For the most up-to-date event listings, including changes due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, check out the F&C online calendar:
F&C Vision

Freedom & Captivity is a state-wide public humanities initiative during Fall 2021 to bring critical perspectives from the humanities to the interrogation of incarceration. Recognizing that mass incarceration is fueled by racism and profit-generating mechanisms that tear apart communities and families, the project offers opportunities for public engagement about imagining prison abolition and the redirection of resources toward community investments, the repair of racial and gender injustice, intergenerational trauma and eldercare for the aging population in Maine’s prisons. The project, which includes art exhibitions, workshops, webinars, a podcast, research and creative production, public education materials and linked courses taught across Maine’s campuses, aims to cultivate opportunities for imagining freedom in an abolitionist society. The project is conceived with the participation of people in Maine directly impacted by the carceral system.

Explore the many facets of this initiative, offered by dozens of collaborating partners across the state, at freedomandcaptivity.org

Advisory Board

Catherine Besteman, Coordinator, Freedom & Captivity, Colby College
Al Cleveland, Maine Youth Justice
Jan Collins, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition
Jon Courtney, Portland Museum of Art Films
Leila DeAndrade, Maine Community Foundation
Glen Gallick, People First Portland
Elizabeth Jabar, Colby College
qainat khan, ACLU-Maine
Joseph Jackson, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition
Daniel Minter, Indigo Arts Alliance
Marcia Minter, Indigo Arts Alliance
Chris Newell, Abbe Museum
Brian Pitman, University of Maine
Mara Sanchez, University of Southern Maine
Julie Poitras Santos, Institute of Contemporary Art at MECA
Amber Tierney, University of Maine
Cait Vaughan, harm reduction advocate
Jill Ward, Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law
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Calendar zine design: Carolyn Wachnicki

We understand abolition to include both the dismantlement of oppressive and racist systems of policing, incarceration, captivity & surveillance and the commitment to community-led systems of care, strategies to reduce harm & life-nurturing futures.

We are grateful to our funders:
Colby College, Crewe Foundation, Maine Arts Commission, Maine Humanities Council, Portland Media Center, SPACE and the University of New Hampshire Public Humanities Center.
## SEPTEMBER

**THURSDAY, 9/2, 6:30pm**
Freedom & Captivity
Public Launch
with special thanks to Maine Youth Justice and Indigo Arts Alliance
Kennedy Park, Portland, ME

**THURSDAY, 9/2**
*Art on Abolition*
ONLINE EXHIBITION LAUNCH

**FRIDAY, 9/3, 5:00pm**
*Freedom & Captivity: Maine Voices Beyond Prison Walls* OPENING RECEPTION
UMVA Gallery

**TUESDAY, 9/7, 1:00pm**
First Freedoms in Captivity VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
Maine State Museum

**WEDNESDAY, 9/8, 5:00pm**
*First Freedoms in Captivity* OPENING RECEPTION
First Amendment Museum

**TUESDAY, 9/14, 7:00pm**
**JACINTA** FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION
Railroad Square Cinema

**WEDNESDAY, 9/15, 7:00pm**
The Legal Fight Against Torture
Olga Sadovskaya (2021 Oak Fellow) LECTURE
Oak Institute for Human Rights

**MONDAY, 9/20, 7:00pm**
Abolition for the 21st Century with Orisanmi Burton (American University), Dylan Rodriguez (UC-Riverside, founding member of Critical Resistance & author of Forced Passages: Imprisoned Radical Intellectuals and the U.S. Prison Regime) and Jackie Wang (USC, & author of Carceral Capitalism) VIRTUAL PANEL
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

**MONDAY, 9/27, 7:00pm**
What Does Abolition Feel Like? with artist Anna Martine Whitehead VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

**WEDNESDAY, 9/29, 5:30pm**
The Soundscape of American Hyperincarceration with Andrew McGraw (University of Richmond) WEBINAR
Portland Public Library

**WEDNESDAY, 9/15, 6:30pm**
*Time* FILM SCREENING
PMA Films, Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, Congress Square Park

### **FRIDAY, 9/17, 5:00pm**
*Art in Captivity: Inside Out* OPENING RECEPTION
Portland Public Library

**FRIDAY, 10/1, 5:00pm**
Monitor:
Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, Congress Square Park

**SUNDAY, 10/3, 6:30pm**
*Art on Abolition Shorts* FILM SCREENING
Congress Square Park

**MONDAY, 10/4, 7:00pm**
What Does Abolition Sound Like? with artist-musician Paul Rucker in response to prompts by Robin D. G. Kelley (UCLA, author of Freedom Dreams) VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

**TUESDAY, 10/5, 3:00pm**
Maine Writers on Freedom & Captivity READING
Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, Congress Square Park

