

SIDE/LOT EXPERIMENTAL VIDEO SHOWCASE: PROGRAM

Sophia (D65 Student)

Planet Lemon

Jonah Charlton

Do Not Go Gentle

Finn (D65 Student)

The Lost Shoe

Joey Garfield

Irish Prince

Benji (D65 Student)

Planet Jamaica

Kevin Valentine

Home REMIX

Jahvon (D65 Student)

Something Fishy

Sabba Elahi

Writing the Unknown: 10 Years of Pakistan/CIA Drone Wars

Faith (D65 Student)

Cookies and Crunch

Alice George

Travel

Josie (D65 Student)

The Button

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Jonah Charleton

Do Not Go Gentle

Description

An experimental film that explores the stark contrasts between different stages of life as well as light vs dark.

Bio

Jonah Charlton is a rising senior at Evanston Township High School. He has been writing, directing and producing films since grade school but has followed the passion further in high school. He also plays baseball, tennis and writes, designs and photo edits for the ETHS newspaper, The Evanstonian.

Sabba Elahi

writing the unknown: 10 years of Pakistan/CIA Drone Wars

Description

A stop-motion animation composed of photographic stills from an eight hour performance in which I layered the names of individuals dead by an American drone inside Pakistan, named in the Bureau of Investigative Journalism's online archive. The work was photographed from above to mirror the view of a drone's eye, and the names obscured, each written upon one another with ink in a circular motif speak to a collective loss.

Statement

My art is largely impacted by the socio-political issues around Islam, U.S./Pakistan relations, and my distance & proximity as a South Asian American. I have experienced the rupture of being raised in a collectivist and modest culture in a climate of growing xenophobia and Islamophobia. As a response I create art objects in the in-between spaces of fiber, drawing, and print media, creating imagery that is often based on direct observation of the figure or an environment, which I then obscure and re-imagine in a new context. My practice begins with research and collecting, collecting media imagery, oral histories, literary text, family photographs and textile motifs. I work thematically over time exploring themes of belonging and nationalism, collective trauma and personal loss, resistance and reconciliation; my work has a never ending quality, as the work renegotiates with history and present cultural representations and conflicts. The writings of intersectional feminists, scholars, and cultural theorists like Chandra T. Mohanty, Lila Abu-Lugod, and Homi Bhaba have influenced my concepts and ideas. Dialogues with Muslim women in the U.S., family and friends in the U.S., Middle

East, and Pakistan and the larger South Asian American community continue to shape and inform my art practice.

I use embroidery as a drawing medium to bridge the gap between modern and historical practices of women and speak to the porous line in South Asian culture between craft and fine art, traditional and contemporary aesthetics and labor. With my series *everyday suspects*, and *the suspect is my son*, I employ embroidery to call into question the domestic war on terror, which began long before 9/11 to target law-abiding Muslim Americans, and I draw a parallel to the domestic disturbances experienced by individuals at sites of war/conflict in the international war on terror. The works situate my viewers in aerial and peripheral targets of domestic and civil spaces, the benign and the personal. I confront the notion of "unmournable Muslim bodies" and the "precision of drone warfare" through my works which reference the Bureau of Investigative Journalism's archive, "Naming the Dead," a listing of individual drone casualties inside Pakistan. The archive being a living document has inspired my response in performances where I honor a set of names. Ultimately my body of work adds to the conversation of xenophobia, the dehumanization of brown and Muslim bodies, and what American collateral damage looks like.

Joey Garfield

Irish Prince

Description

On the day of his 56th anniversary a town elder tells of how he met his wife. However his mates find the story a bit too familiar.

Bio

Joey Garfield is a filmmaker, artist, and photographer currently juggling all three.

Alice George

Travel

Description

Depressed by winter in Evanston and inspired by a recent trip to northern Florida, I arranged my thoughts and images in a 16:9 rectangle until it seemed to work. The music also served as a guide and muse. Travel here is meant literally, and as an homage to the magic, and limitations, of imagination.

Bio

Alice George is a visual artist and poet living in Evanston, Illinois. Her poetry appears in eight anthologies and her book of poetry was published in 2008 (*This Must Be The Place*, Mayapple Press). Her work has been recognized by Illinois Arts Council grants and Ragdale Foundation residencies. Alice began exploring text and image while pursuing her MFA in Writing from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago (2001), and her work has been exhibited in area venues, including a 3-woman show at the Evanston Art Center in fall of 2017. Learn more at www.artandwriting.alicegeorge.org. She began making short-shorts in 2016. Visit her vimeo collection at

<https://vimeo.com/album/3650482>

Kevin Valentine

Home REMIX

Artist Statement

Kevin Valentine works in a variety of media and genre including painting, printmaking, video, performance and installation. His work often addresses themes of social justice. This video is a shortened, remixed version of the original song, Home- a song of hope and promise dedicated to refugees, especially Syrian refugees. The song was written and recorded in 2016 during the height of emigration as a welcome to those who were impelled to flee for their lives.

The animation consists of a set of watercolors realized from the documentation of this mass movement and composited on paper by the artist. The remix includes video of waves on a shore and time lapse photography of clouds passing as a backdrop to the paintings in an effort to ground the song in the real world of time and space, land and sea.

As a line from the final verse of the song says: Nahnu Wahidun, Arabic for We Are One.

Kevin Valentine

May 2018

Bio

Trained as a painter and printmaker, Valentine has exhibited art in a variety of media since moving to Evanston in 1979. His work has spanned many genre and media, from abstract to figurative, from formal studies to activist statements.

Valentine's *Widowsweave* project-his first project as fiscally sponsored not-for-profit, Artistactivist-highlights the living conditions of the overlooked survivors of Iraq's thirty years of turmoil. Works in this series include, performances with projected video, an interactive artist's book, public performances with community participation at dozens of area beaches, and an installation with participation of over two hundred participants that included live webstreaming, video documentation, guest performances and a panel discussion on Women Artists in Muslim Society. *Widowsweave* events and installations have received several grants.

In 2014 the artist ran 3 million meters in one year to mark the 10th anniversary of the "Mission Accomplished" speech. He continues to create ways to highlight social justice issues as a part of his ongoing artistic practice. His recent work includes several installations as well as songs related to refugees and immigration.

Valentine currently teaches Graphics, Design and Animation at North Central College and Benedictine University. He has a BA in Fine Art and Philosophy from Principia College, an MEd from Loyola University in Curriculum and Instruction, and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts & Media from Columbia College Chicago. His works have been exhibited in solo and group shows in the Chicago area and around the country.

