

PORTFOLIO OF TEN SELECT EXHIBITIONS, 2018-2022

by Madison Sussmann

To view a more complete portfolio, please visit *madisussmann.wordpress.com.*

Travels with Wyn: Collages by Dr. Michael Pulman 1

STORY LINE: A Visual History from Poland to USA, an art installation by Susan Cooper 4

1973: A Landmark Year in the Struggle for Civil Rights in Denver and at DU 7

Stories from the Archives, 2021: WRIT 1733 9

Ping Pong: A Student Art Installation 11

MARS: From Red Rocks to the Red Planet 13

The Romance Novel: The Rise & Reputation of a Bestselling Genre 15

Bound by Thread: Sister Fred's Quilt Art 18

Terms of Belonging: A Sociological Exploration of Immigration at DU 20

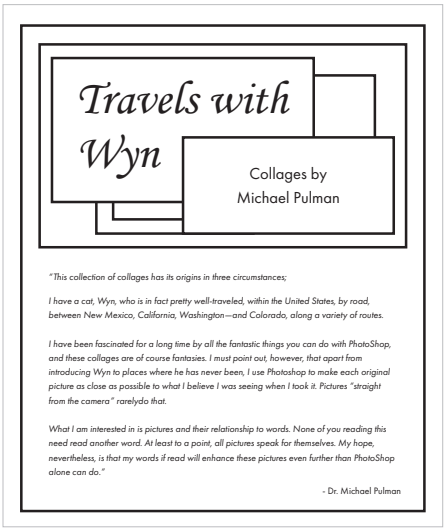
All That Glitters: Micaceous Clay Pottery of theSouthwest 22

Travels with Wyn:
Collages by Dr. Michael Pulman

November 2021 - April 2022
Deline Family Reading Room

This exhibition features thirty-three travel photo collages made by University of Denver Professor Emeritus Michael Pulman. In each of the collages, Wyn, Pulman's cat, is PhotoShoped into one of the photos. The collages showcase Pulman's creative approach to sharing his experience and knowledge. The exhibition aims to inspire university students to consider studying abroad. It was developed to be both physical and online: https://arcg.is/1LPn0q0.

For this exhibition, I facilitated the exhibition space, scheduling, graphic design, installation, web development, and social media activity.















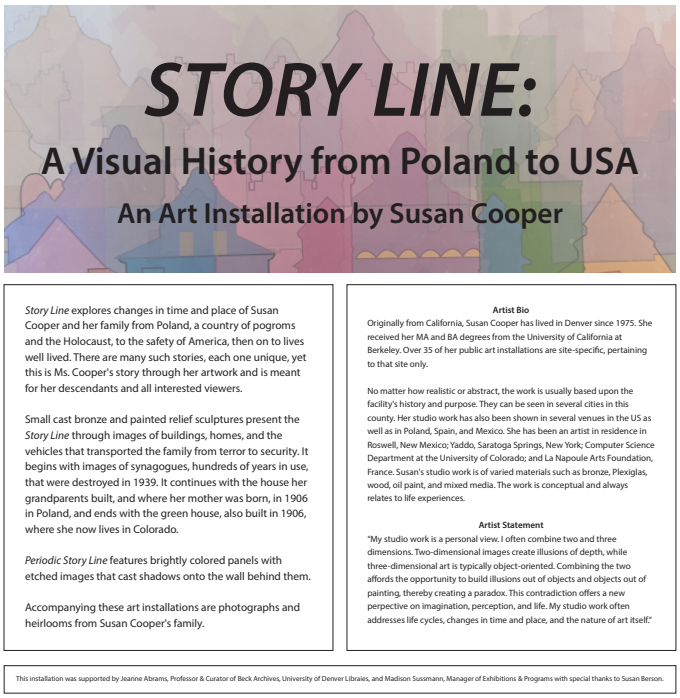
STORY LINE:
A Visual History from Poland to the USA

An art installation by Susan Cooper

September 2021 - June 2022
Dean's Suite Area

This exhibition showcases the artwork of local artist Susan Cooper and her intensely personal installation, *STORY LINE. STORY LINE* tells the story of Cooper's ancestors and their emigration from Poland in 1922, their new lives in the United States, and all of the significant events from Susan Cooper's own life. The installation ends with bronze representations of her home and art studio in Denver, CO.

