



## 2014 RAC ARTISTS FELLOWS



### Saher Alam - Literature

Saher Alam is a graduate of Princeton University and the Creative Writing Program at Boston University. She held a Creative Writing Fellowship in Fiction at Emory University from 1998 to 2000, and she is a recipient of the 2010-2011 Howard Foundation Fellowship in fiction. Her stories have appeared in the anthology *Best of the Fiction Workshops 1999*, as well as the journals *Literary Imagination* and *Five Chapters*. Her novel, *The Groom to Have Been*, won the 2008 Kafka Prize. She is currently working on a book of interlinked novellas titled

*Them*. Alam is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Saint Louis University.



### Jessica Baran - Literature

Jessica Baran is the author of two books of poetry: *Equivalent* (Lost Roads Press, 2013) and *Remains To Be Used* (Apostrophe Books, 2010). Her poems and art criticism have appeared in such publications as *Art in America*, *Artforum.com*, *BOMB Magazine*, the *Boston Review*, the *Denver Quarterly* and *Hyperallergic.com*. She holds a BA in visual art from Columbia University ('01) and an MFA in poetry from Washington University St. Louis ('06); and teaches at the Sam Fox School of Design

and Visual Arts and directs fort gondo compound for the arts. <http://jessicabaran.com/>



### Zlatko Ćosić - Media Arts

Zlatko Ćosić is a video artist born in Banja Luka, Yugoslavia, present day Bosnia and Herzegovina. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art from Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Video Production and Interactive Digital Media from Webster University. Ćosić's work spans from short films, video, and sound installations to theater projections and live audio-visual performances. His themes often relate to issues of identity, immigration, and the complexity of living in a new

environment, concentrating on the necessity to embrace cultural differences and establish dialogue among people. Ćosić's artwork has been shown in over thirty countries, for which he has received a variety of recognition. He currently lives in St. Louis and works as a multimedia producer, professor, and artist. Examples of Ćosić's work can be seen at [www.zlatkocosic.com](http://www.zlatkocosic.com).

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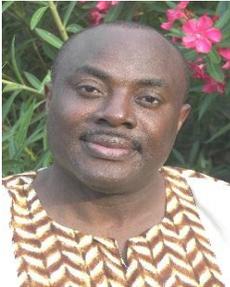
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#### **Fannie Belle Lebby - Theatre**

Fannie Belle Lebby is an actress, director, storyteller, and community arts educator. She holds an MA in Theater/Cinema from Texas Southern University and is a versatile performer on stage and in film. She has appeared in *The Crucible*, *Marvin's Room*, *For Colored Girls . . .*, *The Colored Museum*, and *Boesman and Lena*. She has lectured as an adjunct at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and continues to conduct workshops for schools and community cultural institutions. She is the co-founder/Artistic Director of A Call to Conscience, a readers theater emphasizing the contributions of social change agents. In addition to pursuing her various artistic endeavors, she works as a part-time Program Manager of CHIPS In Motion which is the Artistic Outreach Department at CHIPS Clinic and is a Creative Arts Instructor at Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Center in University City.



#### **Fred Onowwerosuoke - Music**

Fred Onowwerosuoke is a full time performer and composer with widely acclaimed interests in African and African-derived musical arts, particularly vocal, choral, dance, music theatre, popular music and other emerging forms of classical and contemporary music. His works have been featured in audio recordings, films, documentaries and radio, including Robert De Niro's, *The Good Shepherd* and Niyi Coker's film *Pennies for the Boatman*. His book, *Songs of Africa: 22 Pieces for Mixed Voices*, published by Oxford University Press in 2008 quickly became a favorite among choral directors across the United States, leading to the recent publications of new titles, *Songs of Africa for Upper Voices Set 1* and *Set 2*. Additional information including a list of significant compositions is available at his website, <http://freedomusic.com>. Wikipedia bio at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred\\_Onowwerosuoke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Onowwerosuoke)



#### **Sarah Paulsen - Visual Art**

Sarah Paulsen is an artist and animator. With art projects ranging from social justice animations and community portraits to parades and murals, she has been inspired by the communities she has met both living in Missouri and traveling. Her painting, collages, and animations, have been shown at the Nightingale Cinema, Fort Gondo, Laumeier Sculpture Park, Gallery 210, Morehead State, Hub Bub, White Flag Projects, the Mildred Lane Kemper Museum of Art, St. Charles Community College, St. Louis Film Festival, Chicago International Children's Film Festival, and the Ragtag Cinema Café. After receiving her MFA from Washington University, she traveled to South America and collaborated on a mural at Aldea Yanapay youth center in Cuzco, Peru. In collaboration with her partner, Cameron Fuller, she has completed residencies at the Cite des Arts, Paris, the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and the Forsyth School. Teaching art and animation through St. Louis Art Museum, the Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, Washington University, SCOSAG, Forest Park Community College, and Columbia Public Schools, Sarah has been art teacher at Marian Middle School for the past seven years. Her most recent project is an animated documentary called *Elegy for Connie* about events surrounding the 2008 Kirkwood City



