



FELLOWS 2015

TED Fellows Vancouver 2015



TED Fellows Vancouver 2015

Welcome

Welcome to TED2015! Our new class of 21 TED Fellows have traveled from all over the globe to join us this week in Vancouver, Canada to share their groundbreaking work with you – and we're excited for you to meet them. Today, the TED Fellows program is 368 Fellows strong, representing 86 countries. This community of scientists, makers, activists, artists, entrepreneurs, technologists and more form an incredible network of mutual support and influence that has led to breakthroughs in their respective fields, collaboration in business and NGOs, and artistic and technological innovation.

TED2015 Fellows

These 21 world-changers work at the very forefront of their fields and represent 15 countries around the world – including, for the first time in the program, Vietnam, Romania, and Tunisia. The new class includes a South African physicist using lasers to target HIV and cancer in the human body; an American investigative journalist covering the FBI's willful misuse of informants; a Slovenian photographer documenting the consequences of war on civilians; a German/Moroccan paleontologist who is researching the first semiaquatic dinosaur, Spinosaurus; a Vietnamese entrepreneur helping rice farmers use biowaste to earn a living growing mushrooms; and many more. Learn about them all in the following pages.

The TED Fellows Network

Perhaps the greatest outcome of the TED Fellows program is the vibrant community that has formed around it. Whenever Fellows meet, spontaneous cross-disciplinary, globe-spanning collaborations proliferate. Over the past six years, Fellows have come together to generate numerous new projects, companies, and nonprofits. To name a few: American explorer David Lang's underwater robots are helping Sri Lankan marine biologist Asha deVos protect blue whales; Pakistani composer Usman Riaz wrote the score for Costa Rican director Erica Bagnarello's new film; South African conservationist Steve Boyes utilized Russian aerial robotics engineer Sergei Lupashin's quadricopter on a recent expedition to the Okavango Delta; and American complexity scientist Eric Berlow and artist David Gurman launched network mapping company Mappr.io with Indian computer scientist Kaustuv De Biswas.

Thank you

The Fellows program is extremely grateful for the visionary support of the Bezos Family Foundation, the Harnisch Foundation, and the Dhanam Foundation. We would also like to thank Jonathan D Lewis + Toby D Lewis, Adam + Melony Lewis, the Arcus Foundation, Sara + Evan Williams, Asha Jadeja, David + Kathleen Sze, Chandra Jessee, Karla + Steve Jurvetson, Gerry Ohrstrom, Sharon + Mark Lyle, Matt Cutts, and other supporters for their sustained involvement in the Fellows program.

Sincerely,

Tom Rielly, Shoham Arad
Sam Kelly, Patrick D'Arcy, and Katrina Conanan

The TED Fellows Team
fellows@ted.com



**The TED Fellows
program is a global
network of
368 individuals —
visionaries in their
fields who collaborate
across disciplines
and make an impact
around the world.**

How it works

Every year, through a rigorous application process, TED selects a group of exceptional young leaders and trailblazers to be TED Fellows. Fellows are chosen based on the strength of their achievements, their work's potential for scale and positive impact, their vision and passion, and their personal character. They are invited to attend either the TED or TEDGlobal conference, where they participate in an exclusive preconference to meet, exchange ideas, engage in skills-building workshops, and encounter a few surprises. TED Fellows also present their own TED Talk at the conference – an unprecedented opportunity to disseminate their groundbreaking ideas to the TED community.

The program

Once selected, Fellows are given access to our suite of ongoing programming. Fellows participate in SupportTED – a professional coaching and mentoring program – at no charge. They work with a public relations expert dedicated to sharing their latest accomplishments with the world. TED Fellows also interact on our private online network, resulting in many cross-disciplinary collaborations. They organize regional meet-ups and retreats, building on the initial spark developed at TED conferences, and attend official TED Fellows Retreats, which gather all existing Fellows for a week of intensive conversation and collaboration. TED Fellows also have the opportunity to apply for a Senior Fellowship for an additional two years of engagement with the TED community.

The results

The TED Fellows experience helps these visionary individuals increase their clarity of mission, improve self-confidence, and renew their sense of personal sustainability. As a result of the program, TED Fellows have received millions of dollars in funding, been awarded prestigious prizes, started speaking professionally and written books. Fellows become part of a dynamic and close-knit community for years after their initial selection. Most significantly, the program has helped the Fellows to expand and intensify the impact of their remarkable projects, benefitting thousands of lives around the world.

How you can get involved

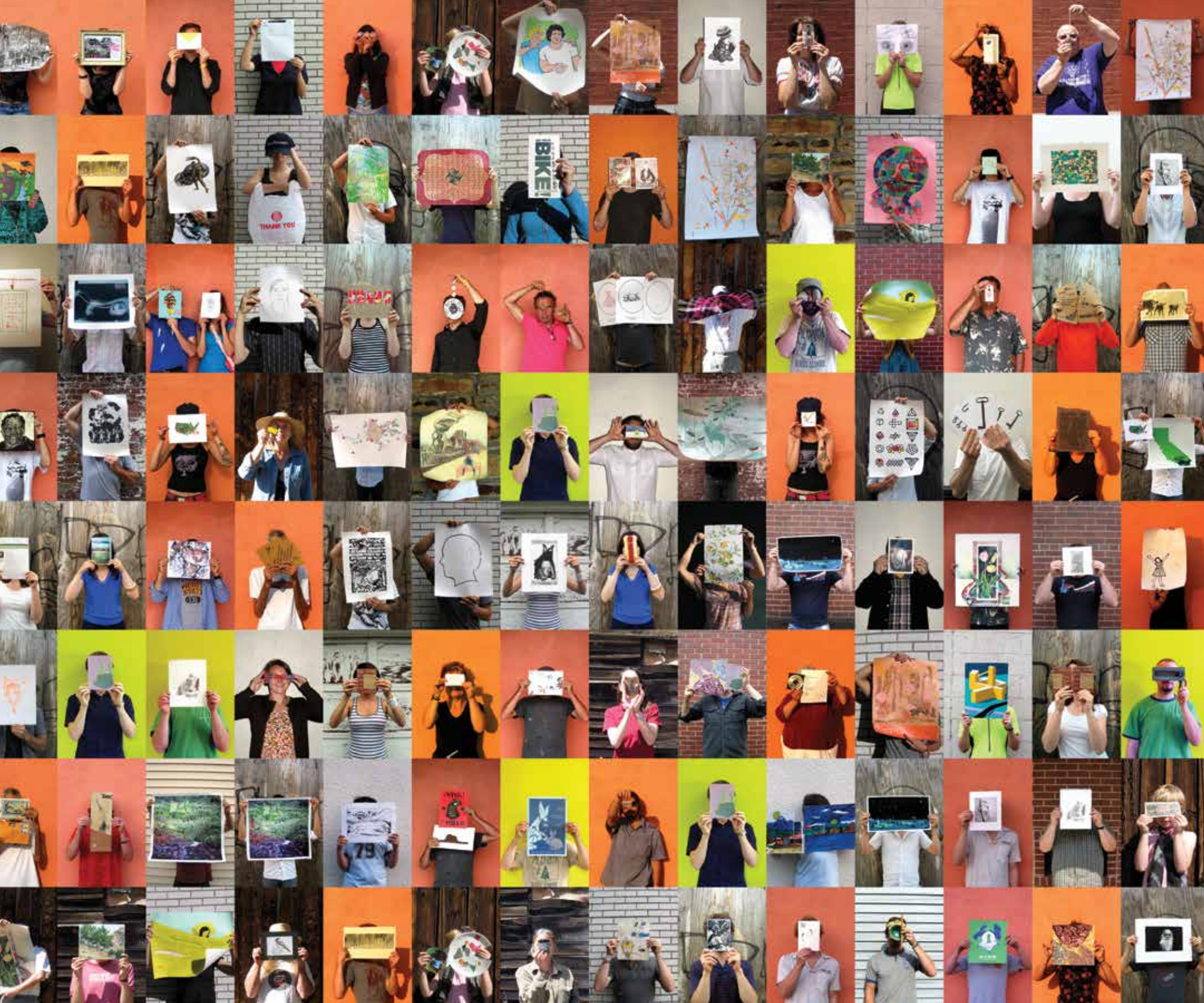
The TED Fellows program is made possible by our supporters – extraordinary individuals and families who are passionate about the world-changing work the TED Fellows do every day. Our supporters play an active role at the TED conference and Fellows Retreats, mentor Fellows in their projects and careers, and help the program grow in scope and ambition. You can contribute by:

- 1) donating to the program,
- 2) sponsoring the program with corporate underwriting,
- 3) mentoring a Fellow,
- 4) teaching at a Fellows event,
- 5) telling an excellent candidate about the TED Fellowship program, and
- 6) contributing in-kind goods and services.

Contact the TED Fellows program at fellows@ted.com.

To learn more about the TED Fellows program, visit www.ted.com/fellows.





In the summer of 2008, designer Sarah Sandman launched The Gift Cycle, in which she biked gifts of art between communities of artists across the US.

