

Fellows

2018

TED

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A note on the design of this book:

As we thought about the theme of this year's conference, The Age of Amazement, we kept coming back to the amazing ways TED Fellows are reimagining what is possible for the future – both individually and collectively. The design of our program guide reflects this potential, juxtaposing pieces of work from different Fellows within the same frame. The natural color palette complements the organic shapes and textures to form a bold, futuristic landscape. We hope this year's program guide conveys the spirit of growth, connection and unity at the heart of the TED Fellows program.

Welcome to TED2018

We're thrilled to introduce you to our incredible new class of TED2018 Fellows and Senior Fellows. This year's Fellows hail from a wide range of disciplines and countries – including, for the first time in the program, Syria, Thailand and Ukraine. Each of our new Fellows is a rising star in their field, boldly using technology, the arts, advocacy, science and more to address some of the most pressing topics of our day.

The TED Fellows program believes deeply in the power of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary collaboration to catalyze original solutions to seemingly intractable problems. We look forward to seeing what this remarkable group will accomplish. We invite you to introduce yourself to them during the course of the conference.

About



Launched in 2009, the TED Fellows program supports exceptional, iconoclastic individuals at work on world-changing projects, providing them with access to the global TED platform and community as well as to tools and resources to amplify their vision. The TED Fellows program now includes 453 Fellows who work across 96 countries, forming a powerful network of artists, scientists, doctors, activists, entrepreneurs, inventors, journalists and beyond — each dedicated to making our world better and more equitable.

How it works

Every year, through a rigorous application process, TED selects a group of rising stars to be TED Fellows. Fellows are chosen based on extraordinary achievement, an innovative approach to solving the world's tough problems and strength of character. They are invited to attend a TED conference, where they meet, exchange ideas and connect with the larger TED community. They also give their own TED Talk — an unprecedented opportunity to disseminate their groundbreaking ideas to the world.

The program

Once selected, Fellows receive transformational support. They participate in a professional coaching and mentoring program and work with a public relations expert dedicated to sharing their projects with the world. The TED Fellows blog provides a dedicated online platform for showcasing

their work, and Fellows also have ongoing access to all of TED's other media platforms, including the Ideas blog, the TED Radio Hour, TED-Ed, original video series and more. Fellows self-organize regional gatherings and retreats and attend official Fellows Retreats, which convene all existing Fellows for an explosion of conversation and ideas. Fellows also operate a private online network, resulting in collective problem-solving, cross-disciplinary collaboration and resource sharing. All TED Fellows have the opportunity to apply for a Senior Fellowship to grow their leadership in the Fellows community.

The results

TED Fellows report increased clarity of mission and improved self-confidence. Access to the TED community enables Fellows to connect with global leaders who become business partners, collaborators, funders and mentors. With the program's support, TED Fellows have received millions of dollars in funding, been awarded prestigious prizes, started speaking professionally and been published widely. Fellows join a vibrant community, sparking spontaneous, globe-spanning connections that have resulted in numerous new enterprises, art projects and nonprofits. Most significantly, the program has helped the Fellows expand and intensify the impact of their work, often preserving some of the most important places on the planet and enhancing conditions for people around the world.

How you can get involved

The TED Fellows program is made possible by our supporters — individuals and families who are passionate about the world-changing work the TED Fellows do every day. Our supporters play an active role at the TED conference and Fellows Retreats, mentor Fellows in their projects and careers and help the program grow in scope and ambition. You can contribute by donating to the program, sponsoring the program with corporate underwriting, mentoring a Fellow, telling an excellent candidate about the TED Fellows program or by making an in-kind contribution.

TED Fellows team

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Read about the visionary work of TED Fellows on the Fellows blog at fellowsblog.ted.com

Learn more about the TED Fellows program at ted.com/fellows

Thank you

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Brook Byers

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Toby D Lewis
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Jody & Tom Darden

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& David Sze

Chandra Jessee

Zoë Luhtala & Robert Cohn

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WOMEN'S INITIATIVE AWARDS

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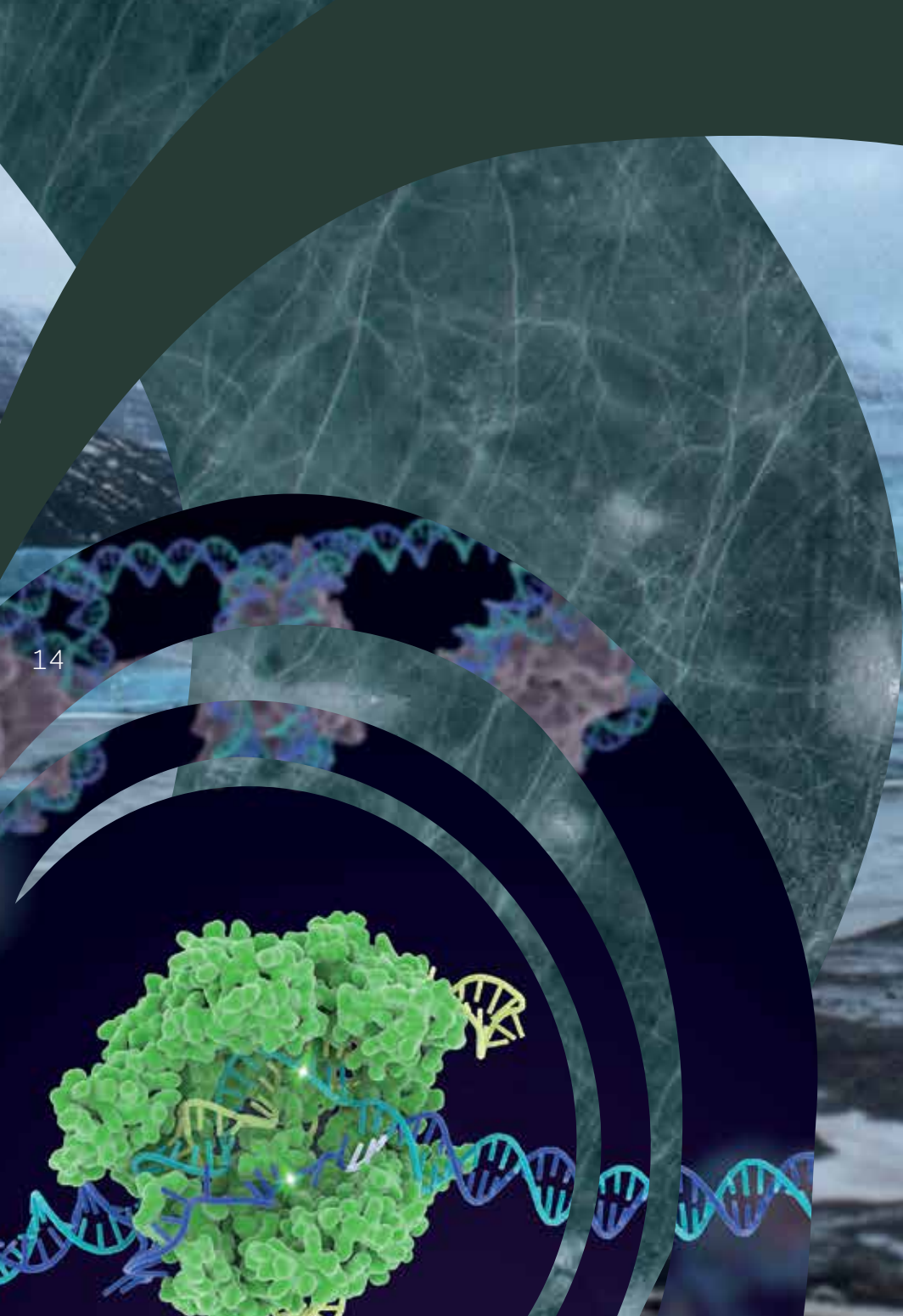
 TEALEAVES

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&
GILES

Special thanks to: Harvey Armstrong, Gina Barnett, The Bezos Scholars, Patricia Cox, Dania de la Vega, Mark Dwight, Karen Frances Eng, Matt Fisher, Shohini Ghose, Nicole Hanson, Bret Hartman, Leonie Hoerster, Elaine Hui, Jedidah Isler, E Roon Kang, Colleen Keegan, Ben Kellogg, Sam Kelly, Jessica Ladd, Ryan Lash, Tertia Nash, Sarah Nicholson, Mark O'Donnell, Jonathon O'Leary, Emeka Okafor, Jenny Raymond, Tom Rielly, Nishat Ruiter, Safwat Saleem, Sarah Sandman, Roger Schmid, Alanna Shaikh, Bruce Shapiro, Valerie Sloane, Greg Sommers, Michael Tchao, Rodrigo Vasquez, Helen Walters, Jennifer Wolfe, Megan Wyatt, Paul Yandura, Joe Zimlich.



