



TED Fellows

TED GLOBAL 2011



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Dear TEDizens,

We are excited to welcome the TEDGlobal 2011 Fellows to Edinburgh, TED's new international home!

In these pages you will meet the seventh class of TED Fellows—the 20 outstanding artists, innovators, makers, scientists, and entrepreneurs that comprise the new fellowship class. We guarantee you'll find their stories fascinating and hope that you spend time individually connecting with them over the course of the week.

We also welcome back the 2010 and 2011 Senior Fellows, who have been continuing their extraordinary work around the world while a part of the TED community for two additional years. Flip through these pages for their updates.

Please extend a warm TED welcome to the Fellows and Senior Fellows—look for Fellowship tags on their badges. You'll be glad you did.

On behalf of all the Fellows and the TED Fellows team, we look forward to spending time together in Scotland's beautiful capital city.



Tom Rielly
Fellows Director
tom@ted.com

P.S. Applications for the TED2012 Fellowship are now open. Please help us spread the word!

TED Fellows

Launched at TED2009, the TED Fellows program brings outstanding individuals who have shown unusual accomplishment, exceptional courage, and moral imagination into the TED community in order to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

How it works

Each year, 20 Fellows attend the TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and 20 attend TEDGlobal in Edinburgh, Scotland, as full conference participants, with all expenses paid. They enjoy an exclusive Fellows pre-conference where they meet, share ideas, receive communication, fundraising, and design training, and encounter a few surprises. They also have the opportunity to give a talk before or during TED, and potentially to see their talks posted on TED.com. Throughout the rest of the year, they tell their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows Blog and YouTube channel, and receive personal coaching and mentoring. Coming soon: more extensive Fellows profiles on TED.com so you can find out more!

The program focuses on individuals from six target regions: Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, though people from the rest of the world are also represented and welcome to apply. Fellows are drawn from the many disciplines that reflect the diversity of TED's members: technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, the humanities, the arts, NGOs, businesses and more. Though we target innovators aged 21 to 40, anyone over 18 is welcome to apply.

TED Senior Fellows

Of the 40 Fellows selected each year, 10 individuals are invited to participate in the extended Senior Fellowship program, which begins the year after their initial Fellowship. Read more on page 46.

How you can get involved

You can help the TED Fellows in six ways:

1. mentoring a Fellow
2. teaching at a Fellows event
3. nominating an excellent candidate
4. donating to support the program
5. corporate underwriting
6. contributing in-kind goods and services

To learn more about the TED Fellows program, visit: www.ted.com/fellows
contact: fellows@ted.com
follow: [@TEDFellow](https://twitter.com/TEDFellow)

TED Thanks

The Bezos Family

We would like to thank the Bezos Family for their visionary founding support of the TED Fellows program.

**THE HARNISCH
FOUNDATION**

**arcus
FOUNDATION**

Dhanam Foundation*
(Shriram Family)

* The Dhanam Foundation has offered a matching grant for donations of \$50,000 and above. For more information, or to participate in the matching grant, please contact Logan McClure at logan@ted.com.

Renee Freedman

Chandra Jessee

Pam Alexander

Christiana Wyly

Beth & Steve Varon

Steve Demos

Ann & John Doerr

Scott Wolf

Robert Angus

Max Ventilla

Lynda Wyman & Bruce Heavin

Karla & Steve Jurveston

TED Thanks



Gerry Ohrstrom



Trish Kubal

Special thanks to:

Reuben Abraham, David Albertson, Harvey Armstrong, Erich Broksas, Michael Duarte, Nancy Duarte, Karen Eng, Alana Herro, Billy Johnson, Colleen Keegan, Benjamin Kellogg, Sandy Leong, Mark O'Donnell, Emeka Okafor, Margaret Sullivan, Matthew Trost, Megan Wyatt, and Diana Yousef

Finally, we would like to thank the TED2009, TEDGlobal 2009, TEDIndia, TED2010, TEDGlobal 2010, and TED2011 Fellows. Not only have they been remarkable classes, but they have also provided invaluable feedback that continues to shape the program. To learn more about the current Fellows, visit www.ted.com/fellows.

Manuel Aguilar

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MEET
MANUEL

Manuel is cofounder and director of technology of QUETSOL, a renewable-energy company that provides Guatemala's neediest citizens access to energy services using renewable and appropriate technologies. Born and raised in Guatemala City, Manuel graduated from Harvard in 2006, earning both master's and bachelor's degrees in astrophysics and physics. In mid-2008, while working in finance, he founded a global-macro hedge fund, Thresher Global, in Greenwich, Connecticut. Manuel's ultimate aim is to facilitate access to computer technology that will permit QUETSOL customers to leapfrog into the emerging global knowledge economy—while simultaneously minimizing their ecological impact.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I'm working to eradicate some of the unnecessary barriers of access to information technology for the more than 4 billion people currently excluded from this phenomenal progress. I'm focusing on universalizing access to electricity, a necessary precursor to the highest-impact development tools. Our technological solutions aim to maximize sustainability—ecological, technical, and economic.

What do you do for fun?

I find life to be a continuously engrossing, fun experience. When not “working” (the ultimate fun), I seek knowledge through any means possible, from prolonged contemplation to intense visceral experiences and everything in between. My current hobbies are self-sufficiency and traveling. I love long road trips.

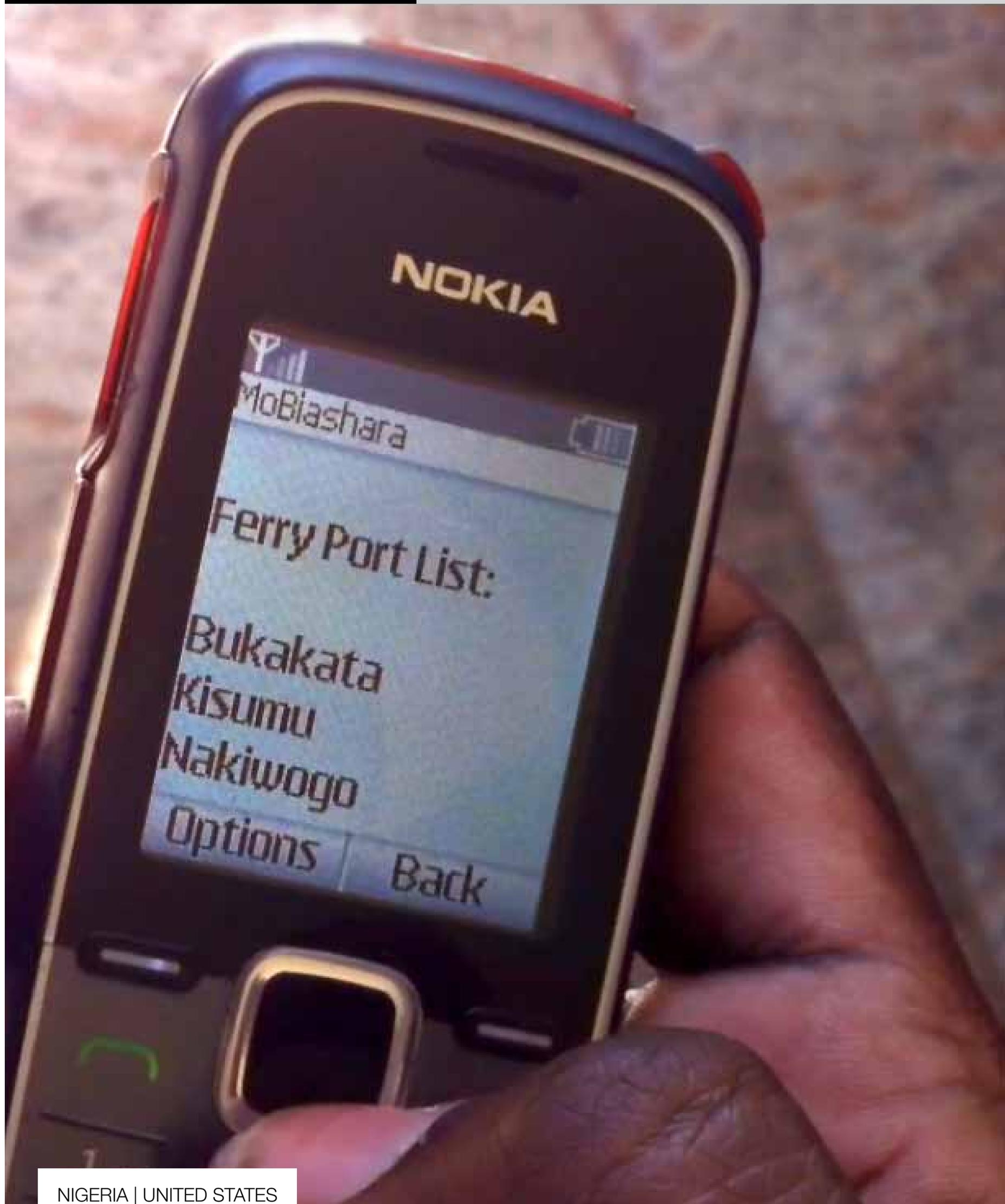
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

From a young age I was keen on counting things and keeping “records.” Naturally, the most interesting records involved my “feats of strength.” I vividly remember one: “How long can I lie in between the bed and the mattress?” While establishing a solid record and just lying there sandwiched, waiting, I had the first inklings, at age 4, that one need never get bored.

