MARKING TIME:
PRISON ARTS AND ACTIVISM CONFERENCE
ORGANIZED AND HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN
OCTOBER 8–10, 2014 | RUTGERS, NEW BRUNSWICK
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

“Marking Time” is a multi-component project whose goal is to bring together scholars, writers, artists, and activists from across the nation and from overseas to explore the cultural aspects of imprisonment through a focus on art produced by prisoners and in response to mass incarceration. The project consists of a three-day symposium on prison art and activism—the first of its kind—that will include scholars, artists, activists, and community groups. In addition to the symposium, there will be a curated exhibition of art by current and formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as presentations of collaborative works between community groups, nonprofit advocacy organizations, artists, and others impacted by incarceration.

Conveners: Nicole R. Fleetwood and Sarah Tobias

Keynote speaker: Reginald Dwayne Betts, Poet and Author of A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison and Shahid Reads His Own Palm.

Location Code:

AAG: ALFA ART GALLERY
BSF: BLOUSTEIN SCHOOL FORUM
KC: KIRKPATRICK CHAPEL
NBL: NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
RAL: RUTGERS ART LIBRARY
SH: SCOTT HALL
ZL: ZIMMERLI MUSEUM LOBBY
ZLD: ZIMMERLI MUSEUM LOWER DODGE GALLERY
ZMM: ZIMMERLI MUSEUM MULTIMAX ROOM
PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

SESSION 1: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

PANEL: Creative Arts and Occupational Health (ZLD)
Susan Connor and Susanne Pitak Davis
(Rutgers University Correctional Healthcare)
“Finding Meaning Thru Art”
Karen Anne Melendez
(Rutgers University Correctional Healthcare)
“The Concert Performance with Adult Females in Correctional Health Care”
Moderator: Michael Rockland (Rutgers—New Brunswick)
WORKSHOP: Steps Taken: Footprints in the Cell (NBL)
Rachel Hoppenstein (Temple University)
Ann Marie Mantey (Temple University)

SESSION 2: 11:00 – 12:15 PM

PANEL: Law, News, and Art (ZLD)
Regina Austin (Penn Law School)
Ann Schwartzman (Pennsylvania Prison Society)
Tom Isler (Journalist/Filmmaker)
Moderator: Tehama Lopez (George Mason University)
WORKSHOP: Utilizing Dance as a Social Tool: Dance Making with Women in Prison (NBL)
Meredith-Lyn Avey (Avodah Dance)
Julie Gayer Kris (Avodah Dance)

LUNCH: 12:15 – 1:15 PM

SESSION 3: 1:15 – 2:30 PM

PANEL: Imagery and Prisons: Engaging and Persuading Audiences (ZLD)
Gregory Sale (Artist)
Lorenzo Steele, Jr. (Founder, Behind these Prison Walls)
Mark Strandquist (Artist)
Moderator: Pete Brook (Freelance Writer/Curator)

PRESENTATION: The Political and Educational Possibilities of Exhibitions (NBL)
David Adler (Independent Curator)
Sean Kelley (Eastern State Penitentiary)
Ricki Solinger (Independent Curator)

SESSION 4: 2:45 – 4:00 PM

PANEL: About Time (ZLD)
Damon Locks (Prison and Neighborhood Arts Project)
Erica R. Meiners (Northeastern Illinois University/Prison and Neighborhood Arts Project)
Sarah Ross (School of the Art Institute of Chicago/Prison and Neighborhood Arts Project)
Fereshteh Toosi (Columbia College Chicago)
Moderator: Donna Gustafson (Rutgers-New Brunswick)
PANEL: Best Practices: Arts, Prisons and Community Engagement (NBL)
Robyn Buseman (City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program)
Shani Jamila (Artist, Cultural Worker, Human Rights Advocate)
Kyes Stevens (Alabama Prison Arts and Education Project)
**LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING EVENTS**

4:00 – 5:00 pm: Artist Talk: Jesse Krimes (ZLD)

