

*Currently*



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Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery  
Haverford College  
January 28-March 3, 2023

*Currently* is a participatory exhibition organized by artist Mark Menjivar and writer Lindsay Reckson that looks deeply at capital punishment in the United States. Through maps, signs, collaborative timeline, a reading table and spaces for imagination, visitors are invited to reflect on the complicated nature of state-sanctioned violence. Visitors will be invited to participate in ongoing collective research and leave reflections directly on the gallery walls, which will then become a publication at the close of the exhibition.



To Murphy Carter, Karen Cheng, Sophie Cull, Rickey Cummings, Tyler Davis, Harvey Earvin, Jade Edwards, Bela Khanna, Mabrey L'Andor, Nick Lasinsky, Walter Long, Kristopher Love, Demontrell Miller, Pete Russell, Bidish Sarma, Paul Slater, Obie Weathers:

Over 350 people visited *Currently* between January 22 and March 3. They read your contributions to the timeline. They thought deeply about capital punishment. And they responded with some of the notes we've included here. We hope the images and text give you a sense of the exhibit and the important conversations it helped produce. Thank you for sharing your words with us and trusting that they would do this powerful work. We are eternally grateful for you. And we are still fighting.

Mark Menjivar and Lindsay Reckson  
April 2023

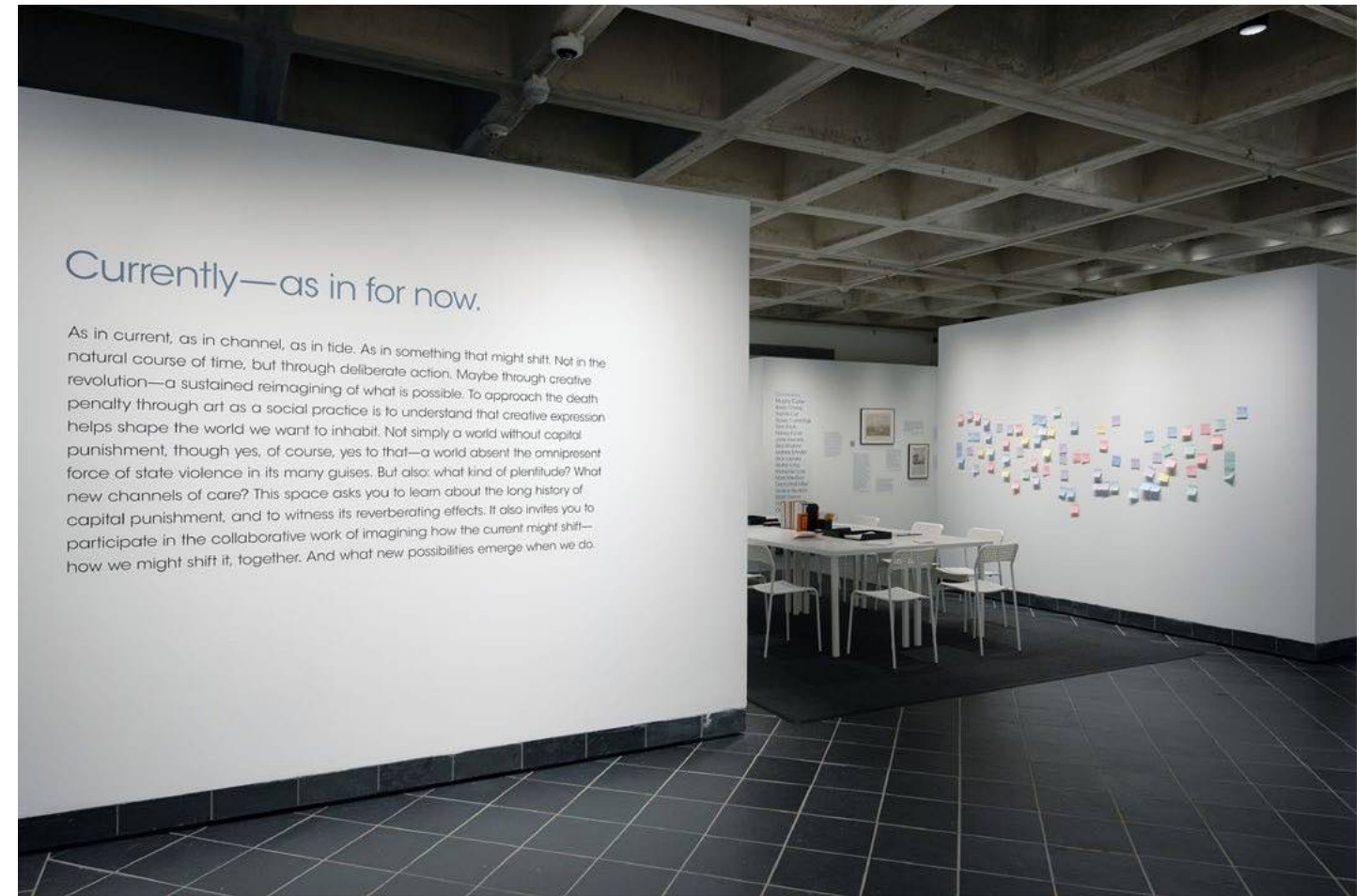
## Currently—as in for now.

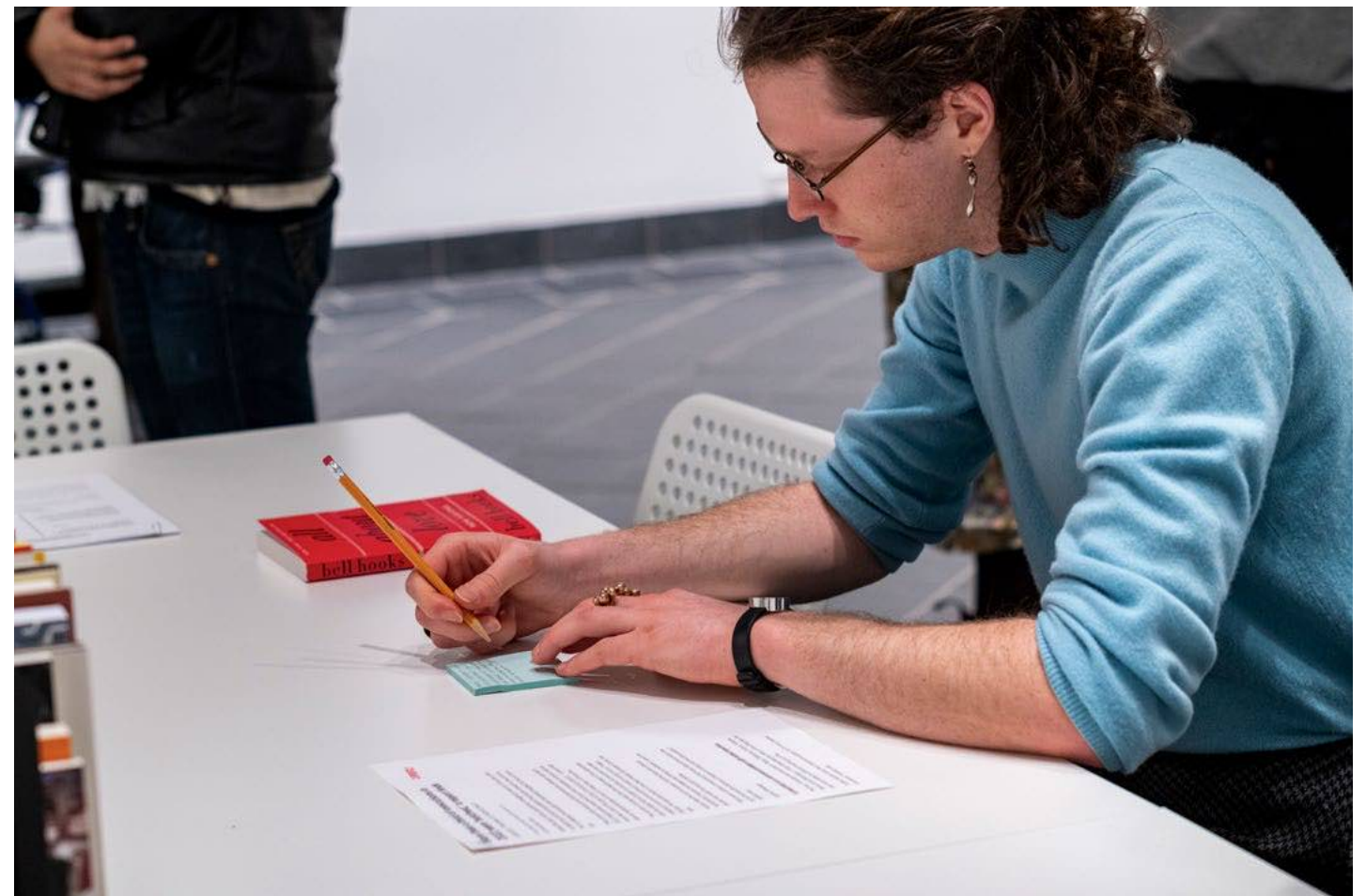
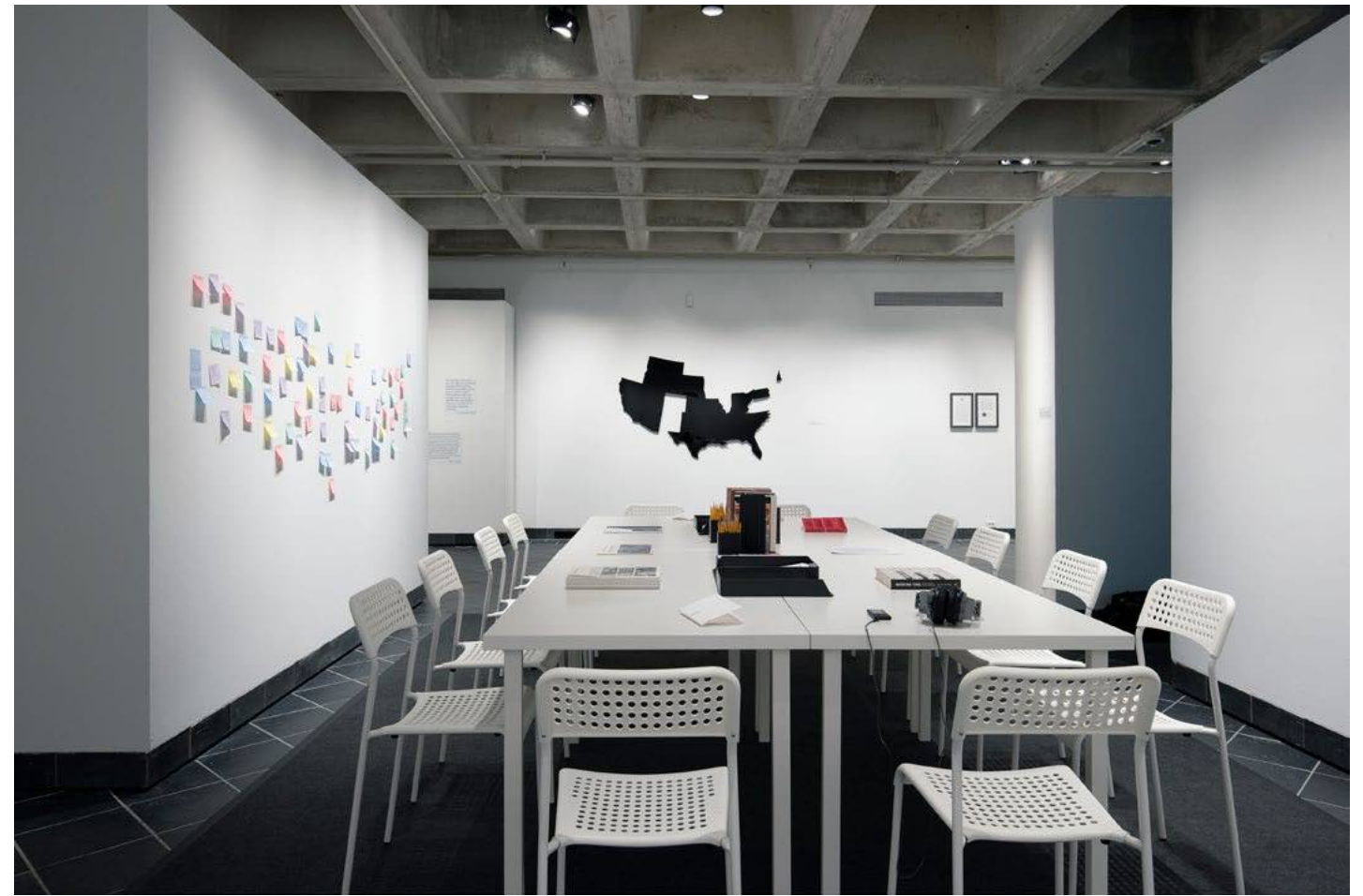
As in current, as in channel, as in tide. As in something that might shift. Not in the natural course of time, but through deliberate action. Maybe through creative revolution—a sustained reimagining of what is possible. To approach the death penalty through art as a social practice is to understand that creative expression helps shape the world we want to inhabit. Not simply a world without capital punishment, though yes, of course, yes to that—a world absent the omnipresent force of state violence in its many guises. But also: what kind of plentitude? What new channels of care? This space asks you to learn about the long history of capital punishment, and to witness its reverberating effects. It also invites you to participate in the collaborative work of imagining how the current might shift—how we might shift it, together. And what new possibilities emerge when we do.