For this exhibition, I scheduled the exhibition installation timeline, facilitated Susan Cooper's access into the AAC to assist in the installation, helped design each component layout, and installed each work. There were 102 artworks, plus personal objects, Beck Archives objects, labels, images, and panels.











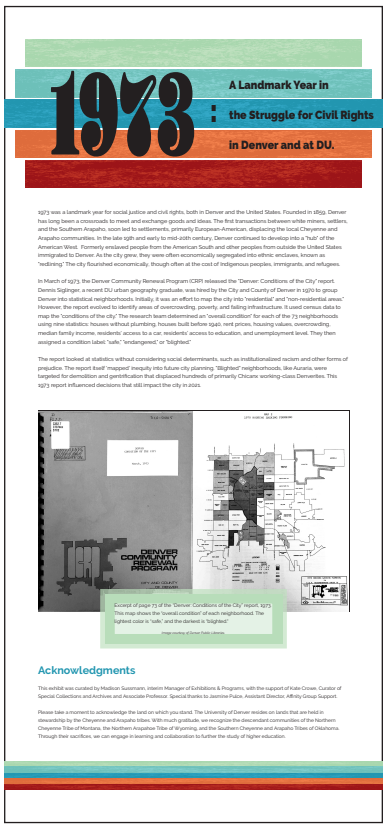

ELEMENTS OF STORY LINE
THAT NO LONGER EXIST

1973:
A Landmark Year in the Stuggle for Civil Rights in Denver and at DU

August 2021 - February 2022
Lower Level Across from Special Collections

Denver had a landmark year in the struggle for social justice and civil rights in 1973. Simultaneously, the University of Denver was resonant with voices for change. This exhibit featured two collages. One consists of the event of Denver that year, and one shows pictures from the DU Clarion. Nationally and internationally recognized figureheads of social justice movements and organizations visited DU in 1973 to give guest lectures, hold rallies, and perform.

For this exhibition, I researched artifacts from Special Collections & Archives and Denver Public Library's digital collections. I wrote the text, designed the graphics, developed the interactive component, and installed the panels.






