

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

November 2024

We hope you are taking care of yourselves during this busy time of year.

This month, we were honored to have alumni return to the School of the Arts to share their insights with current students. The inaugural Artists' Resource Center's Lunch with Alumni series event featured **Kate Mulley '16** and **Cha Ramos '12CC, '21SOA**, who spoke about their careers as multidisciplinary theatre artists.

Jonathan Hogue '24 and **Tony Yang '20** returned to SOA to speak on the panel, *The Art of Raising Money: How to Secure Funds for Creative Work*. Their insights are summarized in this month's Tips from the Artists' Resource Center (scroll down!).

You can watch recordings of past ARC events on our new [SOA Community Platform](#), currently in beta test mode. Log onto the platform via single sign-on. There, you can make a career-coaching appointment, form a group with other alumni, and search a database of job and career opportunities. [Check it out!](#)

Be sure to let us know if you will be showing at [Art Basel](#) this December so we can spread the word! As always, please [keep us updated](#) on what you're doing.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes a spotlight on Visual Arts alum, **Baris Gokturk '20**.

With warm regards,

LAILA MAHER

DEAN OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

JESSICA PIERSON

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

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ALUMNI EVENTS



ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

Are you showing at Art Basel Miami Beach in December? If your work will be shown, please complete this [brief survey](#), which we will use to create a comprehensive list to share with the Columbia alumni community.

Photo: Jeff Koons, *Bowl With Eggs*, (1994-2009) at Art Basel: Miami 2022.



LUNCH WITH ALUMNI

In the inaugural event in this Artists' Resource Center series, Theatre alums **Kate Mulley '16** and **Cha Ramos '12CC, '21SOA** discussed their careers since SOA and their new book *Dramaturgy of Sex on Stage in Contemporary Theatre*.



THE ART OF RAISING MONEY

Jonathan Hogue '24 and **Tony Yang '20** returned to SOA to speak on the panel, *The Art of Raising Money: How to Secure Funds for Creative Work*. The audience learned practical strategies for raising money, including tips on various funding avenues, such as grants, crowdfunding, and connecting with potential sponsors and donors.

ALUMNI NEWS



Isaac Hirotsu Woofter '06 is the writer, director, and producer of *BOUND*, a thrilling crime-drama that brings awareness to the worldwide mental health crises.



Jessica Baclesse '14 edited and **Andrew Hauser '12** managed production on *Rez Ball*, a film about a high school basketball team set on the Navajo Nation.



Kayla Maiuri '16 published a short story, "The Eldest," in *BOMB Magazine*.



Jeanne Marie Beaumont '90 published her fifth book of poetry, *Lessons with Scissors*, with Tiger Bark Press.



Spy thriller meets participatory performance art in *TRACES*, a site-specific work created by **Ivan Talijancic '98** and featuring **Erika Latta '97** in a leading role.



Marc Atkinson Borrull '16 is the director of *The Beacon*, which is receiving its North American premiere at the Irish Repertory Theatre until Nov 24th.



Moravian Beauty presents the exhibition, *Noah Breuer: Návrat (Return)*, the solo exhibition of **Noah Breuer '07**, until March 16, 2025 at Havlíček's Villa in Breclav, Czech Republic.

Meridian, an exhibit at Below Grand on the Lower East Side showing until November 17, 2024, features work from **Sasha Fishman '24**, **Bat-Ami Rivlin '19**, and **Alison Nguyen '23**.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Baris Gokturk '20 is a Turkish multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, New York. He reconstructs historical documents, photographs and archival imagery about events or individuals acting within, or reacting against, dominant paradigms of power in three-dimensional layers, hybrid fragments and site-specific installations that oscillate between drawing, painting and sculpture. Baris is a graduate of Columbia University's MFA program in sculpture and Hunter College's MFA program in painting. He was an ApexArt fellow in Seoul, artist-in-residence at YADDO, LMCC and ISCP, a participant in SOMA Mexico and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture as well as a fellow at NXTHVN. His solo exhibitions *Public Secret* (2020) and *Scanner/Tarayan* (2023) were on view at Helena Anrather Gallery in New York and Galeri Bosfor in Istanbul. His work has been featured in *ArtForum*, *BOMB Magazine*, and *The Brooklyn Rail* among others. Recent museum projects and exhibitions include SECCA in Winston-Salem, The Jewish Museum in New York, The Frost Art Museum in Miami, and Pera Museum in Istanbul. He completed public commissions by Columbia University's Butler Library and The Public Art Fund in New York. Baris is the co-founder of *Junte*, an arts, land and culture project in Puerto Rico, that is being incubated as part of The New Museum's NEW INC. program in social architecture.

Was there a specific faculty member or peer who especially inspired you while at the School of the Arts? If so, who and how?

I was very lucky to be surrounded by amazing faculty during my studies but what got me there in the first place was the chance to work with Jon Kessler in particular. I had always loved his work but I had no idea he was also a great teacher and a great soul. *The Palace at 4 A.M.*, his show at PS1 from 2005 remains one of the best shows I have ever seen. In addition to Jon, I have been truly mentored by Tomas Vu Daniel and Marc Dion at SOA as well as Zeynep Celik at the department of history and Michael Taussig in anthropology. I could go on and on, there are simply too many faculty and peers worth mentioning.

How did attending the School of the Arts impact your work and career as an artist?