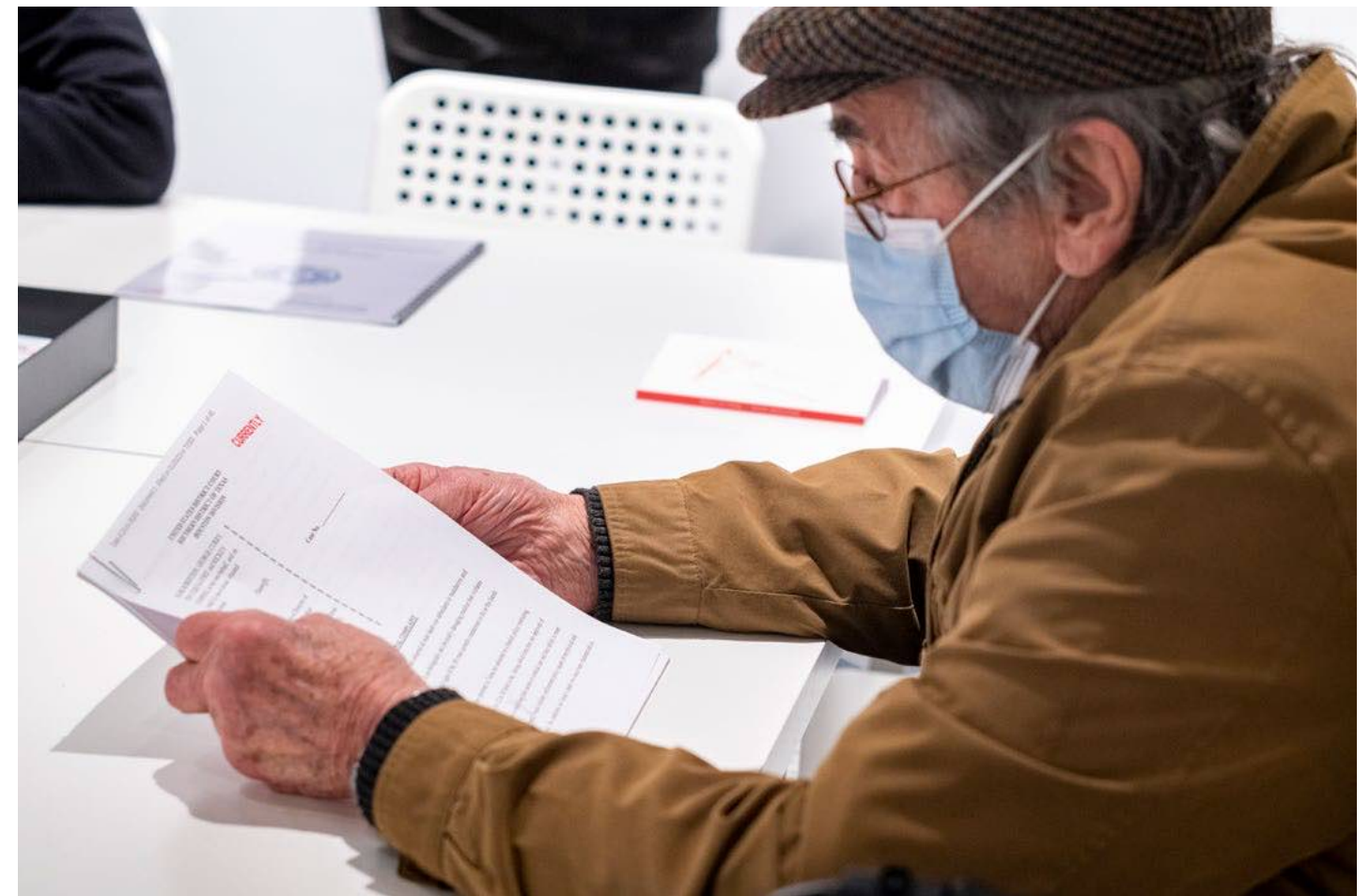
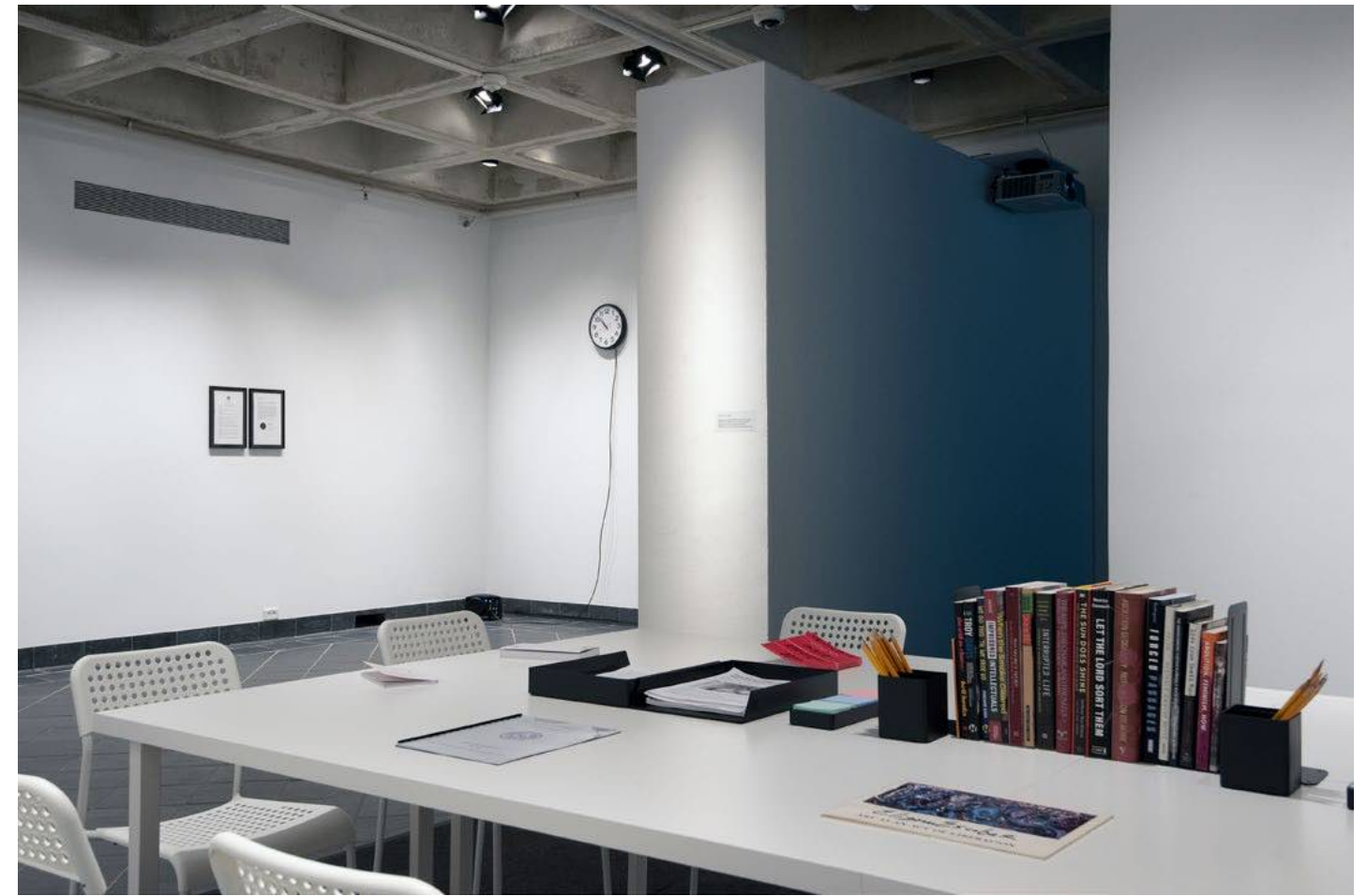


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Karen Cheng  
Sophie Cull  
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Mark Menjivar  
Demontrell Miller  
Lindsay Reckson  
Bidish Sarma  
Paul Slater  
Obie Weathers











- the will to change bell hooks
- TROY DAVIS
- WE DO THIS 'TIL WE FREE US MARLAINE KABA
- JAMES **IMPRISONED INTELLECTUALS**
- When the Smoke Cleared
- NO MERCY HEKE
- ASSATA SHANUR
- ASSATA
- INTERRUPTED LIFE
- THE ROPE, THE CHAIR, AND THE NEEDLE
- THE SUN DOES SHINE
- LET THE LORD SORT THEM
- ABOLITION GEOGRAPHY
- FORCED PASSAGES
- FELON
- THE UNDERCOMMONS
- Live from Death Row
- ABOLITION. FEMINISM. NOW.





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An Incomplete and Expanded

THE SUPREME COURT ruled in *Furman v. Georgia* that execution procedures of the time were "barbaric, wantonly, and freakishly imposed" on incarcerated blacks, leading to discriminatory results. June 29, 1972.

Charles Beales Jr. is the first person executed by lethal injection and the first person executed in Texas since 1964. Since Charles's execution, Texas has executed over 650 people. December 7, 1982.

When Clarence Thomas was appointed to the Supreme Court, he was the first African American to serve on the Court. He is also the only justice to have been appointed by a Republican president. He has been a vocal conservative, often dissenting from the liberal majority. He is known for his conservative views on federalism, states' rights, and the role of the judiciary. He has also been criticized for his perceived bias against African Americans and his support of the death penalty. He is currently serving his second term on the Court.