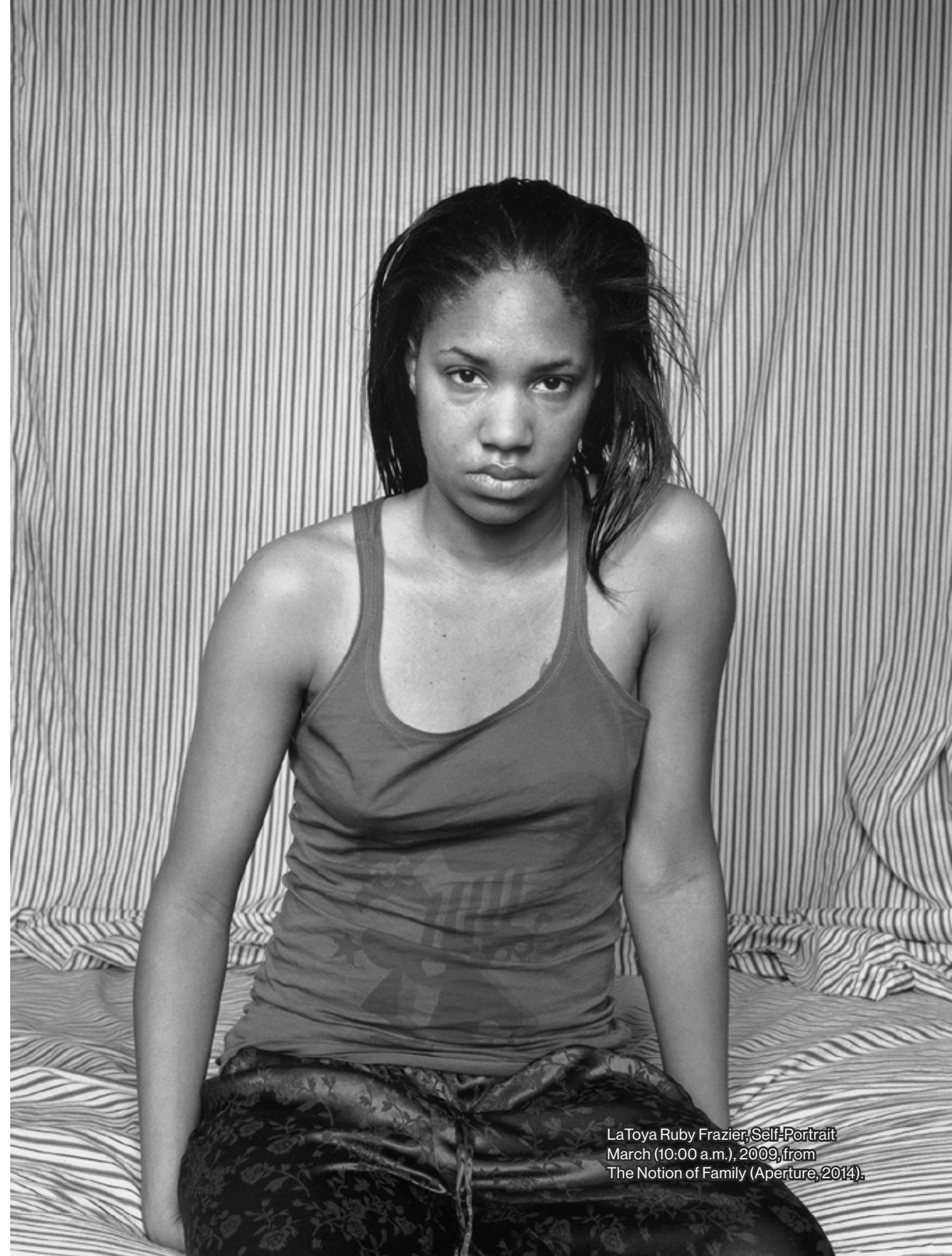


An anatomically precise, life-size Spinosaurus skeleton, which paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim has been researching. The Spinosaurus will be the subject of an exhibition at the National Geographic Museum. This image was featured in the October 2014 issue of National Geographic.

Photograph by Mike Hettwer/National Geographic.

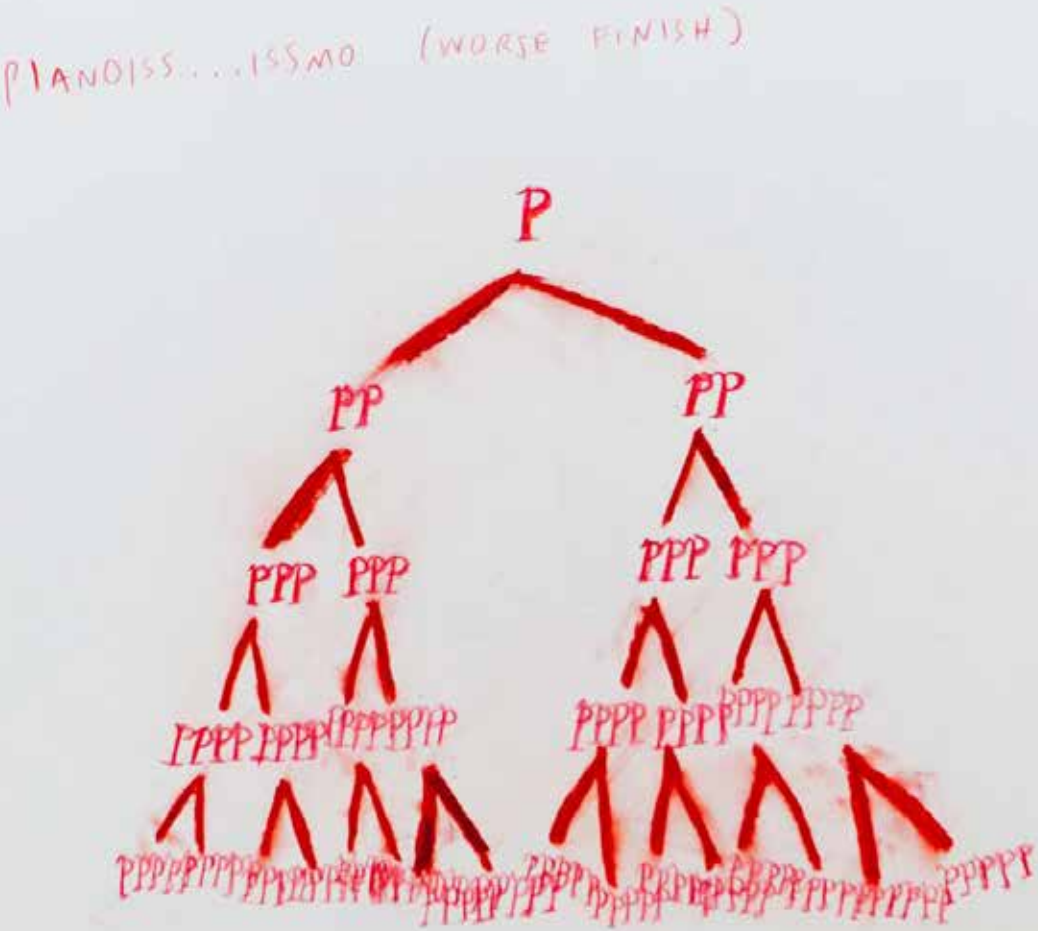


In Lars Jan's Holoscenes, performers in a large aquarium enact everyday activities while water levels swell and recede around them, asking audiences to reflect on the potential consequences of climate change.

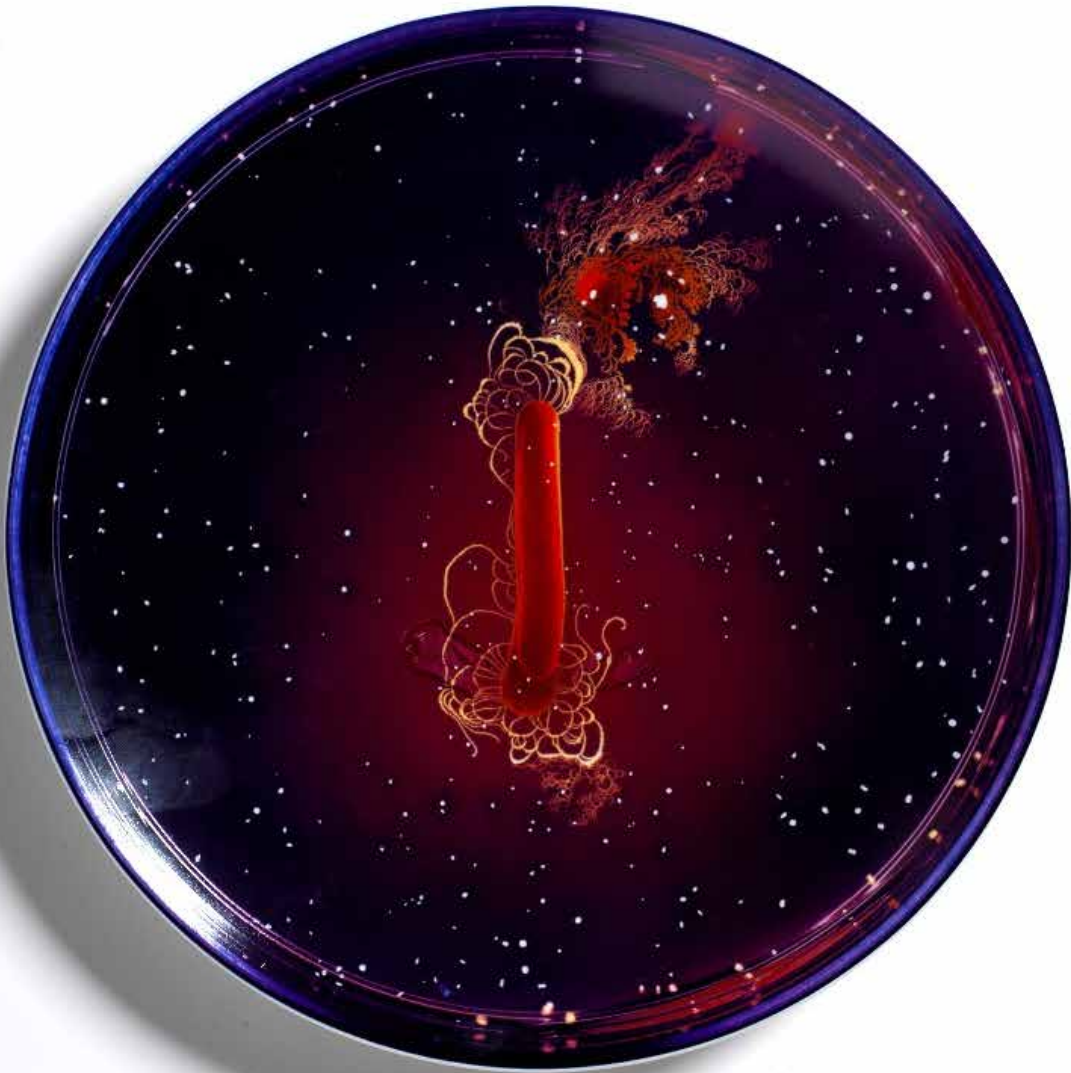


LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Self-Portrait*
March (10:00 a.m.), 2009, from
The Notion of Family (Aperture, 2014).

