

MINT LEAP YEAR APPLICATION

**TATIANA  
BELL**

she/her

**address**

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## APPLICANT PROFILE

### **Are you currently enrolled in a college or university?**

I am in the final week of my degree program at Kennesaw State University and have petitioned to graduate with a B.S. in Interactive Design in May 2021, prior the start of the residency.

### **What medium(s) do you prefer?**

I am an interaction designer and visual artist. My designs are hosted on screens, but my process of creating is centralized in the physical spaces of my local community. As for my visual art, I prefer to work on paper as means of escaping the virtual spaces that control my day-to-day. I use mediums such as ink, pastels, and paint to realize a meditative, expressive, exploratory practice on repurposed paper.

### **Please list solo exhibition information for the last 5 years.**

Besides a month-long installation at Urban Grind coffee shop (July 2020), I have not had any other solo exhibitions of my work.

### **Please list examples that demonstrate a commitment to the arts community in Georgia.**

**Work experience\*** - Communications Manager for Living Walls, The City Speaks (recent hire); Shift Lead and Museum Education Intern at the Zuckerman Museum of Art; Community Engagement and Arts Intern at Atlanta Regional Commission

**Designing virtual experiences to promote local art\*** - Atlanta Art Guide; Cayse Cheatham for THE END Project space; Craft (mobile app)

**Art as mutual aid:** VoteTree's Light Up the Vote installation; DSAW's People 4 People fundraiser; Sol Underground Workshops

\*If you'd like to learn more about these projects, I discuss them (in length) on my website: [tatianabell.design](http://tatianabell.design)

### **Are you committed to being a resident of Georgia for the duration of Leap Year?**

Yes!

### **Can you commit to Leap Year programming for 20 hours per month for twelve months?**

Yes! I would be happy to.

### **Please list all published criticism you have received.**

My work has not received any published criticism. (But I wouldn't mind it!)

### **Please list all grant and private funding you have received.**

I recently received a grant for the Alliance Theatre's Spotlight Studio to work on a collaborative virtual performance with local experience designer Elizabeth Jarrett. The grant will fund compensation for participating collaborators and materials to create an interactive binaural audio experience.

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Tatiana Bell (she/her) is a multi-disciplinary interaction designer and visual artist who is currently graduating with a B.S in Interactive Design and a minor in Technical Communication from Kennesaw State University. Meanwhile, she is leading design projects, pursuing her artistic career, interning with the Community Engagement and Arts team at Atlanta Regional Commission, and bidding adieu to her beloved position at the Zuckerman Museum of Art to embark on a new journey as Communications Manager for Living Walls. Tatiana's work is as intersectional as her identity. As a mixed (Black, Greek, and Persian if you're wondering) queer female-identifying person, there are limited accessible spaces to which she inherently "belongs." She overcomes this challenge by embracing the possibilities of creating spaces that do not yet exist for herself and others.

Tatiana's creative journey has consisted of making visual art, designing interactive personal projects, arts-and-culture-focused research, leading community discussions, and planning, installing, and participating in local exhibitions and events. This journey began in 2018 when she started her employment at the Zuckerman Museum of Art (ZMA). Tatiana's position at the ZMA introduced her to her favorite artists, mediums, and the practices of art handling, installation, and curation. Her years there presented her with opportunities to explore her work as an interaction designer beyond the virtual realm and into the physical space of the museum to identify the needs of guests and employees and propose solutions to improve the overall experience. The ZMA also fueled her visual art practice by donating large pieces of paper that would have gone to waste otherwise.

In her visual work, Tatiana's journey of self-discovery and identity is realized through vibrant colors, geometric forms, and expressive scenes on paper. She currently works out of a storage unit and uses mediums most accessible to her—ink, pastels, and paint on paper as of late—to realize a meditative practice of expression and exploration of self and the spaces in which she exists. Her regular use of paper is a result of working in a museum that uses a lot of paper that would otherwise go to waste, and she finds solace in repurposing materials to create and escape the virtual spaces that control her day-to-day. Although she enjoys the limitations of these materials, she is setting out to explore alternative uses beyond producing images on paper. As someone who wants to uphold a sustainable practice, she hopes to find ways of producing work that is more accessible and functional to her audiences.

During the Leap Year residency, she will use the time and space to explore the possibilities of creating with paper and producing usable art. Feeling defeated by the large works piling up in her (storage) studio, she envisions her practice evolving to explore how the shapes, colors, and figures of her compositions translate to three-dimensional paper sculptures and interact with light. She is studying the feasibility of lantern, mobile, and paper-making to contemplate the possibilities of creating art that has a purpose beyond the point of production and thus evokes a sense of ownership and comfort to the user.

Through her work—whether on screens or on paper—her goal is to create meaningful and exciting experiences that explore the potential of her mediums and draw attention to physical spaces. She yearns to have a welcoming space to create, be on the ground with other artists, and immerse herself in the local arts community so as to draw inspiration and engage directly with those who are impacted by her work.