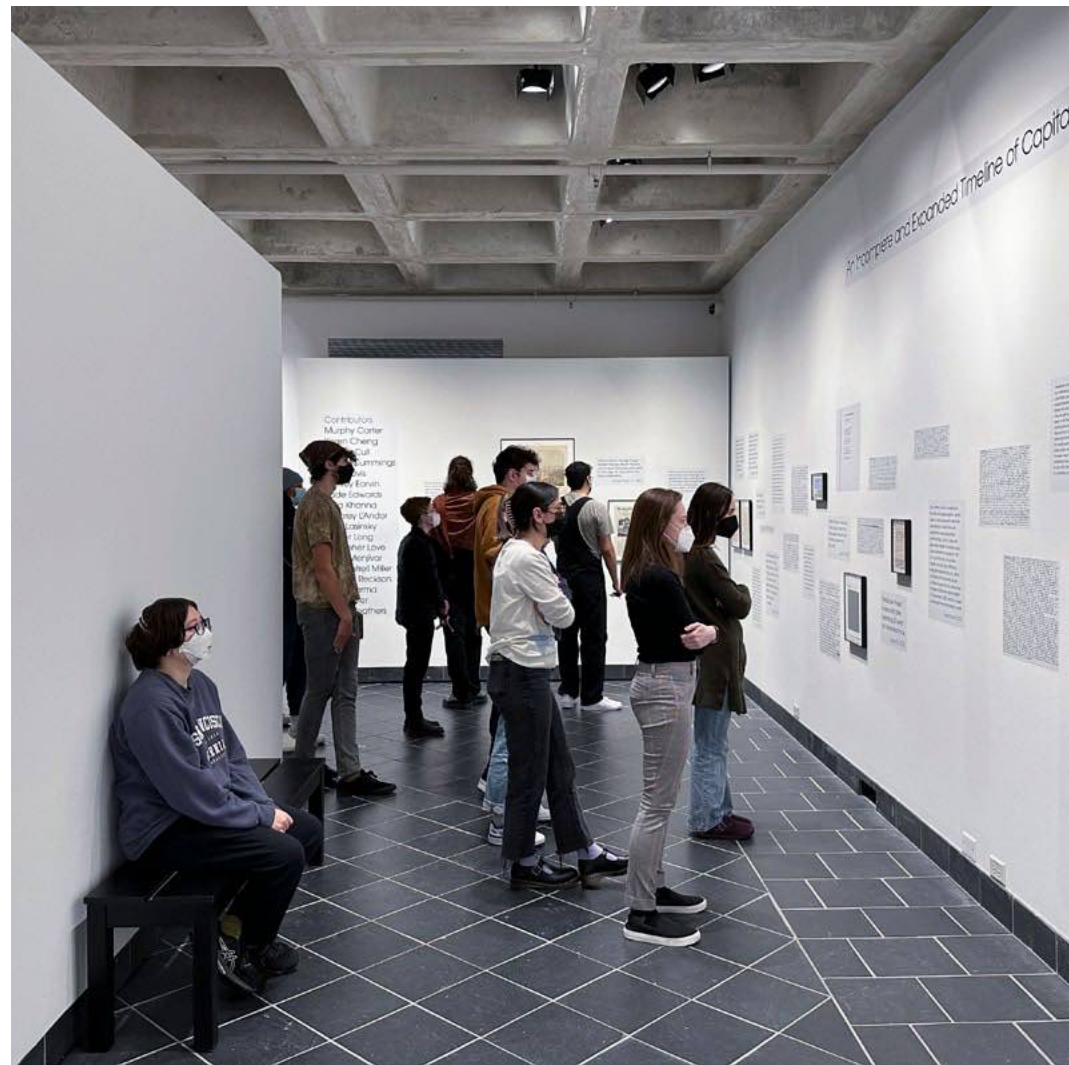
Billie Holiday records the song "Strange Fruit" April 23, 1939.

The Philadelphia Police Department drops a satchel bomb on 6221 Osage Avenue, home to members of the Black Liberation group MOVE. 11 people are killed, including 5 children. May 13, 1985.

Timothy McVeigh is executed in same house, becoming the first person executed by the federal government since 1963. June 11, 2001.

David Lee Powell is executed after spending 30 years on Texas death row. June 15, 2010.





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With time being an abstraction (and a construct) there are so many ways of thinking about it aside from, say, January 1, to February 5. There is the feeling (the loneliness of time), the effect of time (growing old and senile), how time is thought of and measured (each year I wait and watch for the goldfinches to visit). Time can represent the beginning of something and, in the reverse, the beginning of something can punctuate time like a dot.



Labor activists George Engel, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons, and August Spies are executed in Chicago for their role in the Haymarket Affair.

November 11, 1887

Before he could be executed by the State of Texas, Jesse Washington is seized by the mob in the courthouse and lynched in front of thousands in the downtown streets of Waco, Texas. The Waco Horror—W. E. B. Du Bois and hundreds of thousands more protest.

May 15, 1916

In the largest mass execution in American history, 38 Dakota men are hanged under orders from President Lincoln, who would sign the Emancipation Proclamation just six days later. Two more Dakota warriors are captured and hanged in the days that follow. Every year since 2005, the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Riders travel 325 miles by horseback from Lower Brule, South Dakota back to the site of the execution in Mankato, Minnesota, often in freezing conditions, arriving on December 26th. They ride to memorialize the dead, to draw attention to ongoing colonial violence, and to create opportunities for healing and reconciliation.

December 26, 1862

Italian immigrants and anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti are executed despite blatant inadequacies in their trial, prompting an outpouring of popular support and mourning.

August 23, 1927



Dr. Jacob Katz, prison chaplain at Sing Sing, publishes "My First Execution," describing in vivid detail the execution of a minor pseudonym John Kuthner, by the State of New York. Katz, an avid opponent of capital punishment, describes the horror and injustice of the day he spent trying to offer comfort and guidance to the young boy before his murder on May 23, 1919.

1920

Five Black men are executed by electrocution for the first time in the state of Texas. The series of executions would soon be named the Highway of Death; their names and ages: Charles Reynolds, 27; Ewell Morris, 22; followed by George Washington, 38; Mack Matthews, 57; and Melvin Johnson, 19. From 1924 to 1972, a total of 361 individuals would be electrocuted in Texas.

February 8, 1924

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In the largest mass execution in American history, 38 Dakota warriors are hanged under orders of President Lincoln, who was still in the Emancipation Proclamation just six days later. Two months later, 26 more warriors are captured and executed in the days that follow. Every year since 2005, the Dakota Memorial Riders travel 3



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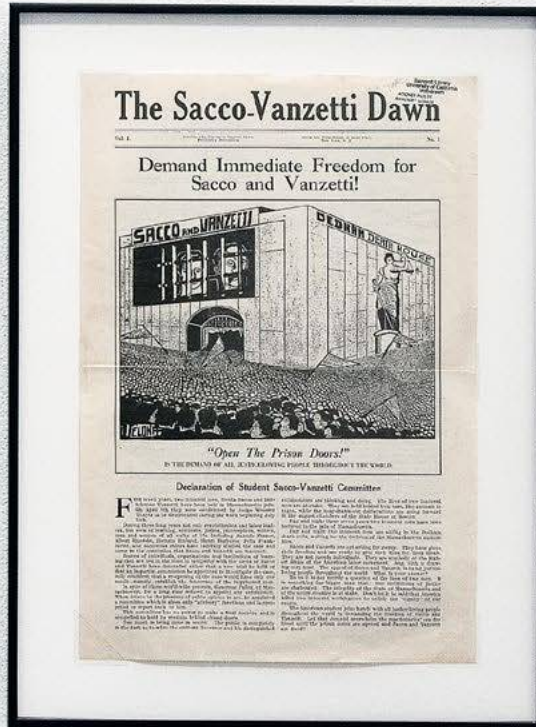
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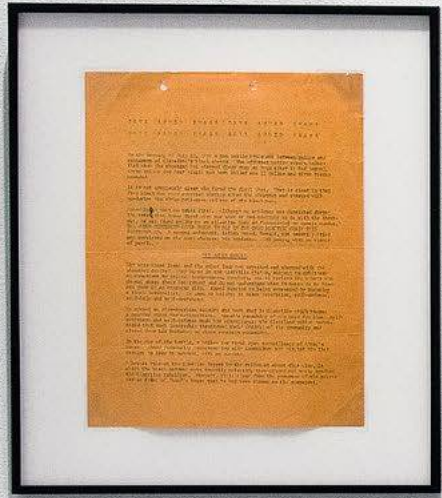


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February 8, 1919

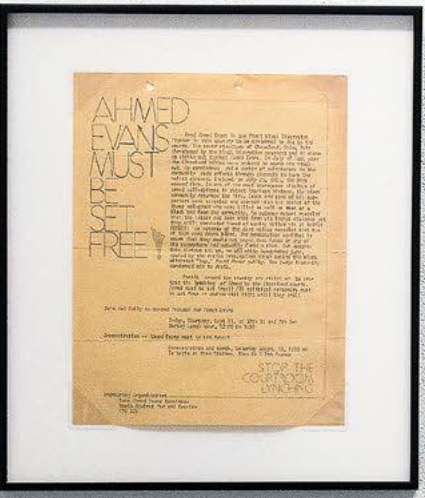
The Supreme Court rules in *Furman v. Georgia* that execution procedures of the time were inhumane, "wantonly... and freakishly imposed" on marginalized bodies, and led to discriminatory results.

June 29, 1972



Charlie Brooks Jr. is the first person executed in the United States by lethal injection and the first person executed in Texas since 1964. Since Charlie's execution, Texas has executed over 575 people.

December 7, 1982



Billie Holiday records the song *Strange Fruit*.

April 20, 1939

As a kid, I remember being told what strange fruit was, but I was too young to know why this fruit hung so freely and consistently. I didn't know that most of these hangings were legal- the legal semblance of a simple execution. The law was used to justify a personal ideology. I don't know that certain militant groups were caused paranoia, and their acts- murder included- only underlined their patriotism.

"When in *Gregg v. Georgia* the Supreme Court gave its seal of approval to capital punishment, this endorsement was premised on the promise that capital punishment would be administered with fairness and justice. Instead, the promise has become a cruel and empty mockery. If not remedied, the scandalous state of our present system of capital punishment will cast a pall of shame over our society for years to come. We cannot let it continue."

-Thurgood Marshall

Mumia Abu-Jamal publishes *Live from Death Row*, detailing conditions on death row at SCI Huntingdon in south-central Pennsylvania and describing mass incarceration as a form of "spirit death" for millions of Americans. "The most profound horror of prisons," he writes, "lives in the day-to-day banal occurrences that turn days into months, and months into years, and years into decades. Prison is a second-by-second assault on the soul, a day-to-day degradation of the self, an oppressive steel and brick umbrella that transforms seconds into hours and hours into days."

1995

The Philadelphia Police Department drops a satchel bomb on 6221 Osage Avenue, home to members of the Black liberation group MOVE. 11 people are killed, including 5 children.

May 13, 1985

*In 1995 - when I first caught my case - lawyer told me - I was facing the death that that state was trying to remove death row! I didn't understand it - even to this day I don't understand it - as in my mind because - I did not know - that death row existed! and even if it did - my thoughts were - where you'd see serial killer - from the time my lawyer told me - that was being to try to send me to death row - I slipped into a fog - like people was to but - it was more like they was talking and not to me!*

*when I was  
I was being  
said earlier  
Killers - Prop  
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from my nig  
reel with...  
shock again...  
said - Maam  
yell like som  
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number 20  
Edward Shree  
came out of*



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1995

*When I arrived to Death Row in 1996 - I thought I was going to see some really bad people - as I said earlier - I'm thinking horror movies - serial killers - People chopping and cutting bodies up... sis - I'm pumping myself up - I'm thinking first person come at me wrong - it's on!  
When I arrived to Death Row... it was guys from my neighborhood here - Guys I went to school with... I couldn't believe it - I was in shock again... when I talked to these guys - I said - Ma'am - everybody in the neighborhood thought you got some time... we never heard of Death Row - They ended up executing both of these guys... Edward Green some time in 2004 or 2005 - I can't remember when they executed Ronald Howard... Edward Green execution really affected me - I didn't come out of my cell for a week!*



Timothy McVeigh is executed in Terre Haute, IN becoming the first person executed by the federal government since 1963.

June 11, 2001

Death row inmates begin to be transferred to the Allan B. Polunsky Unit, a supermax prison located in Livingston, TX. The transfer of over 450 men took ten months and is the largest transfer of condemned prisoners in United States history.