Pianoiss ... issmo (Worse Finish) by deaf artist Christine Sun Kim, who explores the visual representation in her work.
Photo by Erica Leone



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Photo credit here



Men drag dead pilot whales onto the beach during a hunt in Sandur, Faroe Islands in the summer of 2014, where photographer Ed Ou was on assignment. Not much can grow in the Faroe Islands, so the inhabitants have survived throughout the centuries by hunting seabirds and pilot whales, fishing, and raising sheep.

(Ed Ou/Reportage by Getty Images)





These images were captured in Ferguson, Missouri, by photographer Jon Lowenstein, who traveled to Ferguson after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.





A 47-meter tall mural by graffiti artist eL Seed on the Jara Mosque in Gabes, Tunisia. Quoting the Holy Qur'an, the mural reads, "Oh humankind, we have created you from a male and a female and made people and tribes so you may know each other."



Young Tibetan Monk,
Kham Amdo Region of Tibet,
2005, by Camille Seaman.

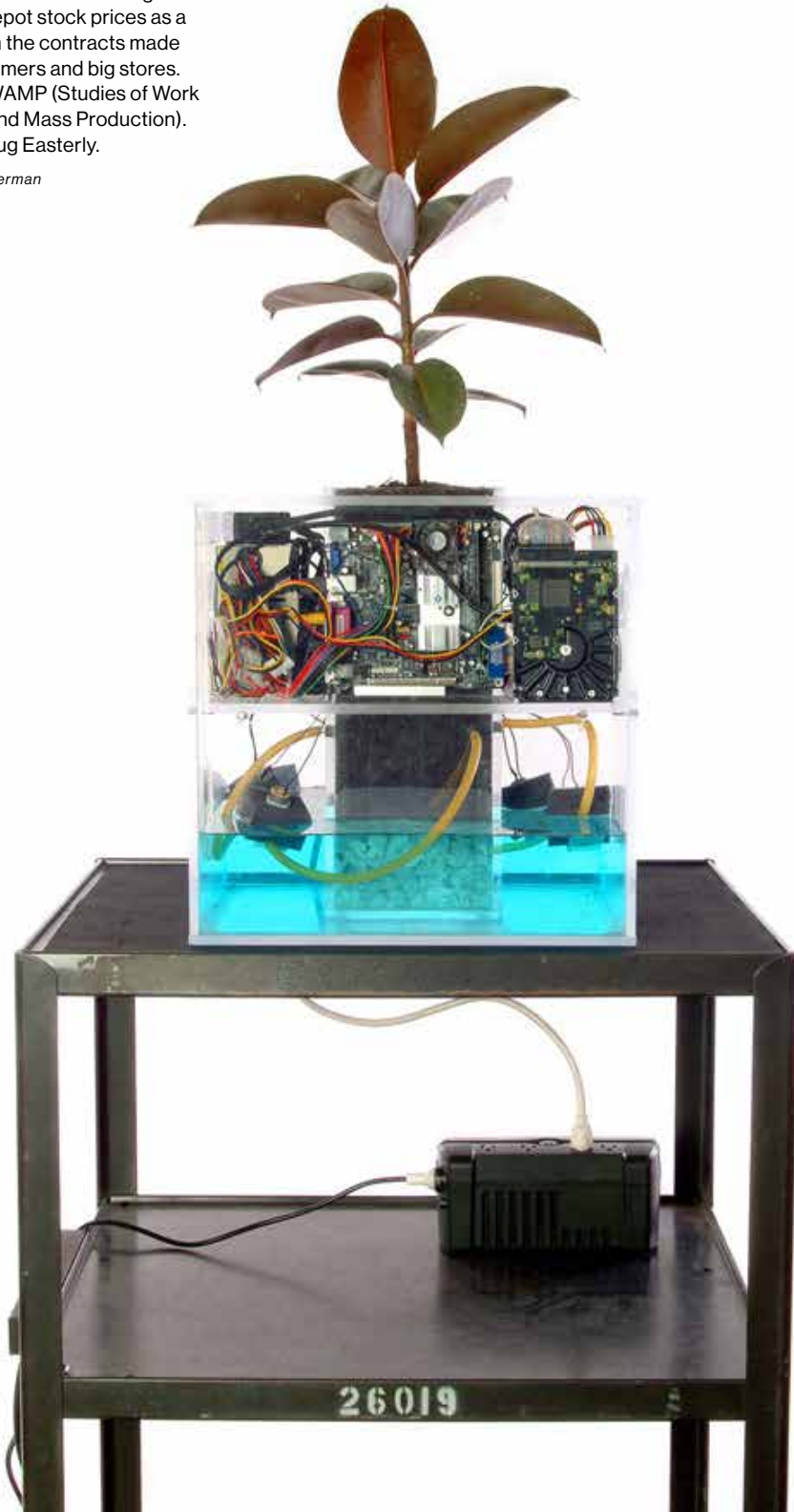
Palestinian farmers burn the overgrown bush in their farmland, much of which was destroyed in the 2014 war in Gaza.

Photo by Jošt Franko

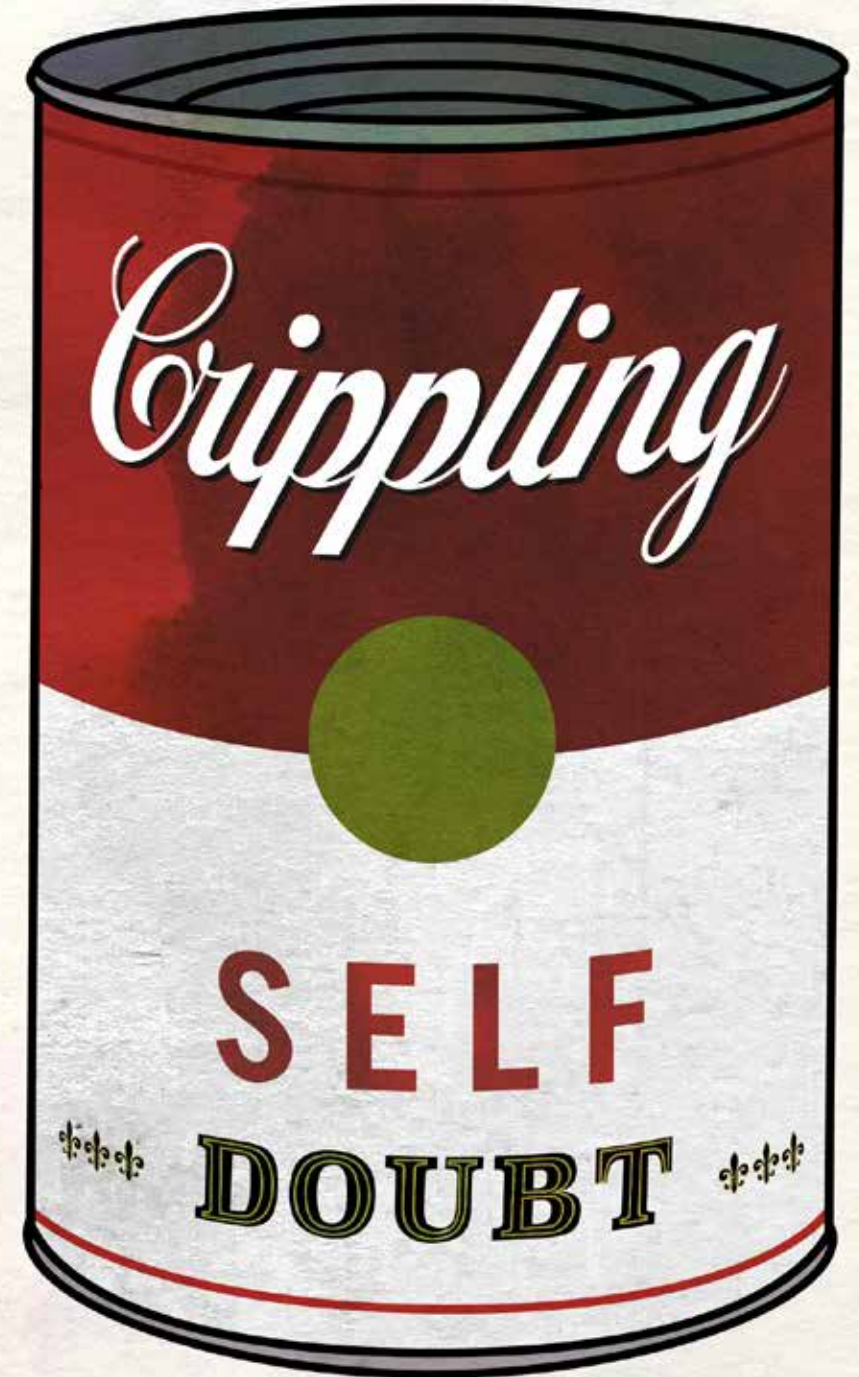


In Matt Kenyon's "Spore 1.1" a rubber tree plant purchased from the Home Depot is watered based on rising and falling Home Depot stock prices as a commentary on the contracts made between consumers and big stores. Created for: SWAMP (Studies of Work Atmospheres and Mass Production). Co-creator: Doug Easterly.

Photo by Luke Hoverman



Artist Safwat Saleem creates witty graphic designs, often with political or social themes.



TED thanks

The Bezos Family

Jonathan D. Lewis
+ Toby D. Lewis,
+ Adam and
Melony Lewis

The Dhanham
Foundation

THE HARNISCH
FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION

Sara + Evan Williams
Foundation

Asha Jadeja

Chandra Jessee

David + Kathleen Sze

Gerry Ohrstrom

Karla + Steve Jurvetson

Matt Cutts

Sharon + Mark Lyle

Colleen Keegan

Renee Freedman



Special thanks to:

Gina Barnett, Angela Cheng, June Cohen, Nancy Duarte, Karen Eng, Mike Femia, Bret Hartman, Renée Hlozek, Ben Kaufman, Benjamin Kellogg, Gabe Kleinman, Ryan Lash, Anjali Mohan, Mark O'Donnell, Emeka Okafor, Kristel Otis, Amanda Palmer, Sarah Parcak, Hosain Rahman, Safwat Saleem, Lauren Bugg, Abigail Tenenbaum, Olita Terry, Jennifer Wolfe, Michael Weitz, Megan Wyatt, Paul Yandura.

