

# PERSISTENCE

2ND ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN



Persistence is the firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition. In this second annual RMCAD Student Research Symposium, students present their research and visual work to the RMCAD community on topics related to diversity, equity, & inclusion through the lens of PERSISTENCE.

MARCH 4, 2022

[HTTPS://RMCAD.ZOOM.US/J/92763352088](https://rmcad.zoom.us/j/92763352088)

The background of the page features a photograph of a multi-story brick building with arched windows and a central entrance. In the foreground, a large, intricate metal sculpture made of intersecting poles is visible. The scene is set outdoors on a grassy area with some flowering bushes. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

# Student Research + Persistence

The annual Student Research Symposium aims to give RMCAD students and alum a scholarly and public platform to express their voices as artists, scholars, and designers through their own interests, research, and artistic practice.

This year's symposium theme of "persistence" was chosen by the RMCAD Student Leadership Alliance to acknowledge the tumultuous cultural landscape through which we must all pivot and persist, and to demonstrate the Diversity, Equity + Inclusion Statement of RMCAD, which is:

We maintain a policy of inclusiveness that recognizes, values, and reflects the diversity of the community it serves. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) introduces individuals to facets of difference, enables all to succeed, and creates an environment that respects and values individual differences along varying dimensions. The integral values of DEI guide our academic and institutional development, serving our mission to prepare learners to be forces of change in their industries, communities, and the world.

## Student Scholars

The 11 presenters at this year's symposium are all current RMCAD students from our online and on ground student populations. The presenters also represent a range of RMCAD programs including Animation, Art Education, Illustrative Design, Graphic Design, Illustration, & Fine Arts.



## Symposium Partner

## Symposium Format

The presentations are divided into panels of 2 presentations each. Each presentation is 15-minutes in length. The presenters will discuss their topic through the scholarly research they conducted to produce either a paper talk or piece of art. There will be a 10-minute Q&A session after each panel as well as a one hour break mid-event.

## Symposium Awards

All awards will be announced by March 11, 2022. Presenters are eligible for the following monetary awards:

Awards are generously provided by the Liberal Arts Department and RMCAD Executive Administration.

Winners will also receive a certificate designed by RMCAD student, Vamp Zubizarreta.

Category	Award
Quality of Research (Paper)	\$250
Quality of Artwork	\$250
Quality of Presentation	\$150
Paper Connection to Theme	\$200
Artwork Connection to Theme	\$200
Librarians' Choice	\$200

# Presentation Schedule

\* denotes student presenting via Zoom in TB-102

Panel & Moderator	Presenters	Time (MST)
Welcome Address	Dr. Becky Black Head of Art History	10:00am-10:05am
<i>Persistence Despite</i> Moderator: Dr. Tom Keefe	Aaron Lesse Oli Coyle Panel Q&A	10:05am-10:20am 10:20am-10:35am 10:35am-10:45pm
<i>Persistence of Identity</i> Moderator: Prof. Gretchen Schaeffer	Kat Lloyd *Denise "Vamp" Zubizaretta Panel Q&A	10:45am-11:00am 11:00am-11:15am 11:15am-11:25am
<i>Persistence through Trauma</i> Moderator: Dr. Dinorah Nieves	Danielle Grochowski Emma Good Panel Q&A	11:25am-11:40am 11:40am-11:55am 11:55am-12:05pm
BREAK	Slide Show of Symposium Exhibit by Rob Evans	12:05pm-1:05pm
<i>Persistence of Misunderstanding</i> Moderator: Prof. Mung Lar Lam	*Bee Lutz *Kaylene McGowen Aleeya Hamner Panel Q&A	1:05pm-1:20pm 1:20pm-1:35pm 1:35pm-1:45pm
<i>Persistence of Art History</i> Moderator: Dr. Jenny Gawronski	Nikki Cassidy *Laura Shockley Panel Q&A	1:45pm-2:00pm 2:00pm-2:15pm 2:15pm-2:25pm
Closing Address	Dr. Colin Marlaire RMCAD Provost	2:25pm-2:30pm



## Nicole Cassidy (she/her)

### Fine Arts

Indigenous Alaskans face the eradication of their culture and home because of the altered state of the tundra. Many native tribes survive off the land through hunting and foraging, but as arctic temperatures rise, these resources become scarcer, making the devastation of the polar ecosystem known. Despite the current crisis, native Alaskans persist, finding ways to hold on to tradition and visual culture.