**WEDNESDAY, 10/6, 7:00pm**
The Torture Letters, Reckoning with Police Violence Laurence Ralph (Princeton University) LECTURE
Oak Institute for Human Rights

**FRIDAY, 10/8, 7:00pm**
MONITOR:
Oversight Machines in conjunction with Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, Congress Square Park

**SATURDAY, 10/9**
9:30am-4:30pm
Transforming Maine’s Drug Policy SYMPOSIUM
Maine Drug Policy Lab at Colby College, Maine Recovery Advocacy Project

**MONDAY, 10/11, 7:00pm**
Carceral Reparations with artist Cameron Rowland VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

**MONDAY, 10/12, 6:00pm**
Dread Scott ARTIST TALK
Lunder Institute for American Art

**THURSDAY, 10/28, 7:00pm**
Transforming 9:30am–4:30pm
Monitors: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic MONITOR: Modes of Enclosure in conjunction with Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, SPACE

**THURSDAY, 10/21, 6:00pm**
Transforming Surveillance VIRTUAL PANEL
ICA at MECA

**MONDAY, 10/25, 7:00pm**
Visualizing Incarceration with Sean Kelley (Eastern State Penitentiary), Brett Story (filmmaker behind *Prison in 12 Landscapes; Prison Nation*) and artist Rowan Renee VIRTUAL PANEL
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

**THURSDAY, 10/28, 7:00pm**
MONITOR:
Modes of Enclosure in conjunction with Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, SPACE

## OCTOBER

**FRIDAY, 10/17, 6:00pm**
The Global Fight Against Torture Gerald Staberock (Secretary General of the World Organization Against Torture) LECTURE
Oak Institute for Human Rights

**THURSDAY, 10/14, 2:00pm**
MONITOR:
*All Light, Everywhere* FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, PMA Films
NOVEMBER

MONDAY, 11/1, 7:00pm
Abolitionist Futures and Queer Liberation with Uri McMillan (UCLA, author of Embodied Avatars: Genealogies of Black Feminist Art and Performance), Danielle Jackson (curator, Artists Space) and artist Sable Elyse Smith VIRTUAL PANEL
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

THURSDAY, 11/4, 7:00pm
Affirmation with Warp Trio PERFORMANCE
Palaver Strings, One Longfellow Square

FRIDAY, 11/5, 6:30pm
Abolition Night at The Strand PERFORMANCE
Opportunity Scholars of the University of Southern Maine

MONDAY, 11/8, 7:00pm
Solitary Confinement with Lisa Guenther (Queens University) and artist jackie sumell VIRTUAL PANEL
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

THURSDAY, 11/11, 7:00pm
MONITOR: Cross Examinations in conjunction with Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA, SPACE

MONDAY, 11/15, 7:00pm
Gender, Feminism and Abolition with journalist Victoria Law WEBINAR
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

TUESDAY, 11/16, 1:00pm
Telling My Story: Memoir Writing by Residents of the Women’s Center, Maine Correctional Center READING SPEEDWELL Projects, Women’s Center MCC

DECEMBER

MONDAY, 12/6, 7:00pm
Felon Poems with artist Reginald Dwayne Betts VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
Colby Center for the Arts and Humanities

THURSDAY, 12/9, 6:00pm
MONITOR: Sentenced by Sound in conjunction with Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic FILM SCREENING
ICA at MECA

TUESDAY, 12/14, 7:00pm
Changing the Narrative: Voices and Stories from Justice-Impacted Women in Maine and New York VIRTUAL PANEL & READING
Southern Maine Women’s Reentry Center, SPEEDWELL Projects

F&C The Podcast
SPONSORED BY THE PORTLAND MEDIA CENTER
The Freedom & Captivity Podcast presents conversations with people at the forefront of abolitionist organizing and visioning in Maine. A new episode airs each week during fall 2021.

**Partner Exhibitions**

**Art in Captivity: Inside Out** • PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
Photographs from inside Maine’s Correctional Facilities reveal the human necessity to create art.
On view September 15 – October 25, 2021 in the library’s Congress Street windows.

**Art Inside** • WATERVILLE CREATES
The art featured in these photographs, all created by incarcerated people, resists the isolating and dehumanizing dimensions of punitive confinement, offering a visual literacy of freedom and creativity, of selfhood and relationality.
On view September 13 – October 30, 2021 at Ticonic Gallery.

**Art on Abolition** • FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY
What does abolition look like, sound like, feel like? This digital multimedia exhibition is juried from a national open call for work responding to the prompt.
On view beginning September 2, 2021 at freedomandcaptivity.org.

**BEGIN AGAIN: reckoning with intolerance in Maine** • MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Black Lives Matter movement, political unrest, and COVID-19 converged into a societal crisis. **BEGIN AGAIN** explores Maine’s historic role in these crises, and the national dialogue on race and equity through a physical exhibition and a virtual program series.
On view through December 31, 2021.