Thank you

Trevor Aaronson

Investigative Journalist
USA



Are we catching terrorists in the United States, or creating them? Award-winning American journalist Trevor Aaronson investigates the FBI's use of informants in domestic counterterrorism operations, and how these informants — often criminals incentivized by six figure paydays — target mentally ill and economically desperate men the US Department of Justice can portray as dangerous terrorists. Aaronson is the executive director of the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting and author of *The Terror Factory: Inside the FBI's Manufactured War on Terrorism*.



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Benedetta Berti Alberti

Middle East policy analyst
Israel | Italy



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Middle East policy expert Benedetta Berti researches issues relating to political violence and civil war, working on conflict resolution with government agencies, NGOs, international organizations, and armed groups. Her current projects include leading an Israeli-Palestinian civil-society effort to design new parameters for conflict resolution, and conducting a policy study on how to effectively deliver humanitarian aid to cut-off areas in Syria and Iraq. She's recently completed a study on Gaza's security infrastructure, and authored *Armed Political Organizations: From Conflict to Integration*. Her work has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *The Middle East Journal*.



Notes

Laura Boykin

Computational biologist
USA | Australia



Photo by Neil Palmer (CIAT)

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Laura Boykin is an American computational biologist who uses genomics and supercomputing to help smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa control whiteflies, which have caused devastation of local cassava crops. Using genetic data to understand the whitefly's evolution, Boykin's research has proven important genetic differences in various whitefly species. Boykin also works to equip African scientists with a greater knowledge of genomics and high-performance computing skills to tackle future insect outbreaks. Boykin completed her PhD in biology at the University of New Mexico and is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Western Australia.



Notes

Camille Brown

Choreographer + arts activist
USA



Photo by Matt Karas

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Choreographer Camille Brown explores cultural, gender and social-justice issues through contemporary dance, musical theater, arts education and community outreach. Her work fuses African, hip hop, jazz, modern, tap and ballet, and she's created original pieces for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Philadanco and Ballet Memphis. She's now developing *BLACK GIRL: Linguistic Play*, which interrogates narratives of "the angry black female" by representing the spectrum of black female consciousness. Brown is the recipient of the Bessie Award Winner for her work on *Mr. TOL E. RAnce*, which celebrates African-American humor and examines the "double consciousness" of the black performers throughout history.



Notes

Tal Danino

Bioengineer
USA



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Imagine if you could buy a simple DIY over-the-counter screening test for cancer. As a synthetic biologist at MIT, Tal Danino has been working on technology so you can do just that. He's developing a programmable probiotic bacteria that can not only indicate the presence of cancer in the body by changing the color of your urine, but can also produce drugs from within tumors, slowing further progression and reducing the need for chemotherapy. Danino also creates art in his lab — microscopic movies and images of synchronized bacteria — to raise awareness about probiotic-based cancer technologies.



Notes

Jošt Franko

Documentary photographer
Slovenia



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Young Slovenian documentary photographer Jošt Franko explores domestic and international social issues – such as the loss of traditional values in modern Slovenia and the unseen consequences of human conflict. Franko began working as a professional photographer at the age of 16, when he won the prize for best reportage at the Slovenian Press Photo competition in 2010. The youngest photographer ever to be affiliated with the esteemed VII Photo Agency, Franko's images have been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New Yorker*, *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Washington Post*, and *National Geographic Slovenia*.



Notes

LaToya Ruby Frazier

Visual artist +
photographer

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Artist LaToya Ruby Frazier works primarily with photography to explore environmental justice, family and communal history, and private/public space. For the last 12 years, Frazier has documented the decline of her mother and grandmother's health, alongside the collapse of the steel mill industry in her hometown of Braddock, Pennsylvania. The project has recently been published as *The Notion of Family*. Frazier's current projects include a series on contemporary misrepresentations of African Americans in the once-segregated Braddock, PA and a documentary film on steelworkers in Hamilton, Ontario.



Notes

Tharanga Goonetilleke

Opera singer
Sri Lanka | USA



Photo by Nan Melville; headshot by Jared Slater

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Tharanga Goonetilleke discovered opera for the first time at age 13 — and abandoned plans to study medicine after a music professor heard her sing. The first woman from Sri Lanka to attend the Juilliard School, Goonetilleke has performed in more than eight countries... has performed in more than eight countries, appearing in leading roles such as Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème* and Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and making her debut at the New York City Opera in 2010. Goonetilleke hopes to bring opera to a wider audience by holding workshops and improving access to arts



Notes

David Hertz

Chef + social entrepreneur
Brazil



Photo by

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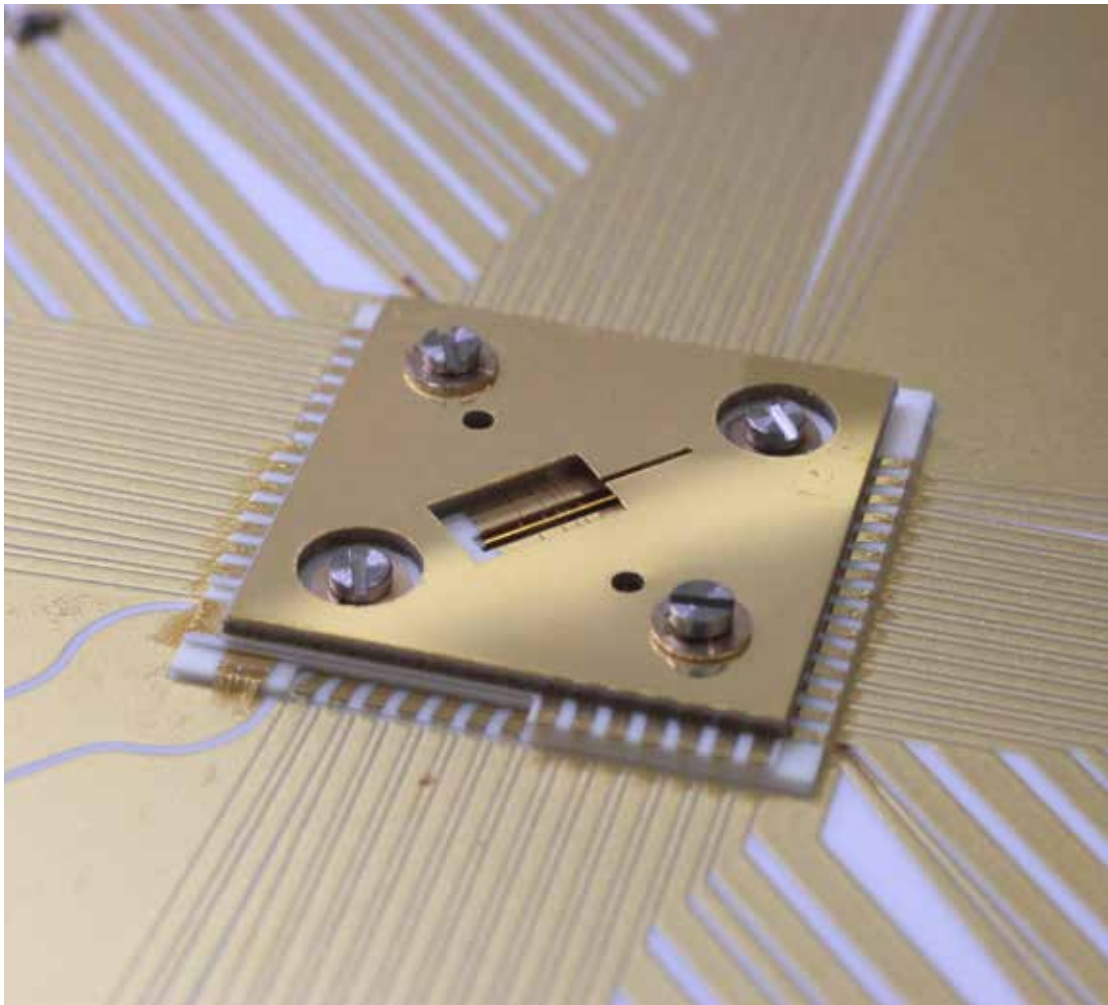
Popular Brazilian chef David Hertz is founder of Brazil's first socio-gastronomic organization, Gastromotiva, which brings culinary education to favela residents to create employment and empower communities. Through peer-to-peer education, Gastromotiva trains low-income youngsters as professional cooks, who subsequently work in a network of restaurants that support the project. To date, Gastromotiva has graduated and employed more than 1,400 students in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Salvador. It has also reached more than 40,000 favela residents through healthy-cooking workshops.



Notes

Jonathan Home

Quantum scientist
UK | Switzerland



A multi-zone ion trap array used in quantum computing experiments at ETH Zurich. Photo by Heidi Hostettler.

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English physicist Jonathan Home is working to build a quantum computer — a device that processes information according to the non-intuitive rules of quantum mechanics. Home's goal is to achieve high-precision control of individual atoms, in order to scale up from small systems involving a few atoms to a machine containing many thousand — a major engineering challenge. Home created the first system combining all elements required for a large-scale quantum computer in a single device, work that *Physics World* recognized as Breakthrough of the Year. More recently, Home has invented methods to measure the quantum oscillations of ions.



Notes

Nizar Ibrahim

Paleontologist
Morocco | Germany



Spinosaurus, from the October issue of National Geographic Magazine. Art: Davide Bonadonna; Sources: Nizar Ibrahim, University of Chicago; Cristiano dal Sasso and Simone Maganuco, Natural History Museum of Milan; Headshot by Mark Federighi

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German/Moroccan paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim searches for fossils of dinosaurs and other extinct organisms in the Sahara Desert and Northern Africa. His research offers a glimpse into a unique, bizarre lost world, and a big picture perspective on a period of major global changes. Among his discoveries is Spinosaurus, a semiaquatic dinosaur that also happens to be the largest-known predatory dinosaur, bigger even than a Tyrannosaurus rex. Ibrahim also works in bioinformatics, building bridges between anatomy and the fields of genetics and developmental biology. His work has been featured by the BBC, *National Geographic*, and *Der Spiegel*.



