

## FESTIVAL

# Rocky Mountain Balinese Gamelan Festival

by Elizabeth McLean Macy

### Festival Plans

When Bapak I Made Lasmawan moved to Colorado in 1993, he and Professor Victoria Lindsay Levine founded Gamelan Tunjung Sari at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Prior to Lasmawan's arrival, Levine had engaged the help of Dr. David Harnish in acquiring a Balinese gamelan angklung for Colorado College. It was a timely coincidence that brought Levine and members of Gamelan Tunas Mekar (Denver's community ensemble) together, and led to her connecting with Lasmawan when he came to Colorado to serve as their Artist-in-Residence.

Lasmawan's arrival in Colorado spurred the development of gamelan ensembles along the Front Range mountains, extending from Colorado Springs to Boulder and beyond. He helped found (and often serves as artistic director for) several gamelan in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, South Dakota, and Arizona, and he has been instrumental in the development of a number of ensembles across the United States. To celebrate these achievements and bring together the vibrant community of people who had been working with Lasmawan, Dr. Levine and Pak Lasmawan hosted "Temu Wicara Bali, a Celebration of Balinese Performing Arts" in 2013.

When I moved to Colorado, where I currently teach Ethnomusicology at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), Lasmawan and I began talking about how to build on the 2013 event. Our idea was a festival jointly hosted by MSU Denver and Colorado College (Lasmawan's home institution), highlighting the Balinese performing arts communities along the Rocky Mountains where Lasmawan's influence was prevalent. Our discussions grew during fall 2018 and spring 2019, with plans to hold such an event in the ensuing years. Joined by Lasmawan's eldest son, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, the three of us sketched out an event that would include an academic symposium, a series of concerts, and a variety of workshops focused on Balinese music and dance. We announced our plans at our final concerts in Spring 2019, where we were joined by a delegation from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles.

In the following school year, we secured some funding support and set dates for a Spring 2021 festival. But when the global pandemic shutdowns began, it rapidly became apparent that 2021 would not be a possibility. So we began raising funds and making plans for a Spring 2022 festival, hoping that we would be in a different place with Covid-19.



*Festival logo by Gus Dark.*

The first Rocky Mountain Balinese Gamelan Festival (RMBGF) was finally announced for April 21–24, 2022. We invited people to join us for an #epicgamelanshredfest highlighting sustainability and Balinese arts. Our commissioned logo, designed by Balinese political cartoonist Gus Dark, combined images of Colorado, Bali, and gamelan to evoke our theme of sustainability.

The realization of our years of planning felt celebratory. After two years of pandemic time, we welcomed the opportunity to make music together, to perform for one another, to share our ideas communally, and to do these things in person. As we closed the festival, the symposium presenters reflected on the meaningful conversations we'd had, the vibrancy of the performances, the clear ways we had connected over the course of the festival, and discussed plans for carrying this momentum forward—including plans to publish the symposium proceedings, in both a scholarly and publicly accessible forms, harnessing the power of the BASAbali Wiki.

We see this as a beginning—the first of many projects to come—and hope to make this a recurring event. It won't look the same next time (be that in two years, or four years from now), but we will work to capture the energy of the very first Rocky Mountain Balinese Gamelan Festival. ▀



*Festival announcement and poster*

### The Invitation

"The Rocky Mountain Balinese Gamelan Festival (RMBGF), April 21–24, 2022, is jointly hosted by Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado College, and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. This four-day festival will feature an academic symposium on the theme of 'Moving Mountains: Sustainability and Balinese Arts,' workshops, and performances by gamelan groups along the Rocky Mountains, including concerts featuring Denver-based Gamelan Tunas Mekar and leading Balinese musicians and dancers. This festival is intended to draw students, faculty, and interested community members from the Rocky Mountain region and beyond."

### The call for papers

"Moving Mountains: Sustainability and Balinese Arts" invites practitioners and scholars to broadly consider the place of sustainable practices in Balinese traditional and contemporary arts. As advocates of Balinese arts are increasingly vocalizing socio-political concerns and perspectives, we propose an exploration of sustainable models for artistic expression as a means to address shifting ideologies of academic inquiry. Proposed topics for discussion may include: composition, choreography, and collaboration; innovations and pedagogies; forming community; and sustainable practices. Non-traditional presentations are encouraged."

