the land is also an ongoing interest. The presence of structures and how the land is apportioned inevitably draw attention to the history of a place and the ongoing transformation of a landscape.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Landscape and history
- How technology can expand and illuminate our understanding of a place

BIO

The experience of living on three different continents, North America, Europe, and Australia, has had a profound effect on the way Lynn Silverman sees the world. After graduating with a BFA in Photography, Lynn moved to Australia. She was drawn to Australia's vast inland desert landscape, which was the subject of her first one-person exhibition, *Horizons* (1981), at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne.

In 1983, Lynn moved to the United Kingdom. While teaching photography at several art schools, Lynn published four books, *Furniture Fictions* (1989), *1:1* (1993), *Corporation House* (1996), and *Interior Light* (1997), and participated in solo and group exhibitions including *Viewfindings: Women Photographers: Landscape and Environment* (1994) and the ground-breaking *Inside the Visible* (1996).

Lynn returned to the United States in 1999. Since then, Lynn received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2010 to teach and photograph in the Czech Republic. Exhibitions included *Outlook-Insight: Windows in the Arts*, at the Museum Sinclair-Haus in Bad Homberg, Germany (2018) and *Works in Black and White* at the Klompching Gallery Brooklyn, New York (2019).

In addition to continuing to pursue still photography, working with video is a recent development in Lynn's practice. In 2020, an earlier iteration of her video *Memory Foam* was exhibited in a group show, "Trust the Story" at the Baldwin Photographic Gallery, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. This video was also included in "archive: 1" (2021), a collaboration between the Stand4 Gallery, Brooklyn, New York and the Intermission Museum of Art. In 2022, the full-length version of *Memory Foam* premiered at Goya Contemporary, Baltimore.

Taryn Sudol

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ sudol@mdsg.umd.edu

ABOUT

I am interested in communicating marsh resilience to sea level rise and other ways communities can prepare for landscape changes due to climate change.

BIO

Taryn Sudol coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative as part of her role as Coastal Resilience Coordinator at Maryland Sea Grant. Since 2018, her work has focused on promoting a greater understanding of the ecological and social effects of sea level rise. She works with scientists, land managers, government agencies, community members and other stakeholders to plan for adaptation measures and actions.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Marsh resilience
- Sea level rise
- Climate change
- Community adaptation

Gian Carla Tavelli

ARTIST (she/her)

@ giancarlat@gmail.com

ABOUT

My main interest as an artist and researcher is focused on conservation. Specifically, the application of plants parts in the natural dye processes.

BIO

Gian Carla Tavelli was born and raised in Cochabamba, Bolivia, to a family of Italian and Bolivian descent. One of her most rewarding learning experiences was living in rural Haiti, first as a volunteer teaching basic drawing to youth and then working for Aid To Artisans, establishing a regional office in northwest Haiti. Once back in Bolivia, she continued working with local artisans to exhibit their work and showcase the expert craftsmanship of various Indigenous populations in the country. In 2011, Gian Carla moved to the U.S., and she has lived in Maryland since then. Recently, Gian Carla graduated with a B.A. in Studio Art from the University of Maryland. Currently, she is collaborating with the Department of Natural Sciences at the University of Maryland to create a body of work based on the crucial role of Vallisneria grass, an endangered aquatic plant in the Chesapeake Bay.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Conservation
- Vulnerable native plant species
- Fragile ecosystems
- Natural dyes

Stephen Tomasetti

SCIENTIST (he/him)

@ sjtomasetti@umces.edu

www.tomasettilab.org

ABOUT

Dr. Tomasetti's lab works to understand the dynamics of and impacts to coastal marine systems under intensifying human pressures and aims to strengthen coastal communities through advancements in policy, restoration, conservation, and aquaculture. They often focus on shellfish species and their habitats.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Global Change Ecology
- Shellfish Ecology
- Aquaculture
- SES Environmental Sensors
- Coastal Habitat Restoration