Notes

Jedidah Isler

Astrophysicist
USA



Photo by Stephen Sartori

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An observational astrophysicist by training, Jedidah Isler studies blazars — the hyperactive supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies — working to understand the relativistic streams of particles that emanate from nearby environments. In 2014, Isler became the first AfricanAmerican woman to receive a PhD in Astronomy from Yale University. Throughout her career, she has remained a fierce advocate for the inclusion and empowerment of students from underrepresented backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.



Notes

Matt Kenyon

New media artist
USA



Matt Kenyon makes art using a wide range of media to help us understand society's large, complex systems, such as our reliance on global corporations, oil and the military-industrial complex. His works include: "Spore 1.1" (pictured left), a self-sustaining ecosystem for a tree, purchased from Home Depot, that is watered in conjunction with Home Depot stock prices; "Supermajor", a collection of vintage oil cans with droplets of oil that appear to defy gravity and return to a hole punctured in the can; and most recently "Giant Tool of Money," which explores the thoughts and beliefs that lead to global financial crisis.



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Danielle N. Lee

Behavioral biologist
USA



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American biologist Danielle N Lee studies African Giant Pouched Rats, focusing on how genetics contribute to their behaviors. Her science outreach efforts emphasize sharing science to general audiences, particularly under-served groups, via outdoor programming and social media. She writes *The Urban Scientist*, a blog about urban ecology, evolutionary biology and diversity in the sciences, for Scientific American. She is also co-founder of the National Science & Technology News Service, a media advocacy organization that aims to increase the number of African American scientists and engineers quoted in science news stories.

Notes



Cosmin Mihaiu

Physical therapy entrepreneur
Romania | UK



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Cosmin Mihaiu is changing the way people recover from injury. As CEO and co-founder of MIRA Rehab, Mihaiu has developed a software platform using Microsoft Kinect to engage patients in interactive and therapeutic games for fun and easy rehabilitation. Currently, several institutions across the UK, the US and Romania are using MIRA for arm and shoulder injuries, leg weakness and balance therapy, and preliminary results of clinical trials show that MIRA can improve therapy times and reduce costs. Mihaiu is currently working to establish collaborations with medical institutions in the UK.



Notes

Lerato Mokobe

Poet
South Africa



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Lerato Mokobe is a 19-year-old South African slam poet and co-founder of Vocal Revolutionaries. This volunteer-run organization empowers youth in South Africa to find their voice through poetry and art – offering free workshops, motivational talks, seasonal slams, national/local performances, and mentoring. In her own poetry, Mokobe tackles tough gender and LGBTQ issues. She has performed with Talib Kweli, Saul Williams, Bonnie Mbuli and Mbali Vilakazi, and was the youngest and first African coach at the Brave New Voices Festival.



Notes

Patience Mthunzi

Laser physicist
South Africa



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The first Zulu PhD physicist at the University of St. Andrews, Patience Mthunzi leads a biophotonics research group in South Africa working to discover medical applications for laser technology — including targeted antiretroviral drug delivery to HIV-infected cells, and the study of intricate bioprocesses in cancerous cells. South African President Jacob Zuma awarded Mthunzi the Order of Mapungubwe for her work — an extraordinary South African honor. Mthunzi also trains and supervises postgraduate students in the laboratory and mentors scholars and undergraduates.



Notes

Sarah Sandman

Artist + designer
USA



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Sarah Sandman takes design off the page and into the world, creating socially minded experiences that get people talking to each other. Her work includes: conversation menus for commuters on the subway; a nationwide art exchange through long-distance cycling; typographic bicycle tires that leave words behind when ridden through puddles; and a silent, typographic orchestra. She teaches the power of typography and color theory to young designers at Hostos Community College in the South Bronx.



Notes

eL Seed

Calligraffiti artist

Tunisia | France



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French-Tunisian artist eL Seed blends the historic art of Arabic calligraphy with graffiti to portray messages of beauty, poetry and peace across all continents. Born in Paris to Tunisian parents, eL Seed travels the world, his art appearing in Paris, New York, Jeddah, Melbourne, Gabes, Doha and beyond. His goal is to create dialogue and promote tolerance, as well as change global perceptions of what Arabic means. He has also held workshops and demonstrations at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar and at Harvard University.



Notes

Aomawa Shields

Astronomer + astrobiologist
USA

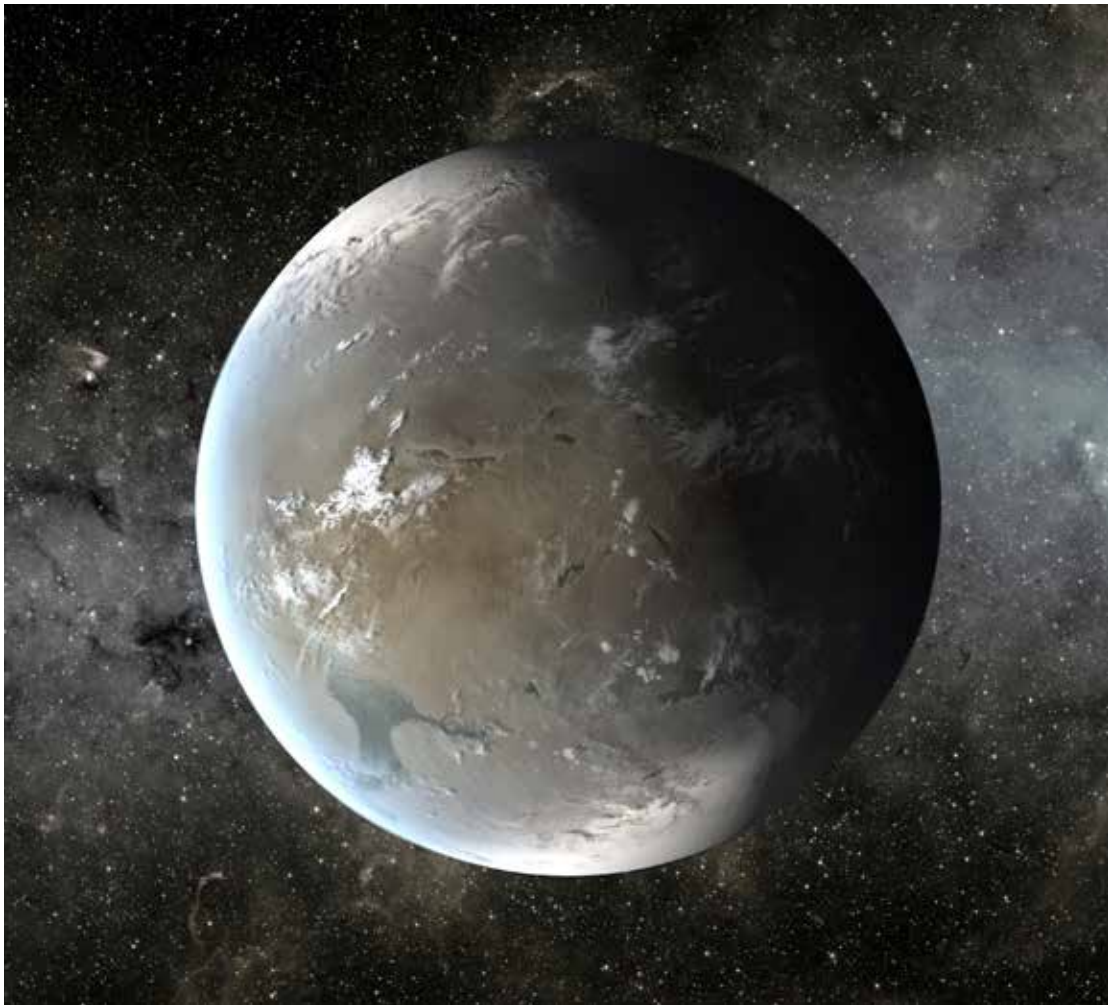


Photo credit: NASA Ames/JPL-Caltech

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American astronomer and astrobiologist Aomawa Shields studies the climate and habitability of planets around low-mass stars, assessing the likelihood that they could support life. With both an MFA in acting and a PhD in astronomy and astrobiology, Shields works to change the way science is communicated to the public. She is currently developing an interactive astronomy workshop for young girls from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the sciences.



Notes

Trang Tran

Agriculture entrepreneur
Vietnam



Vietnam is the world's second-biggest rice exporter. Every year, the country releases 20 million tons of toxic gases as farmers burn the leftover rice straw. Offering a green alternative, Trang Tran's social enterprise Fargreen works with farmers to turn the agricultural waste into a substrate for growing high-quality, high-value mushrooms. Fargreen has helped farmers increase their income by 50% while preventing greenhouse gases, and Tran now plans to expand the enterprise to other major rice-producing countries like India, the Philippines and Thailand.



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Senior Fellows continue
their amazing work with the
support of four additional
TED conferences and a
continued engagement
with the TED community.

How it works

Each year, ten to twelve TED Fellows are selected to become Senior Fellows based on their sustained engagement with the TED Fellows program, and on promising current or upcoming work that would benefit from the support of the wider TED community. Senior Fellows attend four additional TED events (TED, TEDGlobal, or the TED Fellows Retreat), with the possibility of speaking on the main TED stage, and participate in four Senior Fellows preconferences. Over the course of their fellowship, the Senior Fellows continue to work on their individual projects and special collaborations. Their responsibilities include mentoring newer Fellows, holding TEDx events in their communities, hosting TED Fellows regional retreats, and yearround participation in the TED community.

Here at TED2015, we are joined by 33 Senior Fellows. Meet them in the following pages.



Gabriel Barcia-Colombo

Video artist

USA

2014 Senior Fellow



New media artist whose work includes living video sculptures, digital urns, and vending machines that sell human DNA.

What are you currently working on?