June 18, 1999

*The Polunsky Unit was a shock to us all - it's not set up nothing like the Ellis Unit - no T.V.'s - no recreation groups - no work program... we was stripped of everything - only a radio!  
Since being here - we have to fight for everything - no - Protest was set up - soon I was apart of - some I wasn't... 22 years later - being on 23 years... we still haven't gotten anything... mail hasn't been right since we got here - Commissary hasn't been right since we got here - still no T.V.'s - no recreation groups - no work program... we barely even get recreation now we went from recreation 6 days a week - to 5 days a week - to only 3 days a week!  
we went from having 6 visiting days a week - to only having 3 visiting days a week.  
we were able to have special visits on - 2 days in a row - Monday/Thursday - Tuesday/Sunday - Wednesday/Thursday - Thursday/Friday!  
now we are down to being able to have special visits on Tuesday and Thursday - were happy to make our friends stay over an extra day.*

*All month this country has covered toward cold and winter's collaboration: what a state announced - a birth - and then a chance to hold a year away - pull one bush from the drawer.  
if not clean, well, unclean. In just a few months across the ice-hot day of the dead - come-back-to-life - time then to ask how new and re-beginnings differ - may bleed  
for the december mistake: as someone must - did you imagine sacrifice as you called the corps to life? did they come, those youngbloods, at the cracking of your voice.  
like larvae to their? right or right on the road to an queen, candlelight.*

Eva Shockley

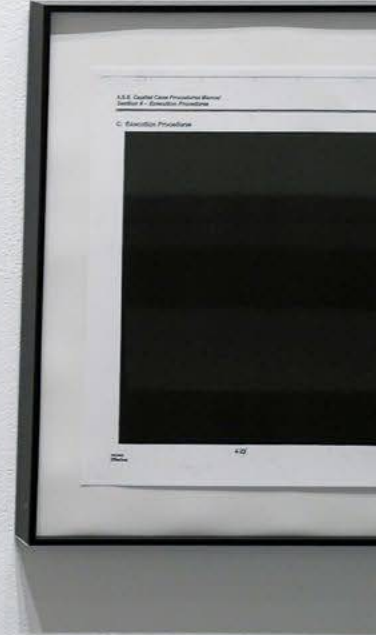
10/20/2018-10/20/2018

*2008 - I was 28 years old when I was killed. Even when the death penalty was abolished, I found out, committed when some to how this criteria "law of justice" was trigger in a robber to a self defense case I was still dealing with, the other side from cancer. At the return to the court from death row, sit out to me, he went it was offered, the nung the offer for another chance - he hope that the mistake truth would come out the before I was convicted, over 20 people he had already been*

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like lazarus to christe? vigilante night, on the road to san quentin, candlelight.

Eve Shockley

Shockley, Eve (1977)

December 13, 2005. The State of California executed Stanley Williams, also known as "Tookie". Though I was familiar w/ the concept of "capital punishment" in the streets (I saw my first murder victim when I was 7 years old), as well as racially motivated acts of capital punishment that happened before my time (minutes from where I was raised, Jesse Washington, a Black man, was mutilated, hanged and burned in front of the same court house I was wrongfully convicted in), this was the first time I truly became aware of the use of a death chamber in our country. Because of who Tookie was, a co-founder/former leader of the Crip gang, and who he had evolved into during his incarceration, an author of many children books, his case and pending execution was very high profile. His star was so bright that Oscar winner, Jamie Foxx, portrayed him in a biopic. I remember sitting in front of the TV watching CNN waiting to see if then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger would commute his sentence. It wasn't lost on me that "The Terminator" had this mans fate in his hands, which was crazy to me. Here was this actor turned politician, another human, deciding that, despite Tookie's personal redemptive measures, and all that he was actively doing to end gang violence, his life wasn't worth living any longer. Unfortunately, 15 years later another "celebrity" would be in position to do the same thing to men in federal prison.

April 1, 2011. This is the day I was arrested. I was in the parking lot of H-E-B getting ready to pay my gas bill. I turned to get something out of my car and the next thing I knew the U.S. Marshall's and city police had me surrounded, guns drawn, and telling me to get on the ground. To this day, I still don't know where all those cops came from. Once I was placed in a patrol car, an officer told me I was being arrested for "traffic warrants", which I now HAD to be false. Afterall, I had heard the neighborhood rumors, I just didn't pay much attention to them b/c they were false. It was when I was taken into the interrogation room that I was officially charged w/ Capital murder and 2 counts of Attempted murder. Everything felt so surreal that I actually said "this must be an April Fool's joke". I would go on to spend the next 18 months in the county jail witnessing how court appointed attorneys, who are over worked and under paid, sold false hope while doing the bare minimal. Whereas, the District Attorney's war chest was well funded and they proved to be willing to do whatever it took to get their conviction.

Timothy McVeigh is executed in Terre Haute, IN becoming the first person executed by the federal government since 1963.

June 11, 2001

2008- I was 28 years old when I was arrested for capital murder when a policeman was killed. Even with my encounters earlier in life, I never knew the criteria for the death penalty. I never thought about the other side when Pauls was killed- nor Rick. I found out, in the time sitting on my indictment, that a capital offense was committed when someone was killed while committing another felony. I was enlighten to how this criteria was stretched to fit even those cases later than. For the "law of parties", where someone could be a co-defendant to someone who pulled the trigger in a robbery, but they would be eligible for the same punishment of death, to a self defense case, or regular murder one. 2008 was a black cloud seemingly. I was still dealing with the loss of two of my friends before my arrest. One was killed, the other committed suicide. A month after my arrest my grandmother passed from cancer. At that time, Harris county was still sending far death row inmates to return to the county jail to learn their execution date. There I met several men from death row, either to get a date, or they awaited a new trial. One man stood out to me, he went by the name of Cuba. Cuba urged me to take a life sentence if it was offered, that he himself was stubborn and only thinking of himself when turning the offer for life he had down. He told me that he would do it different with another chance- he would do it for his family. Being green to the situation I had hope that the mistake of my arrest would quickly be fixed, or at the latest the truth would come out in trial. I sat in the county, in a one man cell, for 16 months before I was convicted and sent to death row. The time in between my arrest and trial, over 20 people were executed by the state of Texas. By April of 2009 12 people had already been executed- it didn't seem real....



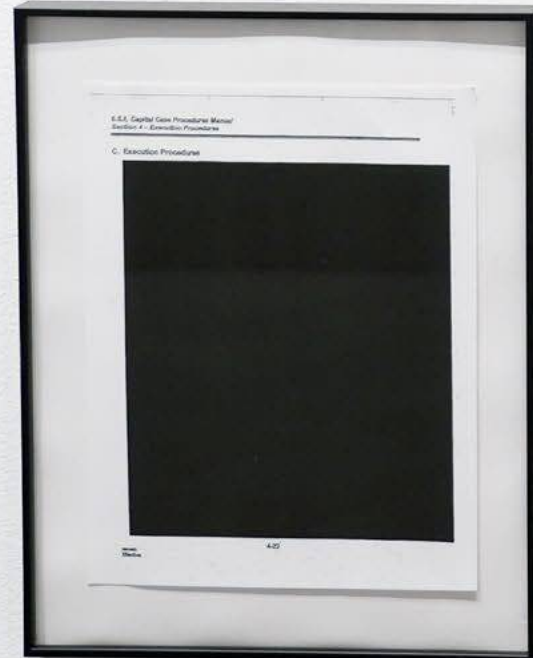
David Lee Powell is executed after spending 32 years on Texas' death row.

June 15, 2010

Troy Anthony Davis is murdered by the state of Georgia despite a global effort to halt his execution, led by his sister Martina Correia-Davis with support from world leaders like Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter, and Sister Helen Prejean. In his final words Davis maintains his innocence: "All I can ask is that each of you look deeper into this case, so that you really will finally see the truth. I ask of my family and friends that you all continue to pray, that you all continue to forgive. Continue to fight this fight. On December 1, 2011, Martina Correia-Davis passes away from breast cancer.

September 21, 2009

was a shock to us all- living like the Ellis One Unit- on Groups - no work - ripped at everything - only a few days to fight for everything - some I was apart of - years later - living on 23 - didn't sustain anything... since we got here - been right since we got to recreation groups - no more even had recreation meetings 6 days a week - to 5 to 3 days a week! - living 6 visiting days a week - living 3 days a week. special visits on - 2 days a day - Tuesday/Wednesday



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September 21, 2011

November 12, 2012. In the early hours of the morning, I was transported from my county jail to the Byrd Unit, in Huntsville, Texas. This is the unit where all new males entering TDCJ go to be processed into the system. W/ a belly chain, (a chain wrapped around my waist that has two handcuffs attached to it, and shackles on, I hobbled into the building. There must have been a chain bus before I arrived b/c there were lots of men in the cages on both side of the hall. As soon as the door closed, the officer yelled "Clear the run", which caused all the men on the outside to enter the cages, and all attention to be placed on me. Right there in the hall I was unchained & shackled, then told to strip naked: "Open your mouth, lift your tongue, raise your arms, lift your sack, turn around, lift your feet, now squat and cough." I wasn't unfamiliar w/ the process at this point, but one can NEVER get used to such a degrading act. After the search, I was given a set of TDCJ whites, and placed into a small cage, away from the others, that was no bigger than a phone booth. After what seemed like hours of being constantly looked at by the men and guards that had just learned that a man sentenced to Death Row was there, I was finally freed from the cage and taken to the unit barber so my head could be shaved bald. I've yet to learn the reason for this process, but every new person must have their hair, facial hair included, shaved off. After this process, I had my photo taken, saw a doctor, then I was placed in the cage again to await a transport van from the Polunsky Unit to pick me up. About 40 minutes later the van arrived. On it was a man name David, he too was on Death Row; the van had just picked him up from another unit, where he was getting his eyes checked. I was fortunate to have him on the van w/ me as we drove to Livingston, which is where the Polunsky Unit is located. During this 35-40 minute ride, he informed me on what to expect from the men when I arrived to the unit, how things operate in regards to visitation and recreation hours, he also informed that I would be housed in a small cage, alone, w/ none of the "luxuries" I was accustomed to in the county jail: No tv, no microwave to cook your commissary, and no phone to call your loved ones. He told me I would be having incomplete isolation, and it was up to me how I spent my time. I could A, waste time BS'n around until they kill me, or B, I could study my case, learn something about the law and fight for my life or freedom. I already knew what I was going to do.

November 13, 2012. Three things happened to me on my second day here that I would never forget. 1) my neighbor got me good. From the cage, I'm able to look out into the section, which I found myself doing all throughout the night in disbelief that I was here. On the wall, I noticed a red light that would come on at random times. The next morning, I kept seeing the light, but had no idea what it was for. Hitting the wall to call my neighbor, who went by Filo (he was murdered by the state in 2014), I asked, "say, what's up w/ that red light right there?". He replied, "Aw, man, when that light come on that means they are executing someone." This news stumbled me. It also triggered the memory of a movie in which when a man was executed, a light turned on. I replied, "Damn, man, they've been killing people all night and day!" Next thing I knew, Filo was laughing his butt off. After he calmed down, he explained that the light just meant that a cage door was open. I had to laugh myself after that. And, I definitely got someone w/ the same line!! 2) I received a "kite", which is what we call a written note here, from a guy name Carrol Parr, that I was familiar w/. He was older than me by about 10 years, but once he gave his street name, Outlaw, I remembered who he was. He used to come to an older relatives trap house while I was there. In his kite he sent me a fishing line (braided nylon that we use to pass things back & forth) and informed me that he just got news that he had received a date, so he would be moved soon. But, if I needed anything, just get word to him and he had me. He was moved that same day before I could reply. 3) I went to recreation for the first time and met Ray Jasper aka Ray Ray. The only dayroom they had open was in B-section, and Ray Ray was the only man housed in the section, even though each section held 14 men. It was the administrators way of punishing him AND keeping him isolated from other men, due to his ability to make cats move to the beat of his drum. He was a revolutionary, a leader, and he had no problem doing whatever it took to get his point across. In him I saw an alkie, and we talked about everything under the sun in those 2 hours. What stood out to me the most was the emphasis he put on how he spent so much time "riding for the cause" and trying to better the conditions on Death Row; that he lost valuable time he could've spent fighting his case. He told me he could be receiving a date soon. He was the second person that day to talk to me about getting an execution date. An hour or so after being back in the cage I was housed in, I received a kite from Ray Ray, in which he told me to try to get my hands on several legal books, get my trial transcript and read over everything, and be sure to take notes of what was false and inconsistent. He also told me to get at him and a guy who go by Tank Money, who I'm now cool w/, if I have any legal questions. At the end of his kite he told "Don't get caught up in the BS around here, focus on the real fight, the fight for your life and freedom."