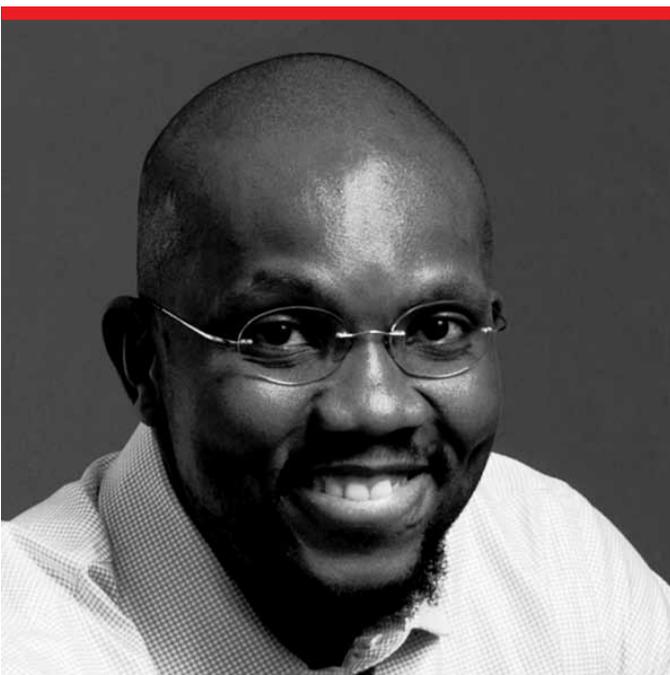
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MEET
FEMI

In 2009, Femi left his position as senior finance manager at Microsoft to found the m-commerce firm SlimTrader, which owns and operates MoBiashara: the first platform in Africa that allows consumers to shop and make purchases from businesses with their mobile devices using text messages and mobile money. This is especially valuable given the slow and erratic internet access on the continent, which leaves residents with the sole option of traveling and waiting in line to conduct potentially simple transactions. Under Femi's leadership, SlimTrader has begun operating in four African countries and has had a string of early successes. Clients range from agribusinesses selling fertilizer to farmers to transportation companies selling tickets to commuters.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on closing a number of SlimTrader agreements with partners and clients.

What do you do for fun?

When I am not working, I am with my 6-year-old daughter. We have lots of fun going on outings together.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I can sleep sitting up, a valuable skill as I travel a lot. I once slept through an entire Chicago-to-Ireland flight while sitting upright in my seat.

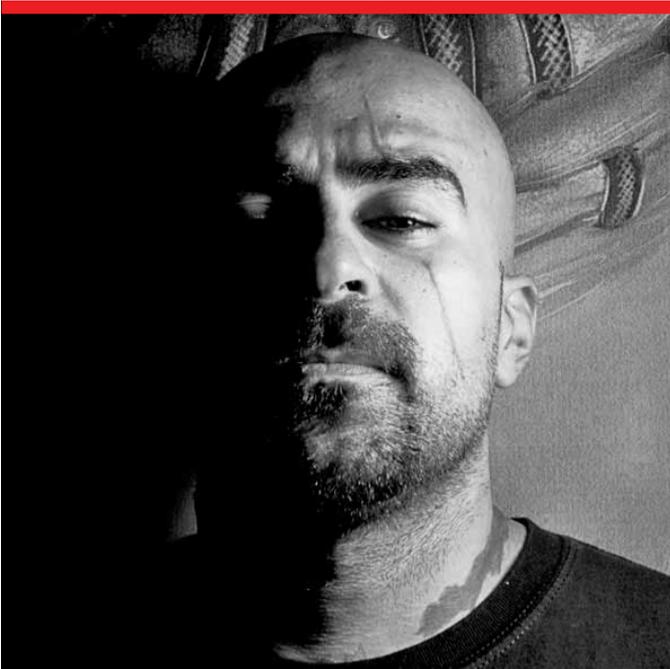
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MEET
SULEIMAN

During his undergraduate years at the University of Minnesota, four students attacked Suleiman on campus one night soon after the events of September 11, 2001. Instead of returning to Jordan, Suleiman began to visit young children in elementary schools, simply to talk to them about Arab culture, in hopes of changing perceptions. When asked one day what the Arab equivalent of Superman looked like, he was overwhelmed with the realization that superheroes did not really exist in the Arab world. Armed with nothing more than his imagination and a pencil, he began to draw, and in 2006, founded comics media company Aranim, which in 2010 sold more than 1.2 million comic books—making it the biggest comic-book producer in the region.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on creating the first generation of Arab heroes, such as the first Arab female action hero (Section 9), an Arab James Bond (Element Zero), and the first Arab graphic sci-fi novel (*Saladin 2100*). I'm also developing Arabic social games that aim to empower youth and to fight the culture of extremism. I'll be publishing the first Arab social farming game on Facebook in July 2011.

What do you do for fun?

Movies, skydiving, motorcycling, world travel, being inspired by others. I'm a sucker for ethnic food (consuming and cooking) and watching TED videos.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I wasn't one of those kids with a sketchbook drawing furiously. When I was 10, my parents hired a private arts tutor to teach me. After a week, she returned all her fees, saying I did not have an artistic bone in my body, and that I should quit. Now, many years later, I find myself a bestselling comic-book author, social games producer, and an aspiring filmmaker.

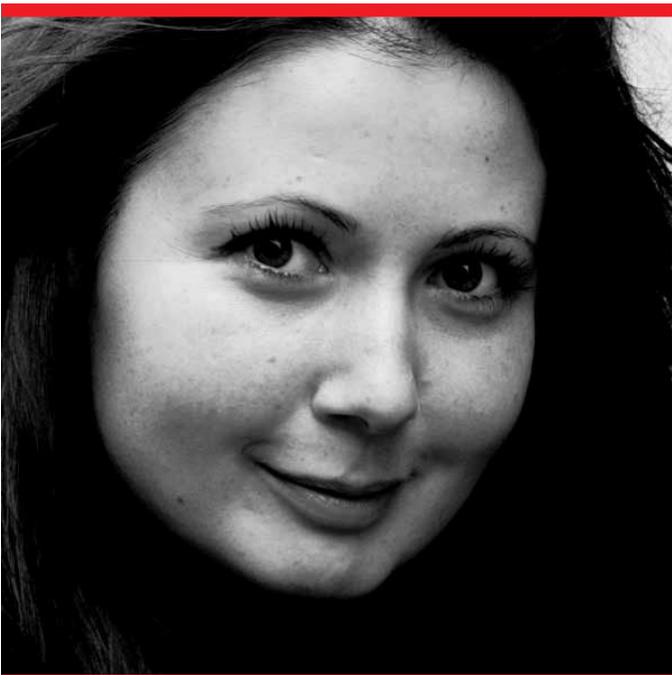
Yana Buhrer Tavanier

Mental health activist

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MEET YANA

Yana is a human rights activist and an award-winning journalist based in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the past two years, she has worked undercover, investigating institutions for adults with intellectual and mental health disabilities in Croatia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia, uncovering evidence of human rights abuses, inhuman and degrading treatment, and appalling neglect. Currently, Yana is the campaign manager of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, the country's most influential human rights group. She has led numerous campaigns, most recently for the rights of children with disabilities in institutions and against police brutality. As part of the Sofia Pride Foundation, Yana campaigns for LGBT rights, and is actively involved in organizing the annual Pride march, which in 2011 will take place for the fourth time in Bulgaria.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am currently campaigning for deinstitutionalization of children with mental disabilities, and for the development of alternative, community-based services. The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee investigated all 25 social homes for children with mental disabilities in Bulgaria. We uncovered evidence of 238 deaths occurring between 2000 and 2010, most avoidable, many caused by neglect. At the time of the inspections, 103 children were suffering from malnutrition.

What do you do for fun?

I try to spend more time with the ones I love. I travel the world, chasing bands and artists. In the little black notebook I carry around all the time, I scribble ideas for art projects that would help create social change.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

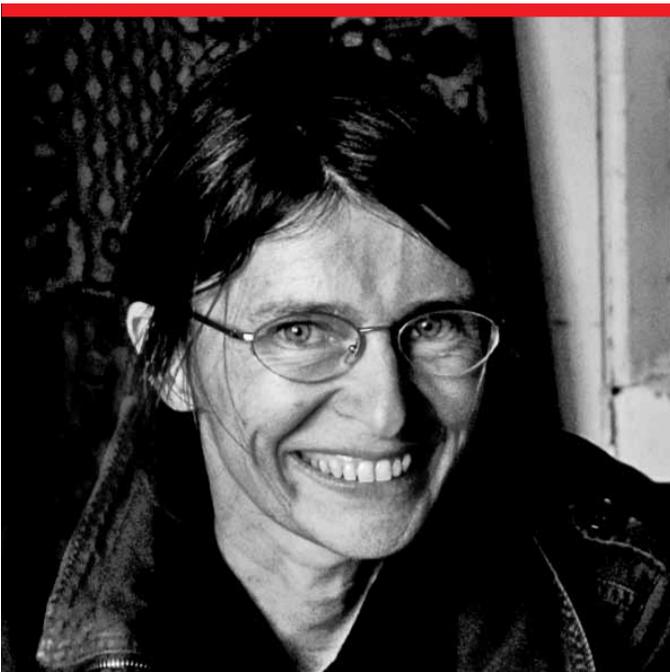
Recently, my mother told me she doesn't mind gay people, as long as they don't "parade their sexuality." In 15 minutes, I tried to explain how Prides in the Balkans are not exactly celebrations; they are a part of the fight for equal rights. Then she asked me when the Pride would be. "June 18," I answered. "Why?" "Because I'll be coming," she said. "And I'll even be bringing a banner along." In my work I have achieved some important things, but this felt like the sweetest victory ever.