MARCH 17
The police raid began with the death of Luis "Junior" Martinez and ended with an explosion. There were disagreements about the origins of the explosion. In the aftermath, graffiti was written on the ruined wall that read: "We are not beaten and we do not intend be beaten or Blaqkbat such... what has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed."
Image courtesy of History Colorado and Juan Espinoza
APRIL
Clyde Bellecourt, co-founder and National Field Director of the American Indian Movement (AIM), held a rally in Denver. His goal was to generate support for the Wounded Knee Occupation that was happening on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. On December 29, 1890, more than 150 Lakota Sioux people, including women and children, were killed by a U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry in the Wounded Knee Massacre. Then, in 1973, members of AIM occupied the site of Wounded Knee for 71 days to protest conditions on the Pine Ridge reservation,are oppressed."
Image courtesy of History Colorado and Juan Espinoza
APRIL 28
Clyde Bellecourt, co-founder of the American Indian Movement, Angela Davis, founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism and professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, leader of the Crusade for Justice, spoke at a rally of the Denver Chicano Liberation Defense Committee to promote unity among historically marginalized and minority Americans.
Image courtesy of Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post
1973
The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) Colorado chapter was founded in 1973. OCA's mission is to focus on the welfare and civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. It aims to advocate for social justice, equal opportunity, and fair treatment, promote civic participation, education, and leadership, advance coalitions and community buildings, and foster cultural heritage.
Image courtesy of OCA Colorado
MAY
SAKURA SQUARE
Sakura Square was established in May 1973 at 20th Street between Lawrence and Larimer Streets. The mission of Sakura Square is to retain the multigenerational and multi-cultural community and serve community members seeking Japanese goods and services. Since the 1900s, the neighborhood was known as "Japantown." However, in the early 1970s Denver's Urban Renewal Authority began a renewal project that demolished thirty blocks of "decaying downtown." The area is now known as LoDo.
Image courtesy of History Colorado and Robert Gonzales
MARCH 17
Luis "Junior" Martinez was the founder of Baile de Chicano de Aztlan and the local chapter of the Black Berets. He was killed outside of an apartment building owned by the Crusade for Justice by a Denver Police officer. Crusade for Justice was a Chicano and Chicana social justice organization that was known to be militant.
Image courtesy of History Colorado and Robert Gonzales
JUNE
DENVER COLORADO COMMITTEE OF CONCERN FOR SOVIET JEWRY
Naomi Lipsitz, Rhoda Friedman, Sue Gottsegen, Lil Hoffman, and Roz Duman, five Denver women, attended the Freedom Assembly outside the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington to protest the treatment of Soviet Jewish citizens. The Soviet Jewry Movement (1963-1991) advocated for the rights of Jewish people to emigrate out of Russia and to practice their religion without state persecution or discrimination.
Image courtesy of Beck Archives, University Libraries
AUGUST 27
Colorado State Senator, and later lieutenant governor, George L. Brown helped to organize a panel of Black Democratic and Republican leaders to discuss ways to increase the participation or marginalized and minority peoples in national conventions.
OCTOBER 14
Nearly 800 people rallied together to raise $15,000 to support the welfare of Jewish people living in Israel and freeing of Jewish people in the Soviet Union. They marched five miles from Bikkur Park to the Jewish Community Center and then took part in the "Simchas Torah" freedom festival organized by the Anti-Defamation League of the Denver B'nai B'rith.
Image courtesy of Rocky Mountain News, and Beck Archives, University Libraries
OCTOBER 23
Gerald Gerash, one of the founders of the Gay Coalition of Denver, spoke to the Denver City Council. Around 350 members of the LGBTQIA+ community attended the city council meeting and thirty-five spoke about the mistreatment of the community by local police officers. This is now known as the "Gay Revolt at Denver City Council."
Image courtesy of Denver Public Library


Michio Masui, senior professor of English language and literature at the University of Hiroshima, Japan, will speak tonight at 8 pm in room 101 of Mackie Building in the Institute for 20th Century Studies series, sponsored by the English department.
The topic of the lecture is "The Function of Literature: Comparative Observations." It is free and open to the public.

Stories from the Archives, 2021: WRIT 1733

May 2021 - October 2021
Deline Family Reading Room

In this exhibit, students delved into DU's Special Collections and Archives to tell the stories that interested them the most, from early tuberculosis treatments in Colorado to DU's sporting history, from students' yearbook memories to student activism.

Students designed their own research projects throughout the quarter, selected images and wrote text labels for a physical exhibition, and developed online exhibitions for their topics.

For this exhibition, I guided the students in exhibition development, writing their object labels, and installing their images and labels.



STORIES
from the archives
2021

"For the last three years, students in the *WRIT 1733: Stories from the Archives* class have asked three simple but profound questions:

'What stories can we tell?
What stories can't we tell?
What stories aren't being told?'

This year, working through the constraints of a pandemic, students delved into DU's Special Collections and Archives to tell the stories that interested them the most, from early tuberculosis treatments in Colorado to DU's sporting history, from students' yearbook memories to student activism.

Throughout the quarter, students designed their own research projects and set their own research agendas with one common focus: to tell stories based on original archival research in DU's Special Collections and Archives. Each section here presents preliminary findings of students' work, including a carefully selected group of artifacts that offer an entry point to their full projects hosted on DU's Portfolio platform.

DU Special Collections & Archives. Image courtesy of Madison Sussmann.

Please enjoy these snapshots of students' original research. To engage with the full collection, please visit each student's digital exhibit by scanning the QR code in each section."