5:00– 5:45 pm: Welcome Reception (ZL)

7:30 – 9:00 pm: Opening Keynote: Reginald Dwayne Betts (KC)

Welcome Remarks: IRW Director Nicole Fleetwood

Introduction of Keynote: Dean Shadd Maruna, School of Criminal Justice—Rutgers, Newark

Keynote Presentation

Q & A

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014**

**SESSION 1: 9:30 – 10:45 AM**

**PANEL: Theater in Prisons (ZLD)**

Wende Ballew (Reforming Arts Incorporated, Georgia)

“Theatre of the Oppressed in Women’s Prisons: Highly Beneficial, Yet Hated”

Lisa Biggs (Michigan State University)

“Demeter’s Daughters: Reconsidering the Role of the Performing Arts in Incarcerated Women’s Rehabilitation”

Karen Davis (Texas A&M)

“Rituals that Rehabilitate: Learning Community from Shakespeare Behind Bars”

Bruce Levitt and Nicholas Fesette (Cornell University)

“Where the Walls Contain Everything: The Birth and Growth of a Prison Theatre Group”

Moderator: Elin Diamond (Rutgers—New Brunswick)

**PANEL: Prison Architecture, Space and Place (NBL)**

Svetlana Djuric (Activist) and Nevena Dutina (Independent Scholar)

“Living Prison”

Maria Gaspar (Artist)

“The 96 Acres Project”

Vanessa Massaro, (Bucknell)

“It’s a revolving door”: Rethinking the Borders of Carceral Spaces”

Moderator: Matthew B. Ferguson (Rutgers—New Brunswick)

**SESSION 2: 11:00 – 12:15 PM**

**PRESENTATION: Sustaining Engagement through Art: The US and Mexico (ZLD)**

Phyllis Kornfeld

(Independent Art Teacher, Author, Activist, Curator)

“Thirty Years Teaching Art in Prison: Into the Unknown and Why We Need to Go There”

Marisa Belausteguiotita (UNAM)

“Mural Painting in Mexican Carceral Institutions”

Dean Gillispe, Spiz’s Dinette
WORKSHOP: The Arts: Essential Tools for Working with Women and Families impacted by Incarceration (NBL)
Kathy Borteck-Gersten (The Judy Dworin Performance Project)
Judy Dworin (The Judy Dworin Performance Project)
Joseph Lea (The Judy Dworin Performance Project)
Kathy Wyatt (The Judy Dworin Performance Project)

LUNCH: 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

SESSION 3: 1:15 – 2:30 PM

PRESENTATION: Visualizing Bodies/Space: A Performative Picture of Justice System-Involved Girls & Women in Miami, FL (ZLD)
Nereida Garcia Ferraz (Artist/Women on the Rise!)
Jillian Hernandez (University of California-San Diego/Women on the Rise!)
Anya Wallace (Penn State University/Women on the Rise!)
Moderator: Ferris Olin (Rutgers-New Brunswick)

PANEL: 25 Years of the Creative Prison Arts Project: Connecting Incarcerated Artists with the University of Michigan Community (NBL)
Reuben Kenyatta (Independent Artist)
Ashley Lucas (University of Michigan)
Janie Paul (University of Michigan)

PRESENTATION: The Art of Surviving in Solitary Confinement (RAL)
Bonnie Kerness (American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program)
Ojore Lutalo (American Friends Service Committee Prison Watch Program)

SESSION 4: 2:45 – 4:00 PM

PANEL: Restorative Arts and Aging in Prison (ZLD)
Aileen Hongo (Educator/Activist)
Anne Katz (University of Southern California)
Ron Levine (Artist)

WORKSHOP: The SwallowTale Project: Creative Writing for Incarcerated Women (NBL)
Angel Clark (Photographer/Filmmaker)
Bianca Spriggs (Artist/Poet)