### Planning Committee

The RMBGF planning committee (Macy, Lasmawan, and I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, Lasmawan's son) constructed the four-day festival to reflect much of the original planning. The committee's primary goal was to draw the Balinese performing arts community that Lasmawan has helped develop and foster over the last three decades, and to highlight the vibrancy of the local (and extended) gamelan communities in our area.

### Location

The entire festival took place on the Auraria Campus in downtown Denver, Colorado, home to Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Events were spread out over the course of four days (April 21–24, 2022), with the majority of the festival taking place on Friday and Saturday.

### THE SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, April 21, 2022

Opening performance/reception with Balinese experimental duo **ghOstMiSt**, featuring **PAK Yeh** and **Justice Miles** (in conjunction with the MSU Denver Department of Music's Music, Race, & Social Justice Visiting Artist Series).

#### Friday, April 22, 2022

*Symposium: "Moving Mountains: Sustainability and the Arts in Bali"*

Opening Remarks from **Elizabeth McLean Macy** and **I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena**, with a welcome from **Dr. Peter Schimpf**.

Performance by MSU Denver's **Gamelan Manik Kusuma**.

Program: *Gamelan Baleganjur Kelinci Meabian* ("Farming Rabbits") communally composed by the ensemble; Nyoman Windha's welcome dance, *Tari Puspanjali* (1988), choreography by Ni Luh Nesa Swasthi Wijaya Bandem and danced by Ida Ayu Ari Candrawati, Rhianna Fairchild, Ni Putu Indira Sandika, Laricca Siregar, and Dewa Ayu Eka Putri; and *Gilak Sumpang Tumeka* (1995), exit music by I Made Lasmawan.

Keynote I: **David Harnish**: "Innovation and Volunteerism in the Sustainability of Balinese Arts"

Panel I: moderated by **Allan Zheng**

- **I Gde Made Indra Sadguna and Elizabeth A. Clendinning**, "Moving Mountains, Crossing Oceans: Building a More Sustainable Academic Dialogue about Balinese Performing Arts"
- **Meghan Hynson**, "Development and Sustainability in the 21st-century Gender Wayang Complex"
- **I Nyoman Wenten**, "Dance as Industry of Tourism, Business Model in Bali"

Performance by **Gamelan Tunjung Sari**: two pieces

dedicated to Colorado College Professor Emeritus Victoria Lindsay Levine: the premiere of a new dance piece, *Tari Tunjung Sari* by I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya with choreography by Ni Ketut Marni and danced by Rhianna Fairchild, Ni Ketut Marni, Ni Putu Indira Sandika, and Ni Nyoman Yonitika and Lasmawan's *Singga Natha* (Royal Throne).

Panel II: moderated by **Oscar Smith**

- **George Rahi** "On Expo 86', Gamelan Bike-Bike, and Other Utopian Ideas"



- **I Putu Arya Deva Suryanegara** “A Compositional Approach to Balinese Gamelan and Electronics”
- **Ni Nyoman Srayamurtikanti** in conversation with **Dewa Ayu Eka Putri**, plus the premiere of Sraya’s composition *Himpit* (virtual)
- **I Nyoman Catra, Lynn Kremer and Nyoman Triyana Usadhi**, “New Theatrical Work: Creative Collaboration Across Disciplines, Cultures, and Traditions”

Keynote II: **Lasmawan in conversation with Levine**, “Perjalanan: a Conversation with Bapak I Made Lasmawan”

Performance by **Gamelan Tunas Mekar** a communally composed piece for gamelan baleganjur, *Tari Gabor* danced by Rhianna Fairchild, Ni Ketut Marni, Ni Putu Indira Sandika, and Ni Nyoman Yonitika, *Tabuh Telu Tri Parwata* composed by I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya, *Tari Palawakya* composed by Gede Manik and danced by Dewa Ayu Eka Putri, and *Barong Kuda Maya* composed and danced by Hiranmayena.

