

A HUMANITIES INITIATIVE  
FOR AN *ABOLITIONIST FUTURE*

# & FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

Calendar  
Fall 2021

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

& FREEDOM  
& CAPTIVITY  
FREEDOMANDCAPTIVITY.ORG

# 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](https://freedomandcaptivity.org)

# & FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

## 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*

**Lelia 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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## 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.

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.*



# 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  
**Freedom & Captivity  
Primary Source Set**  
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, 6:30pm  
*TIME*  
FILM SCREENING  
PMA Films, Maine Prisoner  
Advocacy Coalition,  
Congress Square Park

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

# OCTOBER

FRIDAY, 10/1, 5:00pm  
*Art in Captivity:  
Inside Out*  
OPENING RECEPTION  
Portland Public Library

FRIDAY, 10/1, 5:00pm  
*Monitor:  
Surveillance,  
Data, and the  
New Panoptic*  
OPENING RECEPTION  
ICA at MECA

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, 6:30pm  
**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

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

WEDNESDAY, 10/13, 7:00pm  
**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

THURSDAY, 10/14, 7:00pm  
**Navigating the Fog  
of Reentry in Maine**  
WEBINAR  
Maine Prisoner Advocacy  
Coalition, Maine Prisoner  
Re-Entry Network

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

# NOVEMBER

**MONDAY, 11/1, 7:00pm**  
**Abolitionist Futures and Queer Liberation**  
 with Uri McMillan  
 (UCLA, author of *Embodied Avatars: Geneologies 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, 12:00pm**  
**Visiting Artist Talk:**  
**Yazan Khalili**  
 ICA at MECA,  
 Maine College of Art  
 Visiting Artist Program

**THURSDAY, 11/4, 5:00pm**  
*sea/sky, blood, earth, you*  
**OPENING RECEPTION**  
 followed by brief presentation  
 from Maine Prisoner Advocacy  
 Coalition, a workshop perfor-  
 mance of *For the Next Guy*  
 & community Q&A.  
 TUG Collective,  
 Emery Community Arts Center,  
 Belfast Creative Coalition

**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.

### EPISODE

1

'Let Us Not  
 Flatter Ourselves':  
 Abolition's History  
 RELEASE DATE: 9/7

2

'Love is What  
 the Transformation's  
 Got to Be':  
 On Accountability  
 and Punishment  
 RELEASE DATE: 9/13

3

'Prisons Don't  
 Actually Fix  
 Anything': Ending  
 Youth Incarceration  
 RELEASE DATE: 9/20

4

Decolonizing  
 Incarceration  
 RELEASE DATE: 9/27

5

'Why Do We Need To  
 Be Punishing People?':  
 Abolitionist Feminism  
 and the Last Girl  
 RELEASE DATE: 10/4

6

Alternatives to  
 Incarceration:  
 Drug Policy  
 RELEASE DATE: 10/11

### EPISODE

7

'Finding Our Courage':  
 Alternatives to  
 Incarceration for  
 Addressing Harm  
 RELEASE DATE: 10/18

8

'We're Creating  
 the Next Generation  
 of Broken People':  
 Parenting & Prison  
 RELEASE DATE: 10/25

9

'We are the Revolution':  
 Black P.O.W.E.R's vision  
 RELEASE DATE: 11/1

10

Abolition  
 From Within?  
 RELEASE DATE: 11/8

11

Confronting  
 Surveillance  
 RELEASE DATE: 11/15

12

Immigrant Detention  
 and Deportation  
 RELEASE DATE: 11/22

Available on the F&C website,  
 Apple Podcasts, Spotify and portlandmedia.org.



# Partner Exhibitions

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## *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 15, 2021 in the library's Congress Street windows.

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## *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.

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## *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](http://freedomandcaptivity.org).

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## *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.

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## *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.

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## *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.

On view September 1 – December 31, 2021.

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## *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.

On view September 3 – October 29, 2021.

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## *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.

On view October 22 – January 23, 2022.

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# & FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

## *Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panopticon* • ICA at MECA

*Monitor: Surveillance, Data, and the New Panopticon* 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.

On view October 1 – December 10, 2021.

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## *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.

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## *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.

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## *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.

On view September 2021 – January 2022 in Colby College's Diamond Building Atrium.

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## *Stories of Incarceration: Portraits from the Penobscot County*

### *Jail Storytelling Project* • PENOBSBOT COUNTY JAIL STORYTELLING PROJECT

The Penobscot 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.

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## *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 through October 2, 2021.

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## *What Rhymes with Freedom?: Visions of Decarceration* • SPACE

*What Rhymes with Freedom?* highlights work that explores alternative futurisms, liberatory 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.

On view September 10 – October 30, 2021.

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## *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.

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To share your story, go to  
[www.mainememory.net/mymainestories/submit](http://www.mainememory.net/mymainestories/submit)  
and fill out the form.