SESSION 5: 4:15 – 5:30 PM

PANEL: Resisting Guantanamo through Art and Law (ZLD)
Aliya Hana Hussain (Center for Constitutional Rights)
Matthew Daloiiso (Witness against Torture)
Aaron Hughes (Independent Artist)
Moderator: Joshua Colangelo-Bryan (Dorsey & Whitney LLP)

WORKSHOP: Bar None: The Possibilities and Limitations of Theater Arts in Prison (NBL)
Max Forman-Mullin (Bar None Theater Company)
Julia Taylor (Bar None Theater Company)

EVENING EVENTS
5:45 – 6:45 pm: Reception and Networking (NBL)
7:00 – 9:00 pm: Artist Talks: Russell Craig, Deborah Luster, Dean Gillispie, Jared Owen (AAG)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2014

SESSION 1: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

PANEL: Prison Lit (ZLD)
Helen Lee (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)  
“Eldridge Cleaver’s SOUL ON ICE: A Rhetoric of Confrontation in Prison Writing”
Suzanne Uzzilia (CUNY Graduate Center)  
“Lolita’s Legacy: The Mutual Imprisonment of Lolita Lebrón and Irene Vilar”
Carolina Villalba (University of Miami)  
“Radical Motherhood: Redressing the Imprisoned Body in Assata Shakur’s Assata: An Autobiography”
Moderator: Monica Ríos (Rutgers-New Brunswick)

PANEL: Photographic Education Program at Penitentiary Centers in Venezuela: From the Lleca to the Cohue (ZMM)
Helena Acosta (Independent Curator)
Violette Bule (Photographer)
Moderator: Katie Mc collough (Rutgers-New Brunswick)

PANEL: Narrating Injustice: Youth and Mass Incarceration (BSF)
Sean Saifa M. Wall (Independent Artist)  
“Letters to an Unborn Son”
Richard Mora and Mary Christianakis (Occidental College)  
“(Re)writing Identities: Past, Present, and Future Narratives of Young People in Juvenile Detention Facilities”
Beth Ohlsson (Independent Educator)  
“Reaching through the Cracks: Connecting Incarcerated Parents with their Children through Story”
Moderator: Annie Fukushima (Rutgers-New Brunswick)

SESSION 2: 11:00 – 12:15 PM

PANEL: Gender, Sexuality, and Systemic Injustices (ZLD)
Michelle Handelman (Filmmaker, Fashion Institute of Technology)  
“Beware the Lily Law: Tales of Transgender Inmates”
Tracy Huling (Prison Public Memory Project)  
“‘She was incorrigible...’ Building Public Memory About A Girl’s Prison”
Carol Jacobsen (University of Michigan)  
“For Dear Life: Visual and Political Strategies for Freedom and Human Rights of Incarcerated Women”
Moderator: Simone A. James Alexander (Seton Hall University)

PANEL: Life Sentences: Memoir-Writing as Arts and Activism in a Maximum Security Women’s Prison (ZMM)
Courtney Polidori (Rowan University)
Michele Lise Tarter (The College of New Jersey)
Samantha Zimbler (Oxford University Press)
Moderator: Fakhri Haghani (Rutgers-New Brunswick)

PANEL: The Politics of Imprisonment (BSF)
Dana Greene (New Mexico State University)  
“Carceral Frontier: The Borderlands of New Mexico’s Prisons”
Marge Parsons (Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund)  
“Free the Spirit from Its Cell”
jackie sumell (Independent Artist)  
“The House That Herman Built”
Treacy Ziegler (Independent Artist)  
“Light and Shadow in a Prison Cell”
Moderator: Angus Gillespie (Rutgers-New Brunswick)
LUNCH: 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM

SESSION 3: 1:15 – 2:30 PM

PRESENTATION: Shakespeare in Prison (ZLD)
Tom Magill (Educational Shakespeare Company Ltd)
Curt Tofeland (Shakespeare Behind Bars)