I just finished a 52 channel video installation featuring slow motion video portraits of New Yorkers featured at the new Fulton center in downtown manhattan and my "DNA Vending Machine" is going to be part of a show at the V&A museum in London Spring 2015.

What do you need?



COLLABORATORS

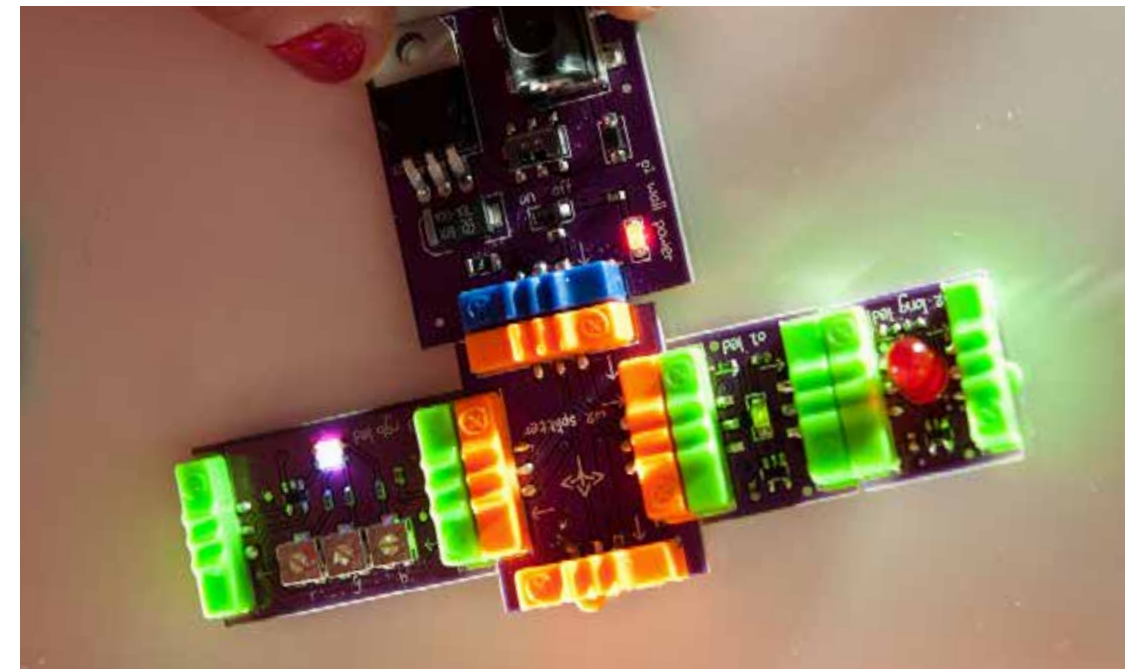
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gabebc.com

fellows.ted.com/profiles/gabe-barcia-colombo



Ayah Bdeir

Robotician + artist

Lebanon | UK

2013 Senior Fellow



Lebanese artist, inventor, founder and CEO of littleBits, an open-source system of pre-assembled circuits that snap together with magnets – making learning about electronics fun, easy and creative.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on bringing the power of electronics to everyone, transforming littleBits into a global company.

What do you need?



COLLABORATORS



MEDIA EXPOSURE

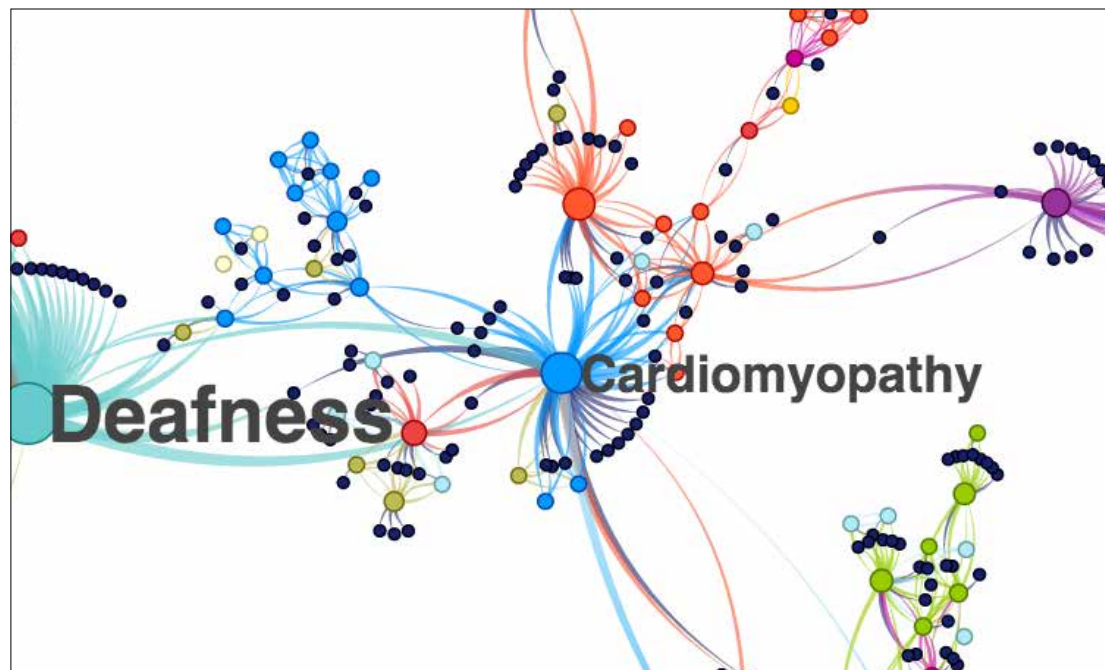
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fellows.ted.com/profiles/ayah-bdeir



Kaustuv de Biswas

Architect + design entrepreneur

India | USA
2013 Senior Fellow



San Francisco-based entrepreneur building data-science tools to enable individuals to map and reflect on their habits, interactions and performance.

What are you currently working on?

Along with TED Fellows Eric Berlow (Complexity Researcher) and David Gurman (Data Artist), I am building a cloud based network science platform to enable a deeper understanding of the world's most complex, interrelated problems. We are a collective of scientists, artists and technologists mapping diverse issues from regional conflicts, human creativity, education, healthcare delivery networks and food innovation.

What do you need?



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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Laurel Braitman

Science Historian + Writer

USA
2014 Senior Fellow



Writer and historian of science who just published her first book, *Animal Madness: How Anxious Dogs, Compulsive Parrots, and Elephants in Recovery Help Us Understand Ourselves*.

What are you currently working on?

I'm working on my next book project, which is about learning how to live as if you'll die tomorrow and die as if you'll live forever. I'm also putting together an interdisciplinary student expedition courses that will retrace the routes of many of the 19th century's famed expeditions.

What do you need?



FUNDING



COLLABORATORS

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animalmadness.com

fellows.ted.com/profiles/laurel-braitman



Yana Buhrer Tavanier

Conservationalist

Bulgaria
2014 Senior Fellow



Human rights activist protecting and promoting the rights of people with intellectual and mental health disabilities, while building do-more-good culture in the Balkans.

What are you currently working on?

I am building Fine Acts, an organization that bridges human rights and arts to achieve social change. By bringing together activists and artists from across the world to work on collaborative projects, we aim to achieve stronger impact for human rights campaigns, and to push more art with purpose into galleries, museums and public spaces.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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Links

flickr.com/photos/yanska
timeheroes.org

fellows.ted.com/profiles/yana-buhrer-tavanier



Negin Farsad

Comedian + filmmaker

USA | Iran
2015 Senior Fellow



Iranian-American stand-up comedian and filmmaker currently working on "The Muslims are Coming!", a film that follows Muslim-American comedians on the road as they perform, meet locals and counter Islamophobia.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on a book - just your typical social justice comedy manifesto meets memoir type book. But when that book isn't sitting on my chest, I'm working on the Fighting-Bigotry-with-Delightful-Posters Campaign that I'm launching throughout the MTA. The campaign aims to counter hate-based ad campaigns against Muslims with delightful hilarious ones. I am also working on my next feature film, The Dowry Dodgers of Iran.

What do you need?



FUNDING

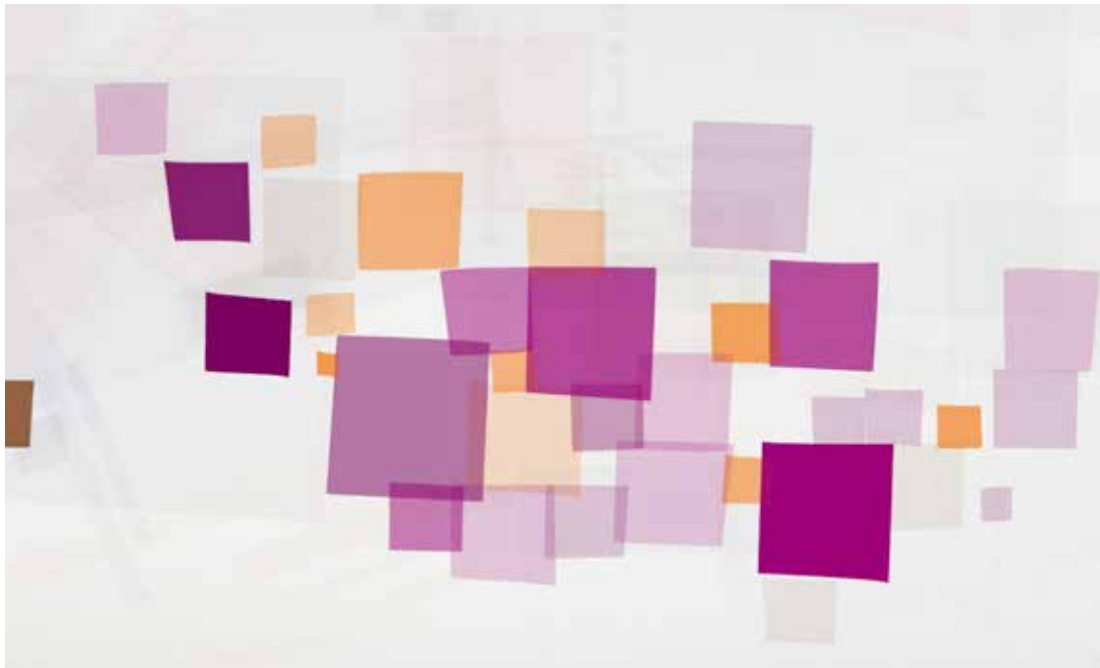
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neginfarsad.com
TheMuslimsAreComing.com
3rdStreetBlackout.com

fellows.ted.com/profiles/negin-farsad



Julie Freeman

Artist

UK

2013 Senior Fellow



UK-based artist combining biology, technology, novel materials, and living systems, creating data-driven work that questions how we translate nature.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on the strategic development of the organisation, Fine Acts which I co-founded in 2014 with another TED Fellow Yana Buhrer Tavanier. We aim to broaden the reach of human rights issues through art, by uniting activists and artists to work deeply together. I am also Head of the Data as Culture art programme at the Open Data Institute in London, UK, commissioning and exhibiting artists working with data.