#### Saturday, April 23, 2022

Workshops throughout the day for festival attendees and community members led by visiting Balinese artists: Balinese dance, gamelan angklung, gamelan semar pegulingan, Balinese gamelan with Orff (for music educators), and Balinese vocal techniques.

Performance by **Gamelan Manik Harum** (pre-recorded): *Tari Pendet* and *Menanti* (“awaiting”) composed by Dorothy Morrison during the pandemic.

Performance by **Gamelan Candra Wyoga**: *Tabuh Liar Samas* by I Wayan Lotring, and *Jauk Manis*, danced by Nyoman Triyana Usadhi.

Performance by **Gamelan Raga Garnita**: Lasmawan’s *Tabuh Belimbing Buluh* ([Sour Star Fruit], 2017) and I Nyoman Windha’s *Tari Cendrawasih* (1987) with choreography by Ni Luh Nesa Swasthi Wijaya Bandem and danced by Ni Ketut Marni and Ni Putu Indira Sandika.

Performance by **Gamelan Merdu Kumala**: “New Music for Old Gamelan.” *Tabuh Petegak* “Langsing Tuban” and *Tari “Perong Condong”* (both traditional pieces from Pedungan, Denpasar, danced by Anna Inuzuka) and *Tabuh Kreasi Pegambuhan “Kala Senja”* and *Tari Kreasi Pegambuhan “Sepuk Ngenget”* (new compositions by Hirotaka Inuzuka with choreography and dance by I Nyoman Wenten).

Performance by **Krama Bali USA**: *Jaya Semara* (Beratha, 1964); *Kebyar Duduk* and *Oleg Tambulilingan*, choreographed by I Ketut Marya in 1925 and 1952 respectively, danced by Ni Ketut Marni and I Nyoman Usadhi; *Legong Kraton* (Condong), danced by Ni Made Yunirika, Ni Nyoman Yonitika, and Ida Ayu Ari Candrawati; *Topeng Manis Monyer*; *Topeng (Jauk)*

*Legod Bawa*, choreographed by I Wayan Dibia in 2012; *Topeng Tua*; *Topeng Bondres*. Audience members joining the artists on stage for a community dance during the final performance with all three topeng dancers: I Nyoman Wenten, I Gusti Ngurah Kertayuda, and I Nyoman Catra.

#### Sunday, April 24, 2022

A brunch for symposium attendees and a closing Balinese kecak workshop, led by **Nyoman Catra**.



Pak Lasmawan in conversation with Dr Victoria Levine at the symposium’s second keynote. (Photo by author)



Ni Ketut Marni dancing her new choreography for *Tari Tunjung Sari*, a new piece composed by her son, I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya, at *Tunjung Sari*’s Friday performance. (Photo by author)

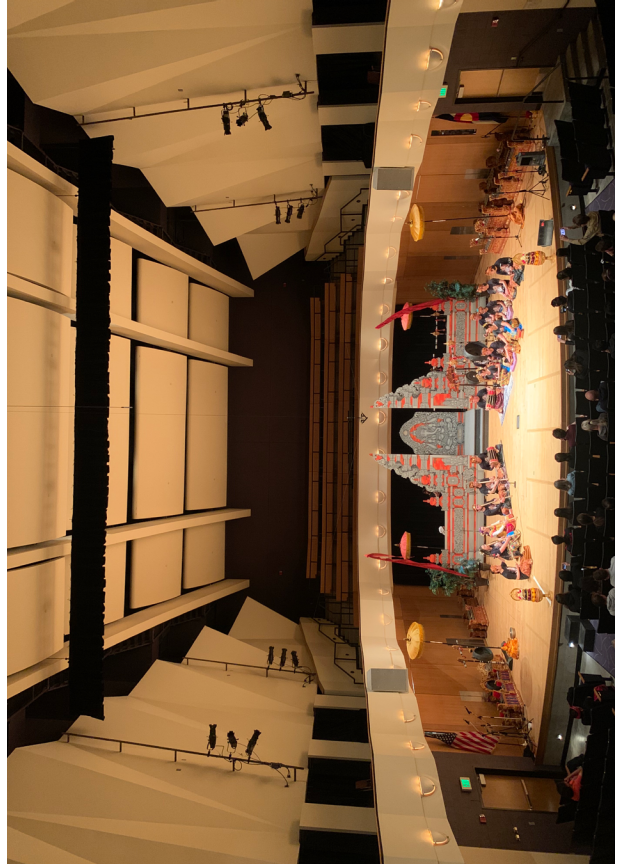




Nyoman Triyana Usadhi dancing Kebyar Duduk with Krama Bali USA. (Photo by Miranda Fan)