PANEL: Building Effective Prison Arts Programs (ZMM)
Laurie Brooks (William James Association)
“California Prison Arts: A Quantitative Evaluation”
Jeff Greene
(Prison Arts Program at Community Partners in Action)
“Beyond Stereotype: Building & Supporting Extraordinary Arts Programs in Prison”
Becky Mer
(California Appellate Project/Prison Arts Coalition)
“National Prison Arts Networking in the US: Lessons from the Prison Arts Coalition”
Moderator: Lee Bernstein (SUNY-New Paltz)

PANEL: Genre and Aesthetics in Prisons (BSF)
T.J. Desch Obi (Baruch College, CUNY)
“Honor and the Aesthetics of Agon in Jailhouse Rock”
Anoop Mirpuri (Portland State University)
“Genre and the Aesthetics of Prison Abolition”
Jon-Christian Suggs (John Jay College, CUNY)
“Behind the Red Door: Real and Fictional Communism in Prison”
Ronak K. Kapadia (University of Illinois at Chicago)
“US Military Imprisonment and the Sensorial Life of Empire”
Moderator: Jed Murr (University of Washington-Bothell)

SESSION 4: 2:45 – 4:00 PM

PANEL: Twenty Years of Teaching Visual and Literary Arts in a Maximum-Security Prison (ZLD)
Rachel M. Simon (Marymount Manhattan College in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility)
Duston Spear (Marymount Manhattan College in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility)

WORKSHOP: Alternatives to Violence Workshops in Prison: Liminal Performances of Community and/as Activism (ZMM)
Chad Dell (Monmouth University)
Johanna Foster (Monmouth University)
Eleanor Novek (Monmouth University)
Deanna Shoemaker (Monmouth University)

WORKSHOP: More Than a Rap Sheet: The Real Stories of Incarcerated Women (BSF)
Amanda Edgar (Family Crisis Services)
Jen LaChance Sibley (Family Crisis Services)
Jenny Stasio (Family Crisis Services)

CLOSING REMARKS (ZLD)
4:00 – 4:30 PM

RECEPTION AND NETWORKING (AAG)
4:30 – 6:30 PM
Featuring curators Pete Brook and Matthew Callinan
**MARKING TIME FILM SCREENINGS**

**All screenings will take place in the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Conference Room, Douglass Campus.**

**THURS, OCT 9**

Produced by Tom Magill, 62 min [Q&A to follow]
An award-winning adaptation of Macbeth, set in the fictional Burnam Prison. It tells the story of one prisoner’s quest for power through violence, betrayal and murder — and the death and insanity that results. The film was shot in NI’s maximum-security prison, HMP Maghaberry and features 42 characters played by prisoners and prison staff.

**1:30 PM: NOS PINTAMOS SOLAS/ MURALS AND MIRRORS: WOMEN RESISTING WALLS (2014)**
Produced by Marisa Belausteguigoitia Rius and Mariana X. Rivera, 58 min [Q&A to follow]
Murals and Mirrors: Women Resisting Walls exhibits the way in which women inside a jail in México City took over the walls that imprisoned them. How may walls — prison walls — cease to be opaque and grey and begin to function as mirrors and illuminating surfaces? Through a unique collaboration of the fields of art, justice from below and pedagogies in resistance, Murals and Mirrors depicts the appropriation of prison’s space. Prison time

**EVENING EVENTS**
**7:00 – 9:30 PM (SH)**
*Tales from the Cell*, Mountainview Program
*The Peculiar Patriot*, Liza Jessie Peterson
*Women on Our Own*, acapella group of formerly incarcerated musicians

**Exhibition locations:** Alfa Art Gallery, Art Library, Rutgers-New Brunswick, Eagleton Institute Lawn, Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick Public Library, and Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers.