Ga- llie ry

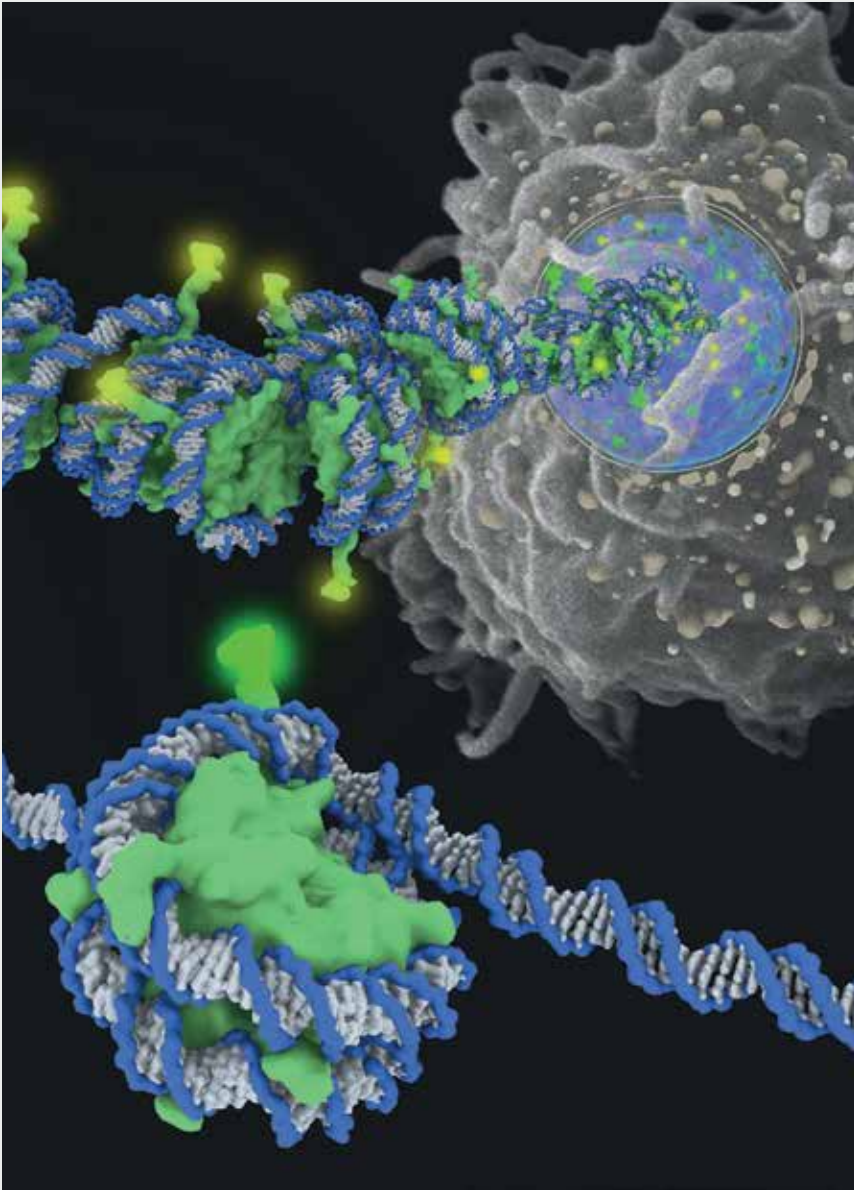




An asteroid impact is the only natural disaster we have the technology to prevent, but because prevention takes time, we must search for near-Earth asteroids now. Astronomer Carrie Nugent does just that, discovering and studying asteroids like this one. *Illustration: Tim Pyle and Robert Hurt (NASA/JPL-Caltech)*



A recently calved iceberg from the glacier Breiðamerkurjökull, streaked with volcanic debris, circulates in the proglacial lake Jökulsárlón in southeastern Iceland. Glaciologist M Jackson studies glaciers like this one to better understand the cultural and social impacts of climate change. *Photo: M Jackson*



Rendered by molecular animator Janet Iwasa, this image illustrates histones: proteins (here shown in green) around which DNA is wrapped. Scientists have found that different histone modifications (shown here as green and yellow glowing regions) are associated with different levels of gene activity.



In *Birth of a Nation* (2015), artist Paul Rucker recasts Ku Klux Klan robes in vibrant, contemporary fabrics like spandex, kente cloth, camouflage and white satin — a reminder that the horrors of slavery and the Jim Crow South still define the contours of American life today. *Photo: Rafael Soldi*



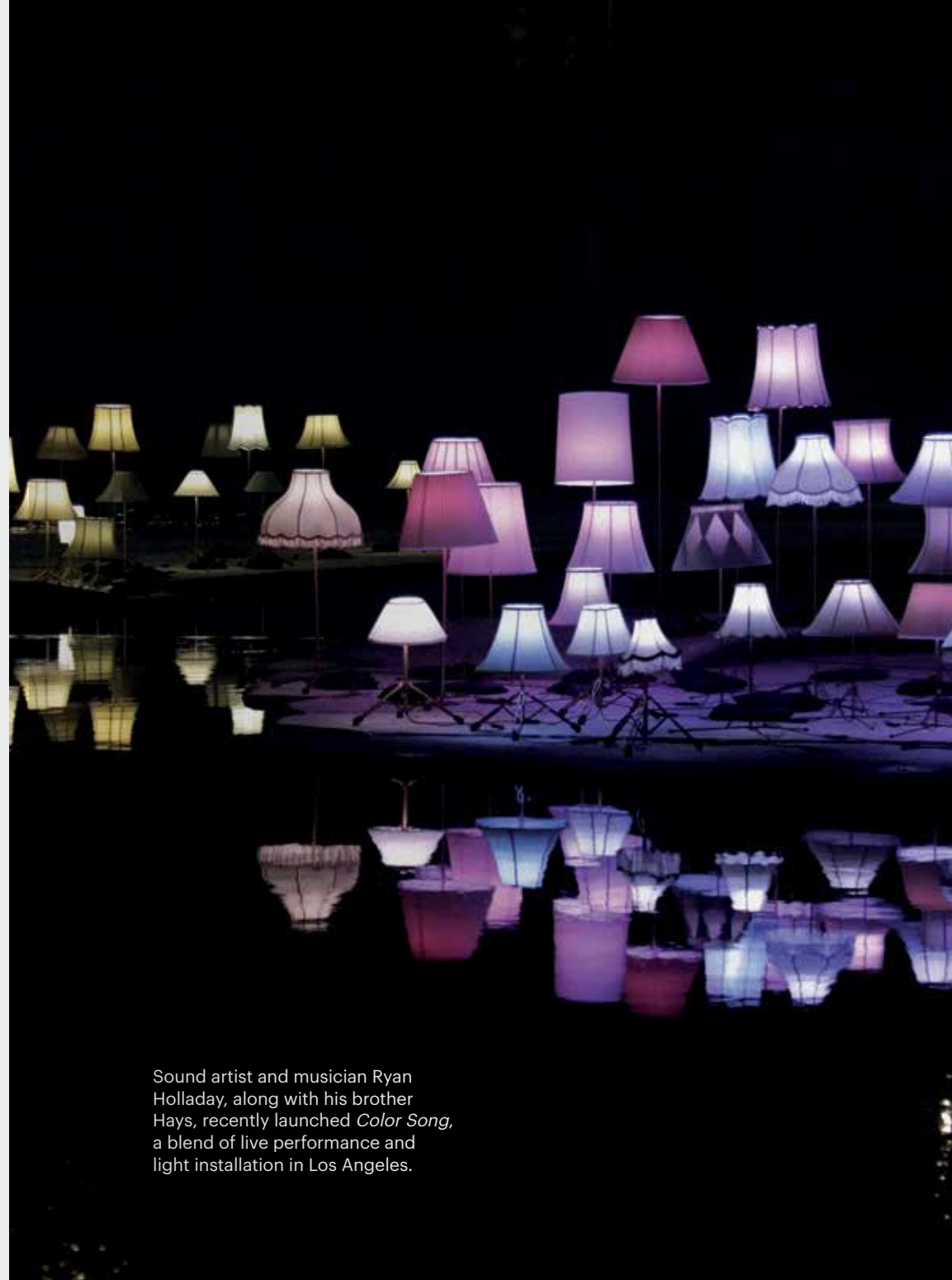
Harbor seal patient Bogey gets a checkup at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California. Veterinarian Claire Simeone studies marine mammals like harbor seals to understand how the health of animals, humans and our oceans are interrelated. Photo: Ingrid Overgard / The Marine Mammal Center