Robert Gilmor
University Writing Program

acknowledgements

Special thanks to Kate Crowe, Peggy Keeran, Kristen Korfitzen, and Jeanne Abrams for supporting student researchers and making this exhibit possible, and to Madison Sussmann, Manager of Exhibitions and Programs, for exhibit design and installation.

HONORS WRITING
Stories from the Archives





Anonymous student language collected by Dr. Rob Gilmor

"This week was a tad stressful putting my exhibit together but all in all this class was super fun! I enjoyed using the archives, hearing from the curators of it, learning how to set up and describe an exhibit, what hight all the pictures had to be at to be eye level, all the steps it takes to form an exhibit and it was amazing talking to the exhibits curator, Madison. She was super cool and really knowledgeable on the whole exhibit process! I think everyone in the class had amazing physical exhibits, I was so cool to see that we all had pretty different topics that came out of the same archive. I like to see how different topics can grow and change based on what the exhibit curator or student deems interesting to them. I really enjoyed learning about the greater history of the University of Denver though all of the physical exhibits and what everyone wanted to present to the class. I can't wait to see everyones online exhibits."

"I thoroughly enjoyed curating this exhibit. I loved learning about the greater history of the University of Denver campus and the early donors within it. I particularly enjoyed learning about the physical exhibit process from Madison. She was super nice and had amazing insight to the whole process. It was so interesting to learn what measurements each artifact has to be at, why the measurements were that way, what keeps an audience's attention and how a short label can work in tandem with our artifacts to tell a story."

"Something changed after I put my first artifact on the wall and I'm not exactly sure what it changed yet, but it's completely altered the way I view writing now. I used to view writing as something very academic. Usually, most research was often very dry and boring and really was intended to be that way.

"I throughly enjoyed this class, the professor was amazing, I loved working with the artifacts, and the exhibit curator was the absolute coolest!"

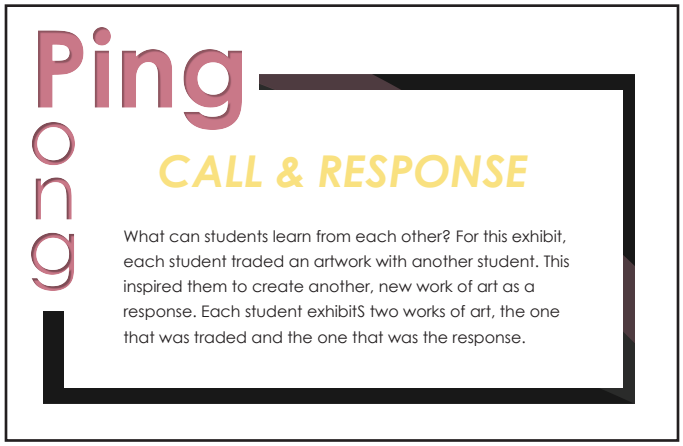
Ping Pong:
A Student Art Installation

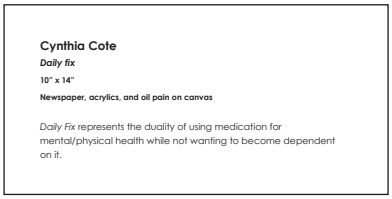
May 2021 - June 2021
Dean's Suite Area

This installation exhibited student art created by the portfolio class taught by Professor Deborah Howard. Each student traded artwork with another student. This inspired them to create another, new work of art as a response. Each student exhibitS two works of art, the one that was traded and the one that was the response.

For this exhibition, I met with the students to instruct them on the AAC exhibit procedures and policies and showed them the different materials available. I coordinated the space and assisted the students in installing their own art. The objective of the installation was to teach the students how to install their own work in a gallery and showcase their art to their peers and members of DU's faculty and staff.

A student completed the graphic design of this exhibit.