Even though my time there came to an abrupt and painful end due to COVID, attending the school had a big impact on my work and career. Getting my second MFA in my mid-thirties allowed me to be alert on opportunities that the school provided. The program also gave me the confidence to come up with seemingly audacious, hard to realize projects and go out in the real world and pitch them to the people and places with means to accommodate them.

What was your favorite or most memorable class while at the School of the Arts?

Michael Taussig's Mastery of Non-Mastery was a big influence on me. The Making and Knowing Project led by Pamela Smith during which we studied and reconstructed recipes from a sixteenth century French artisan book was well beyond the standard definition of a class. For both classes, I wrote long letters of interest just to be admitted in. In the end, I was overwhelmed but it was well worth it.

What were the first steps you took after graduating?

The first steps were tough. I'm a member of the class of 2020 which means the school shut down around March because of COVID just as we were starting to get ready for our thesis exhibition. I had some luck, had a solo show offer from a gallery I already loved in New York, and another large scale commission from a community I ended up loving. Those things kept me going.

What advice would you give to recent graduates?

Treat the first couple of years out of grad school as part of school. By that I mean maintain and continue to grow the relationships you started while at school. Maybe stick around in New York a little longer to cultivate further what you started in the program.

ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

CAREER DEVELOPMENT TIPS FROM THE ARTISTS' RESOURCE CENTER

QUICK TIP: RAISING MONEY

Are you looking to bring your art to life but struggling with funding? Are you curious about practical strategies for raising money, finding funding avenues, and connecting with potential sponsors and donors? You're not alone! The Artists' Resource Center is here to help give you the tools to turn your artistic dreams into reality! Below are some quick tips for securing funds for creative work:

Relationships: Finding investors and financiers for your creative projects is about building relationships. Seek out individuals who've engaged with past projects, build relationships that are not exclusively about monetary support, ask for referrals and connections, and treat investors like real people rather than transactions. Do your research, know who you're talking to, and find a hook for them based on their work and their interests.

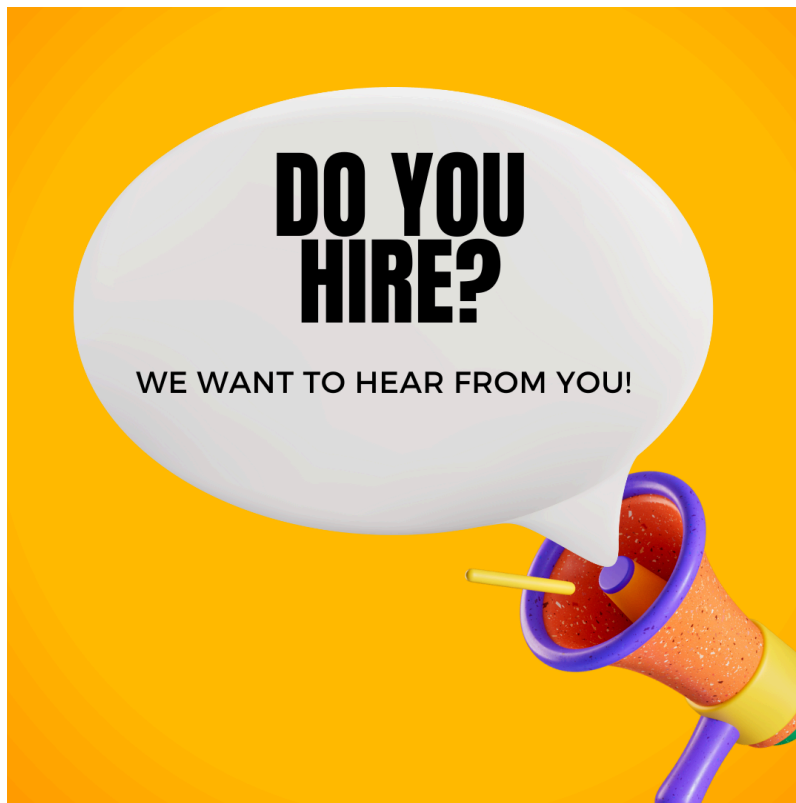
Investments Not Donations: Unlike with most investments, making an investment in the arts can be meaningful even if it doesn't make a return, but the potential for a return still makes investing more viable than a donation. Believe in your project, and avoid a poverty mindset. Investors and donors like supporting the arts, and enjoy being included and seeing behind the scenes; don't be afraid to invite them in.

Pitching: People will be much quicker to respond to a project pitched with passion, versus just another financial opportunity. Go in prepared to ask them questions, know who they are, and make an impression.

Persistence: Don't be discouraged after being rejected. The hardest part is the first money in. Just because an investor says no to your second project doesn't mean they'll say no to your third. Investors aren't necessarily discouraged when they don't make money back on an arts investment, they're often open to trying again.

Resources: Use talent agents to connect with production companies and financiers. That's why they're there. Look for tax credits in the U.S. and opportunities for public funding in Europe.

Not sure where to begin? Visit the [ARC Video Library](#) to watch the recording of the full ARC Event, *The Art of Raising Money: How to Secure Funds for Creative Work*, where Theatre Producer **Jonathan Hogue '24** and Film Producer **Tony Yang '20** offer more tips and examples!



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE INTERVIEW QUESTION?

The Artists' Resource Center will be facilitating a workshop on best interview practices.

What is your favorite question to ask when interviewing a candidate for a position you are hiring for?

LET US KNOW

ALUMNI BENEFITS

[Artists' Resource Center \(ARC\)](#)
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[Email Forwarding & CU Address](#)
[Online Alumni Community](#)
[CAA Arts Access](#)
[Complete List of Benefits](#)

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