# CV/RESUME

I design experiences that encourage connection through community engagement. With an emphasis on marginalized experiences, my work explores how we can evolve technologically while keeping our experiences grounded in the physical world.

## COMMUNITY

### Atlanta Regional Commission

Community Engagement + Arts Intern

January 2021 - Present

### Zuckerman Museum of Art

Shift Lead | Museum Education Intern

August 2018 - Present

### Workshop Facilitator

Zuckerman Museum of Art | Sol Underground

October 2019 - Present

### Freelance Design

Atlanta Art Guide | Website

January 2021 - Present

Cayse | Virtual Gallery

February 2021

Acres | Mobile App

January 2020 - Present

Community Event Flyers

May 2019 - Present

## ART

### Insurrection

Sol Underground

January 2021

### New Visions Juried Exhibition

Zuckerman Museum of Art

January 2021

### Vote Tree Installation

Atlanta BeltLine

January 2021

### Solo Exhibition

Urban Grind Coffee Shop

July 2020

### Visions Juried Exhibition

Zuckerman Museum of Art

January 2020

### Freelance Art

Commissions

November 2019 - Present

## EDUCATION

### Kennesaw State University

Bachelor of Science in Interactive Design  
Minor in Technical Communication

August 2016 - May 2021

### Honors

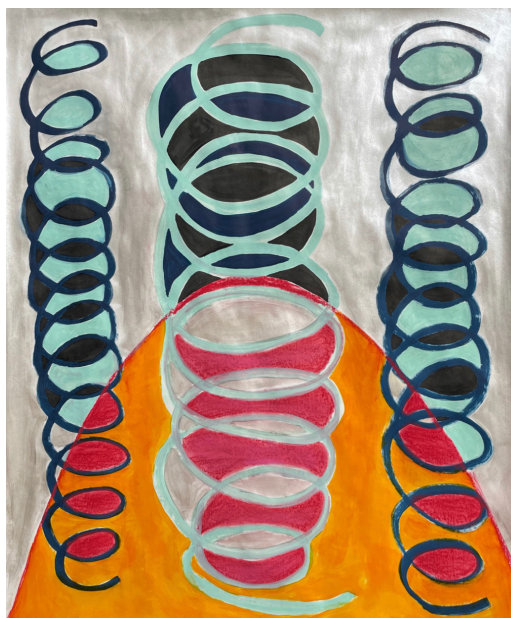
TCID Outstanding Senior Award  
John J. Burns Scholarship Recipient  
Honors Research Scholar  
Dean's List 4



## PORTFOLIO



*Big Chicken, 2021*  
Acrylic, oil sticks, and ink on  
crinkly paper  
36x83"



*Pas de Bourrée, Leap! (PDBL), 2021*  
Acrylic, soft pastels, and ink on paper  
30x34"



*Beginner's Guide to the End, 2020*  
Acrylic on paper  
36x54"



*Jumping Boys, 2020*  
Acrylic and ink wash on crinkly paper  
32x34"



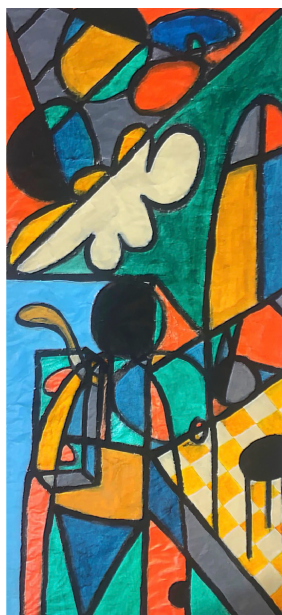
## PORTFOLIO



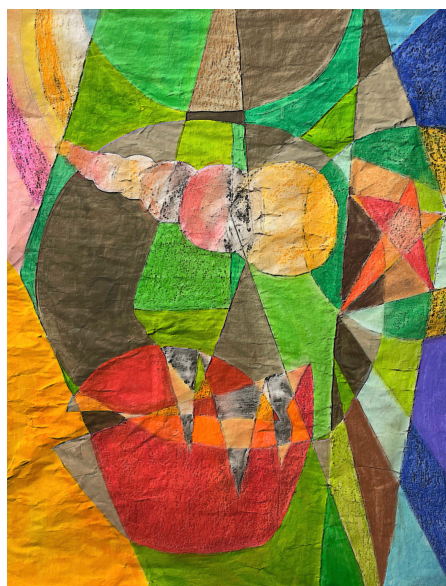
*Libra New Moon, 2020*  
Soft pastels and charcoal on paper  
30x34"



*untitled, 2020*  
Acrylic, graphite, soft pastels  
and charcoal on paper  
15x17"



*Just Walked Into My Big Beautiful  
Home That I Own, 2020*  
Acrylic and ink on crinkly paper  
16x36"



*Green Monster, 2020*  
Acrylic, soft pastels, charcoal,  
and ink on crinkly paper  
30x36"