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What do you need?

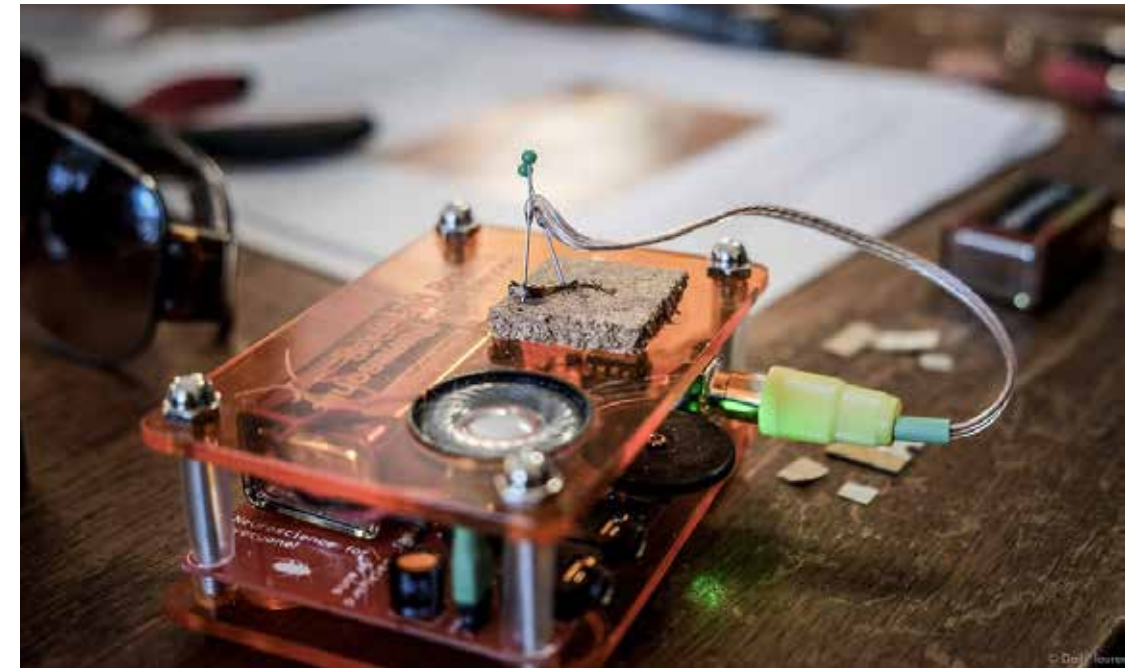


FUNDING



COLLABORATORS

fellows.ted.com/profiles/julie-freeman



Greg Gage

DIY Neuroscientist

USA | Chile

2014 Senior Fellow



Engineer, inventor and DIY neuroscientist who uses cyborg insects, beatboxing cockroach legs, and everyday household items to change the future of neuroscience education.

What are you currently working on?

Currently I am working to grow Backyard Brains into the go-to brand for biology and neuroscience education. I am currently developing experiments to record from the visual system of grasshoppers, the auditory system of crickets, and the beautiful pheromone detection of moths. In the lab, I am developing wearable hardware for continuous monitoring of EKG and EMG on your smartphone.

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backyardbrains.com

What do you need?



COLLABORATORS

fellows.ted.com/profiles/greg-gage



Lope Gutiérrez-Ruiz

Culture curator

Venezuela | USA
2012 Senior Fellow



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Venezuelan editor, writer and co-founder of Gopher Magazine, Gopher Projects, the Por el Medio de la Calle festival, and the Plátanoverde Foundation, a platform for emerging artists.

What are you currently working on?

I'm researching on the future of our cities, and how it intertwines with media, open data, design and cultural management. I'm currently a JSK Fellow at Stanford University, where I'm trying to answer the question "How can we make city data more engaging?" For this I'm building a platform that aggregates open government data, along with national, local and social media. My ultimate goal is to help move the conversation about the future of data in our cities forward, by building the first platform that successfully incorporates open data (both from government and private parties) into digital newstreams.

What do you need?



fellows.ted.com/profiles/lope-gutierrez-ruiz



Renée Hlozek

Cosmologist

USA | South Africa
2014 Senior Fellow



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statsandstrings.blogspot.com

Cosmologist working to understand the initial conditions of the universe – the tiny fluctuations that grew to be the large structures we see today.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on understanding what we can learn from the empty spaces in the universe. We often concentrate on the overdense places, but there is information in the empty spaces too. Big empty voids in cosmic space tell us about how the universe evolved and what might be driving the expansion of the universe. I am combining data from different telescopes to help me understand cosmic voids.

What do you need?



Photo by Mark Devlin

fellows.ted.com/profiles/renee-hlozek



Lars Jan

Transmedia director

USA

2013 Senior Fellow



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Links

earlymorningopera.com

Founder of Early Morning Opera, a genre-bending art lab creating works that chart constellations of ideas using technically innovative live performance, as well as through traditional and emerging media.

What are you currently working on?

The week after TED, I'm presenting the US premiere of Holoscenes — my global art and activism project about flooding and climate change — directly on the Gulf of Mexico on a site predicted to be under water in fifty years. I'm also in rehearsals for The Institute of Memory (TIme), a multimedia performance tracing the transformation of archives from physical to digital structures and the corresponding evolution of national and personal remembering and privacy.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE



PARTNERS

fellows.ted.com/profiles/lars-jan



Somi Kakoma

Singer + Cultural Activist

Rwanda | Uganda | UK

2015 Senior Fellow



East African soul-jazz vocalist + songwriter and founder of New Africa Live.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on developing New York City's first major arts festival (MAMAFest) to celebrate Africa's modern cultural trends and voices in literary, visual, and the performing arts. I am also writing a modern jazz opera on the life and legacy of the late South African singer and activist Miriam Makeba. The majority of my time goes towards promoting and touring my latest album "The Lagos Music Salon" that was released in August 2014 on Sony Music's Okeh Records.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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fellows.ted.com/profiles/somi-kakoma



Christine Sun Kim

Sound artist + composer

USA

2015 Senior Fellow



Korean-American artist and educator who was born deaf and uses the medium of sound through technology to investigate and rationalize her relationship with sound and spoken languages.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on a number of new sound installations and I am mostly excited about "Calibration Room" at University of Texas in March where an audio piece will be calibrated to each individual's hearing levels. I will not only exhibit my new series of drawings in Beijing in June, but also debut the new listening device called "Game of Skill" I have been working with a technician, in which your speed of walking affects the audio you hear.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE



PARTNERS

Photo by Noelia Hobeika

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fellows.ted.com/profiles/christine-sun-kim



David Lang

Maker + writer

USA

2015 Senior Fellow



American co-founder of OpenROV, a community of DIY ocean explorers and developers of low-cost, open-source underwater robots.

What are you currently working on?

I'm working on promoting the idea of collaborative science and exploration, outside the traditional Scientific Industrial Complex. I also recently founded OpenExplorer, a digital field journal connecting an entire community of explorers.

What do you need?



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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openrov.com

davidtlang.com

fellows.ted.com/profiles/david-lang



Jon Lowenstein

Documentary photographer

USA

2014 Senior Fellow



Documentary photographer and filmmaker who specializes in long-term, in-depth projects that confront the realms of power, poverty, and social violence.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently planning publication of two long term, in depth documentary photography books which seek to raise awareness and questions about wealth inequality, systemic and ongoing racism, the impact of social violence in the Americas and our broken immigration policy. I have also completed films about the aftermath of the Michael Brown killing in Ferguson and the impact of social violence on the South Side of Chicago.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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Kristen Marhaver

Coral reef biologist

USA | Curaçao

2015 Senior Fellow



Coral reef biologist and science communications enthusiast based in Curaçao, studying how certain bacteria can be used to increase settlement and survival of Caribbean corals.

What are you currently working on?

Coral reef biologist and science communications enthusiast based in Curaçao, studying how certain bacteria can be used to increase settlement and survival of Caribbean corals.

What do you need?



FUNDING



COLLABORATORS

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Alexander McLean

African prison activist

Uganda | UK
2014 Senior Fellow



Lawyer, founder of the African Prisons Project, and passionate advocate for making prisons in Africa and beyond places of positive transformation.

What are you currently working on?

I am working to develop a global model for mass legal education of prisoners. Often the poor end up in prison and the wealthy become lawyers. I'd like to change this. I'm working to equip more people in prison to serve their communities as providers of basic health, literacy and legal services.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MENTORSHIP

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africanprisons.org

Photo: Former prisoners graduate with a diploma in law from the University of London.

fellows.ted.com/profiles/alexander-mclean



Boniface Mwangi

Photo-activist

Kenya
2013 Senior Fellow



Boniface Mwangi is an award-winning Kenyan photojournalist and human rights activist and founder of Pawa 254, an arts and activism space.

What are you currently working on?