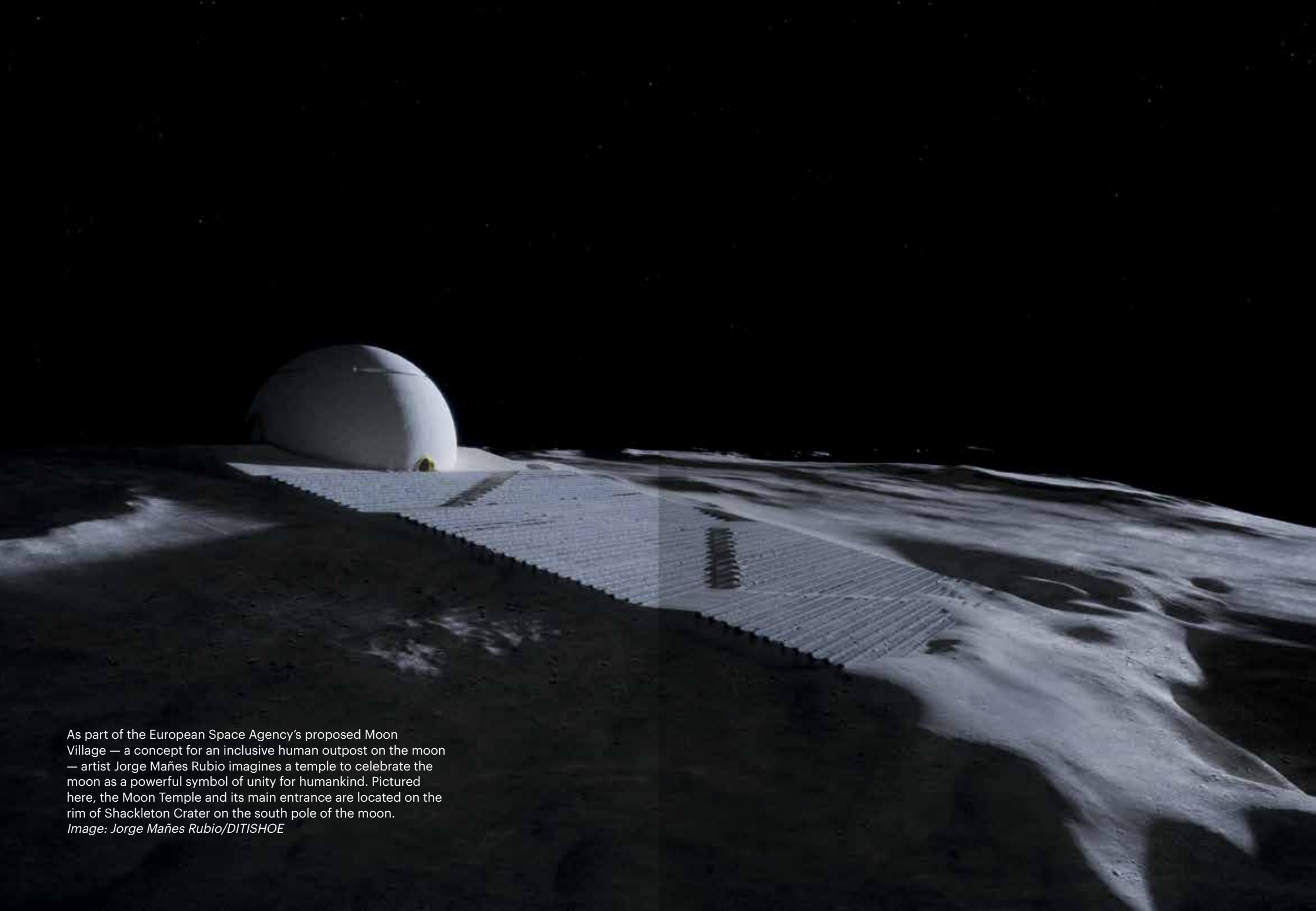
Chulalongkorn Centennial Park in Bangkok, Thailand. The park, designed by landscape architect Kotchakorn Voraakhom, helps fortify the city against climate change. Its unique inclined structure drains runoff water through a series of green roofs, rain gardens and constructed wetlands into a retention pond. *Photo: Landprocess*



Developed by environmental entrepreneur Romain Lacombe, Flow makes it easy to measure harmful pollutants both indoors and out with an easy-to-read display and 360-degree air intake. *Photo: Plume Labs*



Sound artist and musician Ryan Holladay, along with his brother Hays, recently launched *Color Song*, a blend of live performance and light installation in Los Angeles.



As part of the European Space Agency's proposed Moon Village — a concept for an inclusive human outpost on the moon — artist Jorge Mañes Rubio imagines a temple to celebrate the moon as a powerful symbol of unity for humankind. Pictured here, the Moon Temple and its main entrance are located on the rim of Shackleton Crater on the south pole of the moon.

Image: Jorge Mañes Rubio/DITISHOE



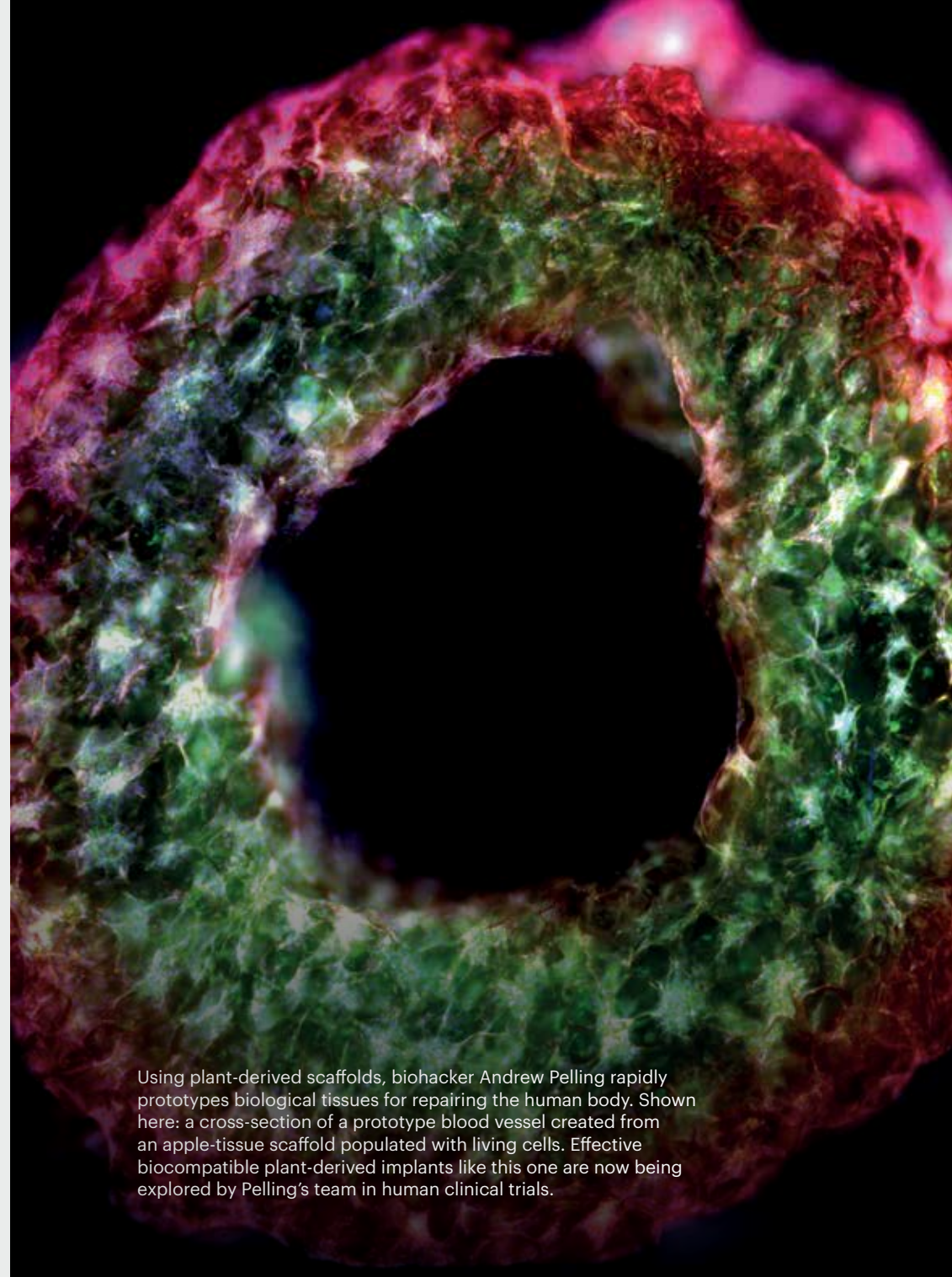
In *Sacred Catastrophe: Healing Lebanon*, artist Zena El Khalil transformed Beirut's most iconic war-torn building, Beit Beirut, into a sanctuary for art, healing, bearing witness and forgiveness.



