

BOGLIASCO JUNETEENTH EDITION

Today we celebrate freedom, highlighting the creativity and innovation of recent Black Fellows.

Kermit Frazier

2011 & 2018 Fellow in Theater, United States



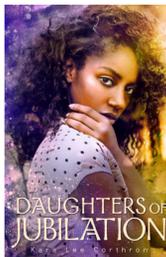
I awake each morning
to a sheen of sun
rising over the sea—
soaring seagulls
seemingly etched
into a distant Portafino

"Along with marveling daily at the glorious wonders of Bogliasco, the gracious hospitality and support of the Foundation staff, and the depth of experience, knowledge, and inquiry of my fellow artists and scholars, I'm pleased to say that during each of my two residencies I was able to dive deeply into the development of a full-length play, each of whose plots stretch over more than one continent. I'm forever thankful for all that.

And now I'm inviting you to view/attend a performance online of my very first play, *Kernel of Sanity*, which is the initial offering in a new series called *Barred at the Gate* produced by the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Paula Vogel. The play, written in 1978, examines the close if imbalanced relationship between a young African American actor and an older Caucasian actor with whom he had previously appeared in a production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. The performance will be broadcast on YouTube and [via Ms. Vogel's website](#) on Thursday, June 25 at 7pm EST."

Kara Lee Corthron

2016 Fellow in Theater, United States

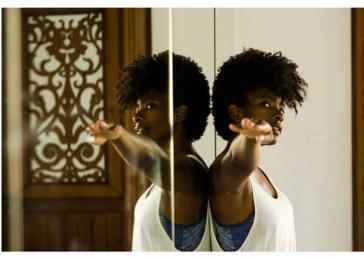


Keep an eye out for Kara's upcoming young adult novel: *Daughters of Jubilation*, a story that follows a black teen as she finds her place among a family of women gifted with magical abilities. It will be released on October 13th by Simon & Schuster!

"I've had the good fortune to have worked at many writing residencies and retreats around the world, and Bogliasco was one of my very favorite experiences. The stunning beauty of Liguria, the delicious cuisine (I still dream about the focaccia), the dedicated staff, supportive community of artists, and the spacious studio with a view left a lasting and positive impact on me. Few things compare to writing for a few hours in the morning, having lunch on the terrace overlooking the sea, and heading back to my spacious studio to work some more before another amazing meal—it's an artists' paradise."

Melanie Greene

2018 Fellow in Dance, United States



"*Sapphire* is embodied research and a performance project. It shares the journey of a time-traveling golden goddess moving through moments that police and celebrate the essence and experience of Black women in the United States. Told through an Afro-futuristic lens, this non-linear narrative displays humanity canvassed in an evolving constellation of identity. It pulsates through the objectified, the dehumanized, the powerful, and the magical. *Sapphire* (view an excerpt of the performance at Judson Church below) is a reflection to see you and see through you...a vessel of celestial intimacy, love, ferocity, grief, and audacity.



I was able to expand my artistic vision and process at Bogliasco. It cultivated space for me to develop *Sapphire* into an evening length presentation, invite people into my process, dream of short stories for *Sapphire* which I'm currently working on, and most importantly build a unique artistic community. I'm grateful to still be in contact with several of the fellows today."

David Dominique

2019 Fellow in Music, United States



"The past 3 1/2 weeks have delivered some of the most intense events, images and dialogs of our lifetimes, but I suspect that for each of us the nature of the intensity is quite different. The unending flow of news of Black death — including a recent under-reported spate of Black Americans found hanging from trees across the country just this month — has been heartbreaking, horrifying, maddening, infuriating, and nauseating.

At the same time, the swell of attention being paid to the general precarity of Black life in the US and globally, as well as attention on the many details that underwrite and uphold this precarity, has provided a glimmer of hope. Many friends and relatives have reached out to ask how I'm doing. Unable to answer with a simple 'I'm doing well/badly/ok' or 'what a time!' at a certain point I came up with a boilerplate response: 'I'm activated.'" [Read full text.](#)

[...] "As for my own humble artistic output, I will share with you my 2018 album for jazz ensemble, "Mask" as well as some [electronic video works-in-progress](#) from a new collaboration with Indianapolis artist Liz Wierzbicki. The former is a continuation of my three decades playing brass instruments and composing in various genres that use them (from jazz to reggae to ska and rock). The album is most often identified as jazz, but as you may hear, draws liberally from numerous genres including rock, electronic music, and contemporary classical.



The latter project is part of a newer exploration of modular synthesis, an expansion of the scope, means, and media of my output. These works were made by Wierzbicki and me in April and May of this year for a drive-in exhibition in Indianapolis (see photo).

My hope is that these efforts and considerations in video art can guide me toward uniting my art and more direct expressions of socioeconomic/racial politics, and that in a near future, I can blend my acoustic, electronic and political output into the same stew."



View From My Window, David's collaborative audio-video exhibition from May 2020 organized by 10 East Arts, an art gallery that is currently exhibiting works in multiple windows of buildings in Indianapolis that are currently closed due to the pandemic.

Kia Corthron

2015 Fellow in Theater



Kia Corthron was just awarded the 2020 Dramatist Guild's [Flora Roberts Award](#) which is presented annually to a playwright in recognition of distinguished work in the theatre and to encourage the continuation of that work. The advanced reader copy of Kia's debut novel [The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter](#) arrived during her Bogliasco residency in early fall of 2015. The novel, which was released early the next year, went on to win the 2016 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and was a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice. She has recently drafted her second novel *Moon and the Mars*.

Carl E. Hazlewood

2018 Fellow in Visual Arts, Guyana/United States

"It's usual to say that the peace and quiet of a great residency was important for driving creativity. And yes, I appreciated the respite from 'the usual' during my time at the Bogliasco Study Center. But truthfully, it was also a time of personal challenges that I was determined to set aside. I thought of how remarkable it was to be present in this ancient Mediterranean space that's still alive to continuous converging and conflicting currents of history and culture. That humanism and creative tension has left its mark on my current work and is part of what has endeared me to this place forever."



Above are images of recent works, and one of Carl from his 2020 solo exhibition at June Kelly Gallery in NYC. Please visit our [Study Center Gallery](#) to view the projects he made during his residency!



View the archive of our weekly newsletters [here](#).