Monika Bulaj

Photo documentarian



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MEET
MONIKA

Monika is a Polish-born photographer of nomads and travel writer based in Trieste, Italy. She explores the peripheries of monotheism in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe - the rituals, pilgrimages, possession rites, and dances of migrants, farmers, and outcasts in outskirts and deserts, frontiers and ghettos. The goal of her Central Asia Project, focusing on Afghanistan, is to show the hidden world of the Sufi and the nomadic tribes and minorities embracing pre-Islamic traditions—both despised by the Wahhabite Taliban. Monika, who studied Polish philology at Warsaw University, has authored six books, mounted about 50 solo exhibitions, and won the Bruce Chatwin Special Award for Photography, the Absolute Eye. She currently freelances for *GEO*, *National Geographic* (Italy), *La Repubblica*, *Courier International*, *Gazeta Wyborcza* and others.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I'm writing about Afghanistan and North Africa, and preparing *Auras*, a book about the borders of the monotheism, and one about Afghanistan, *Nur*. I am also preparing for several exhibitions.

What do you do for fun?

I practice a personal mixture of yoga, tango, and Chinese wushu martial arts. For love and money I work in street theatre as an actress-director and acrobat-dancer on stilts. We have the Bora wind in Trieste, and my sons and I love to windsurf. Before sleeping I look at the works of Tarkovsky, Kurosawa, Fellini, Herzog, Caravaggio, Anders Petersen, Ortiz-Echagüe, Koudelka—this mixture produces quite interesting dreams.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

My third journey, at 19, took place during winter along Poland's eastern border, across fields and woods. Witches blew spells in my face, Orthodox nuns plied me with borsch. I met a poet. He knew Marx's *Capital* by heart, and made grooming equipment for cows while awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. He welcomed me in the forest like an angel sent from his prophet Elijah. Everything I did later was the consequence of that experience.

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MEET BILGE

Bilge wants to inspire the next generation of scientists and make the public more aware of the amazing universe we live in. A particle physicist working on the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, she graduated from MIT with a major in physics and minors in mathematics and music. She continued her graduate studies at MIT, working on the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer experiment, which is now searching for antimatter and a dark matter signature in space. She attended the 2008 Meeting of Nobel Laureates at Lindau and initiated the contact between the meeting organizers and Turkey. As a result, five young Turkish researchers attend the meetings every year. Bilge now holds a faculty position at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I decided to return to Turkey in February, after it applied to become a member state of CERN. Therefore, my first priority is starting up my research group here at METU and contributing to Turkish-CERN scientific collaboration. It requires one-on-one attention with my graduate and undergraduate students. It is an amazingly exciting time.

What do you do for fun?

I love music: I play piano, sing, and am learning to play the accordion. The language of science, especially of physics, is mathematics. While we cannot expect the public to learn the language of mathematics at the level of cutting-edge science, I think it would be possible to convey the beauty inherent in the equations of nature—particularly of particle physics—in music or other art forms.

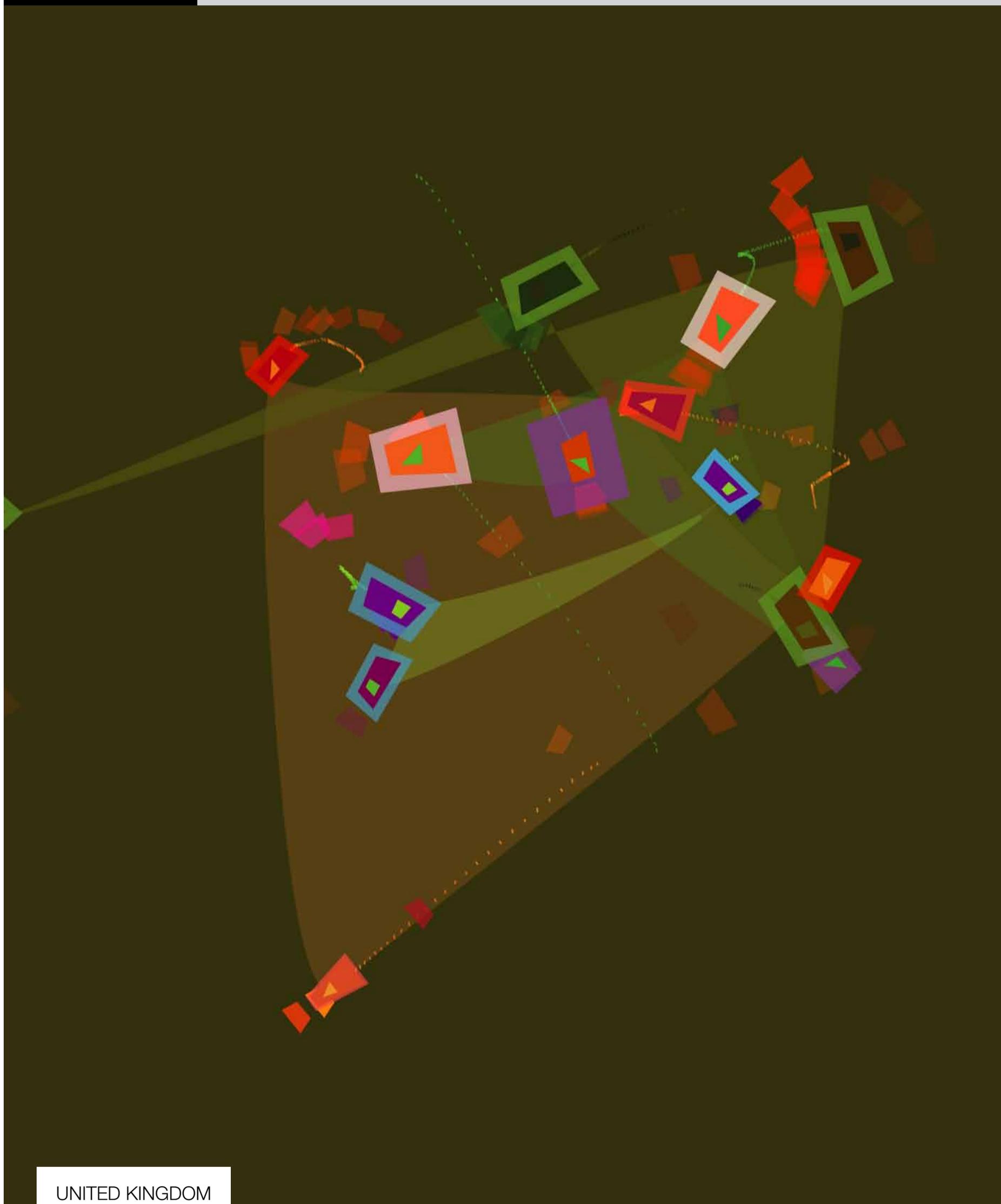
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I carried the Olympic Flame on July 6, 2004, in Üsküdar, Istanbul, on its way to Athens. Before this experience, I used to think such symbolism might be unnecessary in the modern world. Aren't we all so connected now, with phones and wireless internet access? Why would we need a symbolic flame carried around the world? I could not have been more wrong.

Julie Freeman

Tech artist

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MEET
JULIE

Julie's work spans visual, audio, and digital art forms, and explores how we perceive the relationship between technology, science, and nature. She is passionate about understanding the less-obvious elements of our world, and about how art can incorporate science and technology to inform our perspective of these unseen layers. Often working collaboratively, she experiments with transforming complex processes and datasets into sound compositions, objects, and animations. For the past 15 years, Julie has focused on questioning the use of electronic technologies to "translate nature." Her pioneering artwork *The Lake* tracked electronically tagged fish and translated their movement into a real-time audio-visual experience. Based in the UK, Julie is currently artist-in-residence at Cranfield University's Microsystems and Nanotechnology Centre.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

My current work explores how we can engage with networking activity in a physical and immediate way. It will involve the creation of many small kinetic objects that will (hopefully) exhibit emergent connected behavior visually and sonically. The project will look at social networking data patterns to see what makes certain data more contagious than other data. Can these patterns create music?

What do you do for fun?

I'm a UK silver medalist (2011) in cold-water swimming. I love the buzz I get when I plunge into icy water—my brain becomes sharp, my humor is elevated, my skin glows. I rarely compete; mostly I swim in the UK's beautiful lakes and rivers and along the coast. I am part of the Outdoor Swimming Society—a movement to get more people outdoors and into the water.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

It wasn't until I was about 11 that my family realized I needed eyeglasses. One day, one of my parents pointed out a funny billboard and I pulled a crazy distorted face to squint at it. I believe my love of imagining how invisible systems work was shaped by how I honed my listening skills and other senses to make up for my lack of vision as a kid.

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MEET
JOSE

Jose creates innovative medical solutions for those who most need healthcare. An instructor at MIT's D-Lab: Health, a course in designing global health technologies, he is also program director for the Innovations in International Health initiative at MIT. Among IIH's projects is the Aerovax Drug Delivery System, a device for mass delivery of inhalable drugs and vaccines to remote populations. His invention portfolio also includes SafePilot, a navigation aid for the blind, and, most recently, the X out TB program, which aims to increase TB therapy adherence in developing countries using novel diagnostics and mobile technology. Jose serves on the European Union's Science Against Poverty Taskforce and has participated as an expert advisor in the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I have two favorite projects. One is MEDIK (Medical Education Design and Invention Kits), which lets non-engineers design and prototype their own medical technologies—like a Lego set, but in the end you have a medical device. I'm also working on a new method to mash up biochemical diagnostics with mobile phones. The project has brought together infectious-disease experts, biochemists, mobile phone programmers, and some rapid prototyping tools to create a better way of monitoring epidemics.