In "Alysia," an ongoing long-term photo project, Isadora Kosofsky documents a young woman's incarceration and life thereafter in New Mexico. Here, Alysia, 16, comforts her cellmate, Jasmine, 15, who's just found out her grandfather has passed away.



Brazilian chef David Hertz runs Gastromotiva, a civic organization that provides culinary education to marginalized groups across Latin America. To date, Gastromotiva has helped transform the lives of thousands of young people living in poverty. *Photo courtesy of Gastromotiva*



Using plant-derived scaffolds, biohacker Andrew Pelling rapidly prototypes biological tissues for repairing the human body. Shown here: a cross-section of a prototype blood vessel created from an apple-tissue scaffold populated with living cells. Effective biocompatible plant-derived implants like this one are now being explored by Pelling's team in human clinical trials.



Psychiatrist Essam Daod during a rescue mission on the Greek island of Lesbos in 2015. His organization Humanity Crew provides psychological aid to refugees and recently displaced populations.
Photo: Matias Quirno Costa



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Antionette Carroll

2018 Fellows

Social entrepreneur + designer
USA

Designer and social entrepreneur Antionette Carroll was living in St Louis, Missouri, during the 2014 protests that followed the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson. Recognizing the need for a new space of inclusion, creativity and action, she formed Creative Reaction Lab, a social justice nonprofit that supports black and Latinx populations in using social justice-oriented design thinking to create racially equitable communities. Projects that

emerged from that first lab ranged from public art initiatives to educational programs — including Cards Against Brutality, a game and curriculum addressing media framing, and Look Beyond Your Fear, a guerrilla street art campaign. Today, the St Louis-based nonprofit educates and engages black and Latinx youth to upend traditional design thinking and address racial inequities within education, government, public service, health and media.

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creativereactionlab.com
antionettecarroll.design

@creativexlab
@acarrolldesign



Photo: Laurence Geai

Essam Daod

2018 Fellows

Mental health specialist
Palestine / Israel

In 2015, child psychiatrist Essam Daod was a volunteer doctor on the Greek island of Lesbos, where he witnessed the unspeakable suffering and trauma of thousands of refugees arriving from the Middle East, Asia and Africa. "I left the island wondering how these people can handle all this loss and trauma without any kind of psychosocial support," he says. Daod founded the humanitarian aid agency Humanity Crew in 2015 with his wife Maria Jammal to provide such support. With an operating

base in Greece, Humanity Crew recruits, trains and deploys mental health professionals and qualified volunteers to deliver psychosocial services to refugees and displaced populations in an effort to improve refugee well-being and prevent further psychological trauma. Leading research in the field of refugee mental health, Humanity Crew ultimately hopes to raise the profile of mental health care as a fundamental aspect of emergency humanitarian crisis response.



essamdaod.com
humanitycrew.org

@essamdaod
@humanitycrew



Photo: Joshua Ives

Laura L. Dunn

2018 Fellows

Victims' rights attorney
USA

Laura Dunn is a nationally recognized victims' rights attorney who in 2014 founded the national nonprofit SurvJustice, which works to increase the prospect of justice for all survivors of campus sexual violence. SurvJustice offers legal assistance to survivors, policy advocacy on victims' rights and institutional trainings on best practices for prevention of and response to sexual violence.

Dunn represents survivors in campus hearings and civil litigation. She also routinely serves as an expert consultant and witness on sexual assault cases. As the only national organization providing legal assistance to survivors in campus hearings across the US, SurvJustice is ultimately working to create cultural norms around sexual respect and survivor support.

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survjustice.org
lauraldunnesq.com

@SurvJustice
@LauraLDunnEsq



Rola Hallam

2018 Fellows

Humanitarian aid entrepreneur

Syria / UK

After war broke out in her home country of Syria, British-Syrian anesthesiologist Rola Hallam wanted to use her medical expertise to work directly with Syrian NGOs to help save lives. She co-founded Hand in Hand for Syria, which played an integral part in building seven hospitals in northern Syria. But Hallam wanted to make sure local aid organizations — not just international NGOs — had support, too. In 2016, she founded CanDo,

a social enterprise that enables local humanitarians from war-devastated areas to provide aid to their own communities through global crowdfunding. CanDo also supports these NGOs with its accelerator program. To date, CanDo has helped raise \$400,000 from over 5,000 donors around the world. Hallam also works as a global advocate to press decision-makers to stop the targeting of civilians in war zones, and for the protection of medical neutrality.



candoaction.org

[@candoaction](https://twitter.com/candoaction)



Photo: James Bernal

M Jackson

2018 Fellows

Geographer + glaciologist
USA

Glaciologist M Jackson researches the cultural and social impacts of climate change on communities across all eight circumpolar nations. She has worked for over a decade in the Arctic, chronicling the impacts of climate change there, guiding backcountry trips and exploring glacial systems. She is also an advocate for making glaciology more inclusive and for expanding conventional scientific practices to include indigenous and local knowledge. Her 2015 book *While Glaciers Slept:*

Being Human in a Time of Climate Change weaves together parallel stories of what happens when the climates of both a family and a planet change, and her more recent work *The Secret Lives of Glaciers* tells the stories of Icelandic people and glaciers through the lens of climatic change. She's currently working on "In Tangible Ice," a multiyear Arctic project examining the socio-physical dimensions of glacier retreat in near-glacier communities.



drmjackson.com

[@Dr_M_Jackson_](https://twitter.com/Dr_M_Jackson_)



Saran Kaba Jones

2018 Fellows

Clean-water advocate

Liberia / USA

Forced to flee Liberia with her family when she was just 8 years old, Saran Kaba Jones returned home 20 years later to help her country access clean and safe drinking water. Today, her company FACE Africa works to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in rural communities across sub-Saharan Africa. Over the last nine years, FACE has built more than 60 clean water and sanitation systems

using local materials and local labor, benefiting more than 100,000 people in rural Liberia. FACE Africa is now at work on an initiative to bring clean water to more than 750,000 people in three counties in Liberia using multiple water-provision techniques, including drilled and hand-dug wells in large communities and household water filtration systems in remote, last-mile communities.



faceafrica.org

[@sarankjones](https://twitter.com/sarankjones)



Yasin Kakande

2018 Fellows

Investigative journalist + author
Uganda

Investigative journalist Yasin Kakande works undercover in the Middle East to expose human rights abuses of migrant workers. He investigates the reasons why Africans choose to migrate to the Middle East, Europe and America, and traces the severe consequences of countries closing their borders to African

migrants. A migrant himself, first to the Middle East and recently to the US, Kakande is the author of two books: *Slave States*, an exposé of the enslavement, trafficking and abuse of workers in the Gulf Arab region, and *The Ambitious Struggle: An African Journalist's Journey of Hope and Identity in a Land of Migrants*.

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yasinkakande.com

 [@yasikak](https://twitter.com/yasikak)



Isadora Kosofsky

2018 Fellows

Photojournalist + filmmaker

USA

Isadora Kosofsky began taking photographs after the death of her grandmother, who raised her. Then just age 14, Kosofsky found solace in photographing individuals in retirement and nursing homes around her city of Los Angeles, California. Today, she devotes herself to documenting American social issues from a humanistic stance, exploring underrepresented communities such as senior citizens,

developmentally disabled people and incarcerated youth. She takes an immersive approach, working with her subjects for years at a time, and believes that the relationships she forms with her long-term subjects are often tantamount to the image-making itself. Currently, Kosofsky is working on a documentary project about young women ages 15 to 25 and the effects of early childhood violence and PTSD on their intimate lives.

