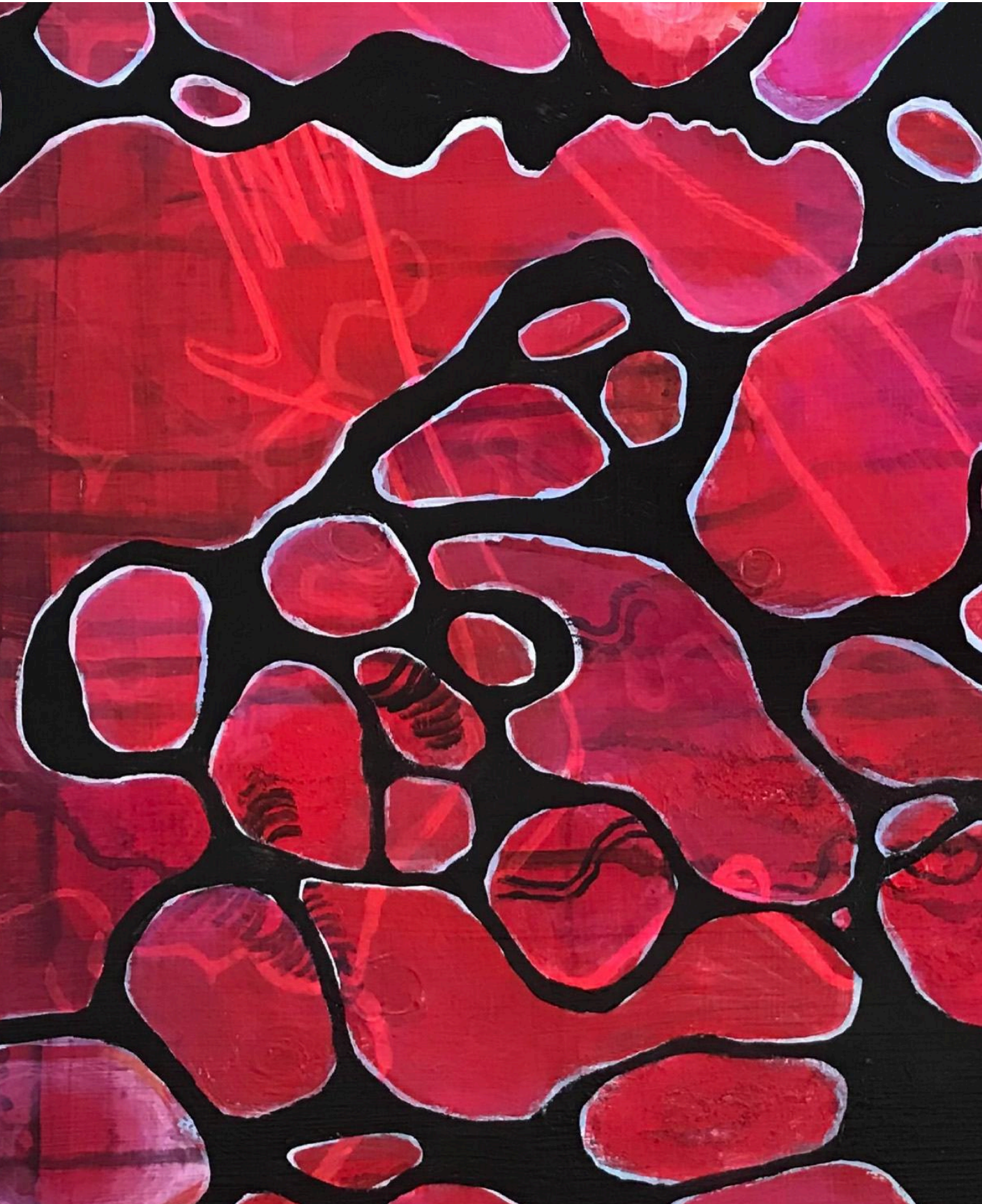




**Humanities &
Arts
Festival**

2026

**Creative Imagination
Bold Research
Transformative Vision
Real Impact**



The Humanities and Arts Festival — held in conjunction with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry’s Inquiry Weeks — is an annual showcase and celebration of innovative and transformative undergraduate student research and creativity.

“The Humanities and Arts Festival offers an opportunity to see how research and imagination come together to create bold ideas,” says Nicole A. Waligora-Davis, associate dean of undergraduate programs and special projects. “It’s also an occasion for us to make visible to the wider Rice community and partners throughout Houston the kind of rich, intellectual, vibrant and creative life that is the hallmark of our school.”