What do you do for fun?

I love exploring cities, especially when I have to travel abroad and get to hop from coffee shop to coffee shop. I travel with a French press because some countries offer instant coffee as standard, which should be banned. I follow international affairs like other people follow sports, so I end up reading a lot of magazines such as *Foreign Policy*, the international sections of online newspapers, and books on the topic.

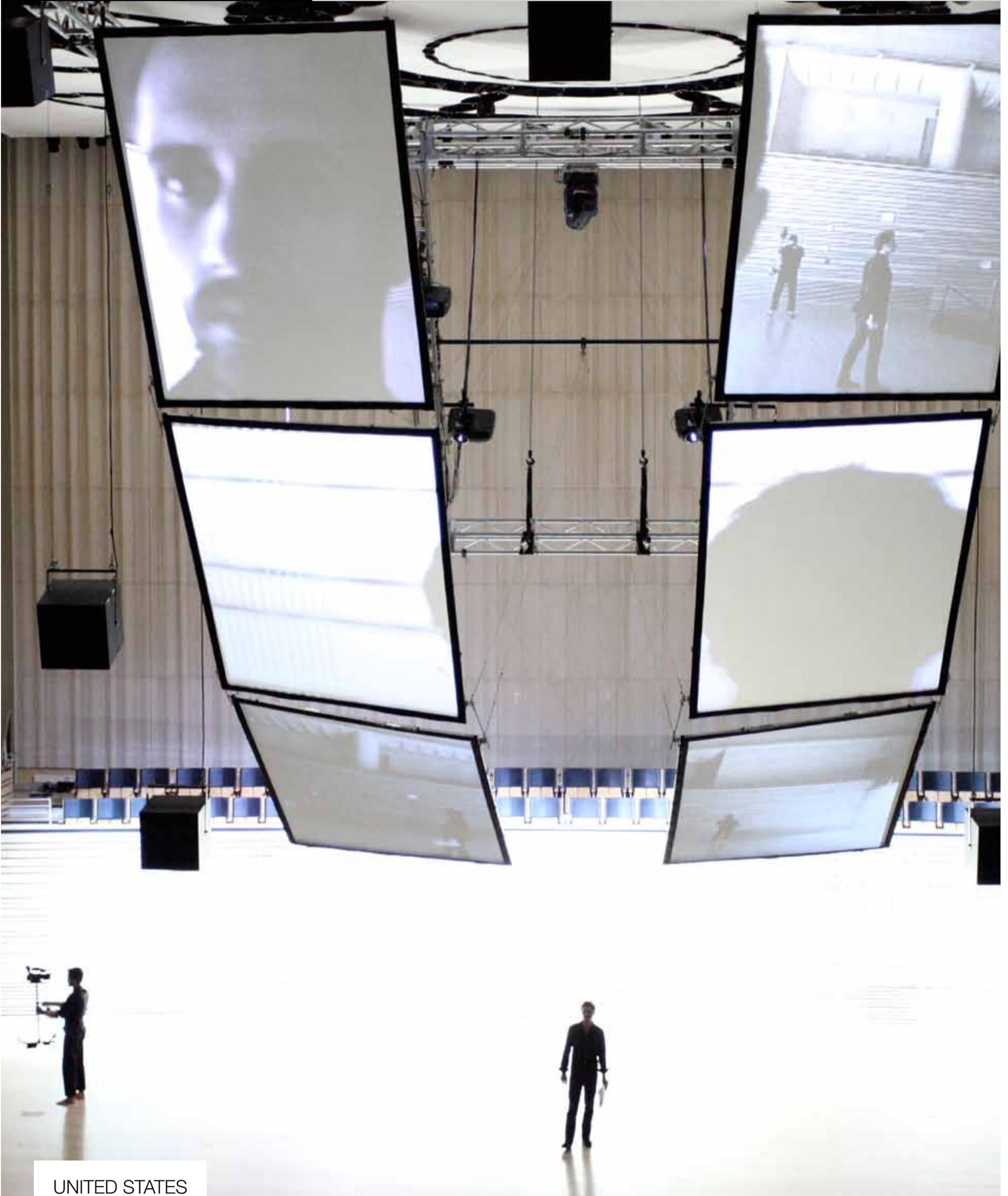
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I was born premature because of an ultrasound error, and doctors were so pessimistic that my family signed a death certificate and bought me a coffin. I could fit in a shoebox. Miracle surgery saved my life, but I was at high risk of brain damage. My mother never gave up hope and nursed me back to health.

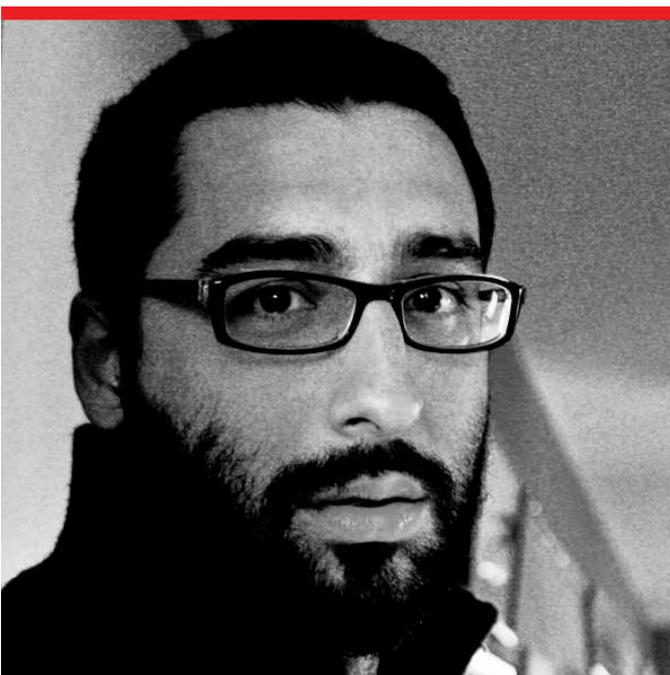
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Early Morning Opera



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MEET
LARS

Lars is a genre-bending director, designer, writer, and media artist, and founding artistic director of Early Morning Opera, a multi-disciplinary art lab based in Los Angeles creating works about “America right now.” Lars studied Bunraku-style puppetry outside Kyoto for a year and taught physical performance at Kabul University’s fledgling theatre department. As a Princeton Atelier Fellow, he recorded elder women in rural Ukraine singing in a vanishing polyphonic style. His subjects have included Laika the Soviet space dog, a suicide bomber, land art, TED talks, a downed fighter pilot, and the impossibility of outsiders ever knowing the relationship that two people have together. His work has been supported by the Sherwood Award, The MacDowell Colony, and commissions from EMPAC and the Whitney Museum.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I’m working on three projects: ABACUS embodies the evolution of contemporary persuasion in the forms of presentations and mega-church media design. A SUICIDE BOMBING BY INVITATION ONLY embraces the iconic fear of the day, refracted through the lenses of celebrity, protest, advertising, the art market, and memorials. HOLOSCENES transforms the “popular attraction” into a pivot for public conversation on global climate cataclysm and the spiritual legacy of our responses to systems theoretically beyond our control.

What do you do for fun?

I drive around the Western United States, taking pictures, and play fetch with my golden retriever, who usually doesn’t drop the ball. I make massive kebab feasts for many friends, followed by kebab-fueled dance parties. Backpack through mountainous places, ideally harboring hot springs. Exchange bits of dark humor. Admire my girlfriend’s impressive punning ability. Take in all the art I can. Travel. Collaborate.