I remember watching the news coverage of Rickey's case. I had my twitter set up to be alerted every time Tommy Witherspoon, a journalist covering Rickey's trial, posted a tweet. One night, during the sentencing phase, I remember the news outlining "who" Rickey was and why the State was pursuing the Death Penalty. They brought up childhood fights, fights from high school, every piece of dirt they could find on him. I sat there in my living room watching the news with my dad. I was in disbelief of the person they painted a picture of. My dad made a remark about him deserving the death penalty. I remember trying to "edit" the image the media painted in my dad's head. Giving real stories of WHO Rickey really was - a loyal friend, a protector, an intellect, a father. The news never mentioned him having a young son. They never mentioned how great of a father he was and how active he was in his son's life. They didn't want the world to see that image because it completely contradicted the image they were presenting.

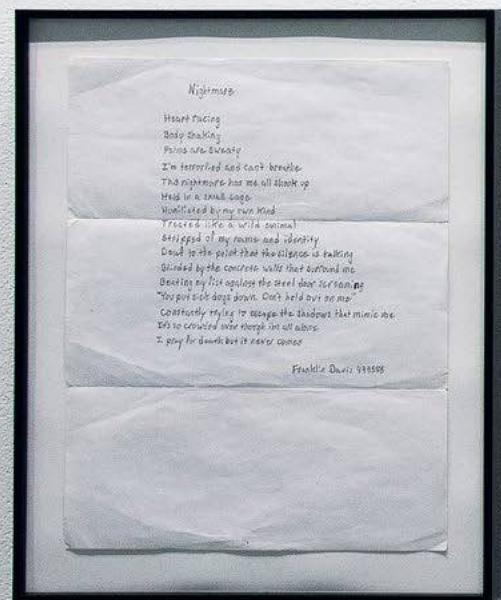
November 2012



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November 2012



## Texas executes Kimberly McCarthy, the 500th person in the state since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976.

June 27, 2013



I am the longest residing on the row. Days and date remember so well anymore. Only moments—except emotional moments—that leave me feeling some K. Or small stretches of time punctuated with indelible. Both tragic and sweet. Like the entrance and exit of the time I got to know him in the in between. To walk and witness his transitioning that was likened unto a flower that was plucked before it bloomed, robbing of its inheritance.

Ja is gone, but some of the lives he touched remain all men on missions, believing fully that we can make a difference in this world of need and hurt.

There's so much to be said about Ja's growth. That timeline between his entrance and forced exit. This is and the sweet. Because of his enduring legacy and effect, what he set in motion, will stay in motion.

I smile every time, and remember with fond affection the time Obie Weathers (one of Ja's closest brothers) got an earth man wearing earth shoes, conscious of the taking care of the earth is another way of caring for them. They are two fights that are closely intertwined: Saving and to save the people.

Memories are vehicles that help us navigate life lessons that shaped our ideas, beliefs, and paved our moral foundation.

I came. Now I'm gone.

2014- Ray Jasper was a very interesting character, and I mean that in the most positive way. Around this time he'd learned that he learned that he had an execution date. He was sent to the disciplinary pod for disobeying a direct order. I'll never forget what he told me: "I've seen a lot of cats come through here, solid dudes, who got caught up in fighting the administration and forgot about the real fight- going home! Before they knew it they were at the end of their appeals". As I said, the signs I'd already been seeing, this was just one more to take heed to. Ray, who we called "Ray Ray", left a lasting impression because he told me that he didn't want to visit his family on his last day of visits before his execution. He'd made his mind up that he would fight. "Anything worth having is worth fighting for", he said. And fight he did. He was one of the very few men that fought since I've been here. This was also the year that I had a revelation on certain people that were in my circle- another sign. My true circle, men like Paul "Stick" Slater, Tony Toms, GP, Truman, Big Wreck was the family that kept me grounded, the people that encouraged me, and also told me when I was wrong. They were intricate in my growth. This was important at the time because my own brothers, blood brothers weren't showing up or my family period outside of my parents bringing my kids to see me.

I was able to visit Rickey for the first time. I remember walking into the visit with his mom. I was nervous. I had no idea what to expect. I wasn't sure how to conduct myself. Rickey came out with a smile on his face and spent the entire visit laughing and cracking jokes. It was just like old times. When our time was up, me and his mom walked outside the building. I remember her standing there waiting to see Rickey escorted into 12 bldg where he was housed.

Fall 2014

\*December 7, 2016. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed my bro's, A.D. Love, conviction on Direct Appeal. Unlike my trial attorney's, his objected to the use of the text msgs. unlawfully seized and improperly used during his trial, which happened to be the exact msgs. the D.A had claimed I sent during my trial, and some. Reading through the courts opinion, I saw that one of the cases that was cited was the Riley v California case, as the issues in both cases (mine included) were similar. As in Riley, the courts ruled that my bro had a "reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of the messages he sent" and the state needed a warrant to gain access. When I heard the news of his reversal, I was TURNT UP! I was so happy. And it was as if a weight was lifted off my shoulder. In my mind I was like, okay, w/ bro out the way, I can focus all my energy into my case, now. He's out the door, I'm sure to follow. I was also wishing I could curse out my attorney's for not objecting. And for not raising the claim in my appeal like I asked. Unfortunately for me, and luckily for them, I no longer had access to them. I had a whole new set of attorney's working on my case D/C the turn over race at the office they work at was/is horrible. Of course the D.A in Waco Appeal the C.C.A's decision, which resulted in my bro having to stay here until the higher courts ruled.

2017- I began the day to life events started to second guess path. They always be u



Deeper was a very interesting character, and I mean that in the most positive sense possible. Around this time he'd learned that he learned that he had a execution date set. I'll never forget he told me: "I've seen a lot cats come through here, solid dudes, who get up in fighting the administration and forget about the real fight—going here they knew it they were at the end of their appeals". As I said, the already been seeing, this was just one more to take heed to. Ray, who we met by Ray, left a lasting impression because he told me that he didn't want his family on his last day of visits before his execution, we'd made his that he would fight. "Anything worth having is worth fighting for", he said he did. He was one of the very few men that fought since I've been here, and the year that I had a revelation on certain people that were in my mother's life. My true circle, man like Saul "Stu" Ellner, Tony Towe, DJ Ig Wreck use the facility that was never provided to the people that surrounded me and my brothers. They were intricate in my growth, this was at the time because my own brothers, blood brothers weren't showing up, mostly outside of my parents bringing my kids to see me.

ricky for the first time walking into the cell was nervous. I didn't expect to conduct myself with a smile on his face entire visit making jokes. It was when our time was up we walked outside and remember her standing there Rickey escorted me and he was housed.

Fall 2014

I am the longest residing on the row. Days and dates I don't remember so well anymore. Only moments—exceptionally emotional moments—that leave me feeling some kind of way. Or small stretches of time punctuated with indelible memories. Both tragic and sweet. Like the entrance and exit of Ja, and the time I got to know him in the in between. To walk with him and witness his transitioning that was likened unto a budding flower that was plucked before it bloomed, robbing the world of its inheritance.

Ja is gone, but some of the lives he touched remain. We are all men on missions, believing fully that we can make some difference in this world of need and hurt.

There's so much to be said about Ja's growth. That sweet timeline between his entrance and forced exit. This is the bitter and the sweet. Because of his enduring legacy and lasting effect, what he set in motion, will stay in motion.

I smile every time, and remember with fond affection, each time Obie Weathers (one of Ja's closest brothers) go out on visit: an earth man wearing earth shoes, conscious of the fact that taking care of the earth is another way of caring for the people. They are two fights that are closely intertwined: Saving the earth to save the people.

Memories are vehicles that help us navigate life lessons that shaped our ideas, beliefs, and paved our moral foundations.

I came. Now I'm gone.

July 27, 2018. My homie, Christopher Young, was murdered by the state. After Lil' D was murdered, it was really Chris that kept me from going back into my shell. He's also the person who gave me my first Qur'an. Like Obie, he was also one to play the role of the antagonist, just to see how a person would respond, and where the conversation would go. He was a solid individual. His death was especially tough for me, b/c in the week leading up to it, he convinced me to do something I had never done before, "hook up" on the "mic". There are some geniuses here. Has to give up too much, but if someone was to tell me that you can hold conversations w/ other individuals through your radio and head phones, I wouldn't have believed it if I had done it myself. It was tough talking to him during those last days. Trying to keep his morale up, and to have "regular" conversations w/ him to keep his mind off the clock that's winding down on him. W/ all that he was doing w/ the youth initiative/mentorship program he had going on, we were really hoping that he would be granted clemency, especially since the family of the victim, Mamukh Saeed, wanted his life to be spared. I mean, w/ all of that to be taken into consideration, one has to ask the governor and the clemency board members, who are you killing people for? Is it to satiate your own bloodlust, or are you seeking revenge against a ghost from your own past? A food memory from those last few days comes from the last day, actually. There was about 10 of us on the line when the intro to Peck Mills "Dreams (Nightmares)" album came on. One would've thought we were all at a concert. "EVERBODY" on the line was tuning up, and w/ Chris's deep voice, you could hear him through the wire and over the run, 2 sections over. That song now have a whole other meaning to it now. I'll say this: when they struck Chris, guards and men here alike shed tears. Rest in Power & Peace. Chris.

2017. I begin to feel resistance to my chosen path of positivity. This came from the day to day here, the political climate that was ever present. It seems every day was a test, as if those test came constantly and not just in the sense of random life events. As if those who knew I was trying to change purposely tested me. I started to see my own making the same mistakes I made: I would guess things, second guessing myself, kind of like I was simply resistance to my chosen path. They were distractions and reminders that I still had work to do. There will always be work to do.

December 1, 2016. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed my bro's, A. Love, conviction on Direct Appeal. Unlike my trial attorney's, he objected to the use of the text page, unlawfully seized and improperly used during his trial, which happened to be the exact page, the D.A. had claimed I sent during my trial, and some reading through the court's opinion, I saw that one of the cases that was cited was the Riley v. California case, as the issues in both cases (mine included) were similar. As in Riley, the courts ruled that my bro had a "reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of the messages he sent" and the state needed a warrant to gain access. When I heard the news of his reversal, I was "DUART UP" I was so happy. And it was as if a weight was lifted off my shoulder. In my mind I was like, okay, w/ bro out the way, I can focus all my energy into my case, now. He's out the door, it's sure to follow. I was also wishing, I could curse out my attorney's for not objecting and for not raising the claim in my appeal like I asked. Unfortunately for me, and luckily for them, I no longer had access to them. I had a whole new set of attorney's working on my case b/c the turn over rate at the office they work at was/is horrible. Of course the D.A. in Waco Appeal the C.C.A.'s decision, which resulted in my bro having to stay here until the higher courts ruled.

My friend Christopher Young is executed in Huntsville, TX despite the family of Hasmukh Patel, whom Chris killed in 2004, opposing the execution. Twenty of us gathered outside the building where the execution chamber is located on a hot day as the cicadas sing in the trees.

July 17, 2018



Christopher Young is the first guy that embraced me here on death row, so incidentally his presence became synonymous with what I would come to know as the death row community. To know Chris is to know fierce loyalty and an intellectual mind. Self-taught. Self-assured. He would give you whatever he could no matter your social standings in the community because that was his nature and revolutionary act. On my second day here he sent me soap, deodorant, soups, pens, paper, stamps, envelopes, t-shirts, a pair of shorts, lotion, a few pies, coffee, 2 snickers bars, and his friendship. A real Survivalist package.

Well, on July 17, 2018, the State of Texas murdered Him. I must admit it is strange not to hear his beyond deep voice and even louder laughter anymore. When they killed that man I swear I could feel the absence of his energy, and that energy is still void in this place today. The atmosphere of that entire day was just off to me, but it became even more so when I reflected on it. Strange in how all the men (including me) who have love for him pushed on with their everyday activities like nothing major had just occurred, but inside we all knew it had. And inside we all contained it. Could it be that we all feared the emotional release that sometimes accompanies pain: anger? The powerful energy that can lead to destruction. Maybe. But those men would have to tell you for fact, I can only give you an observer's perspective. What I do know is that we chose to cope alone while wearing everyday-brave-facades, shielding our hurt from our brothers, masking the loss of our brother.

I tell you this because beyond dealing with our own cases down here you can grow to care about another. The effects can be big or small, but you care. And we deal. But still we try to smile.