Cover art: “Unknown Memory”

Artist: Isabel M. Samperio '21, Visual and Dramatic Arts major

Based in Los Angeles, Isabel is a painter from Houston. She is interested in how symbolism around historical and gendered visual languages are produced and reproduced through memories, dreams and subconscious reaction. She references the traditions of Mexican surrealism and muralism, craft and textiles, and punk and graffiti in her work.

MEDICAL HUMANITIES ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

10 a.m.

- **Alexander Gonzalez**, “The Effects of Co-Opting Traditional Chinese Medicine Iconography and Practices into Western Biomedicine”
- **Angela Hu and Yelena Robinson**, “The Body, Belief, and Belonging: Bridging the Diabetic Experience to Religious Faith and Community Health Education”
- **Caroline Snider**, “‘Unmasking’ Our Moral Failings: Moral Inconsistency in Everyday Public Health Decisions”
- **Cheryl Lee, Sara Diwan and Charlotte Bax**, “Empowerment in Faith-Based Diabetes Education Courses”
- **Leela Sydow**, “Turning Towards Autism: Exploring Authenticity in Autistic Adults After Psychedelic Use”

11 a.m.

- **Aarthi Kukaruban**, “Sedation, Pain, and Delirium in the Pediatric ICU: A Nursing Perspective”
- **Kara Fan**, “Illusion of Control: Analyzing the Cultural Anxieties Around Wearable Health Technologies”
- **Katie Lu**, “Reimagining Care: Evaluating Emergency Medical Preparedness for Challenging Psychedelic Experiences”
- **Nayounghee Tuetkin**, “Piece by Piece: Exploring Women’s Health and Community in Rural West Africa Through Oral Histories and Art”

MEDICAL HUMANITIES ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12 p.m.

- **Ambereen Haq**, “Beyond the Formula: Applying PPC to Lived Realities through the Case of Mr. G”
- **Anam Naqvi**, “From Textbook to Treatment: Inclusion of Patient Narratives in Medical Textbooks to Reduce Non-Knowledge Perpetuation in Endometriosis”
- **Andy Liu**, “Sewage 2040: Governance, Ethics, and a Speculative Future of Wastewater Surveillance”
- **Dhilani Premaratne**, “Finding Your Rhythm: Developing a Self-Guided Music Therapy Resource for Rural Veterans”
- **Lajward Zarha, Nina Varma, Shem Brown and Chiara Ortiz**, “Aesthetics as a Mode of Knowing: Translating Reproductive Justice into Analog Games?”

1 p.m.

- **Jessica Hao**, “From Story to Action: Elements of Impactful Patient Narratives in Organ Donation”
- **Kai-Yuan (Kalina) Tsung**, “Pain, Identity, and Transition: Experiences of Adolescents and Young Adults in Oncology Care”
- **Muna Nnamani**, “Literary Disparities: Glittery Gynecology”
- **Sofia Khoury**, “Non English Language Preference (NELP) Family Members and the ICU”
- **Venkata Pullabhotla**, “When ‘What Matters Most’ Is Not Easy To Say: Accessibility In Patient Priorities Care (PPC) Education”
- **Aaliyah (Lili) Tran**, “It's Not Just in Your Head: Reframing Pain Without Clear Pathology Through Traditional Chinese Medicine”

MEDICAL HUMANITIES ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

2 p.m.

- **Angelo Chen**, “Adapting a Patient Narrative Intervention for Pediatric ICU Patients in Singapore”
- **Lakshmi Aravindan**, “‘Benign Yet Malignant’: Reconceptualizing Endometriosis in Medical Knowledge and Care”
- **Nathaniel Boateng**, “How Patients' Perspectives Can Reduce Avoidable Readmission at MD Anderson”
- **Sehyun Jung**, “Looking Back to Heal Forward: Redefining Spirituality for the Future of Medical Ethics Education”
- **Sofia Gachuz**, “From Code to Compassion: Empowering Clinicians to Deliver Accessible Genetic Testing”

3 p.m.

