

# SCOPE

**WINTER  
2023**

**SCOPE**

is a newsletter dedicated to keeping UT's community of art educators connected. The mission of the newsletter is to communicate the interests and accomplishments of current students, alumni, and faculty.

**EDITOR**

Pam Reyes

**FACULTY  
ADVISOR**

Dr. Christina Bain

## **News from the Art Education Program at the University of Texas at Austin**

December 2023

Letter from the Editor:

The Art Education Department is pleased to present news and updates from both faculty and graduate students.

This issue of SCOPE includes updates from two of our esteemed professors, Dr. Christina Bain and Dr. Donalyn Heise.

This issue gives an overview of what the second year graduate students in Art Education are exploring through their graduate research and engaging in outside of the classroom. We are a diverse group of artists and educators from across the globe, brought together by our goal of becoming better art educators.

Please enjoy this SCOPE issue, where we celebrate our past and introduce our exciting futures.

Pam Reyes



BANNER CREDIT:  
DETAIL OF PRINT BY HOPE HARLOW

PHOTO CREDIT:  
ALICE BRANDENBURG, M.A. ART  
EDUCATION, CLASS OF 2023

# FACULTY NEWS

## Updates from Dr. Christina Bain



Dr. Christina Bain is writing a book titled "Navigating Ethics in Art Education" which will be part of the Art Education in Practice series by Davis Publisher. Her basketry was included in three recent shows: two sponsored by the National Basketry Organization at the University of Puget Sound (June 2023) and one at the Dedo Maranville Fine Arts Gallery at Valdosta State University (September 2023). As the Western Region Director for the NAEA Higher Education Division, she co-organized and facilitated a web-based symposium titled "Navigating the Job Market in Higher Education" (September 2023). In September 2023, assisted by Alyssa LeLeux and Dr. Donalyn Heise, she conducted a half day basketry making workshop with community partner, Louder Than Silence. She will be presenting "Artful Journeying" with Dr. Donalyn Heise and Dr. Dawn Stienecker at the Texas Art Education Association (November 2023). She is leading a graduate student panel "Embracing Curiosity: Exciting Research Directions" with Leslie Tang, Rouqayya Majeed, Hope Harlow, and Sadie Barlow at the TAEA fall conference (November 2023). As an NAEA Research Commissioner, she is the conference chair for the 2024 NAEA Research Preconvention (a day long symposium devoted to research presentations and workshops), to be held in Minneapolis, MN on April 3, 2024.

**DR.  
CHRISTINA  
BAIN**

## Updates from Dr. Donalyn Heise



**Teaching the Arts in  
a Post Pandemic  
World: Now What?**

**Dr. Donalyn Heise**  
Associate Professor of Instruction  
Art and Art History Assistant Chair Art Education Division  
University of Texas at Austin  
dheise2@utexas.edu

ACC Convocation August 16, 2023 10:00 am

Dr. Donalyn Heise recently established community partnerships with Louder Than Silence, a non-profit organization that provides support for survivors of sexual trauma; Street Youth Ministries, which provides support for unhoused between the ages of 16-28; and Austin Oaks Behavioral Health Hospital's Womens' Outpatient Wellness Program at the Branches Downtown location. Based on her research and creative practice centered on Art, Resilience and Trauma, Heise and UT students will be teaching art in community settings to strengthen protective factors of resilience through engagement with creative art.

Donalyn Heise is co-presenting research at the 2023 Texas Art Education Association Fall Professional Development Conference in Allen Texas on The Art for Wellbeing with Olivia Spiers (UT AED alumni and Gallery Coordinator, Outreach & Programming at The Art Galleries at Austin Community College), and current MA Candidates Rouqayya Majeed and Alyssa LaLeux. They represent multiple perspectives of art education from university, museum, late and early career, and preservice. They will share effective arts-based strategies for engaging in purposeful resilience building, empathy, visual thinking, enhanced perception, mindfulness, self-compassion, and creative problem solving.

