



## The Stephen D. Paine Scholarship 2020 Exhibition

Juror: Reto Thüring, Chair, Linde Family Wing of Contemporary Art  
and Arthur K. Solomon Curator of Modern Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

### Recipients:

Sara Boldt

Christopher Daniels

Josephine Douglas

Lauren Lortie

Jhona Xaviera

**Christopher Daniels** - The idea for "Stand" started as a broad love for the independent horror/thriller genre. I have such a strong admiration for creative conceptual films like "It Follows," "A Quiet Place," and "Hush," that I've wanted to explore that world for a while. I finally found an excuse to put my love and passion into something in the same category with "Stand." I first came up with the concept that brought this story to life. I wanted to take a strong, sympathetic lead character and put him in a compelling situation with stakes and jeopardy, that the audience would slowly understand as the short evolved. Eventually, after days developing strange situations, the concept hit me: a creature that attacks a man as soon as he sits down. This puts anybody, no matter how strong or fearless they are, in a situation of weakness. Nobody can stand forever. So the story began to form. A man that finds himself on his last wave of fighting off the exhaustion of endlessly standing. I fell in love with this strange and interesting idea, developed it further and further, and that's how "Stand" came to be. After weeks and weeks of planning, developing a unique style for directing and shooting this intriguing concept, then building a small team that would also love this project like I did, the short came alive.

**Website:** <https://www.chriskdaniels.com/>

**Jhona Xaviera** - I consider my own positions within afro-caribbean diasporic history and spirituality to celebrate and interrogate relationships of power between transness, blackness, queerness, latinidad, and divinity. I aim to inspire transformative justice, healing, and self-love, by returning to indigenous and afro-diasporic practices of connecting with earthly, cosmic, and queer modes of being. As a self-described multimedia chimæra, my interwoven stories evolve through my use of poetry and prose, photography, sculpture, video, and performance. My installations are activated by ritualistic performances that serve to honor ancestral lineage and future possibilities by reclaiming the multitudes of queer and trans presence. This is done through channeling Asyra, the many-faced goddess of light you may only wish to worship.

**Website:** <https://www.instagram.com/jo.asxy/>



**Josephine Dougan** - I view my art practice as exploratory, I'm working to synthesize tradition with technology, horror with femininity, and domesticity with my Gen Y mentality. I consider myself an interdisciplinary artist, working in whatever way best lends itself to these disjunctions. Recently that has meant bending traditional textile techniques to combine them with contemporary, conceptual forms. Gender and sexuality play a key role in my work, as I think the sensuality of textile so readily lends itself to this. I usually implement various degrees of abstraction in order to flirt with the uncanny and attempt to find the monstrous within symbols we know as feminine or domestic.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/josephinedouganart/>

**Lauren Lortie** – The painting Greek Church, is inspired by the church across the street from my childhood home. I had begun using texture to explore space. Cassie is portrait of my sister, Cassie. It is one of a short series using abstraction to construct the essence of a person fueled by emotion. Regret was made fairly quickly for the purpose of expressing how I felt at the moment, embarrassed. It is one of a few that have not been painted over and I consider it a direct response.

Website: <https://www.laurenlortie.com/>

**Sara Boldt** - faceless, nameless showcases a variety of women whose faces are obscured by a white mask. They are posed in different environments, silent and unacknowledged for the majority of the film. Ultimately, their true face is exposed, yet their identity is still unknown. This idea stems from my recent introspection questioning the way women are depicted in society and how it has influenced me. The mask represents the challenge to form a significant identity and the confusion that comes with it.

Shot digitally and 4,000 images were printed and hand painted. They were then scanned back onto the computer and the piece was edited digitally.

Website: <https://vimeo.com/306047433>