**Bob Thompson: This House is Mine** • COLBY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART
The first museum exhibition devoted to the artist in more than twenty years, **This House Is Mine** traces Thompson’s brief but prolific transatlantic career, examining his formal inventiveness and his engagement with universal themes of collectivity, bearing witness, struggle, and justice.
On view through January 9, 2022.

**First Freedoms in Captivity** • FIRST AMENDMENT MUSEUM
Incarcerated Maine veterans have created art that explores their experiences with their First Amendment freedoms: the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.

**Freedom & Captivity: Maine Voices Beyond Prison Walls** • UMVA GALLERY
Residents and former residents of incarceration facilities express their lives in the art they create. The work defies stereotypes and emphasizes that we are all more than the worst act we have committed. We are whole people with loves and losses, skills, talents, ideas and gifts…and a longing to be free.

**Home Fires** • UNE ART GALLERY
**Home Fires** centers the narrative of the families and loved ones of incarcerated people. The experience of having a family member or friend who has been in the incarceration system, or having family history that involves incarceration, is very common in the United States. However, this experience is not commonly shared outside of the family context.

**Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panopticon** • ICA at MECA
**Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panoptic** explores the ways in which our lives are being influenced and determined by visible and invisible actions of “watching over”, allowing viewers to reflect on the prevalence of surveillance in contemporary contexts as well as its historical antecedents.

**Passing the time: Artwork by World War II German Prisoners of War in Aroostook County** • MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
In 1944, the U.S. Government established Camp Houlton, a prisoner–of–war (POW) internment camp for captured German soldiers during World War II. Many of the prisoners worked on local farms planting and harvesting potatoes. Some created artwork and handicrafts they sold or gave to camp guards.
On view through December 31, 2021.

**sea/sky, blood, earth, you** • TUG COLLECTIVE
Tracing a relationship of kinship among caregivers, Returning Citizens, families, and reentry advocates, this multifaceted exhibition aims to foster awareness of, and reform for, elderly and terminally–ill incarcerated individuals and Returning Citizens.
On view November 1 – December 9, 2021 at the Emery Community Arts Center.

**States of Incarceration** • OAK INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, COLBY COLLEGE
Founded by the Humanities Action Lab at Rutgers University, States of Incarceration is a collaborative project to create an archive of incarceration for every state.

**States of Incarceration** • PENOBSCOT COUNTY JAIL STORYTELLING PROJECT
**Jail Storytelling Project** is a community–based, multidisciplinary project raising up the voices and priorities of people who have been jailed in Penobscot County, Maine. Select works are on view September 13 – October 18, 2021 at Railroad Square Cinema.

**The Advent of Green Acre, A Bahá’í Center of Learning** • MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sarah Jane Farmer established the Green Acre conferences in Eliot, ME in 1894. Lecturers discussed peace, world religions, health, freedom, and social justice topics. A 1900 meeting in Palestine with ‘Abdu’l–Bahá, the imprisoned leader of the Bahá’í Faith, changed Farmer’s life. Afterward, she established Green Acre, which became a Bahá’í Center of Learning that continues to operate today.
On view October 2, 2021.

**What Rhymes with Freedom?: Visions of Decarceration** • SPACE
**What Rhymes with Freedom?** highlights work that explores alternative futurisms, liberalatory archives, and artist activism as part of a deliberate world–building against police states, incarceration, immigrant detention centers, and global political prisoners. This project features the curatorial and collective platforms Border Patrol, Radical Archive, Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, and a constellation of independent artists.

A HUMANITIES INITIATIVE FOR AN ABOLITIONIST FUTURE
FREEDOMANDCAPTIVITY.ORG
INCARCERATION IN MAINE

Maine incarcerates people at a higher rate than most countries in the world. Over the past few decades, the number of people incarcerated pre-trial, the rate of incarceration of women, and the number of people arrested for drug-related offenses has grown. Sentencing to prison for drug offenses grew 59% from 2014-2018, by which time drug offenses were the largest reason for incarceration. According to the Vera Institute, the number of Mainers in jail increased 649% since 1970 and in prison increased 151% since 1983. The increased rate of incarceration has been greatest in Maine’s poorest and most rural counties. Most Mainers have been affected by the criminal legal system.

How Have You Been Affected by Maine’s Criminal Legal System?

The Freedom & Captivity Archive is a story bank of how criminal justice operations in Maine have affected Mainers across generations, locations, backgrounds and experiences. The archive is hosted in Maine Historical Society’s My Maine Stories website. It is open to anyone who has a story to tell about being affected by the criminal justice system, whether directly or through a family member or friend. You can submit your story as a written story, a video, an audio piece or in photographs. Your story can also be anonymous and you can help someone else tell their story.

To share your story, go to www.mainememory.net/mymainestories/submit and fill out the form.