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isadorakosofsky.com

[@isadorakosofsky](https://twitter.com/isadorakosofsky)



Adam Kucharski

2018 Fellows

Infectious disease scientist

UK

Adam Kucharski creates mathematical and computational approaches to help understand how epidemics like Zika and Ebola spread, and how to better control them. During the 2013–2016 Ebola epidemic, he worked on real-time modeling analysis in West Africa, advising on disease containment strategies. He has also led analysis of influenza, dengue fever and Zika outbreaks. His research is providing new insights

into how Zika spread prior to the Latin American epidemic, and shows how social behavior can shape influenza outbreaks. His popular science articles have appeared in such publications as *The Observer*, *Financial Times*, *New Scientist* and *Scientific American*. Currently, Kucharski is developing new ways to extract reliable insights about disease transmission from unreliable surveillance data.



kucharski.io

@AdamJKucharski



Romain Lacombe

2018 Fellows


Environmental entrepreneur
France

With his environmental technology startup Plume Labs, inventor Romain Lacombe builds advanced technologies to help citizens measure, track, map and forecast the quality of the air they breathe. Plume's free mobile app sends live smog alerts to help users take action against pollution. "Air quality is the first avoidable cause

of death today," Lacombe says. "Yet no tech company or government agency addresses it with our focus, resolve and citizen-centric approach." Lacombe's team is currently developing Flow, a wearable air-quality sensor that analyzes ambient air quality, alerting users as well as creating crowdsourced air-quality maps.



plumelabs.com

 [@rlacombe](https://twitter.com/rlacombe)
[@plume_labs](https://twitter.com/plume_labs)



Lucy Marcil

2018 Fellows

Pediatrician + social entrepreneur
USA

Pediatrician Lucy Marcil helps low-income families tackle their financial problems in an effort to decrease stress and improve child health. In 2015, along with fellow pediatrician Michael Hole, Marcil founded StreetCred, a Boston-based nonprofit that helps families file taxes and apply for such social and financial services as the Earned Income Tax Credit — the United States' largest anti-poverty program — from the safety of their doctor's waiting room. While such services have

been proven to improve health and well-being, they are typically difficult to access. "Families trust their doctors, making hospitals and clinics an excellent place to provide families with free tax preparation and financial coaching, job training and child care," Marcil says. Over the last two years, StreetCred has returned over \$1.6 million to 750 families, and it is now piloting an initiative to provide families with a bundle of services to create financial stability.



mystreetcred.org



Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil

2018 Fellows

Astrophysicist


Turkey / USA

Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil studies the structure and dynamics of galaxies. Her own discovery – a rare, double-ringed elliptical galaxy nicknamed “Burçin’s Galaxy” – challenges our current theories and assumptions about how the universe works. As a Muslim woman, an immigrant astronomer and the first generation in her family to attend university, Mutlu-Pakdil is committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion

in the scientific community. “As a female astronomer, I dream to be an inspiring role model who shows everyone that science can be both enjoyable and reachable for anyone, especially for women,” she says. As a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Arizona, Mutlu-Pakdil is currently searching for the smallest galaxies in the nearby universe, a key to understanding early galaxy formation.



burcinmutlupakdil.net

 [@bmutlupakdil](https://twitter.com/bmutlupakdil)



Faith Osier

2018 Fellows

Infectious disease doctor

Kenya / Germany

Malaria kills hundreds of thousands of children in Africa each year, leaving many survivors with lifelong disabilities. Kenyan immunologist Faith Osier studies how humans acquire immunity to the disease, translating her research into new, highly effective malaria vaccines. "The solution I see is a return to basics, using the most advanced technology to go back to the malaria parasite and determine which proteins are responsible for the type of antibodies that eliminate malaria infections,"

she says. Osier also trains African scientists, equipping them to be global leaders who can contribute to Africa's economic growth through the eradication of disease. She is currently working as a researcher at the Heidelberg University Hospital in Germany and is the founder of the South-South Malaria Antigen Research ParTnership (SMART) network, which allows scientific collaborators from African countries to share samples and resources to accelerate vaccine development.



kemri-wellcome.org/author/faith

[@FaithOsier](https://twitter.com/FaithOsier)



Photo: Ryan Stevenson

Paul Rucker

2018 Fellows

Visual artist + cellist
USA

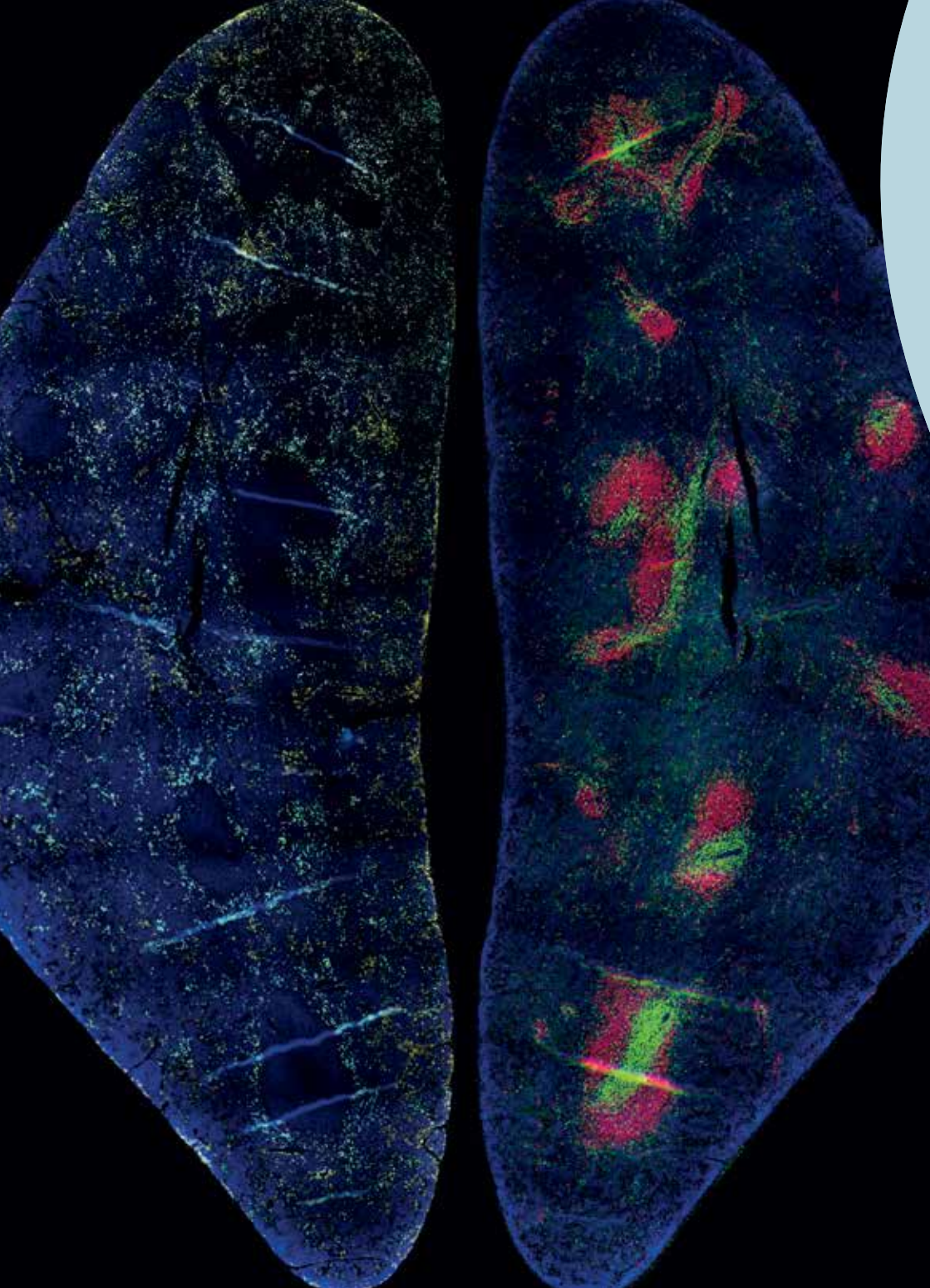
Multidisciplinary artist Paul Rucker explores issues related to mass incarceration, racially motivated violence, police brutality and the continuing social and economic impact of slavery in the US. For his 2009 data visualization project *Proliferation*, for instance, he illustrated the rapid growth of the US prison system from 1778 to 2008, setting the animation to his own cello composition. For his 2015 project *Birth of*

a Nation, he made a new Ku Klux Klan robe every week for a year, recasting the robes in vibrant, contemporary fabrics like spandex, kente cloth and camouflage — a reminder that the horrors of slavery and the Jim Crow South still define the contours of American life today. “Art can teach history,” Rucker says. “It has the power to make visible that which too often goes unseen and unacknowledged.”