Donalyn Heise delivered the Fall Convocation Keynote speech for Austin Community College Arts and Digital Media Division in August 2023. Her talk entitled, "Teaching the Arts in a Post Pandemic: Now What!?" was based on her extensive research on fostering resilience through art in K12 schools, higher ed, and community settings.

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Sadie Barlow

Sadie is an MA Art Education candidate at the University of Texas at Austin and received her BFA in Art Education from the University of Arkansas in 2021. She primarily loves painting, drawing, and ceramics.



Sadie has taught at Walden Pond Interarts Learning Studio in San Antonio, TX, as well as with the Contemporary Austin Art School at Laguna Gloria. She currently works as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Texas Austin while completing her Capstone project to receive her Masters. Her research primarily involves professional development and teacher identity for pre-service art educators.



# STUDENT UPDATE

## Neal Flynn

Neal Flynn is a second year Art Education graduate student whose current research involves comparing the approaches different art museums take when engaging with their communities. His goal is for this research to underscore the important roles of museums as community centers and highlight possibilities for responding to their communities' immediate, ongoing, and long term needs traditionally addressed separately in the spheres of public health and community organizing.



**Summer 2023:** "This summer I did lots of reading, researching, and art making! At the start of the summer I spent a good amount of time focusing on my own practice and preparing for an exhibition at the Dougherty Art Center in Austin this fall, titled *Access*. I was grateful to spend some time with family and friends as well. In July and August I was the teaching assistant for Swiss Institute Contemporary Art's summer teen program in New York City, a paid student internship that prepares high schoolers for careers in the arts through lots of research, creative projects, field trips, and career chats with established artists and arts professionals. At the end of the internship, we worked together to mount a 1-day exhibition in the museum featuring all of their individual and collaborative artworks. This was a new experience for me and a great way to practice some of the things I picked up in my first year of art education coursework. I learned so much this summer, and loved it!"

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Alyssa LeLeux

Alyssa LeLeux is a second year Art Education Graduate student. In the following entry, Alyssa traces the origin and outlines future plans for a community-engaging art project called Mindful Weaving (follow [@mindfulweaving](#) on Instagram).



Alyssa LeLeux and her colleague Arohi Ranade first created the community art project *Mindful Weaving* for The Blanton Museum of Art's Meredith Lounge from 2018-2019. After developing the proposal for this project as an undergraduate assignment for Margo Sawyer's Intermediate Sculpture course in February 2018, LeLeux and Ranade submitted their proposal to the Blanton and began construction. The initial idea transformed into the current structure that exists today. The artists paired precise laser-cutting and CNC routing with the meticulous process of hand-sanding, painting, and stringing to create the cube looms and weaving wall. Following this laborious yet rewarding process, LeLeux and Ranade have enjoyed seeing their designs brought to life by communal weaving throughout Austin. They created this project to engage with people of all ages through the freeing simplicity and soothing repetition of weaving yarn. They developed this project to promote stress reduction and mindful relaxation.



Mindful Weaving has the power to bring communities together through the therapeutic properties of art. LeLeux and Ranade recently collaborated with The Contemporary Austin for their Second Saturday's Family Art Workshops and will work with the UMLAUF Sculpture Garden & Museum for their Sunday Family Day in May. Mindful Weaving has also offered private workshops for community groups such as Louder than Silence, a non-profit that works with survivors of sexual violence. LeLeux and Ranade are excited to continue to share their project with communities around the city.

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Rouqayya Majeed

Rouqayya Majeed is a second year art education graduate student on the Community track. She is a Fulbright Scholar and is originally from Lebanon. As an international student, she finds inspiration wherever she goes, whether for her artwork, research, or assignments. She has discovered that "whether it's the art, the research, or whatever we are working on, it is actually recreating us as much as we are involved in its creation process."



Rouqayya is currently working on an arts-based narrative self-study for her capstone project. During the process, she has learned a lot about herself.