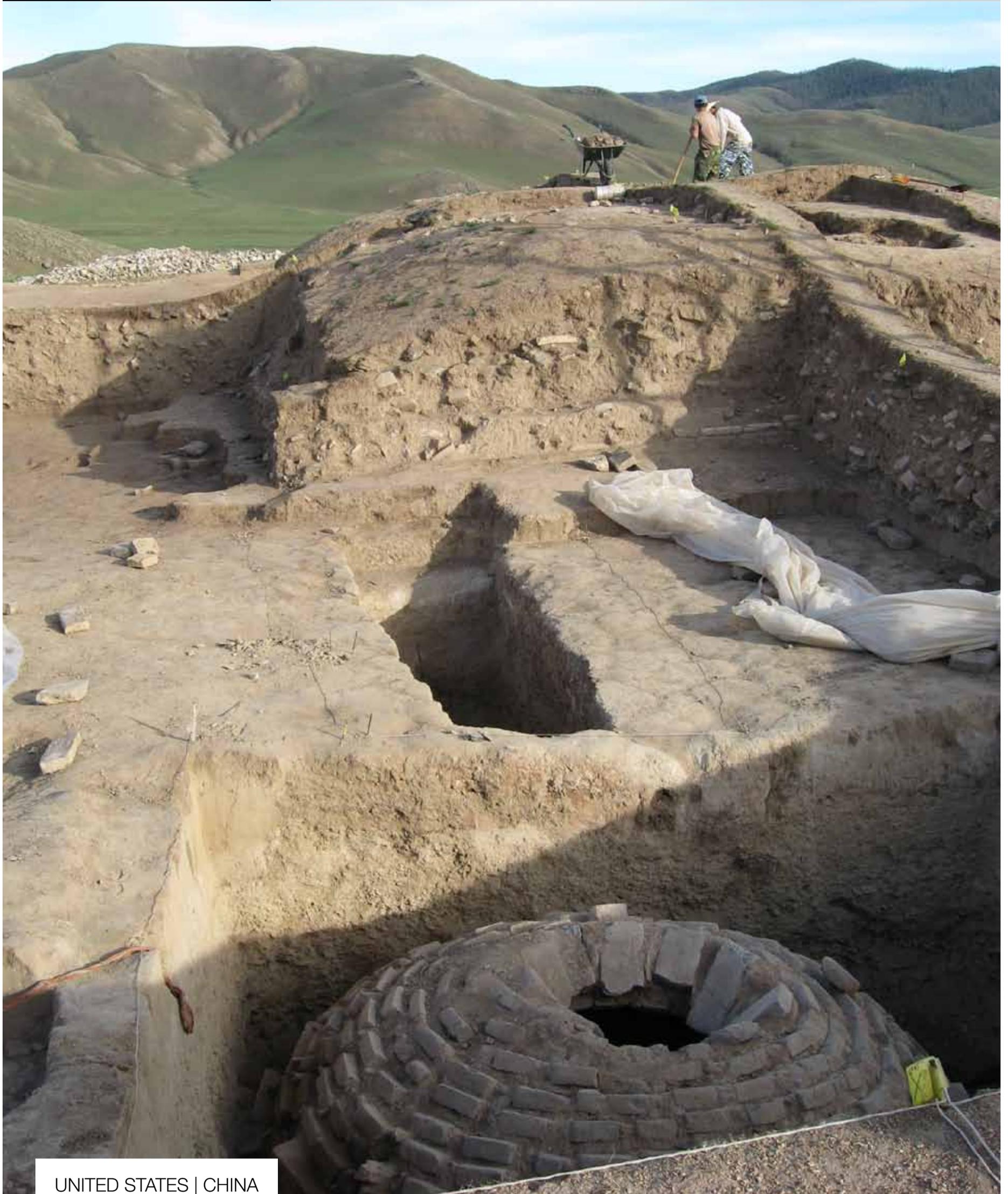
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

Hiking in Tajikistan with my friend Mac Funk, I got tagged by a rockslide. He lowered me onto a glacier with a rope. As he slid down himself, he caused a stony cascade. While I ran away, one chunk of granite knocked me over, puncturing a hole above my left ankle the size of a light bulb socket. Mac put pressure on the wound for about four hours until the bleeding stopped. I downed two Snickers bars—twice our daily ration and the best meal of my life.

Christine Lee

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MEET
CHRISTINE

Christine's research as a bio-archaeologist combines the fields of physical anthropology and archaeology. Working in China and Mongolia for the past seven years, she uses the bones and teeth of ancient human skeletons—populations ancestral to modern-day Mongolians, Tibetans, and Uyghurs – to answer questions about their life history, patterns of disease, population migration and interaction, and medical and cultural practices. She hopes that this work will introduce these ancient people, little-known outside Asia, to a new audience.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am currently researching human skeletons from archaeological excavations along the border of the first Chinese Empire (206 BCE–220 CE). I hope to detect whether the movement of people along the Silk Road and Great Wall spread new diseases into or out of East Asia.

What do you do for fun?

I love taking road trips. I've woken up to Mongolian nomads riding through the morning fog. Tibetan children have shown me their prized pig while sharing Popsicles in a remote mountaintop village. I've also been introduced to the Tibetan Mastiffs used to guard a Chinese archaeological site. All these experiences came from stopping at random places on the road and introducing myself to the people I saw.

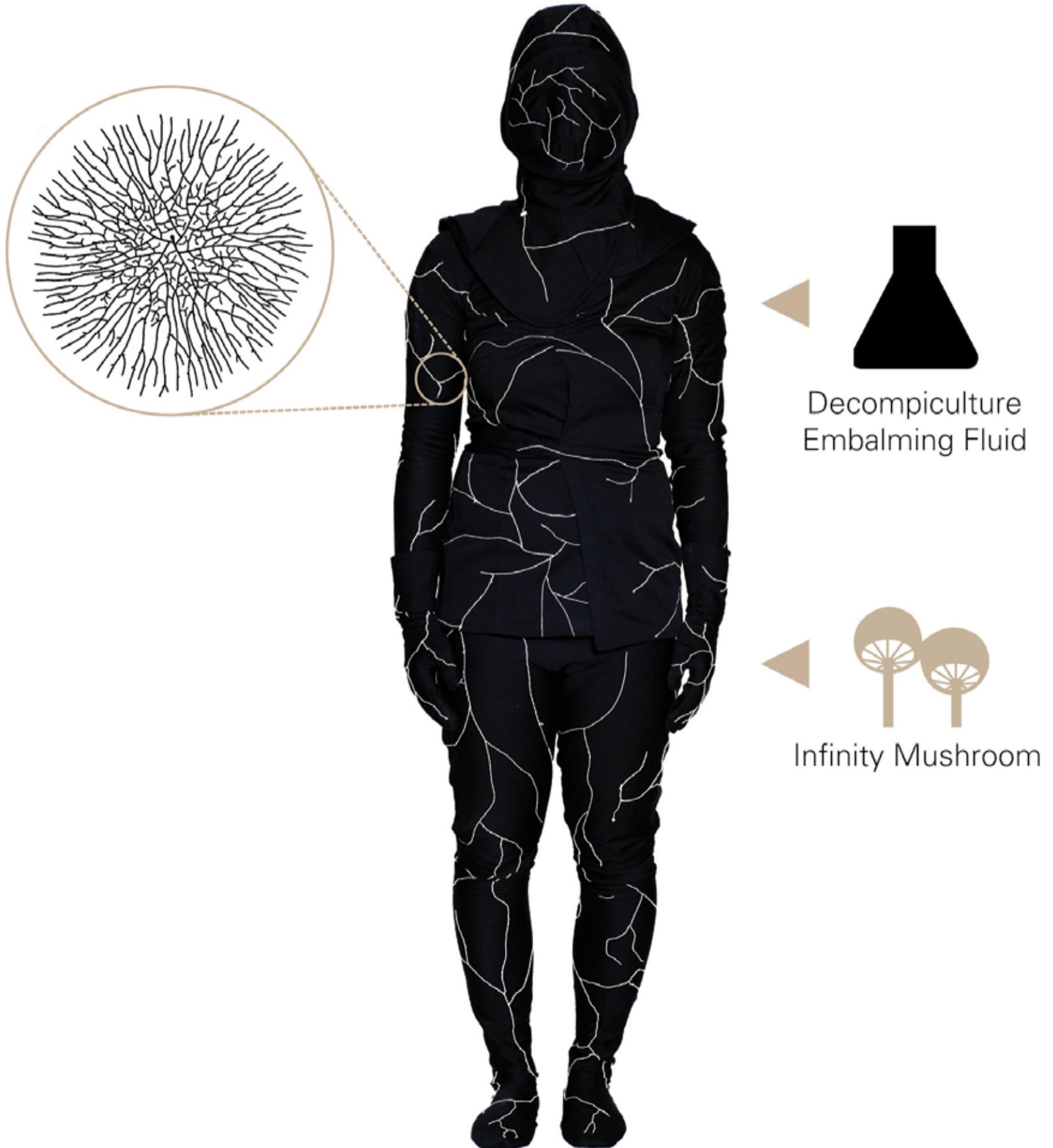
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I've always been told I don't have a typically Chinese face. Visiting my father's ancestral homeland along the Silk Road during my research, I saw that though his family left this area hundreds of years ago, I still look like the people in this place where, for thousands of years, Mongolian, Tibetan, and Chinese populations have lived next to each other. I'm living proof of the complex nature of Chinese population history.

Jae Rhim Lee

Scientific artist

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MEET
JAE RHIM

Jae Rhim is a visual artist and designer who works at the intersection of art, DIY science, and design. She conducts research and makes environmentally conscious recycling systems, wearables, and furniture that challenge the socially constructed boundaries between mind/body/self/society and the built and natural environments. The Infinity Burial Project, her latest work, proposes an alternative for the postmortem body that features the training of a unique strain of an edible mushroom to decompose and remediate toxins in human tissue, the development of a decomposition “kit,” and a membership society devoted to the promotion of death acceptance and the cultivation of decomposing organisms.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

As part of the Infinity Burial Project, I’m developing a new alternative burial method I call “corpse decompiculture.” I’m training an edible mushroom to digest my discarded hair, skin, nails, and blood. This mushroom will be incorporated into burial suits, decomposition kits, and post-mortem makeup.

What do you do for fun?

I love urban exploration via bicycle. I’m currently attempting to live mostly car-free in Los Angeles using my bike as a main form of transportation. I also enjoy composting, concocting new Popsicle flavors, and making fermented foods—kefir, sauerkraut, and kimchi, among others.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I’ve taken 15 personality tests and vocational inventories, read 20 self-help books, and consulted four career counselors and two therapists to find a vocation perfectly matched to my interests and abilities. I’ve learned that I strongly resemble a Navy general, I may have an aptitude for window dressing, I am an “idealist” and a “healer,” and I am ill-suited for academia, investment banking, medicine, social work, nonprofit management, psychology, documentary photography, the military, tutoring, administration, research, retail, and telemarketing.