rewindexhibition.com
paulrucker.com
inlightofhistory.com

[@blackcellist](https://twitter.com/blackcellist)



Kaitlyn Sadtler

2018 Fellows

Regenerative tissue engineer
USA

Tissue engineer Kaitlyn Sadtler harnesses the body's immune system to create regenerative systems that mend muscles and heal wounds quickly. While working on her PhD at Johns Hopkins University, Sadtler discovered an immune cell critical for muscle regeneration. Now a postdoctoral fellow at MIT, she works to promote tissue regeneration using scaffolds created with synthetic materials, like degradable plastics, as well as with biological materials, like collagen — integrating

immunology with bioengineering. "If we give injured tissue the correct environment, we can regenerate a functional replacement organ," she says. "This field will transform our methods of regenerating tissue, decreasing the need for organ transplants and allowing us to treat previously untreatable wounds." Currently, Sadtler is building connections between researchers in immunology and bioengineering to help promote discoveries in regenerative medicine.



 @KSadtler



DeAndrea Salvador

2018 Fellows

Environmental justice advocate
USA

In the US, low-income families pay more for energy: while an energy bill totalling more than 6% of a household's income is considered unaffordable, low-income households often pay more than 20% of their income on energy. Sustainability expert DeAndrea Salvador is working to change that. In 2014, she founded Renewable Energy Transition Initiative (RETI), a nonprofit that advocates for inclusive clean-energy policies that help low-income families

sustainably reduce their energy costs with access to cutting-edge technology. Salvador also sits on the board of directors for Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!), which gives youth tools to create community change, and serves on the Mecklenburg County Air Quality Commission, addressing air-quality improvements and concerns. Ultimately, Salvador hopes to mobilize community-centered approaches to decrease energy costs and increase quality of life.



retiset.org
deandrea.io

@retiset
@DNewmanSalvador



Photo: Ingrid Overgard / The Marine Mammal Center

Claire Simeone

2018 Fellows

Marine mammal veterinarian
USA


Veterinarian and conservationist Claire Simeone studies how the health of marine mammals influences human and ocean health, emphasizing the interrelatedness of human and animal well-being. With a background in marine mammal medicine and wildlife conservation, Simeone is hospital director at The

Marine Mammal Center in Ke Kai Ola, Hawaii, the world's only rehabilitation hospital dedicated to endangered Hawaiian monk seals. Having recently completed a study of neurologic disease in sea lions housed in zoos and aquaria, her current work investigates new medical therapies for marine mammals.

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marinemammalcenter.org

 @claire_simeone



Kotchakorn Voraakhom

2018 Fellows

Urban landscape architect
Thailand

Landscape architect Kotchakorn Voraakhom tackles climate change and urban ecological problems through novel landscape architectural design. She is the founder of Landprocess, a Bangkok-based design firm that builds public green spaces and green infrastructure, aiming both to increase urban resilience and to protect vulnerable communities from the devastating effects of climate change. She's also the

founder and CEO of Porous City Network, a landscape architecture social enterprise working to increase urban resilience in Southeast Asian cities, where flooding and water scarcity are exacerbated by dense urban settings. Voraakhom has designed Chulalongkorn Centennial Park, a major urban ecological park in the heart of Bangkok, as well as productive public green spaces along the floodplain and coastal areas of the city.



landprocess.co.th
porouscity.or



Olga Yurkova

2018 Fellows


Journalist + editor
Ukraine

Journalist and editor Olga Yurkova is the cofounder of StopFake, an independent website that fact checks news media in order to verify or refute information emerging about Ukraine. As the originator of the idea, she helped launch the website in 2014 with a group of lecturers, graduates and students at the Mohyla School of Journalism in response to Russian propaganda efforts around the annexation of Crimea and the war in Eastern Ukraine.

While StopFake began as a volunteer community, it has since evolved into a sophisticated fact-checking and media organization with an international cohort of fact checkers, covering media sources in 11 languages. StopFake also conducts academic research on fake news and offers institutional training. To date, the organization has verified tens of thousands of articles, photos and videos, and revealed more than 1,000 misleading news items.



stopfake.org/en

 [@olga_yurkova](https://twitter.com/olga_yurkova)



Mikhail Zygar

2018 Fellows

Journalist + historian
Russia

Journalist and writer Mikhail Zygar covers contemporary and historical Russia. From 2010 to 2015 he served as the editor-in-chief of Dozhd, the only independent news TV channel in Russia. Last year, he founded Project1917, a digital documentary project that narrates the 1917 Russian Revolution in an effort to contextualize modern-day Russian issues. Providing a day-by-day account of that catalytic year through historical documents, including personal letters and

diaries, Project1917 offers insight into what people were thinking and doing as the Revolution unfolded. Zygar's bestselling book *All the Kremlin's Men*, based on unprecedented interviews with Russian president Vladimir Putin's inner circle, presents a radical view of power and politics in Russia. His latest book, *The Empire Must Die*, portrays the vivid civil drama of the years leading up to the Russian Revolution.

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project1917.com
1968.digital

@zygaro



Ser-nio-rs

About the Senior Fellows:

Senior Fellows embody the spirit of the TED Fellows program, mentor new Fellows and continue to share their remarkable work with the TED community.

How it works:

Each year, ten TED Fellows are selected to become Senior Fellows based on their sustained engagement with the program and on promising ongoing projects that can benefit from the support of the wider TED community. Senior Fellows attend four additional TED conferences, often delivering another talk. They meet at TED HQ in New York to share their work, build community and learn about new opportunities. Over the course of their two-year Senior Fellowship, they also often launch new collaborations with other Fellows.

Get to know the Senior Fellows attending TED2018 in the following pages.

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Benedetta Berti

Senior Fellows

Conflict and security researcher + author
Belgium / Italy

Policy consultant Benedetta Berti studies armed groups and internal conflicts, analyzing the impact of insecurity on civilians and working to mitigate the repercussions of armed conflict on communities. She is currently in charge of policy planning and a senior adviser serving the Secretary General of NATO, the youngest person and only woman to have held that position.

What are you currently working on?

In my role at NATO, I'm bringing a stronger focus to protection of civilians and to building better bridges between the security and humanitarian communities.



benedettaberti.com

[@benedettabertiw](https://twitter.com/benedettabertiw)

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Steve Boyes

Conservation biologist
South Africa


Steve Boyes explores and studies remote wildernesses in Africa, including the threatened Okavango Delta, to protect and restore them. Trained as an ornithologist, he is the executive director of the Wild Bird Trust and a Fellow at the National Geographic Society.

What are you currently working on?

We are working with the Angolan government on establishing two of the largest protected areas in sub-Saharan Africa, covering an area twice the size of England. To do this, we've compiled reports detailing the Delta's value and presented the number of new and endangered species found within. Last year, we produced a film and two photographic books to share with the Angolan cabinet and launched the 2017 Cubango River Megatranssect expedition, which surveyed more than 1,500 kilometers of the Cubango River. Next month, we launch the Cuando River Megatranssect expedition, traveling from its source over 1,800 kilometers to the Linyanti Swamps, a journey that will take more than three months.



wildbirdtrust.com
intotheokavango.org

 @drsteveboyes

Laura Boykin

Senior Fellows

Computational biologist
USA / Australia


Laura Boykin uses genomics and supercomputing to combat hunger and increase food security in sub-Saharan Africa. She helps smallholder farmers control whiteflies and the viruses they transmit, which have caused devastation of local cassava crops, a staple in many countries.

What are you currently working on?

My colleagues and I are harnessing high-tech scientific breakthroughs in computing and genomics to help smallholder farmers in East Africa (Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya) increase crop yields. Our recent Cassava Virus Action Project – a collaboration between scientists, farmers and industry – uses pocket DNA sequencing to help farmers diagnose sick plants and ultimately increase their yield.



lauraboykinresearch.com
cassavavirusactionproject.com

 @laura_boykin

Kitra Cahana

Documentary filmmaker + photographer
Canada / USA


Kitra Cahana has covered topics as far-ranging as nomadic youth identities in the United States to her father's struggle with locked-in syndrome. She is a contributing photographer to *National Geographic* magazine.