Film and exhibition contributors include: Art for Justice, David Adler, Sarah Atlas, Pete Brook, Matthew Callinan, Russell Craig, Family Crisis Center, Dean Gillispie, Michelle Handelman, Leonard C. Jefferson, Deborah Luster, Phyllis Kornfeld, Jesse Krimes, Ron Levine, Ojore Lutalo, Jared Owen, Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan, Arnold Raimond, Gilberto Rivera, Sylvia Schwenk, Rickie Solinger, Duston Spear, Mark Strandquist, Curt Tofteland, Kevin Veal, William James Association

**Film showings to be held all day on October 9 & 10 at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 162 Ryders Lane (Douglass Campus).**
and rhetoric are transformed through the intervention of art, collective work and pedagogies of disent. By narrating the design of four monumental murals inside prison, this documentary describes the History of Justice in México vis a vis the trepidant, distorted and invisible history of women “before the law.”

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: SHORT FILM PROGRAM

3:00 PM: POTLACH (2014)
Produced David Adler, 11min, 30 sec [Q&A to follow]

_Potlatch_ is a 2 channel video piece about an arts and dance festival of the same name at a prison in Colorado.

3:30 PM: SOMETIMES AWFUL THINGS HAVE THEIR OWN KIND OF BEAUTY (2011)
By artist Sylvia Schwenk, 4 min loop

This short experimental film shows a man the artist invited to perform – dancing with a lawnmower to a harrowingly beautiful waltz, whilst mowing the lawn in an area surrounded by perimeter fencing, alarmed fences, and razor wire. The lawn being mowed is an oasis in the maximum security area of a prison. The space offers a respite from the confinement of the prison cells and the cold metal surfaces and concrete of the prison. waltz is filled with hope but is underwritten with a score of despair.

_FIVE PRISON STORIES_ (2012)
By artist Sylvia Schwenk, 5 mins loop.

This short film relays five stories about life in prison in an understated, matter of fact, yet private and almost humourous way. The stories are told in the third person and are set against images and footage of the inside of a prison and cover such aspects as prisoner processing, visiting procedures and sex. The experimental short film looks at the notion of what performance in the everyday means for those who live in a space where private and public co-exist – sometimes simultaneously. The film makes the inaccessible accessible in a simple and engaging way.

Directed by Duston Spear, 20 min

*_A project of the NYFA / recipient of a NYSCA grant in Film 2013 and additional support from the Puffin Foundation_

_Multi media includes Judy Clark’s poems (inmate at Bedford Hills Correctional serving 75 years for driving a getaway car in the Brink’s Robbery 1981) put to original music by Michael Minard, and sung by Ann Casapini_

Red Thread is “a story of misplaced revolutionary desire for justice, defiance of the establishment, and thirty plus years behind bars, where (Judy) Clark has transformed herself and her mission. This is a tale of tremendous longing and accomplishment, lost and regained motherhood, twentieth-century history, and the courage of both prisoner and painter, resulting in a work that fuse transcendent beauty and jolting social truths.” — Lucy R. Lippard

4:30 PM: SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS (2005)
Directed by Hank Rogerson; produced by Jilann Spitzmiller. Philomath Films, 93 min [Q&A to follow]

Take Shakespeare’s final play _The Tempest_ with its violent seas, windswept island, crucial connection to nature, and underlying theme of forgiveness, and bring it into the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex, the ultimate venue of confinement.

The result is an extraordinary story about the creative process and the power of art to heal and redeems–in a place where the very act of participation in theatre is a human triumph and a means of personal liberation. Led by Shakespeare.
Behind Bars Founder Curt L. Tofteland, whose innovative work with prison inmates began in 1995, the prisoners cast themselves in roles reflecting their personal history and fate. The prisoners’ individual stories, including information about their heinous crimes, are interwoven with the plot of The Tempest as they delve deeply into the characters they portray while confronting their personal demons.

FRIDAY, OCT 10

11:00 AM: PRISONERS OF AGE (2004)
Directed by Stan Feingold, produced by PeaceArch films, 60 min
The documenatry explores, illuminates and extends photographer Ron Levine’s groundbreaking project with geriatric prisoners. Journeying with Levine on a series of photo shoots in Canadian and American prisons, we discover why he has embarked on this artistic pursuit, what he seeks to reveal, who his subjects are and why we should care. With Levine as our gateway, the film provides an immersion into the world of the aging prisoners, revealing a number of important social issues surrounding the aging prison population, and bringing forth the personal dimension of this human tragedy.

