

2023–2024 Year in Review
INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES



The IAS is an experimental and vital hub for art and ideas at UC Santa Cruz.

Through dynamic exhibitions, events, public scholarship initiatives, and education programming, we support and promote art and research which can illuminate the complexities of our times and help create a vibrant and just world. We are committed to providing transformative cultural experiences that question and inspire. Admission is always free.

EXHIBITIONS

Maria Gaspar: *Compositions*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 – MARCH 2, 2024

Chicago-based artist Maria Gaspar's first solo exhibition on the West Coast, *Compositions*, features newly commissioned and existing works reflecting the award-winning artist's decade-long commitment to the collective struggle against the United States carceral system.

Jay Afrisando: *In Which to Trust?*

JANUARY 12 – MARCH 2, 2024

How does sound "sound" to people of diverse hearings? *In Which to Trust?*, a solo installation by Jay Afrisando, questions so-called 'normal' hearing, troubling the idea that there is one accurate aural experience.

Al-Haq Forensic Architecture Investigation Unit: *They Are Shooting at Our Shadows*

JANUARY 12 – MARCH 2, 2024

The first exhibition of the Palestinian-based Al-Haq Forensic Architecture Investigation (FAI) Unit, *They Are Shooting at Our Shadows*, is an aesthetic, political, and counter-forensic contribution to the movement for liberation.

Seeing through Stone

IAS, Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, San José Museum of Art

APRIL 12, 2024–JANUARY 5, 2025

With over 80 artists across three exhibition sites, *Seeing through Stone* is a celebration of the expanding constellation of abolition: the organizing, dreaming, world-making, and creative activism around the globe that offers ways to see—and live—differently.

Top to bottom: Maria Gaspar: *Compositions*; photo by Anne Martinete. Jay Afrisando: *In Which to Trust?*; photo by Anne Martinete. *Seeing through Stone*; photo by Glen Cheriton.



EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

With over 40 events in 2023/24, our galleries are a gathering space for the university and the region, offering free artist talks, performances, panel discussions, community-outreach initiatives, and First Friday events.

Highlights

- Conversation and Double Book Release with James Spooner, Chris L. Terry, and John Malkin
- Explode! Platform Performance at the *Seeing through Stone* Opening Celebration
- Zombaria Practices: Exercises with the Body and Radical Imagination with Vanessa Soares
- Performance by Professor James Gordon Williams
- Community “Punch Parties” with artist Maria Gaspar



Top left to bottom right: Conversation and Double Book Release: Punk Rock, Social Change, and Anti-Racism; photo by Matt Fitt. Explode! Platform Performance at the *Seeing through Stone* Opening Celebration; photo by Daris Jasper @culturesaving. Zombaria Practices with Vanessa Soares; photo by Bobby Gordon. Maria Gaspar Artist Talk and Sonic Performance *The Principle of Alloys* (2023) by James Gordon Williams; photo by Andrew O’Keefe, Amotion. video. Artist-led *Disappearance Jail* Workshop (“Punch Party”) with Maria Gaspar; photo by Anne Martinete.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

By investing in artists, the IAS champions experimentation in the social and cultural potentials of art.

Highlights

- Sonny Trujillo and Frank Alexandrez are the first artists-in-residence for a new collaboration between Visualizing Abolition and Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos.
- Imani Jacqueline Brown and Christine Howard Sandoval are the inaugural Coha Newark Art & Science Residents.
- The Future Exhibitions Fund helped support multiple new commissions from artists inside and outside of prisons for *Seeing through Stone*.



Above: *In a world without prisons, everyone would be able to see the sky*, 2024, installation view in *Seeing through Stone* at the Institute of the Arts and Sciences; photo by Glen Cheriton. Right, top to bottom: Sonny Trujillo and Frank Alexandrez; An Aesthetics of Resilience group visit to Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos; Imani Jacqueline Brown and Christine Howard Sandoval; images courtesy of the artists. O grupo inteiro (Carol Tonetti, Cláudio Bueno, Ligia Nobre e Vitor Cesar) with Vanessa Soares and Lorrán Dias, *Liberdade Zero (Freedom Zero)*, 2024. New commission for *Seeing through Stone* at Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos; photo by Glen Cheriton.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The IAS serves as a laboratory and a classroom, providing students and our communities opportunities to learn and create new ways of meeting the broad challenges of the rapidly changing world.