What are you currently working on?

I am directing and shooting a series of short films about youth across Canada for the CBC.



kitracahana.com

 [@kitracahana](https://twitter.com/kitracahana)

Prosanta Chakrabarty

Senior Fellows

Ichthyologist
USA


Evolutionary biologist and natural historian Prosanta Chakrabarty researches fish around the world in an effort to understand fundamental aspects of biological diversity. By studying disjunction — when closely related species are found far from each other geographically — he is helping to explain how the world has changed geologically.

What are you currently working on?

I'm at work on a new book, "The New Naturalist," which I hope will be a guide to how natural history science is learned and carried out in the modern age. I'm also doing my regular job of discovering new species in new places, as well as working on better understanding the Tree of Life.



prosanta.net

 [@Preaux_Fish](https://twitter.com/Preaux_Fish)



8708



8709

A pair of shrimpfish collected in Tanzanian mangroves by ichthyologist Prosanta Chakrabarty and his colleagues. These unusual fish, which swim head down among aquatic plants, may represent an unknown population or even a new species.
Photo: Prosanta Chakrabarty

Aziza Chaouni

Architect
Morocco


Civil engineer and architect Aziza Chaouni creates sustainable built environments in the developing world, particularly in the deserts of the Middle East.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on a rehabilitation plan for a Brutalist thermal station complex designed by architect Jean-François Zevaco in Morocco in the 1960s.



azizachaouniprojects.com

 [@aziza_chaouni](https://twitter.com/aziza_chaouni)

Zena el Khalil

Senior Fellows

Artist + cultural activist
Lebanon

Artist and cultural activist


Zena el Khalil uses visual art, site-specific installation, performance and ritual to explore and heal war-torn Lebanon and other global sites of trauma. She also curates cultural events that create community spaces and platforms for dialogue and reconciliation.

What are you currently working on?

I am conducting healing ceremonies across Lebanon in spaces that have historically endured trauma and violence, with the intention of transforming these places and the objects in them into generators of peace and reconciliation. These ceremonies include a process of meditation, chanting, dancing, whirling and a purifying fire ritual through which I create paintings, sculptures, sound and video art.



zenaelkhalil.com

 [@zenaelkhalil](https://twitter.com/zenaelkhalil)

Shohini Ghose

Quantum physicist + educator
Canada


Shohini Ghose develops quantum computers and novel protocols like teleportation. Serving as the director of the Centre for Women in Science at Wilfrid Laurier University, she also advocates for equity and diversity in science.

What are you currently working on?

I'm testing and evaluating network quantum teleportation and communication protocols and at work on a new study of quantum chaos using the IBM quantum computer. I'm also involved in discussions to create a quantum tech ecosystem in North America. As the director of the Centre for Women in Science, I'm developing several new interdisciplinary and art-based initiatives to promote social justice and inclusion in science. In 2018, I'll launch a popular science book in India and will soon start working on the third edition of my astronomy textbook.



wlu.ca/wins
wlu.ca/science/sghose

 @LaurierWinS

David Hertz

Senior Fellows

Chef + social entrepreneur
Brazil


David Hertz is the founder of Gastromotiva, a civic organization that provides culinary education to marginalized groups across Latin America.

What are you currently working on?

I am cofounding a social gastronomic movement to fight hunger, poverty and social exclusion worldwide with a multiple-stakeholder approach. Leading by example, we also run an inclusive food hub in Rio de Janeiro called Refettorio Gastromotiva, cooking only with food waste, offering chefs training and serving free meals to society's most excluded people. I continue to dedicate my energy and time transforming lives through values inherent to food and cooking.



gastromotiva.org
refettoriogastromotiva.org

 @davidhertz

Ryan Holladay

Musical artist
USA


Ryan Holladay combines music and technology to create site-specific sound installations, interactive concerts and GPS-based compositions for locations around the world, working in collaboration with his brother.

What are you currently working on?

In 2018, the Holladay brothers will launch a site-specific sound installation – commissioned by the US State Department – to coincide with the opening of the new United States Embassy in London.



hrholladay.com

 @BluebrainMusic

Bektour Iskender

Senior Fellows

Independent news publisher
Kyrgyzstan


The cofounder of Kloop, an NGO and leading news publication in Kyrgyzstan, Bektour Iskender is committed to freedom of speech as well as to training young journalists to cover politics and investigate corruption. Most journalists at Kloop are between the ages of 14 and 25 and have broken high-impact national news stories.

What are you currently working on?

Last year, Kloop Journalism School expanded to offer courses on programming and robotics. We plan to run a robotics course for girls from rural Kyrgyzstan in March 2018, hoping to inspire them to build the simplest possible satellite and send it into orbit. This will be the first-ever Kyrgyz satellite.



kloop.kg

 @bektour

Jedidah Isler


Astrophysicist + intersectional STEM activist
USA

Astrophysicist Jedidah Isler studies blazars — the hyperactive supermassive black holes at the center of some massive galaxies. She also advocates for inclusive, intersectional STEM education and is the founder of the SeRCH Foundation, whose signature program #VanguardSTEM is an online platform that cultivates an empowered community of women of color in STEM.

What are you currently working on?
I'm building an international movement of women of color in STEM to support, uplift, mentor, advocate for and empower one another through #VanguardSTEM. Through the SeRCH Foundation, I'm also creating an empirically based, culturally appropriate set of best practices for engaging with intersectional folk and eradicating bias and discrimination in the STEM enterprise.



jedidahislerphd.com
vanguardSTEM.com

 @JedidahIslerPhD
@VanguardSTEM

Senior Fellows

Janet Iwasa


Molecular animator
USA

Janet Iwasa is a biologist and molecular animator at the University of Utah and founder of 1 μ m Illustration. Iwasa employs 3D animation software to create molecular and cellular visualizations that are used by researchers to illustrate, explore and communicate their hypotheses.

What are you currently working on?
I'm working on an animation project called the Science of HIV that depicts, in molecular detail, how a virus is able to infect cells. I'm also collaborating with two other TED Fellows, Kellee Santiago and Jimmy Lin, to create a citizen-science game to let people help researchers analyze microscopic images. Meanwhile, I'm creating a three-dimensional, explorable and animated cell in collaboration with the Allen Institute for Cell Science.



onem micron.com
scienceofHIV.org

 @janetiwasa



Computational biologist Laura Boykin works with local farmers and scientists in sub-Saharan Africa to study the effects of whitefly-transmitted viruses on cassava crops. Pictured from left to right: Dr Titus Alicai, Dr Monica Kehoe, Dr Joseph Ndunguru, Dr Peter Sseruwagi, Dr Laura Boykin, Professor Elijah Ateka.
Photo: Monica Kehoe

Mitchell Jackson

Writer + filmmaker
USA


Writer Mitchell Jackson explores race, masculinity, the criminal justice system and family relationships through fiction, essays and documentary film. His upcoming essay collection "Survival Math" is out August 2018.

What are you currently working on?

I'm working on the last revisions of my essay collection "Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family." I'm also in the midst of editing the accompanying film, "Survival Math: A Lyric Film," and working on Survivor Files, a project that documents the survival stories of people outside of my immediate circle. Each participant in the project answers the same question: "What's the toughest thing you've survived?" I'm interested in meeting people who are willing to share their survival stories and ultimately finding a platform to help the project reach a wide audience.



mitchellsjackson.com

 [@mitchsjackson](https://twitter.com/mitchsjackson)

E Roon Kang

Senior Fellows

Designer + artist
USA / South Korea

Graphic designer and artist E Roon Kang operates Math Practice, a design and research studio in New York City that explores computational techniques and studies their implications in graphic design. He is also an assistant professor of Interaction Design at Parsons School of Design.

What are you currently working on?

I'm in my first year of directing the undergraduate design program at Parsons while also continuing to work on exciting projects in my studio. And raising a newborn!



eroonkang.com
math-practice.org

Christine Sun Kim

Sound artist + composer
US / Germany


New York and Berlin-based artist Christine Sun Kim uses the medium of sound in performance and drawing to investigate her relationship with spoken languages and her aural environment.

What are you working on now?