Oct 31 2018  
Sentenced to by the State by Judge Jones like a fire from - instead it was Ya I know. I moment my mind. I'll fight as if given me permission. No worries, No next court date. Most of my life survival while but being told me lose my own reality. Flashback so fast in my my sanity. At advised, to re how? While peering my existence do impossible without mortal disorder reality. It's a no internally with.

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July 17, 2018



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ter your social standings  
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odorant, soups, pens,  
orts, lotion, a few pies,  
al Survivalist package.

red Him. I must admit it is  
nd even louder laughter  
could feel the absence  
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ne, but it became even  
all the men (including  
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e all knew it had. And  
all feared the emotional  
nger? The powerful  
But those men would  
n observer's perspective.  
ne while wearing  
om our brothers, masking

Christopher LOVE  
999614

Oct 31 2018 Feel my Struggle  
Sentenced to death by lethal injection,  
by the State of Texas. This statement  
by judge Tracy Holmes should have felt  
like fire from the devils' mouths, but  
instead it was almost a relief. Sounds crazy.  
Yea I know. I went so crazy at that  
moment my mind failed to think logically.  
It felt as if the judge and jury had  
given me permission to finally let go.  
No worries, No more stressing about the  
next court date, No more questions,  
No more protecting me from myself.  
Most of my life, verbally I preached  
survival while my actions screamed suicide,  
but being told how I will die made  
me lose my entire thought process. My  
reality flashed from beginning to end  
so fast in my mind that it over powered  
my sanity. At the same time my lawyers  
advised, to remain calm, show no emotion.  
How? While people whom appear to hate  
my existence decide my fate. That's almost  
impossible without exposing myself to a  
mental disorder by disconnecting from  
reality. It's a no win situation, if I ~~explode~~  
internally with a stoic expression. (They say

I have no remorse) If I explode outward  
because these people are judging my entire  
existence on false, exaggerated and past  
information (I'm violent and deserve to  
die). Dan even if I just sit there and  
cry like a hurt child, (I'm crying cause  
of guilt) is what they'll say.

At this moment (Dec. 19 2022) some parts  
of me are still in that Dallas TX courtroom,  
last like a ghost with no where to rest,  
dazed and confused.

Oct 31, 2018 Prosecutors called me evil over  
and over, at one point I asked myself,  
"Am I evil? What exactly is evil? Is  
attempting to convince innocent people to  
have me murdered not evil? O, I forgot  
that's Justice not Capital murder, but  
it sounds the same to me Evil..

Oct 31, 2018 will forever be a struggle for me  
to deal with mentally. I have to overcome that  
one day "everyday" before I start the present  
one. Sometimes it takes minutes, hours, even  
days, but that WTF!! feeling is always  
there, up next, waiting patiently to let me  
know not to forget Oct 31 2018.

To Be Continued Nov 1, 2018; Suicide Watch....

*Christopher Love*

Kristopher Love  
999614

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To Be Continued Nov 1, 2018; Suicide Watch....  
Kristopher

Rodney Reed was scheduled for execution. Within the prior year or so, I had begun following Rodney's case - reading various articles, following his social media sites, watching tv shows featuring his case, and listening to podcasts. This particular case was tough on me mentally. Believing in his innocence, yet watching the state do everything in their power to execute him, resulted in a constant state of hopelessness. I worry that Rickey could one day have to go through this as well, despite his innocence. I vividly remember the posts Rodney's family made on his Instagram account. Their fear haunted me. Unlike most people, I could relate to what they were experiencing. I wasn't just another outsider tuned into his story, I was one of them, just not at the stage they were at (and hopefully never will be!). I could only imagine the horror they felt as Nov 20th approached. When the news of Rodney's stay was announced, I CRIED! That moment restored my hope for Rickey. That moment reminded me why we needed to keep fighting. I hope and pray I NEVER have to experience what Rodney's family (as well as many others) had to experience.

November 2019



I had a visit with Rickey,  
We laughed and joked,  
and enjoyed one  
another's company.  
During that visit, we had  
no idea that we wouldn't  
be seeing one another  
again for over a year.

February 2020

February of 2020, Covid brings the unit to a halt. About a week earlier, I had received a visit from my friend Dale. Visits were now far in between, due to my Queens health, but she still made sure to pull up on me when her schedule permitted her to do so. Though she had been a constant presence since 2010, she was the friendship one, and how genuine the love was. If there could be any other in the dictionary next to "True friend", it would be in her likeness. When these visits came to an end, it was like the energy in here shifted some. Here at Texas Tech Gov, we're the most restricted individuals in TCCO, and we have the least amount of privileges than every other death row community. No TV's, group recreation, work program, or regular access to phones, other than the weekly 5 minute calls they started giving us during the pandemic. All we really have is our visits, which aren't contact visits like other men & women on death row here. So to lose that one form of escapism, a lot of people were negatively affected, myself included. Stress levels were heightened, temper tantrums were thrown, depression began to set in. I REALLY leaned on my spirituality during this time, and I was intentional about being vigilant when it came to my mental, emotional, and physical health. Covid was spreading, and the protocols to keep the virus under control were super. We would end up going a whole year w/o visits.

As soon as TCCO announced that visitation had returned, I scheduled a visit. Although I was overjoyed to see him again, everyone didn't get that same experience. Visitation returned, but with even more strict regulations. Only 1 visitor was allowed at a time. At the time, Rickey's mom was wheelchair bound. We both called the unit on several occasions, trying to figure out how we could get her in there to see him. Since only 1 visitor was allowed, I didn't have the option to roll her back to the visitation building, they advised us that "a guard could assist if available, but there were no guarantees." After a while, 2 visitors were allowed again, however, still to this day, visitation had not returned to the pre-Covid schedule. Being over 250 miles away, I qualify for a "special visit". A special visit allows 4 hour visit, and up to 2 visits within one week. I had 2 consecutive days available for a "special visit".

February of 2020. Covid brings the unit to a halt. About a week earlier, I had received a visit from my friend Jade. Visits were now far in between, due to my Queen's health, but she still made sure to pull up on me when her schedule permitted her to do so. Though she had been a constant presence since 2013, the way she stepped up after my Queen fell ill really showed me how true and deep our friendship ran, and how genuine the love was. If there could be picture in the dictionary next to "True Friend", it would be in her likeness. When those visits came to an end, it was like the energy in here shifted some. Here on Texas Death Row, we're the most restricted individuals in TDCJ, and we have the least amount of privileges than every other Death Row community. No, Tv's, group recreation, work program, or regular access to phones, other than the weekly 5 minute calls they started giving us during the pandemic. ALL we really have is our visits, which aren't contact visits like other men & women on death row have. So, to lose that one form of escapism, a lot of people were negatively affected. myself included. Stress levels were heightened, tempers were a bit shorter, depression began to set in. I REALLY leaned on my spirituality during this time. And I was intentional about being vigilant when it came to my mental, emotional and physical health. Covid was spreading, and the protocols to keep the virus under control were subpar. We would end up going a whole year w/o visits.



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vility?

ka "Alto" Adams)

2022- January 1st we set off a hunger strike. Although it didn't bring the results that we would've liked, something good did come from it. It was the first time I'd seen so many people unite since I've been here. We later found out that there were 3 other units protesting the same issues at the same time. Being in solitary confinement it creates a separatist mindset which makes it hard to unite. We're in the month of December now. We've finally got the promise of tablets. This is what stayed our hand far as continuing the strike. We were promised phones access, movies, email etc, We found out that we only have a third of that. It's not surprising. The whole purpose of housing us the way they do is malicious, vindictive stemming from the escape from Ellis. The significance of these events mentioned was to underline a certain mindset. At the beginning I thought a certain way because it was all I knew. Throughout my life it's been a fight- be it mental or physical. Truth is there will always be a fight. We just have to chose those fights carefully and realize the biggest fight we will ever face is with ourselves. I'm more strategic with my fighting today. I understand that fighting doesn't mean to hurt. I know I can fight by helping. Picking the wrong fight can be the detriment of a fighter, ironically. Our ignorance and bias corrupting our minds and beating us every time. It will never allow us to properly assess the situation be it about work, family, or the death penalty. We will never have the proper perspective without viewing the whole picture.

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Kosoul Chanthakoummane is executed in the state of Texas, becoming the third Asian American to die at the hands of the state. Hypnosis, a since-banned investigation method, played a significant role in his arrest and conviction. The first Asian American Texas Ranger, Richard Shing, conducted multiple hypnosis sessions that would ultimately lead to Chanthakoummane's sentence.

August 17, 2022

The state of Pennsylvania abolishes the death penalty and ends life without parole (death by incarceration) sentencing. Governor Shapiro's office works with abolitionist groups to imagine and fund spaces for community healing and care.

January 27, 2024

"The question with which we must deal is not whether a substantial proportion of American citizens would today, if polled, opine that capital punishment is barbarously cruel, but whether they would find it to be so in the light of all information presently available."

-Thurgood Marshall

U.S. Supreme Court decide on Shinn v. Ramirez. This decision is to individuals w/ inadequate post-conviction attorney's also very confusing. I remember during the confirmation process that Trump appointed said they would follow precedent. I think that to be false. To quote Justice Sotomayor: "In this decision, the Court all but overrules two recent precedents that recognized a critical exception to the general rule that habeas courts may not consider claims on habeas review that were not presented in state courts. Just 10 years ago, the court held that a federal habeas petitioner's substantial claim of IATC, even if not presented in state courts.....Martinez and Trevino established that a petitioner is NOT at fault for failure to bring a trial ineffectiveness claim in state court. Despite the precedents, the Court today holds that a petitioner is nonetheless at fault.... The decision is illogical."



After the abolition of capital punishment, *Collective Resuscitation*, an oral history of the final 193 people on death row in Texas is published. The collection of interviews details the everyday strategies, struggles, and radical imagination of those who led the abolition movement from inside the carceral machine and includes "Never Again," the communiqué distilling the demands of the global movement to end state violence in all its forms.

May 15, 2039



## CHECKLIST

1. *The United States, 2022.*

Map of all states that currently maintain death rows.

2. *100 Quarters, 2023.*

The State of Texas allows death row visitors to bring twenty-five dollars so they can buy their loved ones snacks from the vending machines.

3. *Full Circle, 2021.*

Twelve-hour looping dashcam video of roundtrip drive from San Antonio, TX to visit death row in Livingston, TX. Accompanying audio from *Nothing But Love* by bell hooks, read by Mark Menjivar.

4. *I Wait and Watch for the Goldfinches, 2023.*

Atomic clock amplified by contact microphone.

5. Proclamation from Oregon Governor ordering the commutation of all death sentences and that the death chamber be dismantled.

6. *Currently (USA), 2022.*

An ongoing project that documents the number of people on death row in the United States today. While executions have been on the decline in recent years, death rows are still maintained by 27 states, the United States Military, and the Federal Government.

The number on the sign above is adjusted bi-weekly by a research group depending on the number of executions, exonerations, commutations, natural deaths, and new sentences that occur on the death rows of each state. The research team is composed of students, faculty staff and community members working closely with artist Mark Menjivar.

*Current research group members include* Jillian Aguilar, Logan Zurita McKinnon, Lindsay Reckson, Mark Menjivar, Ilani Lark, Hunter Logan, Kasey Ingerson, Abigail Clark, Brisa Kane, Madi Wyttenbach, Clara Lind, Olivia Harkins-Finn and Amelia LaMotte.

WHY are  
executioners  
granted anonymity?

reflecting a lot on  
time & space  
as methods of  
experience & emotion,  
how confinement can  
limit & control & destroy  
access to those  
very human things

Thank you for helping  
put this together, even  
if you weren't able  
to participate directly. I  
appreciate you.

"Redeeming time by  
being or becoming unavailable  
to serve as it is given returns  
us to our abolitionist imaginary  
& to a more fugitive, resistive  
idiom of social life" - Avery Gordon  
"some thoughts on nature & futurity"

when love and peace  
start to cure us.  
We tend to focus on  
the former and punish  
people for it and ignore  
the space in between.  
time &

"The white fathers  
told us: I think,  
therefore I am.  
The black mother  
in all of us - the poet-  
whisperer in our dreams:  
I feel, therefore I  
can be free."  
- Audre Lorde

time as a sensory  
experience ...  
how can we shift/re-  
experience/change our  
sensations and  
understanding/embodiment  
of time?

