

The 8th Annual Humanities Core Arts Competition and Exhibition 2024

Humanities Core and Illuminations are pleased to announce the 2024 Annual Humanities Core Arts Competition and Exhibition.

The Competition

The Arts Competition encourages Humanities Core students to interpret course themes through artistic expression. Students submit art works in any medium for a prize (1st place: \$300, 2nd place: \$200, 3rd place \$100).

This year, Humanities Core students are invited to submit original works of art in any medium - including photography, original musical composition, and dance - that are centered on the [Humanities Center's 2023-24 theme](#): **Care and Repair**. This theme is a springboard for students to expand upon Humanities Core ideas, texts, visual images, artists, narratives, and experiences that have inspired their curiosity, creativity, and sense of connection. Care can be seen as a gesture of communion, belonging, health, and well-being, or serve as a signifier of value and importance. When one cares for something or someone, one cultivates its physical, conceptual, or spiritual growth. Care need not extend only to other beings, but to ideas, processes, histories, creative works, and even to the natural world. Repair is an extension of this process, a particular kind of taking care that reimagines the past as leading to more just, compassionate, or generative outcomes. It often involves processes of preservation, reconciliation, realignment, and sometimes regret.

Themes of care and repair, both literal and metaphoric, pervade the works we are studying. Some characters such as Lauren Olamina in *Parable of the Sower* seek care through the formation of principled communities, or are driven to repair their personal histories. Some artists seek repair by bringing to light uncomfortable truths. Sanford Biggers and Carrie Mae Weems use quilts and daguerreotypes to rework Black histories, acts of care with the potential to repair the holes in our cultural fabric that have resulted from the invisibilizing of Black experience. Even Humanities Core as a whole cultivates care in its focus on the theme of *Worldbuilding*, and through this care, builds a world of community, intellectual exchange, and compassion for others.

How have you experienced the theme of *Care and Repair* in Humanities Core? What texts have transported you into new realities with the potential to repair? How has your care for the ideas in this course uncovered new worlds for you?

The Exhibition

Student submissions are judged by a panel of Humanities Core instructors, and the winners are announced at the Humanities Core Arts Exhibition, which will be held on May 9, 2024. The exhibition is at once a celebration of student creativity and an experiential space in which students, instructors, and the public can connect intellectually and socially around the ideas Humanities Core generates. All student artworks are displayed, sometimes alongside the artworks of instructors or thematically-related materials from UCI Libraries Special Collections.

This year, we hope to include an exhibition of student photography from students who may have been inspired by the Humanities Center workshop “Photographing Care and Repair With Mark Leong.” Students are encouraged to submit their projects to the competition but also may elect to submit their work exclusively for the exhibition. If you prefer not to participate in the competition but would like to have your photographic work included in the exhibition, please contact Larisa Castillo at larisa.castillo@uci.edu.

This project was originated by Professor Larisa Castillo in 2017 to occasion creative connections between members of the Humanities Core community and the public. Since its inception, the Arts Competition and Exhibition has generated multiple creative projects of its kind across campus, including the Medical Humanities project *The Scribe* and student exhibitions in UCI Special Collections.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline for all submissions is 4:00 on Monday, April 15, 2024. Please submit no more than one artwork. All participants must fill out the Arts Submission Form. Works submitted as digital files can be uploaded with this form. To arrange for delivery of physical art pieces, please contact Professor Castillo at larisa.castillo@uci.edu.

[Arts Submission Form](#)

Winners will be announced at the 8th Annual Humanities Core Arts Exhibition on May 9, 2024, from 5-7 pm, in HG 1030

All artworks will be exhibited and celebrated in the Humanities Core Digital Art Gallery.
<https://core.humanities.uci.edu/index.php/awards/arts-competition/>

Please direct questions to Larisa Castillo (larisa.castillo@uci.edu) or Susan Morse (smorse@uci.edu).

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