I'm currently producing new score drawings for Art Basel based on my newborn baby's "sound diet." It's a concept that has practical value for my family by fostering a balance between both sign and spoken languages. At the moment, my "too much future" billboard project for the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City is up by Highline Park until June. It shows a very thick black line following the sign for "future" in American Sign Language, signifying both optimism and anxiety.



christinesunkim.com

 [@chrisunkim](https://twitter.com/chrisunkim)

Michele Koppes

Senior Fellows

Glaciologist
Canada / USA

Glaciologist and geomorphologist Michele Koppes investigates the way glaciers and landscapes respond to rapid climate change. She works to capture the impacts of these changes and finds ways to better communicate their risks to the global public. She also promotes feminist perspectives on geography and climate change.

What are you currently working on?

I'm currently using interdisciplinary and acoustic approaches to explore second-order impacts of climate change on landscapes worldwide. As global warming causes glaciers and snowpacks to recede, the loss of ice leads to increasing risk of floods, landslides, tsunamis and coastal erosion, as well as to rising temperatures and sediment in rivers and oceans worldwide - with dire physical, socioecological and cultural effects on the people who live downstream.



blogs.ubc.ca/koppes
climateandcryospherelab.com



Participants in Brick x Brick, a public art performance co-organized by designer Sarah Sandman, stand in Washington, DC, to protest misogynistic language used in US politics. *Photo: Jeffrey Brandsted*

Carrie Nugent

Asteroid hunter
USA


Carrie Nugent uses machine learning to discover and study near-Earth asteroids, our smallest and most numerous cosmic neighbors. An asteroid impact is the only natural disaster we have the technology to prevent, but prevention takes time, so astronomers must search for near-Earth asteroids now.

What are you currently working on?

In addition to discovering and studying asteroids, I've been working for GlobalXplorer, an organization that's protecting human heritage by enlisting the public to identify archaeological sites in satellite images. I'm using my technical skills to help speed up the process. I also recently wrote a book, *Asteroid Hunters*, and produce and host *Spacepod*, a podcast about space exploration. *Spacepod* celebrates the everyday scientists and engineers who diligently work to expand humanity's knowledge of outer space.



crnugent.com
listen2spacepod.com

 @listen2spacepod

Prumsodun Ok

Senior Fellows

Interdisciplinary artist
Cambodia

Choreographer Prumsodun Ok is dedicated to the ancient art of Cambodian classical dance, which was almost annihilated by the Khmer Rouge. Ok founded NATYARASA, Cambodia's first gay dance company, which merges classical Cambodian and experimental dance to elevate the quality of life and expression for LGBT people in the country and throughout the world.

What are you currently working on?

My dance company NATYARASA offers new life and possibility to the ancient art of Khmer classical dance – while creating a platform for LGBTQ people to be seen, valued and heard. As a culturally specific model for arts activism, we're uniquely positioned to create lasting, systemic transformation from the ground up, and from within Cambodia out. My current focus is sustainability, to ensure long-term impact.



prumsodun.com



A dancer in Prumsodun Ok &
NATYARASA — the first gay Khmer
dance company in Cambodia —
prepares for a show.
Photo: Nobuyuki Ara

Andrew Pelling

Scientist + biohacker
Canada


In his research lab, scientist and professor Andrew Pelling uses novel materials to develop next-generation medical innovations and speculative living technologies of the future. He's the cofounder and CSO of Spiderwort, a company innovating plant-derived biomaterials and medical devices for reconstructive surgery and regenerative medicine.

What are you currently working on?

My research lab continues to challenge the boundaries of biology – creating living human body parts made from plants, growing living skins on LEGOs and using microscopic textures to control stem cell fate and organization. I'm now translating these discoveries into medical and commercial applications. At Spiderwort, we're developing plant-based biomaterials for regenerating and repairing human tissues following the devastating effects of injury or disease. Spiderwort is now undertaking human clinical trials and is in the early stages of commercialization.



pellinglab.net
spiderwort.bio

 @pellinglab

Joshua Roman

Senior Fellows

Cellist
USA


Joshua Roman is an internationally recognized cellist, composer and curator who frequently collaborates with genre-spanning musicians as well as creates original compositions for new audiences.

What are you currently working on?

This season I'm touring my current project, *Tornado* – a full-length quintet for cello and string quartet – with the JACK Quartet. I am also working on several interdisciplinary collaborations and finding ways to connect great classical music with a larger audience.



joshuaroman.com

 @joshua_cello

Jorge Mañes Rubio

Artist
Spain


Artist Jorge Mañes Rubio investigates overlooked places on our planet and beyond, creating artworks that reimagine and revive these sites through photography, site-specific installation and sculpture.

What are you currently working on?

Right now I'm working with the European Space Agency to create a new series of artworks made with aerospace materials. Inspired by the concept of the Moon Village – a proposed human outpost on the moon – these pieces merge strong ethnographic influences from past cultures with futuristic aesthetics, reimagining our legacy as humans in a potential interplanetary future. I've also just completed a two-month project in South Korea with Korean shamans.



seethisway.com

 [@seethisway](https://twitter.com/seethisway)

Sarah Sandman

Senior Fellows

Artist + designer
USA


Artist and designer Sarah Sandman creates experiences that amplify messages of social and environmental justice – such as Brick x Brick, a public art performance inspired by the 2016 US election that builds human “walls” against the language of misogyny.

What are you currently working on?

My direct-action art project Brick x Brick participated in the first anniversary of the Women's March on January 20, 2018. We built simultaneous human walls against misogyny across the United States in Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and California. We are continuing to schedule future actions and developing other ways to engage our rapidly growing community.



sarahsandman.com
makingitpublic.com

 [@pdacollective](https://twitter.com/pdacollective)
[@sarahsandman](https://twitter.com/sarahsandman)



Elephants crossing the Boteti River in Botswana. This image was taken during a 2,500-kilometer research expedition down the Okavango River from its source in the Angolan highlands to its end in the Kalahari Desert, led by conservationist and explorer Steve Boyes. *Photo: James Kydd.*

David Moinina Sengeh

AI scientist
Sierra Leone / South Africa

Parmesh Shahani

Senior Fellows

Writer + LGBTQ activist
India

Research scientist David Moinina Sengeh designs new health care technologies – including artificial intelligence – to cure and fight disease in Africa. Currently at IBM Research Africa in Johannesburg, he is building and leading a data science team that will deploy health solutions that directly impact the lives of millions of people in Africa.

What are you currently working on?

Our current focus is at the intersection of cancer and infectious disease. We build tools that generate deep disease and treatment insights for clinical, public and private sector applications. Those solutions also strengthen the health care system overall.


Parmesh Shahani is the founder of the Godrej India Culture Lab, an experimental ideas space created out of corporate India as a public resource. At the Culture Lab, he curates events and collaborations to spark conversations about the changing face of contemporary India, focusing on issues like gender, sexuality, digital transformation and urban reimagination.

What are you currently working on?

I'm involved in multiple collaborations for forthcoming events, including with the MIT Media Lab on civic fictions and participatory democracy, with museums across India on the future of archiving the present and with LGBTQ organizations across India on amplifying the reach of Pride month in Mumbai.




sengeh.com
gmin.org

 @dsengeh



parmesh.net
indiaculturelab.org

 @parmeshs

Bahia Shehab

Artist + creative director + Islamic art historian
Egypt / Lebanon

Bahia Shehab studies ancient Arabic script and visual culture to solve modern-day issues. She is an associate professor of design and founder of the graphic design program at the American University in Cairo.

What are you currently working on?

I am painting walls in different cities around the world using the poetry of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. The walls serve as bridges between the Arab world and the cities where they are painted. I am also building an online encyclopedia of Arabic script and working on four book projects.



Trevor Timm

Senior Fellows

Free speech + privacy advocate
USA

Trevor Timm is the cofounder and executive director of Freedom of the Press Foundation, a nonprofit that supports and defends journalism dedicated to transparency and accountability. In the interest of protecting journalists and their sources, the organization offers encryption tools and training and has developed SecureDrop, an open-source whistleblower submission system.

What are you currently working on?

I am expanding Freedom of the Press Foundation so we can act as a bulwark against privacy and free speech violations in the age of Trump. The Trump administration is arguably the most hostile White House to news organizations in 40 years, and it's vital for news outlets to hold him accountable even as they face increased threats from surveillance and First Amendment violations.



freedom.press

 @trevortimm

TOO MUCH FUTURE



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Previous page: Artist Christine Sun Kim's *Too Much Future* explores the unpredictability of what's to come. "Giving too much thought to the future can be overwhelming, especially in an uncertain political climate," she says. "But doing so can offer a reminder that there are a wide variety of positive futures for everybody to dive into." The piece is currently displayed as a billboard on the High Line in New York City.

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