*Finding my way home, collage,  
8 X 10 in.*

She explained, "First, I've been making art for the wrong reasons for at least 10 years now; some of these reasons were seeking attention and validation. Second, I've found the right reasons for which art should be made; some of these reasons are my mental and emotional well-being, achieving self-actualization, and finding as much meaning as I find beauty in the art I make, thus finding meaning in my life itself." For Rouqayya, there are different ways to invent in our own well-being and one of the most important is art making. She believes that our well-being reflects and shows in the well-being in our social circles.

She states, "Making art, thus has the same ripple effect as kindness does. That's enough of a reason to embrace our creative selves and not forget about the artist in us, as students, teachers, or researchers, regardless of how busy life can get."

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Zuhura McAdoo

Zuhura McAdoo is a recent Howard University alumni who earned their Bachelors of Arts in Community Development and Art History and a current second-year Masters of Arts student in Art Education on the Community track. As a graduate teaching assistant for courses including "Socially Engaged Art Education" and "Art & The Creation of Meaning," they implore their students to expand their knowledge beyond the confines of the traditional classroom.



Outside of the department, Zuhura also serves as a social chair for the Black Graduate Student Association creating opportunities for Black graduate students to build community amongst the University of Texas at Austin's Black collegiate community. Zuhura's graduate research focuses on Black Queer Spatial Justice through Performative Art Education in Ballroom Culture in Austin, Texas. As a cultural practitioner, Zuhura curates spaces for Black LGBTQ+ community members and fosters authentic connection through creative experiences through an event series called Houses of Luv. In partnership with Live Nation Urban, Houses of Luv has traveled to various cities such as Los Angeles, Austin, New York and Atlanta. Zuhura aims to create an experimental art exhibition series as an extension of Houses Of Luv to encourage art literacy, art education and accessibility for underrepresented communities and platform Black visual artists.



# STUDENT UPDATE

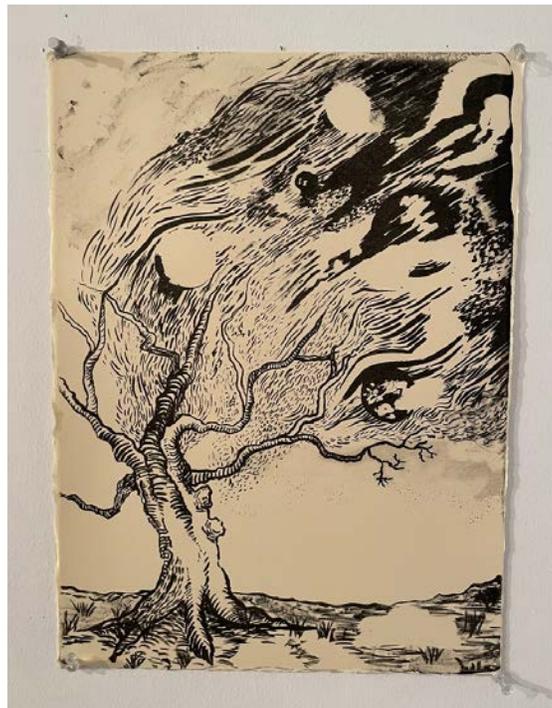
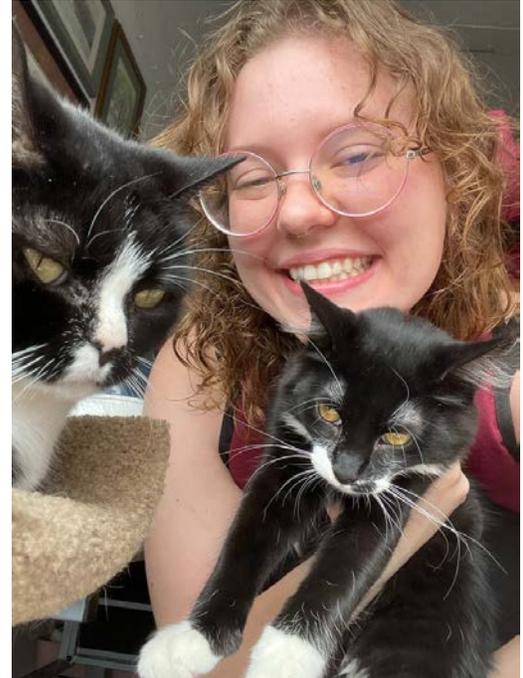
## Hope Harlow