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MEET
JON

Jon specializes in long-term, in-depth projects that confront the realms of power, poverty, and violence. He strives for unsparing clarity, and believes images make a critical contribution by revealing the subjects of history that lack voice. At the core of his work, by his own admission, is a lighted love of people. An equally intractable believer in the art of photography, he asks those who consider photography inessential to picture a world with no pictures. His international assignments have included covering elections in Afghanistan to the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake to social violence in Guatemala. His recent project explores the impact of cerebral malaria in Ugandan children. He is a member and owner of the NOOR Images cooperative and Foundation.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am working to complete two long-term documentary book projects about diaspora communities in both the United States and Latin America. I am also focused on building the NOOR Documentary Foundation USA, which will help disseminate documentary projects of significance throughout the world. NOOR is creating a variety of programs and partnerships with educational institutions to ensure that the work reaches the widest audience possible.

What do you do for fun?

I wish I could say I can leap tall buildings in a single bound, but the reality is I'm a pretty simple person. In my spare time, which seems to be dwindling these days, I enjoy swimming in Lake Michigan outside my back door, playing basketball, and hanging out with friends. I am a true Boston Celtics basketball fan through and through. I also love having barbecues in the summer.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

When I was about 14, I slept outside the Old Boston Garden on Causeway Street several times, waiting to buy regular season and playoff tickets. The most amusing part about the experience was that I slept next to my close friend's grandmother, Rose Klein, who was 73 at the time and also an avid Celtics fan.

Sonaar Luthra

Water testing innovator

Water Canary Inc.



UNITED STATES



Sonaar
Luthra

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MEET
SONAAR

Sonaar is CEO and cofounder of Water Canary, which seeks to transform the fight against waterborne illness and water-related emergencies with real-time water-quality information. Water Canary is developing a simple open-source device that quickly and cheaply determines when water can't be trusted so that action can be taken to secure clean supplies, preventing the spread of pollution and disease. Sonaar is fascinated by the ways inexpensive networked hardware can be used as a tool for promoting social change, and how it might help empower people across the world with information.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I'm developing and sourcing our next prototype to lay the foundation for a global open-sensor network. I'm also learning about and participating in the communities that will be crucial to Water Canary's success, while securing the resources and partners our organization needs.

What do you do for fun?

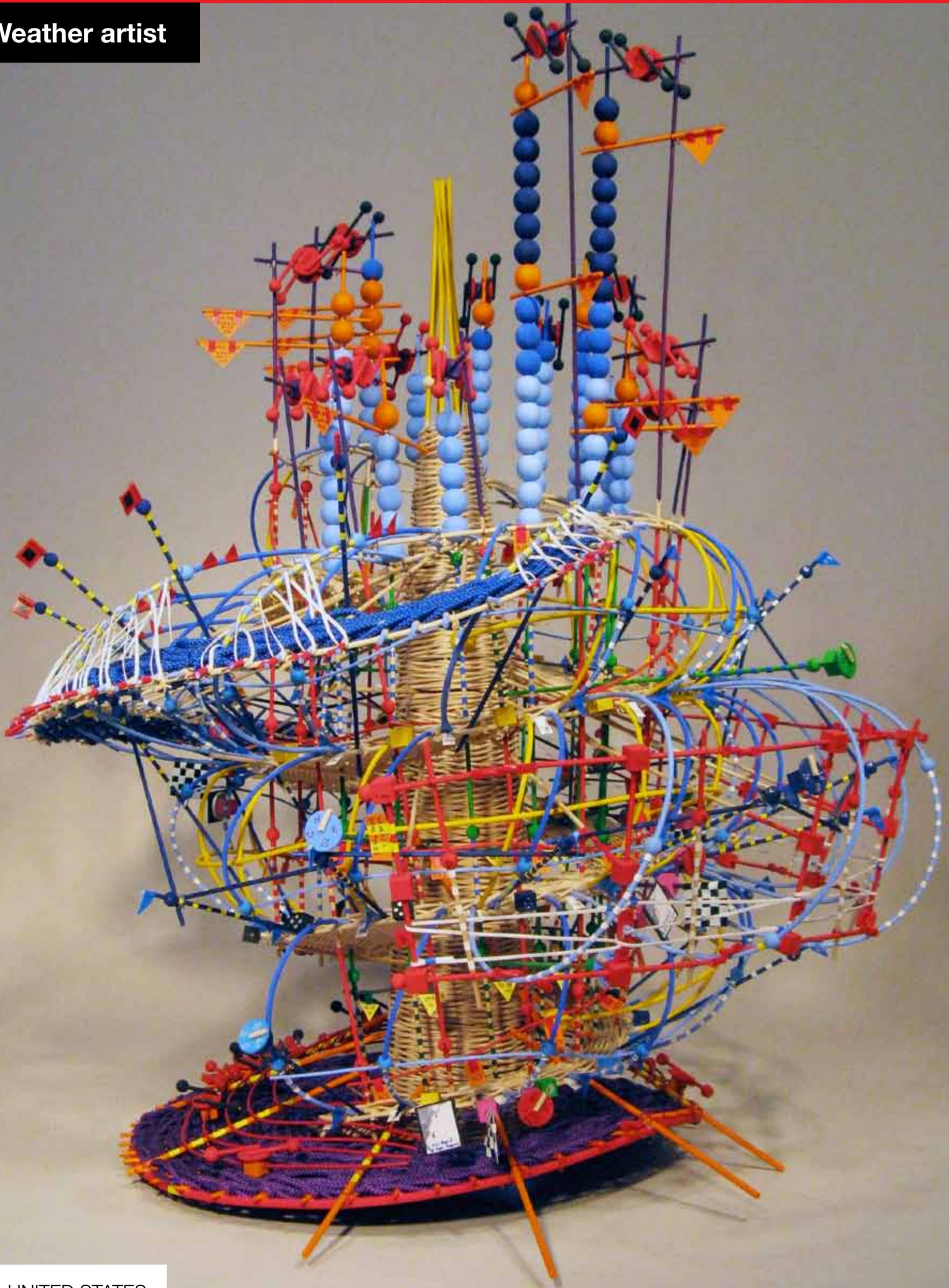
I'm a bit academic, I'm obsessed with William Blake, I spend too much money on obscure vinyl, and I love 8-bit culture. I also write, paint, search for food that strikes a perfect balance between salty and sweet, and try to beat my girlfriend's top score on *Angry Birds*.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

Before entering NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program, I had never written a line of code and hadn't picked up a soldering iron since I was 12 years old. I used to call myself a writer, but like to think that these days I'm creating science nonfiction.

Nathalie Miebach

Weather artist



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Nathalie
Miebach

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MEET
NATHALIE

Nathalie translates scientific data into sculptures. Her main method of data translation is that of basket weaving, which functions as a simple, tactile grid through which to interpret data into 3D space. In the last six years, she began focusing on meteorology and oceanography, and has since incorporated musical scores and performances and sculptural installations as further extensions of data translation. Central to Nathalie's work is her desire to explore the role that visual and musical aesthetics play in the translation and understanding of complex scientific systems, such as weather. Born to German and French parents, she now lives and works in Boston.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

My most recent work explores the intersection of meteorology, visual art, and music through a unique collaborative compositional process involving weather data, woven sculptures, graphic/indefinite musical scores, and musical performance. I build musical scores out of meteorological and oceanic data, which are then further translated into sculptures that function both as weather almanacs and 3D musical scores. The 3D and 2D scores are then used in collaborative performances with musicians.

What do you do for fun?

A question articulated through science begins with a different premise—confined by its own language, expectations, and rules—from the same question addressed within the context of art. Play helps me circumvent these boundaries. I love to play with toys—Lego, molecular models, and board games—as a form of mental aerobics and to experience that state of play in which inconsistencies and contradictions can build a strangely convincing sense of logic.

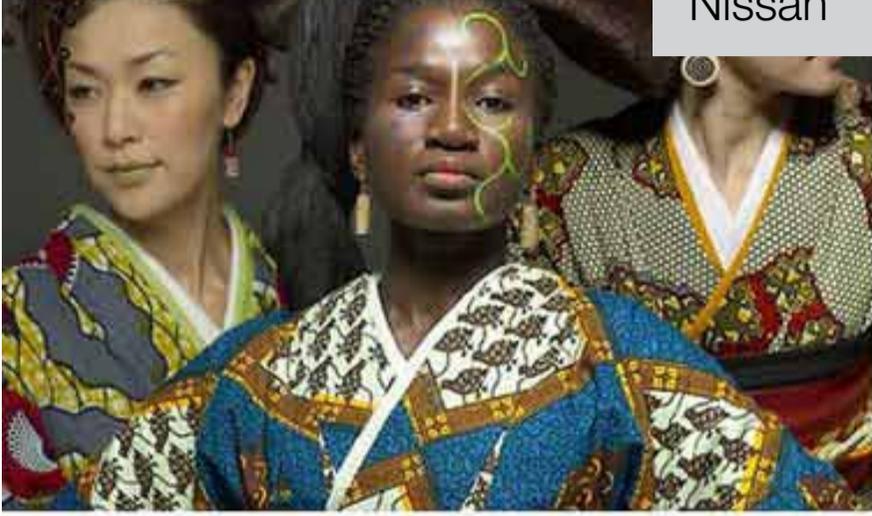
Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