BIO

Dr. Stephen Tomasetti joins the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center as an Assistant Professor of Coastal Environmental Science. His research addresses the challenges posed by the climate crisis, eutrophication, and historic overfishing to the health of the coastal ocean. Tomasetti is interested in advancing climate-adaptive pathways toward the resilience or recovery of coastal shellfish and the ecosystems they support; he focuses on actions that will increase resilience, such as restoring seagrass meadows and oyster reefs, rebuilding depleted shellfish populations, and generating sustainable coastal food systems. He received his Ph.D. in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University researching the effects of coastal change on blue crabs, bay scallops, sea scallops, and oysters.

Louise Wallendorf

ARTIST/SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ lwaves2002@yahoo.com

www.louisewallendorf.com

ABOUT

As an ocean engineer with expertise in waves and coastal engineering, Louise has many years of experience collaborating with university researchers on coastal erosion, solutions to coastal disasters, and habitat on the Chesapeake Bay. She has switched careers from ocean engineering to fine art - drawing and bio-based surf lithography.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Solutions to coastal disasters
- Women on the coast
- Seas rising
- Falling science of surf lithography whales in the Atlantic

BIO

Louise Wallendorf was born and raised on Long Island, New York. She is an artist/scientist who combines lifelong passions for the ocean, drawing and printmaking. She has maintained interest on drawing from life: animals and humankind. As an ocean engineer at the US Naval Academy, she worked with researchers on coastal disasters, erosion, habitat, and Chesapeake Bay plankton and aquaculture. During an art/science residency in a dune shack at Cape Cod National Seashore, she developed a process called surf lithography. A grained aluminum plate is placed at the edge of the surf, allowing sand and water to wash back and forth. It's removed from the water; lithographic tusche liquid, a greasy ink which can be diluted into washes, is added. The tusche flows into the surface irregularities created by sand and salt. When the plate dries, drawing is added. She looks forward to working with coastal researchers as an artist.

Cathy Wazniak

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ catherine.wazniak@maryland.gov

https://dnr.maryland.gov/waters/bay/Pages/Algae.aspx and https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/habs.cfm

ABOUT

My group oversees routine assessment of phytoplankton communities for the State of Maryland (lakes, rivers and estuaries) and work with other agencies to manage potentially harmful blooms. We collaborate with others to study the impacts of benthic cyanobacteria on submerged aquatic vegetation in the Bay. We are also assessing cyanotoxins in benthic algae mats across the State. We are part of a new project to assess three imaging platforms for autonomously identifying phytoplankton species.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Phytoplankton communities
- Harmful algae blooms
- Benthic cyanobacteria
- Toxic algae
- Maryland coastal bays

BIO

Cathy Wazniak is an Environmental Program Manager for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She is the head of the Integrated Assessment program in the Division of Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment. Her responsibilities include coordinating Maryland's phytoplankton and harmful algal bloom monitoring programs as well as Maryland Coastal Bays and offshore water quality monitoring and assessments.

She earned her master's degree with UMD Marine Estuarine and Environmental Sciences program where she studied community metabolism. She was a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow under the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Office for Installations and the Environment.

She is the chair of the Maryland Harmful Algae Bloom Taskforce as well as a member of the Maryland Coastal Bays National Estuary Program scientific and technical advisory and Chesapeake Bay modeling committees. She has worked for the Department since 1996. During her tenure she has co-authored many reports and peer reviewed articles on the coastal bays ecosystem and harmful algae in Maryland.

Tina Whitaker

SCIENTIST (she/her)

@ jwhitaker@umes.edu

ABOUT

I study fish genetics to assist in conservation and management of fish that are ecologically and economically valuable.

BIO

I received my PhD from West Virginia University in Wildlife and Fisheries. I worked on the Gulf of Mexico for 8 years doing fisheries research. I am now an Assistant Professor at UMES.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Molecular ecology
- Fish genetics
- Conservation
- Anthropogenic impacts on fisheries