Hope is an MA Art Education candidate at UT Austin and received her BFA in Studio Art from Ut Austin in 2022. She enjoys printmaking, drawing, and digital artmaking.

Hope's graduate research and capstone project centers around producing printmaking resources for both classroom teachers and individuals who are interested in the medium. Hope considers herself a printmaker above all other forms of artmaking and wants to bring the medium to a wider audience as she herself has

learned many life lessons through her personal printmaking projects. Her goal is to create video-based tutorials that showcase how artmaking doesn't have to be serious, perfect, or scary--it can be messy, fun, and for your personal enjoyment.

Hope's personal artmaking is self-indulgent and rarely sees eyes other than her own, but she likes it that way--too often has she found herself making art that she thinks others want to see, rather than creating for herself to enjoy the process.



Hope has always loved teaching and helping others. In the past she worked as a mentor for freshmen at UT Austin from 2019 to 2022, and spent two weeks volunteering with the art teacher at Wilchester Elementary School in Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) in Houston, TX. After graduation, Hope and her two cats, Millie and Minnie, will return to Houston to begin working in SBISD as an Art Teacher.

# STUDENT UPDATE

**Arfa Khan**



Arfa Khan is a second year art education graduate student on the Schools plus certification track and is originally from Houston, Texas. She holds an undergraduate degree in design from The University of Texas at Austin. Arfa had fun assisting many different art classes at the Art School at Laguna Gloria during summer 2023 (and enjoyed seeing the peacocks).



Arfa's capstone project focuses on the childlike approach to artmaking, and how to help people get their creative spark back in adulthood. She will be student teaching during spring 2024 and is excited to get started!

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Pam Reyes

Pam Reyes is a second year Art Education graduate student, musician, artist, and educator. Pam's graduate research and capstone is called *Embodying Arrival in Austin, Texas: A Personal Journey Toward Becoming a Critical Place-Based Art Educator Through A/r/tography*.

The following entry describes an experimental sound program she taught during the summer between her first and second year of graduate school.



**Summer 2023:** "I went home to Queens, New York and returned to teach at Socrates Sculpture Park. It was a special homecoming, since I had not seen many of my former coworkers since before the pandemic. I taught an experimental sound workshop during which I led campers and adults through listening meditations, zine-making, and field recording. At the end of each workshop, participants listened back to their recordings through an 8-channel mixer and a speaker. It was my first time combining my interests in audio recording with that of my art teaching and it resulted in one of my most fulfilling teaching experiences.



The collective soundscapes were composed of human-made sounds—the construction of a long-awaited new office and education space, the making of roof-top gardens carried out by Head of Education Doug Paulson and the "Socrateen" summer interns, and the production of new sculptures for the upcoming Fall exhibition—along with those of nature—leaves rustling, the East River slapping the shore, buzzing pollinators, squawking seagulls, and barking dogs. The soundscapes were greater than the sum of their parts."

# STUDENT UPDATE

## Leslie Tang

Leslie Tang is a second year Art Education graduate student. The following entry describes her graduate research.



**Capstone Research:** “My research is a self study of how my journey as an Asian American art educator came to be. It examines my successes and challenges on this career path, and how it sheds light on my journey as an educator. My hope is that this study will help art educators and create a sense of belonging that they are not alone in this field.”



*Leslie Tang's pencil on paper cohort portrait, based on an outtake from the photo on the front page of this issue.*