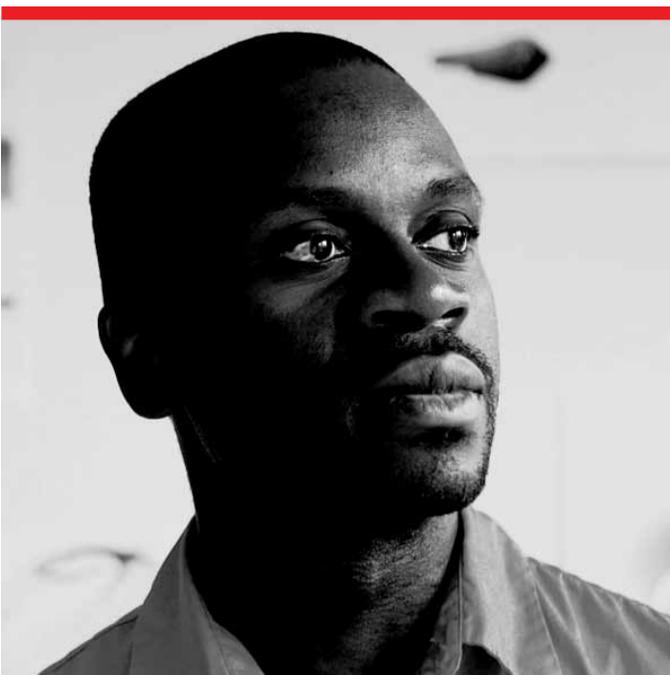
It began in 2000, when I was attending astronomy classes at Harvard and studying basket-weaving privately. While learning about deep space, all I ever saw were flat images projected on the wall. Frustrated, I translated astronomical data through basket-weaving to achieve a tactile, physical sense of astronomy. My "final paper" was my first woven sculptural translation of the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, looking at the evolutionary stages of stars.

Serge Mouangue

Cross cultural designer

Wafrika
Nissan





Serge
Mouangue

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MEET SERGE

Born in Cameroon and based in Tokyo, Serge travels the world developing innovative design, weaving together the differences inherent in a wide range of cultural values and identities. After studying applied art, architecture, and design in Paris, Serge's career took him from designing footwear in China to concept cars for Nissan in Japan. In 2008, he launched Wafrica, a design collaboration with a traditional Japanese kimono-maker that combines the traditions, materials, and craftsmanship of Africa and Japan to create visually arresting garments that speak to the similarities and differences between the two cultures.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

While leading creative exploratory activity at Nissan, I am continuing to develop the Wafrica concept, widening its scope to include art, design, and architecture. I am also working on a breakthrough mobility solution.

What do you do for fun?

I love improvising abstract music on my piano. I like recording sound while working in a way that describes or discovers the music of the place. I love listening to people's travel stories, particularly those about migration. I recommend *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. I also take great pleasure inventing tales for my kids in the dark before bed, and being a clown. I meditate heavily—a good way to travel cheaply.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

When I was 12, living in the outskirts of Paris, a teacher asked me what I wanted to be. I said, naïvely, "A professional drawer." Everybody burst out laughing at me, when I had never been so sincere. At 15 I ran away from home to join the Applied Art School. My dad wanted me to be an engineer.

Alex Odundo

Agricultural machinist

Sifa Machinery Enterprises
Kisumu Polytechnic



KENYA



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MEET
ALEX

Alex creates simple tools for rural economic development in Africa. The Kenyan inventor has already developed the Sisal Decorticator and the Sisal Twiner—machines that make fiber and rope from the sisal plant—uses by small-scale farmers in semi-arid lands to add value to the fiber. His greatest desire is to see the disadvantaged uplifted, and he seeks solutions that affect whole communities—a quest that drives his passion to succeed. His future projects include designing a machine to clear water hyacinth in Kenya, introducing a community solar-power unit for rural electricity, and developing a farming method aimed at mitigating food shortages in parts of Africa.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am still at work on sisal projects, particularly development of the Sisal Decorticator and sisal twining machines for small-scale Kenyan farmers.

What do you do for fun?

I love listening to music, playing and watching football, watching movies, helping the poor, and coming up with new ideas.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I am the only inventor who has succeeded in building sisal-processing machines in Kenya, despite several attempts by research institutions and universities. I have been honored to receive several awards and to have the opportunity to train people in Rwanda on these machines.

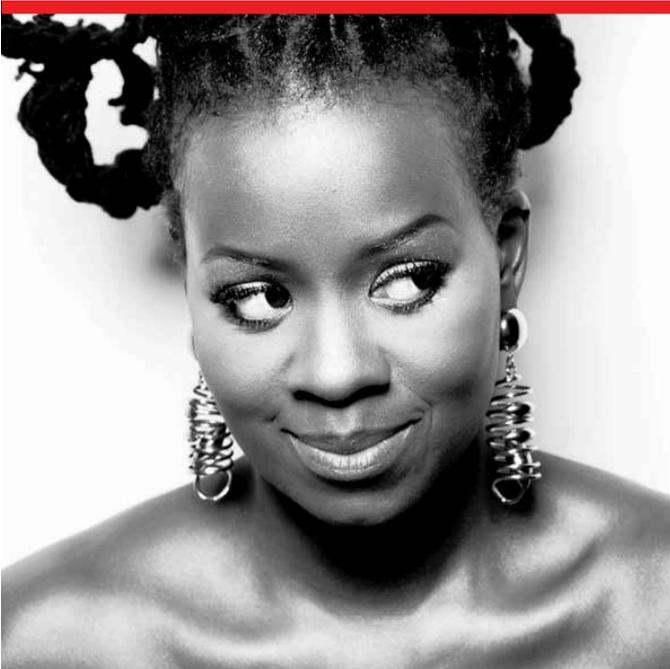
Somi

Singer + cultural activist

New Africa Live



UGANDA | RWANDA | UNITED STATES



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**MEET
SOMI**

Originally from Uganda and Rwanda, vocalist and songwriter Somi grew up between Illinois and Zambia, but currently resides in New York City. Her latest album, *If The Rains Come First*, features the legendary Hugh Masekela and debuted at #2 on the Billboard World Music Chart. Adored for her original blend of modern jazz, classic soul, and East African folk, Somi has collaborated with or performed alongside the likes of Bobby McFerrin, Baaba Maal, John Legend, Cassandra Wilson, Mos Def, Paul Simon, and Jennifer Hudson. Somi is also the founder of New Africa Live, a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating the very best of contemporary African artists working in the performance, visual, and literary arts.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

Right now, I'm preparing for the August 2011 release of my first live concert album, but I am also writing new music for my next studio album, which I hope will be released next spring. I'm also trying to further develop the programming and curatorial efforts of New Africa Live and ultimately produce a premier modern African arts festival that would happen annually in New York City.

What do you do for fun?

I love to go out to see and hear creative work of any discipline whenever I have the opportunity to do so. I also read a lot of fiction, but have an affinity for female authors from the developing world, or who write about the immigrant experience. I also love to discover and create inspired vegetarian recipes!

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I didn't decide to pursue music professionally until after I had finished college. Before that, I'd planned to either become a pediatrician or a medical anthropologist. Consequently, I did not take my first private voice lesson until I was 23.

Genevieve von Petzinger

Cave art researcher

Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria



CANADA



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von Petzinger

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MEET
GENEVIEVE

Genevieve studies European Ice Age rock art at the University of Victoria in Canada. Her previous research included creating the first full typology of abstract rock art—30 distinct signs have been identified to date—and building the largest database of geometric imagery in the world: 146 sites with more than 5,000 separate images. She found that many of the signs remained in use for over 20,000 years and appeared across a broad geographic region. This continuity suggests the signs were meaningful to their creators and were being used purposefully—possibly a very early form of graphic communication.

Genevieve's current work includes expanding her database to incorporate all other Ice Age rock art sites in Europe, and exploring the cognitive and symbolic capabilities of our distant ancestors.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I've noticed that certain geometric signs tend to appear together. Preliminary tests at French and Spanish sites show the same pairings repeating over a wide geographic area. To understand these patterns, I am now studying a unique 15,000-year-old deer-tooth necklace from a French burial site. The teeth have geometric markings: some are single signs, but others are combinations of two or more—the same configurations I see on cave walls.

What do you do for fun?

I love reading science-fiction and fantasy books, learning languages (I speak five to varying degrees), playing tennis, wilderness hiking, traveling far enough from home to get culture shock, taking poorly planned road trips (don't ever try driving through Paris without a map!), and watching mixed martial arts fights—my guilty pleasure.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I'm a bit of a closet gearhead. I've helped my husband build two high-performance engines from the "bare block" up, and at one point, we even had a pretty chrome engine sitting in our living room during the assembly process! Ironically, I don't like driving fast, but I do like to know how things work, and it's a nice break to do something so hands-on.

Lucianne Walkowicz

Stellar astronomer

University of California, Berkeley
Princeton University



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morethanhumanafterall.blogspot.com

MEET
LUCIANNE

Lucianne studies the inscrutable faces of stars for clues to the inner workings of their hearts. She got her taste for astronomy as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins, testing detectors for the Hubble Space Telescope's new camera. She also learned to love red dwarfs, the topic of her PhD dissertation at the University of Washington. Nowadays, she works on NASA's Kepler mission, studying starspots and the tempestuous tantrums of stellar flares to understand stellar magnetic fields. She is particularly interested in how high-energy radiation from stars influences the habitability of planets around alien suns. Lucianne also leads the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, a new project that will scan the sky every night for 10 years to create a cosmic movie of our universe.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I use ultra-precise measurements of starlight from NASA's Kepler mission to study starspots and flares. These phenomena, caused by the stars' magnetic fields, are associated with high-energy radiation that impacts orbiting planets and sets the stage for biology. If we could focus our efforts to detect life on only one other planetary system outside our own, which would we choose? The answer lies in the stars.