"I have taksu!" Pak Made Lasnawan leading Gamelan Tunas Mekar's communally composed baleganijur piece. (Photo by Miranda Fan)



Gamelan Merdu Kumala performing gambuh in their program "New Music for Old Gamelan." (Photo by Miranda Fan)



The closing Balinese kecak workshop led by Nyoman Catra. (Photo by Josh Geurink)



## PARTICIPANTS

### *Family of I Made Lasmawan*

**I Made Lasmawan** (Lecturer and Director of Indonesian Music, Colorado College; Artist-in-Residence, Gamelan Tunas Mekar)

**Ni Ketut Marni** (wife of Made Lasmawan, Balinese Dance Instructor at Colorado College; Artist-in-Residence, Gamelan Tunas Mekar)

**I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena** (first-born son of Lasmawan; Affiliate Faculty in Music, MSU Denver; Lecturer in Visual and Performing Arts, University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Director of Gamelan Manik Kusuma, Gamelan Candra Wyoga; Artist-in-Residence, Gamelan Tunas Mekar)

**I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya** (second-born son of Lasmawan; Artist-in-Residence, Gamelan Tunas Mekar)

**I Nyoman Tangkas Aji Guyasa** (third-born son of Lasmawan)

### *Individuals*

**I Nyoman Catra** (Visiting Fellow in Balinese music, dance, and theatre at College of The Holy Cross)

**Elizabeth A. Clendinning** (Associate Professor of Music, Wake Forest University)

**Gus Dark** (Political Cartoonist and Graphic Designer)

**Rod Garnett** (Director of Gamelan Raga Garnita)

**David Harnish** (Professor Emeritus, University of San Diego)

**Meghan Hynson** (Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at the University of San Diego)

**Hirota Inuzuka** (Artistic Director of Gamelan Merdu Kumala)

**Lynn Kremer** (Professor, College of The Holy Cross, Department of Theatre and Dance, and Distinguished Professor of Humanities),

**Victoria Lindsay Levine** (Professor Emeritus, Colorado College)

**Elizabeth McLean Macy** (Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology at MSU Denver)

**Justice Miles** (Dancer, Colorado College Alumnus)

**Dorothy Morrison** (Director of Gamelan Manik Harum)

**Dewa Ayu Eka Putri** (Sanggar Cudamani, BASAbali Wiki, and Visiting Artist-in-Residence with Gamelan Tunas Mekar)

**George Rahi** (Interdisciplinary Artist and Co-Founder of Gamelan Bike-Bike),

**I Gde Made Indra Sadguna** (Ph.D. Candidate, Florida State University and Lecturer, Institut Seni Indonesia)

**Peter Schimpf** (Chair and Professor, Department of Music at MSU Denver)

**Oscar Smith** (PhD Student in Ethnomusicology at the University of British Columbia)

**Ni Nyoman Srayamurtikanti** (M.A. Student at ISI, the Indonesian Art Institute in Surakarta, and head of Sanggar S'mara Murti)

**I Putu Arya Deva Suryanegara** (Composer and M.A.

Student at Université de Montréal)