## Student Symposium Exhibition

All student artwork submissions for this year's Symposium are on display on RMCAD campus in the EPiC Building. The works were organized and installed by RMCAD's director of the Philip J. Steele Gallery, Rob Evans. These works will be on view until Summer 2022.

## Oli Coyle (they/them)

### Fine Arts

The work I will discuss is a representation of faith, and the persistence thereof. However, not necessarily faith in a religious sense, though one can absolutely interpret it that way if that's how the piece speaks to them. Creation is more of a representation of faith in an abstract way - believing in something important and having faith until the final goal or outcome is reached.

## Danielle Grochowski (she/her)

### Illustrative Design

Persistence does not have a single meaning to me, but is instead defined internally and individually, making art an incredible outlet to express it. For me, my lens of persistence is defined through the lens of a sexual abuse survivor. Here I will explore this topic through my illustrations.



## Emma Good (she/her)

### Art Education

I am interested in analyzing and producing sculptural imagery of ancient goddesses, Medusa and Coatlicue. I intend to argue for the importance of these voices and their persistent contributions to their cultures in the face of their adversity – something which must cease being romanticized as a morbid validation of their achievements.

## Aleeya Hamner (she/her)

### Animation

In this presentation I will discuss the persistence and concept of gender roles, how they've changed over time, how they're part of a person's identity, how they affect family dynamics, and how they're only a social construct.



We aim to create a safe and friendly environment for LGBTQIA+ and Straight Allies who share a common vision of social equality. We are here to help if you feel alone or voiceless and need someone to talk to.

[prism@rmcad.edu](mailto:prism@rmcad.edu)

## Symposium Partner



## Aaron Lesse (he/him)

### Graphic Design

My presentation discusses how free work is requested of artists, with assurances often made that it would generate exposure and claims by the client that the artist's unpaid work is in everyone's best interests. I conducted scholarly research to determine the issues of working for exposure, as well as measures that can be taken to prevent giving away work under exploitative circumstances.

## Kat Lloyd (she/her)

### Illustration

Here I reflect on my persistence in claiming my Mestizo heritage and how the legacy of my Aztec blood lives on in my identity. Researching how the Aztecs used art as a facet of individuality and personhood has allowed me to conceptualize how I would have been reflected through Aztec portraiture.

## Bee Lutz (she/they)

### Fine Arts

In this presentation I will explore three renowned Surrealist artists through a psychoanalytical lens to argue that Surrealism is a movement persistently misunderstood. I will also present my own work, and briefly explore how it applies to my art and my usage of Surrealist themes, as an example of the persistent misunderstanding of the movement.

## Kaylene McGowen (she/her)

### Illustration

My illustration and presentation focuses on the persistence of people with ADHD and how people who manage their ADHD battle. People with ADHD persist every day despite others perceiving ADHD as a sign of laziness. My hope is that this illustration will help challenge that persistent misconception.

## Health + Wellness

### counselor@rmcad.edu

Counseling services are available to all students — whenever and wherever they may need it. Our personal and mental health counselors give one-on-one counseling and support concerning a wide range of topics, from anxiety and depression to substance abuse and grief. And as always, this student support is personalized, confidential, and free of charge.

## Symposium Partner

PHILIP J. STEELE  
GALLERY

## Laura Shockley (she/her)

### Illustrative Design

The act itself of studying art history shapes what persists over time. Using two types of research examples, here I highlight how past art historians have shaped our world today as well as how our own connections to historical art and visual culture shape how art influences will continue to persist in the future.

## Denise Zubizarreta (she/her)

### Fine Arts

Multiple pan-ethnic labels of Americans tracing their roots to Latin America and Spain have been introduced over the decades. Today, the two dominant labels used are Hispanic and Latino. But, for the population it is meant to describe, only 23% of U.S. adults who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino have heard of the term Latinx, and just 3% say they use it to describe themselves. So why does this term persist?