1:30 PM — 3:00 PM: SHORT FILM PROGRAM

1:30 PM: BEWARE THE LILY LAW (2011)
Produced and directed by Michelle Handelman, 27 min [Q&A to follow]
Beware The Lily Law is a public art piece by Michelle Handelman that uses the 1969 Stonewall Riots as a starting point to address issues facing gay and transgender inmates. Performed by Becca Blackwell and Michael Lynch, Handelman developed these monologues based on the experiences of real transgender inmates, as well as the personal experience of each performer. Now in its fourth year on display at Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, the multi-media installation has brought much attention to the plight of transgender inmates.

Produced by Bruce A. Levitt, 20 min [Q&A to follow]
Where the Walls Contain Everything but the Sky documents the work of the Phoenix Players Theatre Group (PPTG) at Auburn Correctional Facility—a maximum-security prison in upstate New York. What makes this prison theatre organization unique is that PPTG is a grassroots program developed by and for incarcerated persons and communities in a maximum-security prison. The heart of the film is how the men see theatre as a discipline that leads them through a process of personal transformation, and even redemption.

3:00 PM: HERMAN’S HOUSE (2013)
Directed by Angad Sing Bhalla, 90 min
Herman Wallace may be the longest-serving prisoner in solitary confinement in the United States. He spent more than 40 years in a 6-by-9-foot cell in Louisiana. Imprisoned in 1967 for a robbery he admits, he was subsequently sentenced to life for a killing he vehemently denies. Herman’s House is a moving account of the remarkable expression his struggle found in an unusual project proposed by artist jackie sumell. Imagining Wallace’s “dream home” began as a game and became an interrogation of justice and punishment in America. The film takes us inside the duo’s unlikely 12-year friendship, revealing the transformative power of art.
This program is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

This program has also been made possible by generous support from the Puffin Foundation Ltd.

*Prison Obscura* is a traveling exhibition curated by Pete Brook and made possible with the support of the John B. Hurford ’60 Center for the Arts and Humanities and Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery at Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

Co-Sponsors: Alfa Art Gallery; American Friends Service Committee’s Prison Watch Program; Art Library-Rutgers New Brunswick; Associate Campus Dean of Douglass Residential College; Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities; Department of American Studies, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Department of History, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Heldrich Hotel; Institute for Women and Art, Mountainview Program; New Brunswick Public Library; Office of the Chancellor of Rutgers-New Brunswick; Office of the Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick; Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan; PUEG Center at UNAM (National University of Mexico); Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts; School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers-Newark; Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Planning Committee: David Adler, Chris Agans, Bob Belvin, Kayo Denda, Maco Faniel, Donna Gustafson, Jean Holtz, Nicole Ianuzelli, Chris Kourtev, Megan Lotts, Colleen Martin, Donald Roden, Connie Tell

Program Assistants: Elix Colon, Mark Ray Lockwood

Intern: Alyssa Innis

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

This program could not be possible without the support of funders, faculty, artists, activists, and community workers. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, work-study students, interns, research assistants, photographers, designers, and others who have helped get this conference and exhibition off the ground, including (but not limited to):

Lex Ackerman, Patrick Ambrosio, Andreana Barefield, Kelsi Brown, Jenn Coard, Elix Colon, Don Courter, Amelia Del Monte, Nada Diab, Ezra Dufala, Jade Gleason, Liz Gokham, Dev Govindji, Larissa Grace, Shalonda Forrest, Marissa Jimenez, Daniel Kaczocha, Rick Lee, Sarah Lewis, Christian Luis, Marlaina Martin, Rich Morales-Thompson, Chris Rzigalinski, Sekou Sako, Shaka, Emma Scully, Austin Schwerzel, Nishika Sen. A very special thank you to Megan Lotts and Nicole Ianuzelli for their expertise in art installation. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of the artists, scholars and visionaries whose works inspire this conference and exhibition.