Nairobi is a city of 5 million people, there are only three theatres and only one theater which is up to standard but overly booked. Since the birth of Pawa254, theatre, dance and other artist groups have sought refuge at our hub and have used it as a rehearsal space. In March 2015 Pawa254 will open the first public theatre in Kenya in 31 years.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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fellows.ted.com/profiles/boniface-mwangi



Ed Ou

Photojournalist

Canada | Taiwan
2015 Senior Fellow



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edouphoto.com
reportagebygettyimages.com/
ed-ou

Award-winning Canadian photojournalist whose work focuses on stories from the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, Africa and the Americas. He is currently working on a project documenting the Arab Spring, entitled Egyptian Youth.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on trying to make a documentary about indigenous issues in the Arctic, spanning the Yupik/Inuit world from Siberia to Greenland. I am working with Kitra Cahana on this project which will show Inuit culture and the rough transition from a nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary modern one. On top of that, we are trying to start pitching ourselves as a team to get news and documentary assignments. It's really busy.

What do you need?



FUNDING



COLLABORATORS

fellows.ted.com/profiles/ed-ou



Sarah Parcak

Aerial archeologist

USA
2014 Senior Fellow



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sparcak@uab.edu

Links
spectralglobe.com

Archaeologist specializing in the use of satellite imagery for archaeological discoveries and cultural heritage research.

What are you currently working on?

I am using new satellite technologies to locate new archaeological sites, as well as map looting of those sites, which is systematically destroying our shared history.

What do you need?



FUNDING

fellows.ted.com/profiles/sarah-parcak



James Patten

Inventor

USA

2014 Senior Fellow



A US-based inventor working to bring our interactions with computers off the screen and into the physical world.

What are you currently working on?

I'm working on the next generation of my user interface platform, Thumbles, small robots that drive around on a tabletop surface under computer control to create a new type of interface. Users interact by grasping and moving the Thumbles around, and the computer can respond by moving them as well.

What do you need?



PARTNERS



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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fellows.ted.com/profiles/james-patten



Genevieve von Petzinger

Cave art researcher

Canada

2013 Senior Fellow



Canadian doctoral candidate studying ancient geometric signs from the Ice Age.

What are you currently working on?

6 months, 4 countries, 7 regions and 52 rock art sites later, I have now completed the field work for the major project I was working on to document geometric imagery from the Ice Age. This is the largest project of its kind ever undertaken, and I am now sorting through the data I collected (over 5,000 photos were taken of the art). Some very intriguing things are starting to emerge about these ancient enigmatic symbols...

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE



PARTNERS

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Links

bradshawfoundation.com/
geometric_signs/index.php

fellows.ted.com/profiles/genevieve-von-petzinger



Will Potter

Investigative journalist

USA

2015 Senior Fellow



American journalist who covers the animal rights and environmental movements and post-9/11 civil liberties. Currently he is examining how whistleblowers and nonviolent protesters are being treated as "terrorists."

What are you currently working on?

I'm currently using drones to document factory farm pollution in defiance of "ag-gag" laws that criminalize photography.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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GreenIsTheNewRed.com

fellows.ted.com/profiles/will-potter



Usman Riaz

Musician + artist

Pakistan

2014 Senior Fellow



Multi-instrumentalist, composer, filmmaker, and fine artist passionate about the creative process and using technology as a learning tool to rapidly further our talents.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on the first few steps of making an animated short film that I will direct and score. I am completing my storyboards along with character designs and also working on the score.

What do you need?



COLLABORATORS

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Camilo Rodriguez-Beltran

Arts + science collaborator

Benin | Philippines
Argentina | Basque Country
2014 Senior Fellow



Mexican scientist, filmmaker, and urban art gallery founder focusing on human health, biodiversity, and cross-cultural collaboration.

What are you currently working on?

I'm currently leading a research team on creating appropriate sensing platforms in rural and coastal communities for health and environmental monitoring. My art company is working on the exploration of the intersection of public art, technology and social impact. I'm also ending the postproduction of my feature documentary film Autrement, which discuss novel ways of doing science using as a narrative tool Contemporary African dance.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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gko-gallery.com
taleo-initiative.org

fellows.ted.com/profiles/camilo-rodriguez-beltran



Safwat Saleem

Graphic designer + satirist

Pakistan | USA
2015 Senior Fellow



Pakistani graphic designer, filmmaker and artist who uses humor to tell stories of people (and creatures) who have the odds stacked against them.

What are you currently working on?

My current projects include interactive artwork shown in galleries, short visual stories and sales of my line of darkly humorous t-shirts, greeting cards, and posters. I am also developing interactive artwork that will react to the presence of viewers, acting on its best behavior when a viewer is close; when the viewer walks away, it returns to its true (offensive) state.

What do you need?



PARTNERS



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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Camille Seaman

Environmental photographer

USA

2013 Senior Fellow



A well-respected and widely published extreme environmental photographer, known for her photographs of melting icebergs and epic tornados, showing the effects of climate change.

What are you currently working on?

I am just returning from a cabin in the snow covered wilds of Denali National Park, I am currently writing a story to be adapted to film and looking for anyone interested with experience to speak about my project and possible funding opportunities.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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camilleseaman.com

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Shivani Siroya

Mobile finance entrepreneur

USA | India

2015 Senior Fellow



Indian-American founder and CEO of InVenture, a mobile technology company creating simple mobile tools that provide credit scores and accounting tools to anyone with a mobile phone.

What are you currently working on?

I am working on developing a mobile platform for instant credit access for underbanked customers in emerging markets. The platform gathers data, credit scores instantly and allows customers to decide when and how much credit they want - putting power and financial decision making in their hands. The mobile platform currently works in East Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

What do you need?



FUNDING

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safari.inventure.org/love

fellows.ted.com/profiles/shivani-siroya



Christopher Soghoian

Privacy researcher + activist

USA

2015 Senior Fellow



American privacy researcher and activist who focuses on online privacy, including both consumer issues and government surveillance.

What are you currently working on?

I'm getting ready for a huge fight, in Congress, in the courts, and in quiet negotiations behind close doors, over whether or not technology companies should be permitted to offer secure communications services to their customers, or if the government can require them to build surveillance features into those products. The privacy community think that cyber-security threats are serious, and that our sensitive data — phone calls, email messages, medical records, and private photos — should be protected with the most secure technology possible.

What do you need?



PARTNERS



MEDIA EXPOSURE

Photo by Jonathan McIntosh

fellows.ted.com/profiles/christopher-soghoian



Angelo Vermeulen

Artist

Belgium

2013 Senior Fellow



Biologist, space systems researcher, and visual artist creating large-scale collaborative art installations – and recent crew commander of NASA's 2013 HI-SEAS simulated Mars mission.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on a PhD at Delft University of Technology on new concepts for starship design. My research focuses on developing resilient systems that can last over multiple decades, and travel over extremely long distances. I'm developing my Seeker art project, which aims to develop community-based starship prototypes. This art project is currently in development in Chile and Kosovo.

What do you need?



COLLABORATORS

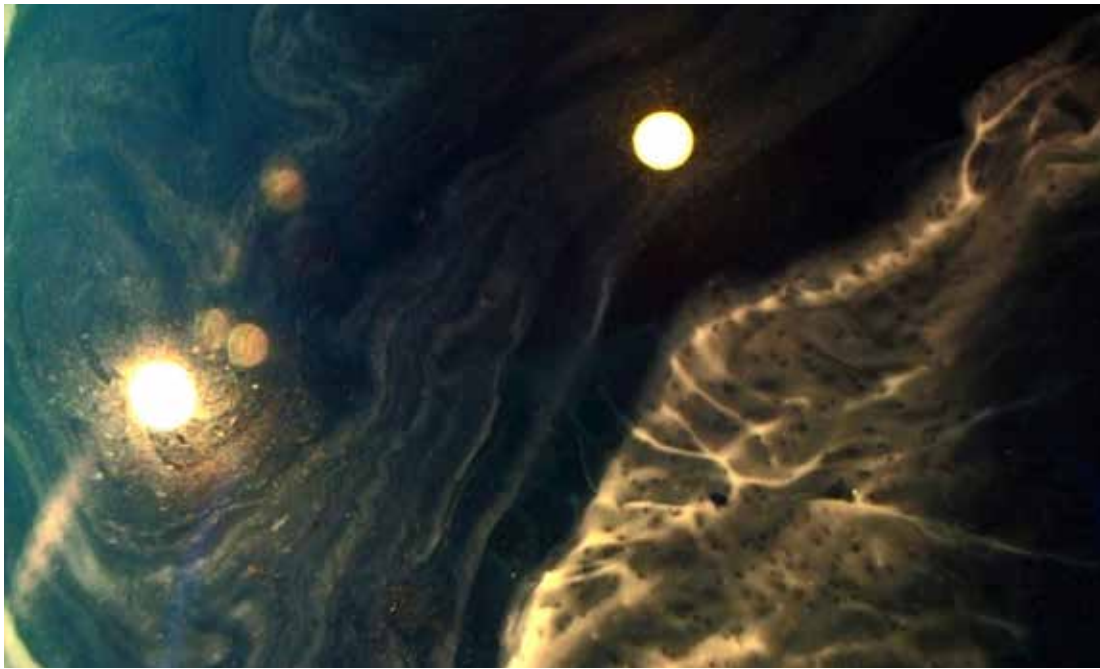
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Lucianne Walkowicz

Stellar astronomer
USA
2013 Senior Fellow



Postdoctoral fellow studying the effects of stellar activity on exoplanets with the Kepler Mission.

What are you currently working on?

I study how the habitability of planets is influenced by the stars they orbit, in order to understand where we might find alien life in the universe, using data from NASA's Kepler Mission. I am also a leader in the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, a future telescope that will create a 10 year long cosmic movie. I am also working on a data-driven holographic art installation of newly-found exoplanets, and a painting series memorializing victims of gun violence.

What do you need?



FUNDING



MEDIA EXPOSURE

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Links

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fellows.ted.com/profiles/lucianne-walkowicz



Asha de Vos

Marine biologist + educator
Sri Lanka
2013 Senior Fellow



Marine biologist and educator saving the ocean — one blue whale at a time.

What are you currently working on?

I am trying to save the Northern Indian Ocean blue whale population from getting killed by container ships which happens to be the biggest threat they face. I am also working on developing my own marine conservation research and education organisation in Sri Lanka.

What do you need?



FUNDING



COLLABORATORS



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Colophon

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