Group Exhibition
Ping
ong
Mon. May 24 - Wed. June 9, 2021
PLEASE
Thank you.
RESTROOMS


Ping

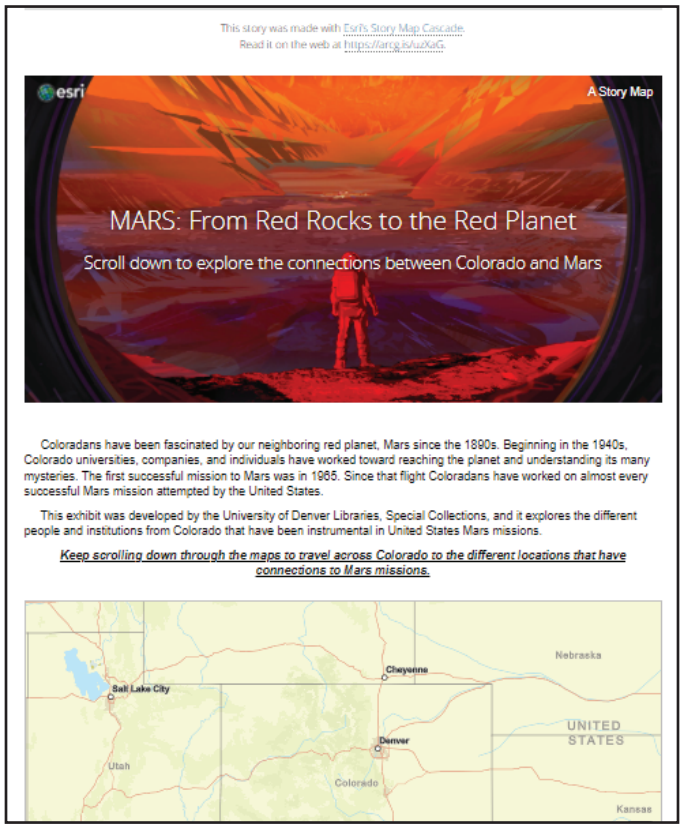
MARS:
From Red Rocks to the Red Planet

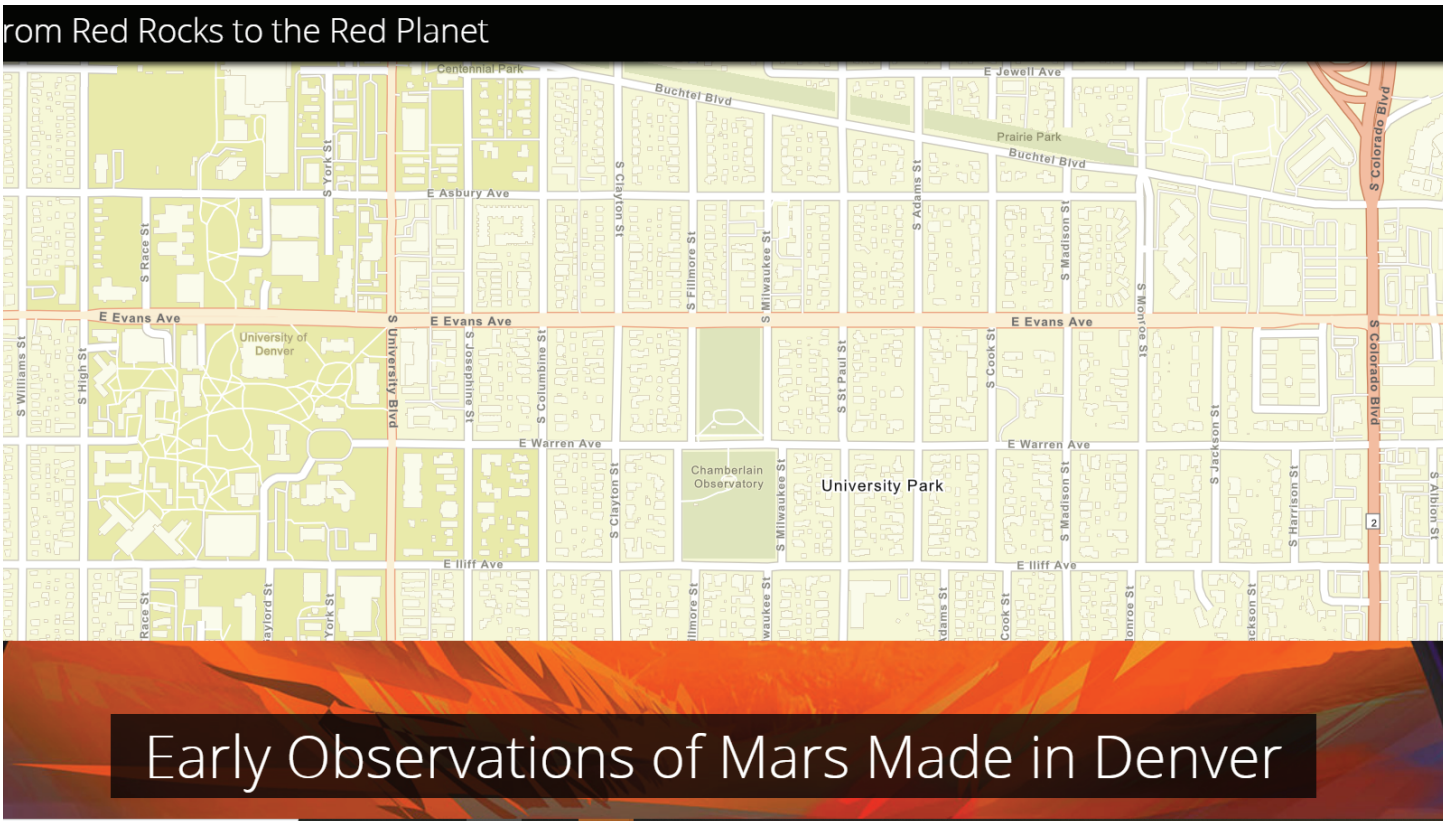
July 2020
Online exhibition

This online multimedia exhibit used contemporary and archival images, audio, and video to explore the different people and institutions from Colorado that were (and continue to be) instrumental in United States Mars missions. The research began with Herbert A. Howe's journals and his work at the Chamberlin Observatory. It expanded to cover the different technologies and equipment developed in Colorado and launched toward Mars.

For this exhibition, I researched the Colorado/Mars connection, explored DU's and CU Boulder's archives, and designed the online exhibit on the ArcGIS platform.

https://arcg.is/uzXaG





Colorado Contributors to Mars Missions

Three large companies with headquarters in Colorado have contributed heavily to United States missions to Mars. They have helped design, build, and launch rovers, instruments, landers, etc. These three companies are Lockheed Martin, United Launch Alliance (ULA), and Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

Scroll through the map to explore the three different companies, their Colorado locations, their contributions to Mars missions.