**Nyoman Triyana Usadhi** (M.A. in Religion candidate at Yale Divinity School and the Institute of Sacred Music)

**Nyoman Wenten** (Faculty in World Music Performance: Indonesian Music and Dance, CalArts)

**Allan Zheng** (PhD Student in Ethnomusicology at UC Riverside, Colorado College alumnus)

### *Groups*

**Gamelan Candra Wyoga** (Laramie, Wyoming) means “Wyoming Gamelan” or “meditation on the beauty of the full moon,” and is a name given by former music director I Made Lasmawan to the University of Wyoming Department of Music’s gamelan semar pegulingan. This community ensemble is supported by a generous gift from the Allan and Regina Willman Fund. *Members: Putu Hiranmayena (director), Leif Cawley, Mollie Hand, Jordan Hayes, Betsy Mock, Christine Reed, Lander Stone, Zach Wallace, Victoria Zero.*

**ghOstMiSt** was founded in the summer of 2020, the result of a distanced practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. They focus on “practices of reflexive improvisation toward phenomenological inquiries into confronting cultural contradictions.” *Members: I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena and Dewa Ayu Eka Putri.*

**Krama Bali USA**, also known as the “Bali All-Stars,” is a multigenerational collective of Balinese musicians, composers, and dancers, whose members live, teach, and perform in the United States. The ensemble draws performers from across the US, based largely on availability. As a group they present programs that are largely traditional and already familiar to members, many who are graduates of the Schools of the Performing Arts in Bali and Java. *Members: I Ketut Gede Asnawa, Ni Putu Oka Mardiani, Ni Made Yunirika, Ni Nyoman Yonitika, Dewa Ayu Eka Putri, I Putu Arya Deva Suryanegara, I Nyoman Catra, I Nyoman Usadhi, I Nyoman Wenten, I Gede Oka Artha Negara, I Nyoman Saptanyana, Ida Ayu Ari Candrawati, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya, I Nyoman Tangkas Aji Guyasa, I Gusti Ngurah Kertayuda, Ni Ketut Marni, I Made Lasmawan.*

**Gamelan Manik Harum** (Missoula, Montana) translates as “a powerful force that gives you a good feeling like a pleasant aroma.” It was established in 2007 as a community gamelan in Missoula, Montana, under the direction of Dorothy Morrison.

**Gamelan Manik Kusuma** (Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, Colorado) means “brilliant or powerful aura,” and was named by I Made Lasmawan in 2011. Under the direction of I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, the group performs traditional and new music on Balinese gamelan angklung and gamelan baleganjur. *Members: Geoffrey Banninger, Andi Bean, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena,*

*Elizabeth Macy, Luis Murillo Alfonso, Dewa Ayu Eka Putri, Jordan Rhoades, Tucker Smidt, Ashley Stitt, Ethan Tatreau, Jakey Wherry, Brianna Winkler*

**Gamelan Merdu Kumala** (Tujunga, California) was founded in 2014 by artistic director Hirotaka Inuzuka. This independent ensemble explores classical gambuh repertoire. *Members: Matthew Clough-Hunter, Shameen Cooper, Geoff Dent, Kim Frost, Spencer Hauck, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, Anna Inuzuka, Hirotaka Inuzuka, Kayle Khanmohamed, Cordey Lopez, Arav Markarian, Eugene Moon, Kerri Shak, Steve Sauté, and Dan Wingo.*

**Gamelan Raga Garnita** (Spearfish, South Dakota), also called the Black Hills Balinese Gamelan, is a community ensemble under the direction of Rod Garnett. They seek to offer an experience of the essential aspects of Balinese music and dance through education and performance. *Members: Colin Garnett, Katrina Garnett, Rodney Garnett, Michelle Jennings, Dan May, Scott McKirdy, Colleen McKirdy, Charolyn Mize, Johnica Morrow, Jeffrey Winter*

**Gamelan Tunas Mekar** (Denver, Colorado), based in Denver, Colorado, is a community ensemble under the direction of Balinese composer and Artist-in-Residence I Made Lasmawan and family. The group presents traditional and new music for Balinese gamelan at music festivals, schools, private events, local venues, specially produced concerts, and by special invitation both internationally and nationally. Modelled after typical village groups found throughout Bali, and learning by traditional methods, they provide American audiences a rare opportunity to experience one of the world's most fascinating cultures. Gamelan Tunas Mekar is sponsored in part by the University of Denver Lamont School of Music. *Members: Aaron Burris-DeBoskey, Kendall Burks, Karen Burton, Russ Callison, Ben Cefkin, Aleanna Collins, Joe Engel, Rhianna Fairchild, Michael Fitts, Jill Fredericksen, I Nyoman Tangkas Aji Guyasa, Tara Hatfield, Jordan Hayes, Chris Hewitt, Chase Hildebrandt, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, I Made Lasmawan, Elizabeth Macy, Ni Ketut Marni, Dewa Ayu Eka Putri, Ni Putu Indira Sandika, Kristina Schauer, Angus Smith, Andrea Tracey, Jakey Wherry, Katy Wherry, I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya.*