- **Bethany Grassi**, “One Heart, Many Stories: Life with a Single Ventricle”
- **Chloé Serna**, “Between Connection and Cost: The Paradox of Burnout in OB/GYN Practice”
- **Elise Wang**, “‘Strength in Expression’: Developing A Self-Guided Visual Arts Resource for Mental Health in Underserved Veterans”
- **Maggie Xia**, “The Language of Illness: Cross-Cultural Framings in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Western Biomedicine”
- **Temi Daniels**, “Uncovering Untold Voices: Preserving the Human Legacy of the ICC in the Fight for Medical Equity”
- **Shriya Reddy**, “Opening the Black Box - Getting to Know Cerebral Palsy Beyond the Surface”

MEDICAL HUMANITIES ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

4 p.m.

- Charlotte Bax, Claire Doh, Audrey Pham, Hamza Saeed, Shreya Sharma and Sivani Vasireddy, “Synthesizing Stakeholder Perspectives on the Efficacy and Trustworthiness of Healthcare AI”**
- Annesha Dey, “Parental Perspectives on Navigating Life in the Hospital with a Child on Paracorporeal VAD Support”**
- Maya Harpavat, “Barriers to Nutrition: An In-Depth Study of Malnutrition from a Maternal and Child Health”**
- Avani Shah, “The Crisis of Care: Rethinking Caregiving and Disaster Preparedness”**
- Charlotte Bax, Claire Doh, Audrey Pham, Hamza Saeed, Shreya Sharma and Sivani Vasireddy, “Trust Issues: Examining and Building Trust in Healthcare AI Systems”**
- Nayounghee Tuetkin, “The Social Mirror: A Reflection of Caregivers’ Self-Image in Navigating Health Decisions for CYHCN”**

WELCOME REMARKS

10 a.m.

- **Kathleen Canning**, Dean of Humanities and Arts
- **Nicole Waligora-Davis**, Associate Dean of Humanities and Arts

ORAL & PECHA KUCHA PRESENTATIONS

10:10 a.m.

- **Allison Bullock**, “Pathologizing Freedom: Race, Psychiatry, and Social Control at Virginia’s Central State Hospital, 1874-1885”
- **Juan Cajiga-Pena**, “Participation as Critique: The Political and Social Conditions of Space and Experience in the Work of Hélio Oiticica and Lygia Pape”
- **Lajward Zahra**, “What Happened to Us?” Affective Displacement in Post-2016 Border Films”

11:00 a.m.

- **Hongtao Hu**, “Yaniban: Memory’s Horizon”
- **Annesha Dey**, “Healthy Skepticism: The Historic Roots of Medical Distrust Among London’s Immigrant Community”
- **Michael Garcia**, “Fields of Control: The Rio Grande Valley, Farmworkers, and the Making of a Labor Regime”
- **Mariella Gonzalez Molina**, “The Hall of Everyday Life: Depicting National Identity in the Smithsonian Amidst the Cold War and Civil Rights Movement”

ORAL & PECHA KUCHA PRESENTATIONS

12 p.m.

- **David Lee**, “Unity in Kim II Sung: Exploring Christian Parallels in North Korean Political Theology”
- **Georgia Jensen**, “The Global Gag Rule and the First Reagan Administration: The Role of Short-Term Electoral Pressures
- **Karis Lai**, “Four Seasons of Aging: The Lived Experience of Chinese American Women”
- **Kenzie Langhonre**, “Black Visions of Community in Post-Reconstruction Era Through Print Culture: Pauline Hopkins and The Colored American Magazine”

1 p.m.

- **Avalon Hogans**, “Akonting’s Daughter: Poems On Freedmen’s Town, Heritage, and Home”
- **Sarai Abram**, “The Haitian Told Through Fan Fiction”
- **Sam Peltrau**, “Black Vampires in the Afterlife of Slavery”
- **Nhu Chu**, “Notes from the Stillness”

2 p.m.

- **Maddie Jeffrey**, “The Marginalization of Women in La Pharmacie Gasy: A History of Hierarchies, Stigmatization, and Abjection”
- **Max Scholl**, “Desert Imaginations”
- **Noor Ayache**, “Death Is Not The End: An Oral History Project Exploring the Philosophy of Life and Death within the Al-Muwahhidūn (Druze) Community”
- **Neha Kohli**, “In Search of the Good Life: Encountering Sumak Kawsay through Grassroots Food Aid in Cochabamba, Bolivia”

ORAL & PECHA KUCHA PRESENTATIONS

3 p.m.