Highlights

- The third annual Visualizing Abolition dissertation workshop inspired graduate student research.
- The new IAS Art for All program provided 10 high school students from across Santa Cruz County exciting paid opportunities to learn about art and museum careers.
- Paid undergraduate internships offered students hands-on, once-in-a-lifetime art experiences.
- The first cohort of the Visualizing Abolition Studies (VAST) Undergraduate Certificate Program graduated.



Left: Casey McHugh, IAS intern, giving an exhibition tour of *Seeing through Stone*. Above, top to bottom: 2024 Visualizing Abolition Dissertation Workshop cohort; First cohort of the Art for All Summer Teen Program; IAS interns Hayley Sanchez, Ben Banuelos, and Emily Annab screen-printing Visualizing Abolition tote bags.

INITIATIVES

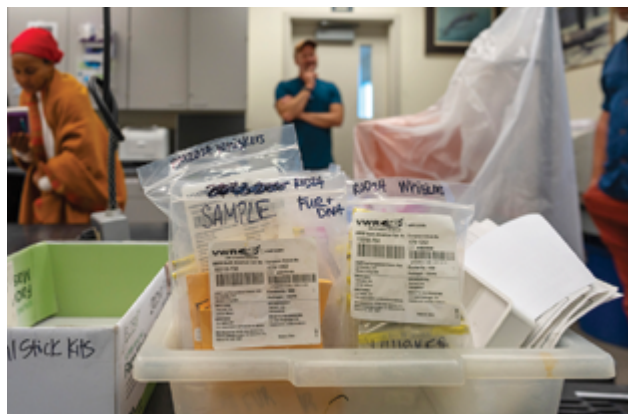
The IAS collaborates with artists, researchers, and faculty through major multidisciplinary initiatives. These public scholarship programs creatively engage audiences on critical social and environmental issues.

An Aesthetics of Resilience

A new art and science initiative at the IAS, organized in collaboration with Professor Ari Friedlaender, Ocean Sciences, launched in Fall 2023. With funding from the University of California Office of the President (UCOP), scientists at the Friedlaender Lab are working with artists to address climate change and its effects on the California Coast for an exhibition opening in May 2025.

“Our partnership with IAS has been the most eye-opening and thoughtful experience I have had in science. As scientists, this is an unusual opportunity to grow through traversing the boundaries of science and art.”

—Ari Friedlaender, Professor, Ocean Sciences



Visualizing Abolition

Visualizing Abolition will celebrate 5 years of programming in Fall 2024. Organized with Professor Gina Dent, the award-winning initiative creatively educates students and the public about the crisis of incarceration through art exhibitions, events, residencies, and education programs. We are proud—and grateful—to announce the initiative has renewed funding from the Mellon Foundation, allowing us to continue to grow the program’s world-wide impact.

“The IAS has been an ideal place to launch and pursue a project such as Visualizing Abolition that maximizes the unique mandate to connect artistic practice to thinking across the sciences. This collaboration has been a highlight of my career at UCSC and has made these last years truly inspiring.”

—Gina Dent, Professor, Humanities



UC SANTA CRUZ |  Arts

Institute of the Arts and Sciences

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Hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 12–5 PM

Free admission



Cover: Participant holding up work from Artist-led *Disappearance Jail* Workshop with Maria Gaspar; photo by Anne Martinete.

Left: An Aesthetics of Resilience Conference in June 2024; photos by Daris Jasper @culturesaving. Right: Gina Dent, Lauren Schell Dickens, and Rachel Nelson at the San José Museum of Art *Seeing through Stone* Opening Celebration; photo by Frederick Liang.