"Slowly, the part that  
created death row is  
changing. Death row, a  
fruit of that old tree,  
needs to die off too."  
Terence Anderson

Life does oscillate  
between agony and  
senselessness, two  
moments in which  
violent and evil  
thoughts prevail, but  
life also stays in between

READING ABOUT SO MANY  
YEARS OF ABOLITIONIST  
WORK IN THE WAY'S IT'S  
DISPLAYED + CONTEXTUALIZED  
BY TIME ADDS SUCH A  
HEAVY PERSPECTIVE TO THIS  
WORK FOR ME. HOW CAN  
SUCH ATROCITY CONTINUE  
SYSTEMICALLY? THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR LABOR IN EDUCATING  
MYSELF + OTHERS

Thank you.

I HOPE CAPITAL  
PUNISHMENT IN  
THE USA  
WILL BE ABOLISHED  
IN MY LIFETIME  
(AGE 63)

why does the system look for the worst  
in every person that falls into it.  
Once you're incarcerated you can never  
get rid of scrutiny, and its like  
they don't want anyone to get  
better. It takes so much strength to  
continue to fight for yourself and  
your loved ones despite everything  
around you trying to crush you.  
Why do people still advocate for  
this senseless violence?  
[holding on to joy]

I am thinking about time,  
about the endless ending  
and the constant terror  
of that kind of isolation.

I am reminded of the haunting  
series "Rectify" as it  
captures the dreamlike  
of this waiting and those  
who share those spaces  
hardly able to meet.  
11/17/23

no restoration

↳ what does prison do?

"THE SUPREME COURT  
IS A JOKE"

HOW DOES HAVERFORD  
BEING A QUAKER  
INSTITUTION AFFECT HOW  
WE VIEW THIS EXHIBIT?

Sharing the passing of  
time. The sound of seconds  
urge us toward the necessity  
of collecting the duration of  
radical democracy. BETWEEN  
Annual goldfinches remind us  
of the poetry of each life.  
Let us aspire toward  
togetherness in difference.  
To Bear Witness.  
Listen. Deep. Slow.

TALK. SHARE.  
LEARN.  
ACT +  
MEDITATE

Art of the Commons.

I am thinking of Kristopher Love's  
letter and the prosecutors calling  
him evil over and over. Who gets to  
decide that? Who gets to decide they  
can identify evil as a trait and call  
it permanent? It seems like a  
constant exhausting struggle to keep  
self-knowledge when you are  
constantly mislabeled.

"Lost like a  
ghost with no  
where to rest"

A number.  
Years.  
More time. More years.  
You're worth more, everyone.  
Close your eyes, rest. Time  
envelopes.

"memories are vehicles that  
help us navigate life lessons..."  
There's so much that memories  
accomplish. Memories + time  
are taken for granted amongst  
the "free". Memories give life  
to the deceased. Memories carry  
legacy. Memories give liberation  
to folks who are incarcerated.  
I hope memories carry them far.

"How could I feel numb when  
such an inhumane practice  
is used to end the life of  
another human being?"

- HOLDING VIGIL  
RICKIE CUMMINGS

Thank you for  
your words.

R. POWERS GG

time changes  
things, and people.  
capital punishment  
attempts to deny  
that. it fails us  
all.

As I look around this  
room I can't help  
but grieve all the  
lives lost. I think of  
how painfully young  
so many people were  
killed by a country that  
purports to protect them.  
And just how much future  
is inhumanely lost. I can only  
hope for an end to this - and soon.

I feel very thankful to have been  
able to read the words of  
those who were murdered by  
the state, in many ways so  
beautiful and inspiring, personal  
and full of character. To be  
a part of that individualization.  
It's difficult to realize how  
easy it is for the viewer to leave  
this exhibit with the reality there  
are still so many with the imposed  
practicability of a death sentence

severing their life. The urgency  
to change a system and  
procedure so deeply inhumane  
is deeply moving. Reading about  
the dehumanizing procedures in  
the southern prisons is mind  
boggling - but the strength of  
retention and resilience  
is heartbreakingly beautiful.

WHEN I RETURNED TO YCAM  
AFTER WINTER BREAK I SAW A  
LOWER NUMBER ON 'CURRENTLY'  
THAN BEFORE. I CONSIDERED THIS  
A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, THEN  
REALIZED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE  
DECREASE REFLECTED A SERIES OF  
EXECUTIONS. I STILL DON'T KNOW.  
'CURRENTLY USA' ONLY ALLOWS FOR  
FOUR DIGITS. AN ARGUMENT AGAINST  
INCREASE OF DEATH BY STATE VIOLENCE  
WE MUST ENSURE THAT DECREASE  
MEANS LIFE, RATHER THAN DEATH.

Don't stop fighting for  
yourself. As a native Texan,  
a person from the South,  
change is coming soon. I  
see you and hear you  
through your writing. You  
are more than your offense  
and it is your right to live.

Every  
Human life is valuable,  
Death row + capital  
punishment makes us  
dispensable,  
What is the function  
of freedom when the  
system only values money  
and time

IF ONLY THIS GALLERY  
WERE THREE TIMES  
BIGGER BECAUSE  
THERE ARE SO MANY  
MORE MOMENTS OF  
HISTORY THAT HAVE  
BROUGHT US HERE TO  
CURRENTLY



"guards and  
prisoners  
alike  
shed tears  
this day"

To end death  
row is a sign  
of hope, and future  
improvement of all  
quality of life.  
C.L.L.  
PA

HAVA  
HAPPY DAY  
WE LOVE  
YOU SO SO SO  
MUCH

"... we will have to  
deal with power:  
we will have  
to make love  
powerful"  
June  
Jordan

About time that  
national legislative  
is introduced

There seems to be a  
reduction of the people on  
death row to their bodies  
- stripping away their  
humanity. This is the  
opposite; their humanity  
+ their stories are here,  
but they are not. It  
makes the absence of their  
bodies here even more  
profound

We step into this gallery and are immediately reminded that "our" world - "our" America - is this. I'm always shocked at how reality can present itself and still feel false, wrong, not what it should be. The work continues, and we are continuing it.

Thank you for sharing your stories. Your current realities are unthinkably inhumane, and I genuinely hope the future involves more people recognizing this →

No man or state institution has the right to execute a person. Let God be the judge, and He is merciful.  
Pennsylvania DC

We are kind to Help us.

we're forcing people away/out of relationships and forcing them into relationship w/ strangers & don't don't get it. The capacity for humans to adapt, build relationship is unbelievable.

It will always amaze me that the capacity of humans to form, maintain, grow relationships will ALWAYS be stronger than the capacity of humans to extinguish, destroy, those relationships.

I just don't get it. Why kill people to show that we don't condone killing people. Why don't we help people. I don't understand how we justify stealing people's bodily autonomy, then stealing their lives and minds. I just don't don't get it.

How are people so casually sentenced to death without or knowledge? I saw the number go up and was reminded how this happens right under our noses. unbelievable

"Love is the great intangible"  
In that way, time and love are incredibly similar.  
I hope you have the time to feel loved.

The sound of time fills this space and it reminds me how precious it is. I hope that when people view this exhibit they feel they can cherish their time but also hope for more time for others.

ALL OF HISTORY'S GREAT REVOLUTIONS HAVE STARTED IN ROOMS LIKE THIS ONE

We will connect with what we see & engage in dialogue which as Marx says, is about listening.

What are the other stories that are missing?

American government is supposed to lead our country. Yet, when people do what we consider "wrong" we lock them up. What does that say to a country? If a human had issues in their life should they lock



up and bury those feelings!  
No... We are meant to  
grow as people, as commun-  
ities, countries and human  
race at large. We can't  
ignore the unjust leaders  
and institutions anymore.  
We all can change!

GRATEFUL  
FOR  
VULNERABILITY

I feel overwhelmed with  
a sense of heartache  
and also urgency

TAKE A  
DEEP BREATH  
RELEASE

I think the ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> human  
object of the stories here is  
the inability for these  
people to be heard. One  
thing that makes us human  
and different from beasts is  
our ability to touch each other's  
souls through communication. I'm  
glad this place has created  
a space for them <sup>to be</sup> heard

Inhumane.  
Cruel.  
Unfathomable.

- Blue is for the sky.  
I wish you could  
see more of it.  
- Your words, this  
exhibit, open  
my eyes to things  
I didn't see.  
- Are my eyes greedy  
for all the sky I see?

Tyre Nichols

loved to photograph  
the sky

how do we build  
solidarity between  
the movement to abolish  
the death penalty & move-  
ments against mass incar-  
ceration more broadly/  
to abolish prisons entirely?  
I am part of groups that  
fight towards abolishing  
prisons. I am realizing

The number on the  
wall went from  
2289  $\rightarrow$  2285 and  
I got excited, but  
then my heart sank  
when I considered  
that may mean execution.

As a beginning educator I  
struggle constantly with the  
thought and the knowledge that  
I can't protect my students from  
a murderous system -  
The persistence of hope, care,  
education, and art is sometimes  
all we have to fall back on,  
but it is crucial and sustaining  
when our systems are not.

Capital punishment  
is a reflection on us  
as a nation - that  
we kill people for their  
mistakes; that our  
killing system executes  
people who are  
innocent or of question-  
able guilt. We, as a  
nation, need a moral over-  
haul.

the pressure I feel on my chest is so intense, i've never been able to breathe like this. I wish I could hold a journal with all of the names of fellow people on death row, so I could carry them with me. I want to shout them until I lose my voice.

Ella  
Brooks-Kemper

Seeing all of these pieces of American history that existed in my mind separately, so to see them brought together so I may fully visualize and form the expanse of capital punishment is intense and eye-opening. The privilege I have had to not already see those connections, and the responsibility I now have to share them.

Ella Brooks-Kemper

It's horrific to imagine myself in their shoes, and I'm overwhelmed by the privilege I have knowing I'll only ever have to imagine it

Death Row <sup>can</sup> be so easy to forget and ignore - thanks, State. Thousands of people at a time, some knowing the exact date and time of their death, living in order to die at the hands of the state. How can we forget them?

In a world that simplifies you, denies you complexity, intersectionality and denies you humanity.

I SEE YOU!

I want to embrace you.

I don't know if we do enough to include people on death row in this work (that is Pennsylvania/Philadelphia based). One group I'm connected to is the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI), which is how we describe ~~like~~ without parole sentences. I believe that some people joined this

we will never have the proper perspective without viewing the whole picture - from the timeline

Takeaway from Bell Hooks' <sup>others:</sup> Punishment is the opposite of love. And real love is care. Care is the only thing with potential to better life. Why do we sometimes choose punishment over love? Why is love so hard to find in ourselves + in the world?

It's a privilege to be free. Many times it's taken for granted. Thank you for your stories as they lay in our hearts. The fight is never over and there are people using their privilege to create both equity and equality for all

It took 48 years to dismiss charges from a false confession. I lie (from coercion) and suddenly they are a danger to society. So quick to put people away. No, State, you are what's dangerous.

The 2039 quote resembles a lot of repeated history. The gov't realizes it messed up & those who are "freed" are left to tell the story to everyone else and do more work. This is the ideal.

In the utopias we strive for, what does punishment look like? Does it exist? How would we reconcile with those we consider villains?

"Capital punishment  
is for those  
without capital"

We need to know where we  
live in order to imagine  
living elsewhere. We  
need to imagine living  
elsewhere in order  
to live there.

Mary  
Gordon

The idea that we can  
acknowledge or admit  
something is so  
wrong, yet some do  
nothing or see  
nothing that needs  
changed is horrifying.  
We are horrifying.

Hiding Vigil sat on  
my heart for hours,  
days, after reading  
it. Richey's account  
of May 19, 2021 lit a  
match underneath me.  
Despite the damn day,  
Richey's words placed  
a spotlight on Death  
row.