- **Simran Haribhai**, “The Backward Glance: Orpheus and Eurydice Amid the Turn”
- **Wenshi Chen**, “Hearing Hell: Musical Order, Bodily Rhythm, and Damnation from Bosch’s Garden of Earthly Delights to Broström’s Orchestra”
- **Davinia Ibizugbe**, “In The Shape of Looking”
- **Mia Ridzinski**, “A Look Into Translucency”

CINEMATIC ARTS SHOWCASE

4 p.m.

- **Azkah Habib**, “Seen”
- **Jeriel Severino De La Rosa**, “Cheat”
- **Martin Xie**, “Point Blank”
- **Spencer Heijmen**, “Core”
- **Rachel Jeong**, “DON’T POINT YOUR FINGER”
- **Steven Burgess**, “Mother Knows Best”

RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION

The research posters in the Exhibition Hall are arranged in sequence. Please refer to the number listed after each poster title to identify the location of this project.

10 a.m.

- **Alika Jimenez, Annesha Day and Isabella Bourtin, “Living Memory: An Oral History Project to Strengthen Native Sovereignty in Texas” 1**
- **Alysa Bijil-Spiro, “The Myth of Sisyphus: A New Translation” 2**
- **Ava Baraban, “Human-AI Relations in China: Governance, Philosophy and Disability” 3**
- **Adam Dhalla, “The Spiritual Sciences of Resource Extraction” Research Assistantship with Dr. Judith Brunton 4**
- **Antara Varma, “Dear Lover I Will Never Meet: An Anthology” 5**

11 a.m.

- **Sarah Knowlton, “‘Le grant translateur’: French borrowings and their significance in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales” 6**
- **Addie Witter, “The Red Book Houston” 7**
- **Christiana DeSousa, “Reinterpreting Otherness: Cultural Hybridity in the film Adaptation of O Filho de Mil Homens” 8**
- **Kenzie Langhorne, “Reconstructing Everyday Lives: Biographical Recovery Through the Red Book Houston” 9**
- **Caitlin Reddig and Tegan Tien, “Housing Instability and Reproductive Justice: Women’s Experiences with Eviction and Homelessness” 10**

RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION

12 p.m.

- **Catherine Cook and Shay Olaifa**, “Highlighting Environmental Injustice in Houston’s Fifth Ward Through Oral History” **11**
- **Mariam Khan**, “Colonial Haunting in Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre” **12**
- **Mariam Khan**, “Anglophone Pakistani Fiction and Portrayals of Islam” **13**
- **Jesse Muñiz**, “Red Book of Houston Extended Biographies” **14**
- **Mia Bauman**, “La sociedad de cucarachas: la animalidad en la literatura de la posguerra en Centroamérica” **15**

1 p.m.

- **Celeste Uribe**, “What to Expect When You’ve Made the Unexpected: Misconceptions on Frankenstein, and the Novel as an Exploration of Parenting and the Rights of the Child” **16**
- **Aleena Ahmad**, “The Development of Constitutional Standards for Mental Health Care in Federal Prisons” **17**
- **Caitlin Reddig** and **Tegan Tien**, “Housing Instability and Reproductive Justice: Women’s Experiences with Eviction and Homelessness” **10**
- **Mhyank Sekhar**, “Understanding the Nature of Grief” **18**
- **Sarah Jun**, “The Man Beneath Ivory: Embodying Fame, Sex and Anti-Communism in Old Hollywood” **19**

RESEARCH POSTER EXHIBITION

2 p.m.

- **Thomas Lushington**, “Your Place in the Universe” **20**
- **Kavin Krishna**, “Moral Agency Without a Face: What Gandhian Ethics Reveals About Medical AI” **21**
- **Nelson Mills**, “Degradation of the Idyllic Countryside Myth in ‘Menino de engenho’” **22**

THE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE & DESSERT RECEPTION

5 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS AND AWARDS

- **Kathleen Canning**, Dean of Humanities and Arts
- **Nicole Waligora-Davis**, Associate Dean of Humanities and Arts

RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORK AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best Medical Humanities Oral Presentation: 1st Place
- Best Medical Humanities Oral Presentation: 2nd Place
- Best Medical Humanities Poster Presentation: 1st Place
- Best Medical Humanities Poster Presentation: 2nd Place
- Honorable Mention in Medical Humanities

School of Humanities and Arts (General Session)

- Best Research Poster Award
- Excellence in Creative Work Award
- Best Oral Presentation Award
- Best Non-Fiction Film
- Best Fiction Film

Humanities Research Center

- Award for Undergraduate Research Excellence



RICE UNIVERSITY

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and Arts