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Critical Mass for the Visual Arts Announces Creative Stimulus Awardees

Critical Mass for the Visual Arts is pleased to announce the winners of the 11th annual Creative Stimulus Award. This year's selected artists are Yowshien Kuo, Marina Peng and Janie Stamm.

[Yowshien Kuo](#) was educated in both the U.S. and Taiwan and completed his MFA in 2014. He is a co-owner of the artist run space, Monaco in St. Louis, exhibited at Superdutchess in NYC, LVL3 Chicago, Terrain Exhibitions, Granite City's Art and Design District, and 2019's, Projects Plus in St. Louis, and Counterpublic with The Luminary in St. Louis. Yowshien has been an artist in residence with Paul ArtSpace in St. Louis, a recipient of Regional Arts Commission support grant, and has appeared in publications that include New American Paintings and The Seen Journal Chicago. He currently holds teaching appointments at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, Washington University's – University College, and Maryville University in St. Louis.

[Marina Peng](#) is a multimedia installation artist. She received her BFA from Washington University in St. Louis in 2017. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at spaces including 50/50 (Kansas City, MO), ACRE Projects (Chicago, IL), Open House (Kansas City, MO), The Luminary, Granite City Art and Design District, and Flood Plain. She has attended residencies at ACRE, Caldera Arts, Elsewhere, OTIS College of Art & Design, and Paul Artspace. Recent awards include a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, a Futures Fund grant, and a Vermont Studio Center Fellowship. In addition to her practice, she is a co-organizer of Public Service Announcement:, a public art site located in the Marine Villa neighborhood of St. Louis.

[Janie Stamm](#) was born and raised on the edge of the Everglades in Broward County, Florida. Her work focuses on preserving Florida's environmental and Queer history in the face of climate change. She uses a craft-based practice to tell these stories. Janie received an MFA in Visual Art from Washington University in Saint Louis in 2019. She was most recently the recipient of the 2019 John T. Milliken Foreign Travel Graduate Award, a Regional Arts Commission grant, a Dubinsky Scholarship to study at the Fine Arts Work Center, and the Frida Kahlo Creative Arts Award from Washington University in Saint Louis. Her work was featured on the cover of the December 2016 issue of Poetry magazine. Janie has shown work throughout the country including Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, and throughout the St. Louis area. She recently was in an artist in residence at ACRE in Wisconsin and at the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris, and has an upcoming residency at Aquarium Gallery in New Orleans. Janie is currently a teaching artist-in-residence at the Contemporary Art Museum in Saint Louis.

Creative Stimulus awards unrestricted funding to support artists to pursue special projects, experiment with new techniques, and deepen their understanding of their working processes. The artists were selected by a jury from 30 St. Louis-area visual artists who applied for this award. Each artist will receive an award of \$1,500 for their use as creative operating capital.

The selected artists will also be featured in a group exhibition at the Craft Alliance Center for Art+Design, in July, 2020. The exhibition will be curated by Yvonne Osei, a previous Creative Stimulus Awardee.

To learn more about the Creative Stimulus Project and other ways that Critical Mass for the Visual Arts is supporting the creation of contemporary visual art in St. Louis, please visit <http://criticalmassart.org/>

The Creative Stimulus Award is supported by the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission and individuals who believe that supporting and promoting local artists makes St. Louis a better place to live.

Critical Mass for the Visual Arts is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and initiating contemporary visual art in the St. Louis region.

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