Coalition due to frustration  
with how some groups fight-  
ing against the death penalty  
look to life without parole  
as the answer. I am reflect-  
ing on how I/we need  
to do a better job showing  
up for people on death  
row beyond making phone  
calls the days leading up  
to the execution.

"Art & poetry, and their  
discourses, if they are  
for real, are always  
critical of power: their  
politics is to transform  
reality and not to merely  
ideologize it" pg. 10

Elizabeth Escobar

Art as an Act of  
Liberation

Working here <sup>1/3</sup>  
during this exhibit  
has been very powerful  
and moving but also  
very difficult. When  
I go through and read  
the materials and  
listen to the voices of  
those on death row,

What I found incredibly  
powerful and devastating  
was how so many people  
on the timeline mentioned  
the importance & formation of  
a formative friendship, and  
how those relationships are  
violently ended by capital punishment  
- that death row is an environ-  
ment of perpetual loss

I don't  
know how  
I can  
help.  
Where to start?

George Stinney Jr.  
Youngest American  
to be executed  
by electric chair.  
His trial took 10  
minutes to convict him  
& 70 years to exonerate.

I am struck with <sup>1/3</sup>  
profound sadness. I  
often shy away from  
things that are difficult  
but this has made  
me realize that I will  
never face the same  
difficulties as those on  
death row. My sadness  
<sup>isn't about</sup>

I've probably walked  
farther and seen  
more than many of  
these people. I didn't  
even realize what a  
privilege that was.

and discomfort <sup>3/3</sup> as  
a call to action.  
This has made me  
realize I need to use  
my privilege to call  
for action and  
change.  
I stand with you  
all and love all ♡

♡ ♡ ♡ ♡  
have fun!  
♡ ♡ ♡ ♡

My heart is hurting.  
I'm grateful that  
people who are/have  
been incarcerated <sup>(in the exhibit)</sup> have  
shown me such vulner-  
ability, honesty and  
bared their wounds.  
♡

Despite little social mobility,  
those on death row's  
connection with each other  
and the outside world,  
particularly through art,  
is intensely powerful.  
This exists despite the  
extreme loss, disillusionment,  
and cruelty faced by those  
on death row.

never thought about the privilege of  
choosing, being able to...  
— there's so much wrong with  
this country.  
— the system needs to go.

CRUEL  
&  
UNUSUAL

We don't have freedom until  
we are all free. Free to live  
as much as die. We are all  
bound to the cages we create  
to the system we all enforce.  
♡

How can we challenge  
the carceral state's  
dominance over  
temporality?

I was born, lived,  
and will die a  
convict. Such is the  
price for my  
indiscretion.

In many ways, I  
see progress and a  
standstill. Yet, I can't  
help but feel  
hopeful because  
of this.  
Thank you

1-21-23  
TERRANCE  
ANDRUS  
RIP

your voice  
is heard  
and listened.  
Thank you for  
you.

"W/O SHOES, IT'S 8  
STEPS, HEEL TO TOE,  
FROM THE BUNK TO  
THE DOOR, AND 6  
BETWEEN THE WIDEST  
SPACE OF THE TWO WALLS."

There is that of G.O  
in every human  
being. All  
state-sponsored  
executions are  
acts of suicide.

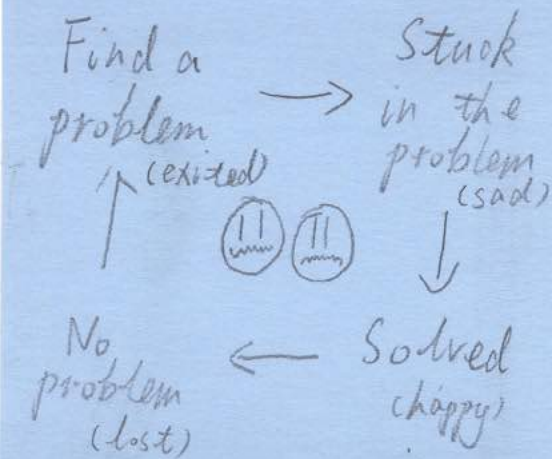
How can  
we change this  
within our  
lifetime?

EXERCISE:  
HOLD  
EACH OTHER  
APPROXIMATELY

I wish for a world  
in which all humans  
are given chance for  
rehabilitation & are  
able to be rebuilt by  
systems, not further  
damaged. All souls are  
beautiful, & deserve an  
equal chance to experience  
the irreplaceable joy of freedom.

I am struck with the  
possibility for change.  
People on death row  
are changing but our  
structure of punishment  
doesn't or at least  
not on a radical level

when we allow  
ourselves to imagine  
abolitionist futures  
now & think of  
the future as a  
concrete beauty filled  
of radical  
possibilities



**190 + 1**

**Mark Menjivar  
Lindsay Reckson  
Rickey Cummings**

A bell marks time. And the sound carries. It wakes us up—sometimes gently, sometimes with force. It calls us to class, to work, to meals. It rings for graduations and marriages and funerals, rituals of passing from one state to another. It rings the constancy of change. And the sound carries.

The bell has been a symbol of freedom and of false promises. Nineteenth-century abolitionists marked the unfulfilled prophecy of the Liberty Bell's inscription: "PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND AND TO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF." "Hitherto," an observer wrote in 1835, "the bell has not obeyed the inscription; and its peals have been a mockery, while one sixth of 'all the inhabitants' are in abject slavery." This toll is immeasurable. It sounds and resounds. As do radical acts of repurposing even the most oppressive peals. In 1863, formerly enslaved people used plantation bells—made to "call unwilling hands to unrequited toil"—to spread the news of emancipation, ringing out the sound of freedom. That sound, too, carries. That pealing is an appeal: a call for a different future, a prophecy we must continue to fulfill.

Today we mark the closing of *Currently*, a show that thinks deeply about the death penalty and the violence of the carceral state, by ringing the Founders Bell 191 times: once for each of the 190 people thus far exonerated from death row—in celebration of their freedom—and once more as a call, an appeal to abolitionist futures. What might it take to turn a centuries-long death toll into emancipatory sound? And where might the sound carry us?

March 1, 2023  
Haverford College



Davik Hekkenstriae '15  
Tom Sawyer '15

Merab  
Davis  
2020

Rory

JONES & HITCHCOCK  
Hi... Bye...

JULIANNE

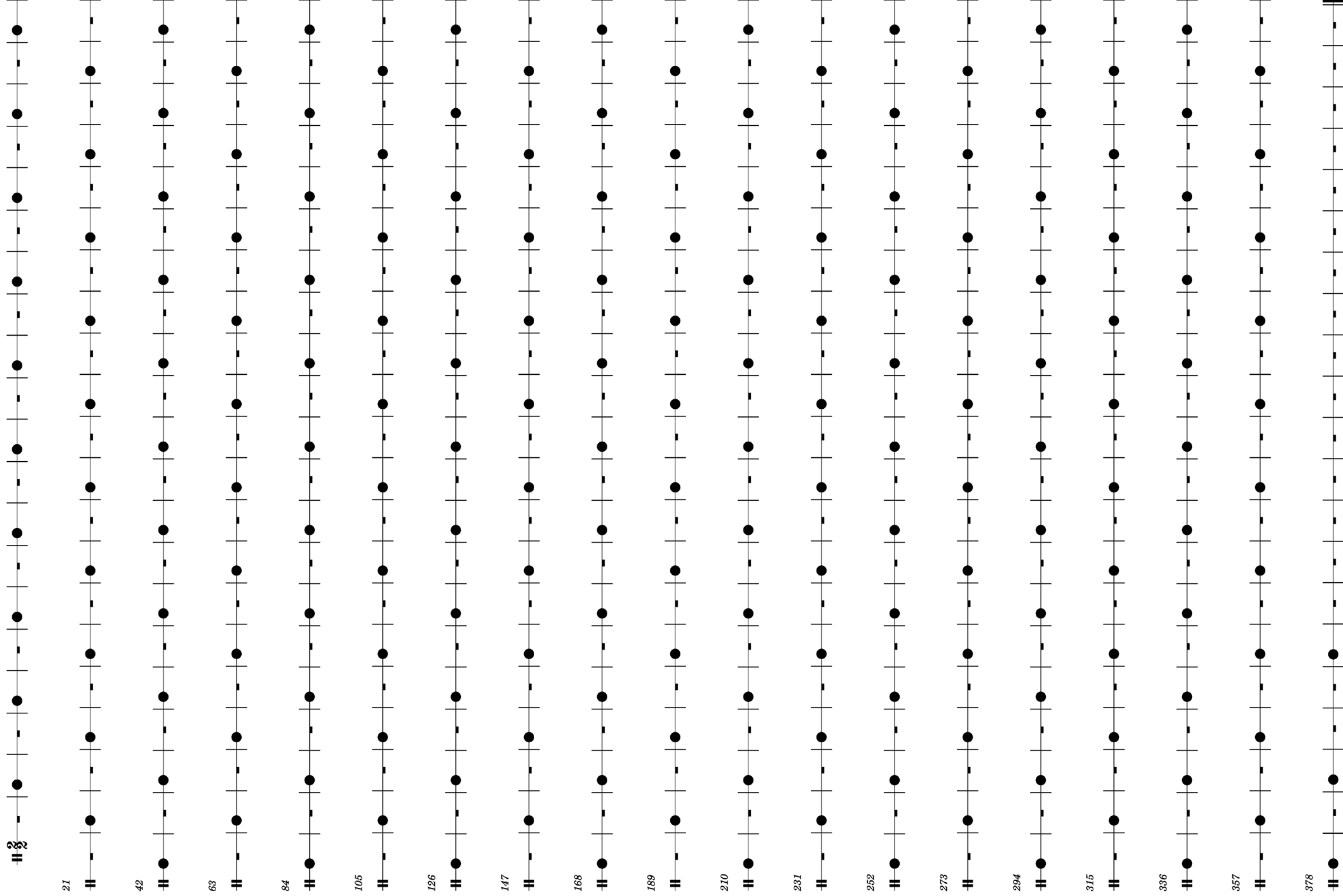
Laura

WIKEN JIA '11  
COLLEEN KAVERTY '12  
Kirsten '18  
KIM '22  
KB  
KIRSCHE MULLIN '19  
THEO BIEN '22  
MARCUS '20  
2017 Will Klein '21  
Maria Kriegel '17  
AMRA ZEGERE '22  
Nora Richardon '11  
Dexter '14  
Stephan '15  
Robert Lewis '11  
HMB '13



190 + 1

● =  $d = 60$



## PROGRAMMING

### *Each Year I Wait and Watch*

Wed, Feb 22, 12 p.m.

VCAM Lounge

In collaboration with artist Mark Menjívar, composer and Visiting Assistant Professor of Visual Studies Matt O'Hare will perform an improvised set combining modular synthesizer with the amplified sound of an atomic clock. The performance responds to Menjívar's piece "Each year I wait and watch for the goldfinches to visit," now on display as part of *Currently* at the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery.

### *190 + 1*

Wed, Mar 1, 4:30 p.m.

Founders Hall Steps

Please join Mark Menjívar, Lindsay Reckson, and Rickey Cummings as they mark the closing of the exhibition *Currently* by ringing the Founders Bell 191 times: once for each of the 190 people thus far exonerated from death row—in celebration of their freedom—and once more as a call, an appeal to abolitionist futures.

### *Panel on Capital Punishment and Prison Abolition*

March 2, 5–7 p.m.

VCAM Lounge

Please join the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery student co-managers, Amolina Bhat '23 and Riley Sobel '24 for an event in collaboration with Professor Lindsay Reckson and artist Mark Menjívar. This informal panel will feature students, staff, and professors in the Haverford community and beyond who will speak on topics and share texts related to capital punishment and prison abolition. Feel free to stop by for a community based discussion and a delicious dinner.

### *Imagining Abolitionist Futures: The Symposium*

March 23–24, 2023

This symposium gathers scholars, artists, activists, and educators who share a common goal: dismantling the carceral state and ending the direct and indirect violence it inflicts every day, especially on our most vulnerable communities.

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To view a video walkthrough of the exhibition please use the QR code below or visit [www.markmenjivar.com](http://www.markmenjivar.com)



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