**Gamelan Tunjung Sari** (Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado) grew out of the Indonesian performing arts program at Colorado College that was jointly founded in 1993 by Professors Victoria Lindsay Levine and I Made Lasmawan. Over the years, their Indonesian performing arts program has grown to include several kinds of Balinese gamelan: gamelan angklung, gamelan gender wayang, gamelan baleganjur, gamelan suling gambuh, gamelan joged, and gamelan selonding; as well as a Javanese gamelan ageng and Balinese dance. In

addition to Indonesian performing arts, the college offers academic courses on the music of Indonesia, the arts and culture of Bali, Hindu epics, and a summer study abroad course on the arts and culture of Bali that is held in Indonesia. *Members: Džaffer Čamdžić, Ryland Hayes, Naomi Henry, Gina Jeong, Al Lo, Perry Nachbur, Xinran Wang, Sam Yolles, Lincoln Grench, Christian Olsen, Simon Steudel*

**PAK Yeh** (Denver, Colorado) is a trio of improvisors who have been exploring sound together since 2011 using Balinese musical sensibilities. PAK Yeh in Balinese means "Mr. Water," but it is also an acronym for Putu-Aaron-Kendall. As the name suggests, the improvisatory exploration mimics water's diverse movements while still maintaining its characteristic of providing life sustenance. *Members: Aaron Burris-DeBoskey, Kendall Burks, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena.*

### **Composers and Choreographers featured in Concerts**

Ni Luh Nesa Swasthi Wijaya Bandem (1946–)

I Wayan Beratha (1926–2014)

I Wayan Dibia (1948–)

I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena (1989–)

Hirotaka Inuzuka (1982–)

I Made Lasmawan (1958–)

I Wayan Lotring (1898–1982)

I Gede Manik (1912–1984)

Ni Ketut Marni (1975–)

I Ketut Marya (1897–1968)

Dorothy Morrison (1959–)

Ni Nyoman Srayamurtikanti (1996–)

I Putu Arya Deva Suryanegara (1996–)

I Made Tangkas Ade Wijaya (1999–)

I Nyoman Wenten (1945–)

I Nyoman Windha (1958–)

### **Institutions**

American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS, made possible through the Henry Luce Foundation)

BASAbali Wiki

Colorado College

Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles

Gamelan Tunas Mekar

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Sanggar Manik Galih

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Visual and Performing Arts Department

University of Denver Lamont School of Music

### **Credits**

The Rocky Gamelan Festival (RMBGF) was made possible through the hard work of many individuals and the generous support of the MSU Denver Department of Music,



MSU Denver Asian Studies, the Department of Music and the Asian Studies Program at Colorado College, The Arts at CC, the Visual and Performing Arts Department at UCCS, BASAbali Wiki, Sanggar Manik Galih, The American Institute for Indonesian Studies (made possible through the Henry Luce Foundation), the MSU Denver CLAS Deans Office, Gamelan Tunas Mekar, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles.

Gus Dark's logo was made possible with the support of the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles.

### Resources

[RMBGF](#) (Rocky Mountain Balinese Gamelan Festival) Event site, hosted by MSU Denver, 2022. This page includes an overview schedule and extended bios of some participants.

[Temu Wicara Bali, A Celebration of Balinese Performing Arts](#). Documentation of the 2013 event hosted by Colorado College: conference schedule, performance programs, and participant bios.



*ghOstMiSt's opening performance in MSU Denver's Emmanuel Art Gallery. (Photo by author)*



*An offering on stage. (Photo by Jody Diamond)*