What do you do for fun?

I paint and draw comics—I've just completed a series of paintings of re-imagined tattoo themes. I'm also working on a children's book about the 1894 San Francisco Midwinter Fair. I'm an avid runner of marathons, do yoga, and rock climb when time allows. I also cook a lot (running makes me hungry), and I especially like cooking for friends. I've also been known to bring the house down at karaoke.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

My first job was an internship at USAnimation, a digital ink-and-paint post-production animation company. We did everything from M&Ms commercials to animated sequences for *Plaza Sesamo* (the Spanish-language *Sesame Street*—where Big Bird is, mysteriously, pink). My crowning achievement from that summer? A screen credit for painting an episode of *Ren & Stimpy*, one of my favorite cartoons of all time!

Jodie Wu

Appropriate technologist

Global Cycle Solutions
AISE Initiative



UNITED STATES | TANZANIA



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MEET JODIE

Jodie is an MIT engineer turned entrepreneur. She founded Global Cycle Solutions and is cofounder of the AISE initiative to accelerate innovation and social entrepreneurship in Tanzania. She and her team of 11 full-time Tanzanian employees at GCS build and sell simple bicycle-related products that create opportunities in rural communities, helping farmers climb out of poverty. Jodie has developed a platform whereby various technologies can be “plugged” onto a bicycle. For farmers, her bicycle-powered maize-sheller is five times faster than traditional methods, making the chore of shelling an easy and enjoyable task. A strong believer in co-creation and creative capacity-building, she is teaming up with a local Tanzanian NGO to construct AISE’s first collaboration center by the end of this year.

Q & A

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working with manufacturers to bring our second generation of products to market, including fully branded machines made from top-grade metals, hand-driven maize shellers, and a new bicycle-powered cell-phone charger equipped with a built-in phone holder. I am also guiding an aggressive outreach, training, and education program with our field partners, and finalizing plans to move our workshop from my garage to the AISE collaboration center.

What do you do for fun?

I play with the neighborhood children, catch up on reading, and head to the fields to play Ultimate Frisbee or kick a soccer ball around. When I have lots of spare time, I enjoy teaching myself to play guitar, baking cakes in my homemade oven (inverted pot on a pot with rocks on the bottom), and studying Swahili grammar to clean up my “dirty” Swahili.

Tell a surprising anecdote about yourself that few people know.

I asked my professor whether I should take my full scholarship to graduate school or start Global Cycle Solutions. He told me his grad-school stories, convincing me to go. Then he asked, “What did your parents do?” I told him, a little embarrassed: “They ran a Chinese restaurant.” He said, “Great! Your parents were entrepreneurs. You should start Global Cycle Solutions.” So I did. I was never more proud of my parents, true entrepreneurs.

Senior Fellows

The 2010 and 2011 TED Senior Fellows join us again for TEDGlobal 2011. While you may have met a few before, take a moment to read through the following pages, familiarize yourself with the most recent class, and update yourself on what the 2010 Senior Fellows are currently up to.

About the program

Each year, 10 Fellows are selected for the TED Senior Fellows program, an extended two-year fellowship. Over the course of the fellowship, the Senior Fellows work on projects within their individual disciplines.

Benefits to the Senior Fellows include attending four additional TED conferences (TED and TEDGlobal), participating in four Senior Fellows pre-conferences, the opportunity to deliver a full-length talk on the TED University or main TED stage, and the potential for that talk to be posted on TED.com. The Senior Fellows' responsibilities include mentoring the newer Fellows, holding TEDx events in their communities, posting on the TED Fellows blog, and year-round participation in the TED community.

TEDGlobal 2011

At TEDGlobal 2011 we have two classes of Senior Fellows joining us—the inaugural 2010 Senior Fellows (18) and the recently selected 2011 Senior Fellows (12).

To learn more about the TED Senior Fellows program visit: www.ted.com/fellows
contact: fellows@ted.com
follow: [@TEDFellow](https://twitter.com/TEDFellow)

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Dentist + political activist

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AWAB IS...

Tackling corruption in Pakistan by harnessing the collective energy of its citizens to report bribes paid to their public servants.

Esra'a Al Shafei

Human rights activist

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ESRA'A IS...

The creator of a site that crowdsources and organizes information about protests, and a product that allows activists to easily build an online presence for their cause.

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CANDY IS...

Creating a new tool that gathers ideas for neighborhoods, and a global public art project that invites people to share their dreams in public spaces.

Saeed Taji Farouky

Filmmaker

UNITED KINGDOM | PALESTINE

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[@touristfilms](https://twitter.com/touristfilms)



SAEED IS...

Filming, training, hustling, editing, hiding, negotiating, the agony and the ecstasy, premiere summer 2012...and breathing.

Jessica Green

Engineer + biodiversity scientist

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JESSICA IS...

Working on *The Tiny Shiny*, an illustrated educational book that conveys basic microbiological concepts using imagery from Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*.

Robert Gupta

Violinist

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ROBERT IS...

Launching a non profit to continue bringing musical outreach concerts to homeless and mentally ill in LA and has just recorded his solo debut album.

Cesar Minoru Harada

Inventor + environmentalist

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CESAR IS...

In Rotterdam building Protei: an unmanned sailing articulated drone to clean up oil spills. Open Hardware Ocean Robot will launch in Sept. 2011.

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MITCHELL IS...

Perfecting the use of living materials in architecture with fungi.

Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy

Filmmaker + historian

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SHARMEEN IS...

Mobilizing thousands of people to work on a social-awareness campaign about the impact of violence on society in Pakistan.

Manu Prakash

Physicist + inventor

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MANU IS...

Applying fundamental soft-matter physics to biological problems such as metamorphosis, and building simple technological solutions to wide-ranging global health problems.

Aparna Rao

Artist

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APARNA IS...

Playing with the notion of what would happen if mischievous elves inhabited a television and started tampering with television broadcast.

Alanna Shaikh

Health + development specialist

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ALANNA IS...

Currently working on a magazine article about the Gates Foundation and has just published a piece in *Foreign Policy* about *Three Cups of Tea*.

Taghi Amirani

Filmmaker

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TAGHI IS...

Working on *Coup 53*, my first feature based on a true story of a forgotten chapter in US-Iran history. Nothing new in the world except the history you do not know.

Rachel Armstrong

Doctor + architecture researcher

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RACHEL IS...

Finishing a documentary on growing an artificial limestone reef under Venice using art, science and programmable 'protocells' to stop it sinking.

Frederick Balagadde

Microfluidics inventor

UGANDA

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FREDERICK IS...

Preparing to begin work on a microfluidics virus research platform at Stanford University Medical Center in collaboration with Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

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Web entrepreneur

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FAISAL IS...

Building social games that teach tech tools to reduce the skill gaps in developing countries.

Colleen Flanigan

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COLLEEN IS...

Making a living sea sculpture for the underwater museum in Cancun.

Gabriella Gomez-Mont

Culture curator

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GABRIELLA IS...

Rethinking and expanding borders of multidisciplinary dialogues and platforms. Several TED Fellows & TED speakers will be flying to Mexico City as part of a new Tóxico lecture and workshop series.

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African tech entrepreneur

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JON IS...

Using contextual relevance and augmented reality to visualize information, while building capacity for local technologists across Africa.

Peter Haas

Rural infrastructure innovator

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PETER IS...

Backing a new stove producer in Haiti. D&E Green Enterprises can cut charcoal use up to 40%. Still training masons. Thousands more to reach.

Erik Hersman

African tech entrepreneur

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ERIK IS...

Seeing what happens when you mix 4,000+ Kenyan techies with Africa's first government open-data initiative through Nairobi's iHub.

Adrian Hong

Human rights entrepreneur

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ADRIAN IS...

Developing a new site to collect human rights footage, and a project that will transform the way we help impoverished children get eyeglasses.

Juliette LaMontagne

Education + innovation consultant

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JULIETTE IS...

(Re)imagining the book in a pilot program that joins visionary young people with global thought leaders for collaborative project work.

Alexander MacDonald

Aerospace economist

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arc.nasa.gov
cmu.edu/silicon-valley/faculty-staff/macdonald-alex.html



ALEX IS...

Researching the economics of space flight. Also some secret space stuff that he can't really talk about—he's a Canadian working for the US government. He's sure you understand.

Juliana Machado Ferreira

Forensic biologist

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JULIANA IS...

Fighting wildlife trafficking, opening the Brazilian arm of the Society for Wildlife Forensics, working to set up a wildlife forensics lab in Brazil.

VK Madhavan

Agriculture innovator

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MADHAVAN IS...

Integrating rural livelihoods, people's institutions, forestry, water management and recharge, and sustainable agriculture to develop rainfed areas.

Naomi Natale

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NAOMI IS...

Educating thousands of students across the country about current mass atrocities in Sudan, Congo, and Burma and installing a preview installation of 50,000 hand-made bones on Route 66.

Alexander Petroff

Rural development economist

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ALEXANDER IS...

Finished building the first large farm employing 1,000 people in the DRC. He will start the second 1,000 person farm in the Fall!

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African tech entrepreneur

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JULIANA IS...

Driving growth in crowdsourcing technology and has achieved 15,000 deployments of Crowdmap in 128 countries—crisis mapping and curation made easier.

Mohammad **Tauheed**

Architect

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MOHAMMAD IS...

Currently busy making a Web school. Soon they'll offer online training in critical architecture—writing, B.I.M, design technology, and more.

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