**Mary Sprague - Visual Art**

Mary Sprague is a longtime Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History at Meramec Community College. She moved to St. Louis forty-six years ago after receiving her MFA from Stanford University. Her large scale drawings, paintings, and prints of mysterious domestic interiors, trees, and animal studies of horses, chickens and rhinoceros have been widely shown and collected. Solo exhibition venues include the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Sheldon Art Galleries, the Mitchell Museum, the Daum Museum, the Dubuque Museum of Art, Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, and Duane Reed Gallery. [www.marysprague.com](http://www.marysprague.com)



**Carlie Trosclair - Visual Art**

Carlie Trosclair is an installation artist with a fascination for what is hidden beneath the architecture of neglected spaces. She earned an MFA from the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University and a BFA from Loyola University New Orleans. Trosclair has recently completed residencies at ACRE (WI), Vermont Studio Center, Woodside Contemporary Artists Center (NY), Chashama (NY) and The Luminary Center for the Arts. Trosclair is a recipient of 2014 Great Rivers Biennial award which included an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. [www.carlietrosclair.com](http://www.carlietrosclair.com)



**Keith Tyrone Williams - Dance and Theater**

Keith Tyrone Williams is currently the Chair of Dance and Theatre at Grand Center Arts Academy. He has performed, directed, and choreographed throughout the United States and extensively in Europe. He is artistic director of Innervision Dance Theatre, which most recently premiered the inspirational work, *The Ties That Bind*, to sold-out audiences. Some may remember him as "Horse" in *The Full Monty* at Stages St. Louis for which he won the prestigious Kevin Kline Award. His choreographic work of *Sarafina*, a musical about South African apartheid, received rave reviews and garnered him another Kevin Kline Award for best choreography. He also appeared in *Damn Yankees* (Applegate) for which he won the Woodie King Jr. Award for best actor, was the recipient of the Katherine Dunham Award, and the NAACP Cultural Arts Award. Keith has appeared in many national, international, and Broadway productions. Keith is very proud to be among the few people certified by Katherine Dunham to teach the world renowned Dunham Technique, and served as co-writer and appeared in the historic documentary on Dunham Technique with the Library of Congress and performed in the Dunham Gala performance at Carnegie Hall.. Keith has a BS in Theatre/Dance (Southern ILL University Edwardsville, MA Theatre/Directing Professional Union for more than 30 years.



### **Cayce Zavaglia - Visual Art**

Originally trained as a painter, Cayce Zavaglia switched to embroidery 12 years ago to establish a non-toxic studio practice and create a body of work that referenced an embroidered piece she had made as a child growing up in Australia. Her work focuses exclusively on portraits of friends, family, and fellow artists and is hand sewn using cotton and silk thread or crewel embroidery wool. From a distance they read as hyper-realistic paintings, and only after closer inspection is the work's true construction revealed. Recently, she had a "return to paint" in a series of intimate gouache and large format acrylic paintings of the verso images of the embroidery portraits. Zavaglia was a 2014 recipient of the Great Rivers Biennial, which included an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Cayce is represented by Lyons Wier Gallery in New York and William Shearburn Gallery in St. Louis. [www.caycezavaglia.com](http://www.caycezavaglia.com)

### **About the RAC Artists Fellowships**

The RAC Artists Fellowships initiative was created based on the findings of the landmark 2012 Artists Count survey. It indicated that the most pressing need of regional artists was financial support in order to pursue their art and their careers. The goal of the fellowship is to advance the individual artist's creative journey by providing funds to allow for time and space to study, reflect, experiment, explore and create. The RAC Artists Fellowships are awarded each year to ten St. Louis area artists of various disciplines to foster and invest in the careers of individual artists. The award amount is \$20,000 for each fellow.

### **About the Regional Arts Commission [www.racstl.org](http://www.racstl.org)**

The Regional Arts Commission (RAC) is at the forefront of efforts to transform St. Louis into a more vibrant, creative and economically thriving community by elevating the vitality, value and visibility of the arts. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the region, since its inception in 1985, RAC has awarded more than 6,300 grants totaling over \$84 million to support nonprofit arts, individual artists, cultural organizations, consortiums and programs. Directed by a board of 15 commissioners appointed by the chief executives of St. Louis City and County, RAC is a pivotal force in the continuing development and marketing of the arts in the region. [www.racstl.org](http://www.racstl.org). Follow us on FACEBOOK at Regional Arts Commission or TWITTER at RACStLouis.