## Symposium Partner





## **2022 Symposium Committee**

Dr. Becky Black - Head of Art History

Dr. Lucas Sheaffer - Chair of Liberal Arts

Dr. Kat Medill - Liberal Arts

## **2022 Symposium Curator**

Rob Evans - Director, Philip J. Steel Gallery



## **2022 Symposium Jurors**

Prof. Crisosto Apache - Liberal Arts

Dr. Julia Cohen - Liberal Arts

Prof. Agnes Ma - Foundations & Fine Arts

Rob Evans - Director, Philip J. Steele Gallery

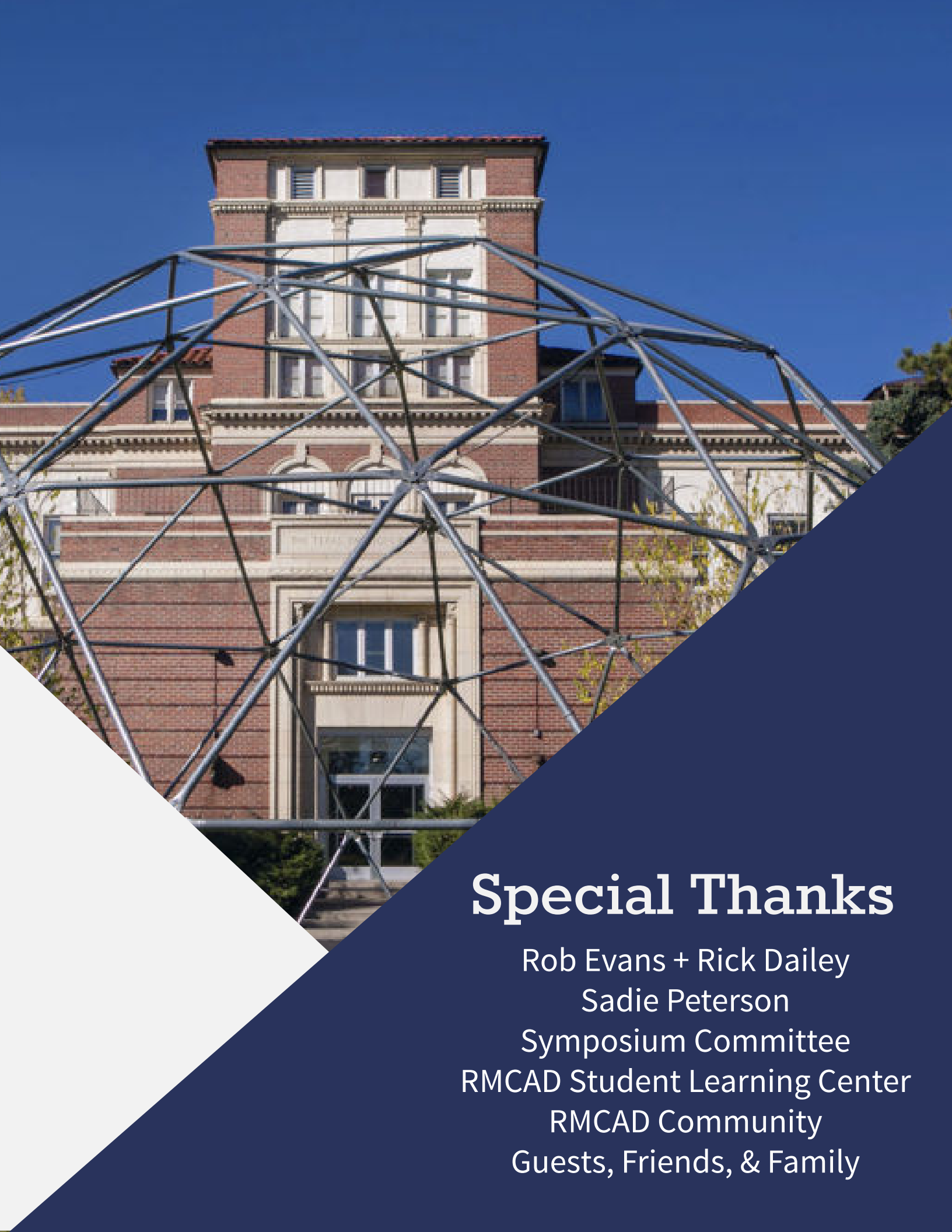
Prof. James Sherman - Liberal Arts

Ashlyn Backe - Student Accessibility Coordinator

Martha Neth - Director of Learning Commons

Katherine Illich - Library Manager





# Special Thanks

Rob Evans + Rick Dailey

Sadie Peterson

Symposium Committee

RMCAD Student Learning Center

RMCAD Community

Guests, Friends, & Family