Red Rocks to the Red Planet

Astronauts with Colorado Connections

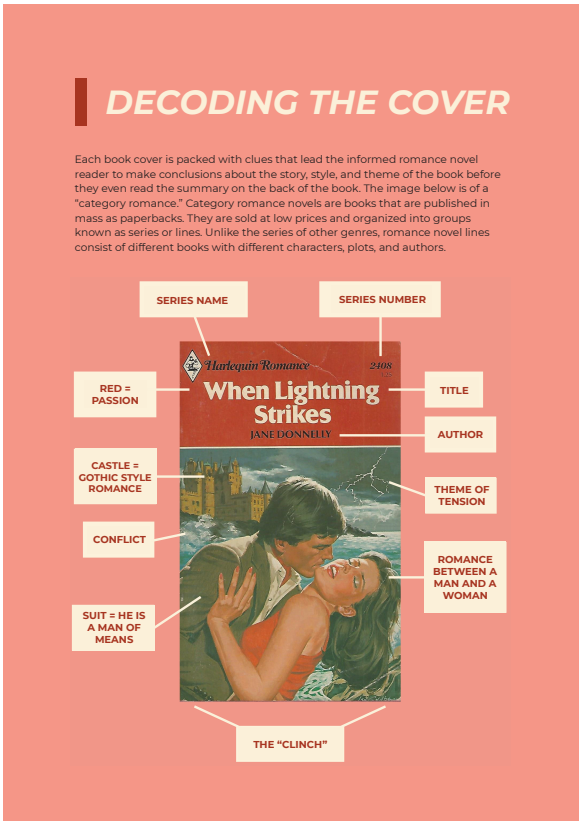


The Romance Novel: The Rise & Reputation of a Bestselling Genre

August 2020 - February 2021
Upper Level Loft Walls & Stair Landing

As an overview of romance fiction, this exhibit explored the bounds of the genre, the rise of a billion-dollar industry, the genre's popularity, and its stigmatized reputation. This exhibition included a selection of bestsellers juxtaposed with unexpected titles to underscore the romance genre's influence in the literary canon. Featured materials were from an acquisition to the University of Denver Libraries' Special Collections of thousands of romance novels published from the 1930s to the present day.

I co-curated this exhibition with Rebecca Macey and was responsible for the graphic designs of the timeline and panels.








MAIDEN FLIGHT
BARBARA CARTLAND
AN INNOCENT IN PARIS
Mask of Destiny
Catherine Airlie
Susan Barrie
Rosalind Brett
FRANCESCA
THE ROAD TO THE


DECODING THE COVER
INTERPRETING THE COVER
The cover of a romance novel means something different to different people. A cover shows viewers whatever it is that they want to see. For example, in the 1950s, Congressmen and women saw romance novel covers with their passionate embraces and provocative poses as evidence of the moral degradation of American society. In the 1960s Feminist activists saw the covers and text as a means to objectify and subjugate women. In the 1990s and today, romance novels have become objects of scholarly study as they are examined for their materiality (what is on the cover) as much as their literary qualities (what is inside the books). Today, the books are viewed as sites of female empowerment.
Harlequin Romance
When May Follows
BETTY NEELS
Public
Primary Meanings
Formulaic
Simplistic
Repetitive
"They are all the same"
=
Covers are stereotypical and the plots are formulaic
Romance Reader
Secondary Meanings
Complex
Marked Variation
Functional
"There are clear marked differences"
=
Covers have a poetic function


100+ YEARS OF ROMANCE FICTION
This section provides an overview of books, trends, and events that shaped the history of modern romance fiction with a focus on the industry, controversy, and diversity. The split timeline tells the story of the romance genre over and across time and is reflection of certain shifting contexts and situations.
As with any overview, selections were made and gaps are apparent. This is merely an introduction, and we ask you to come explore and draw your own conclusions about romance novels in our collection of 4,753 books housed in Special Collections and Archives.
Little Free Library


THE ROMANCE GENRE FACES A DIVERSITY PROBLEM
THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY
Percentage of RWA Members
Percentage of Romance Novels Published by Authors of Color by Publisher
FOR EVERY 100 ROMANCE NOVELS PUBLISHED IN 2018, ONLY 77 WERE WRITTEN BY AUTHORS OF COLOR
The Tweet that Started the Controversy
2010s - Now
2015
2011
2013
2007
2005
2000s
1994
1991
1980s - 1990s
1984
1982
2018
2019
2020

Bound by Thread: Sister Fred's Quilt Art

January 2019 - April 2019
University of Denver Museum of Anthropology

This exhibit featured quilts made by Frédérique Chevillot, a French and Francophone Studies professor. Each quilt is an expression of a feeling, a person, or a story that is carefully sewn in fabric. As a quilt maker, Sister Fred has the power to give new life to the materials through reuse. The clothing worn by loved ones becomes a sort of second skin when sewn into a quilt.

The programming consisted of an opening reception, a sewing circle inside the exhibit with Sister Fred, and a closing ceremony.

For this exhibition, I was the curator, installation manager, and program coordinator. I worked with the artist to create an eye-catching exhibition that also inspired the audience to engage with issues of diversity and inclusion.






FOR THE CURE
RACE FOR THE CURE
Presented by
October 2, 2005


Abroad Sister Fred
The Quilts of Gee's Bend

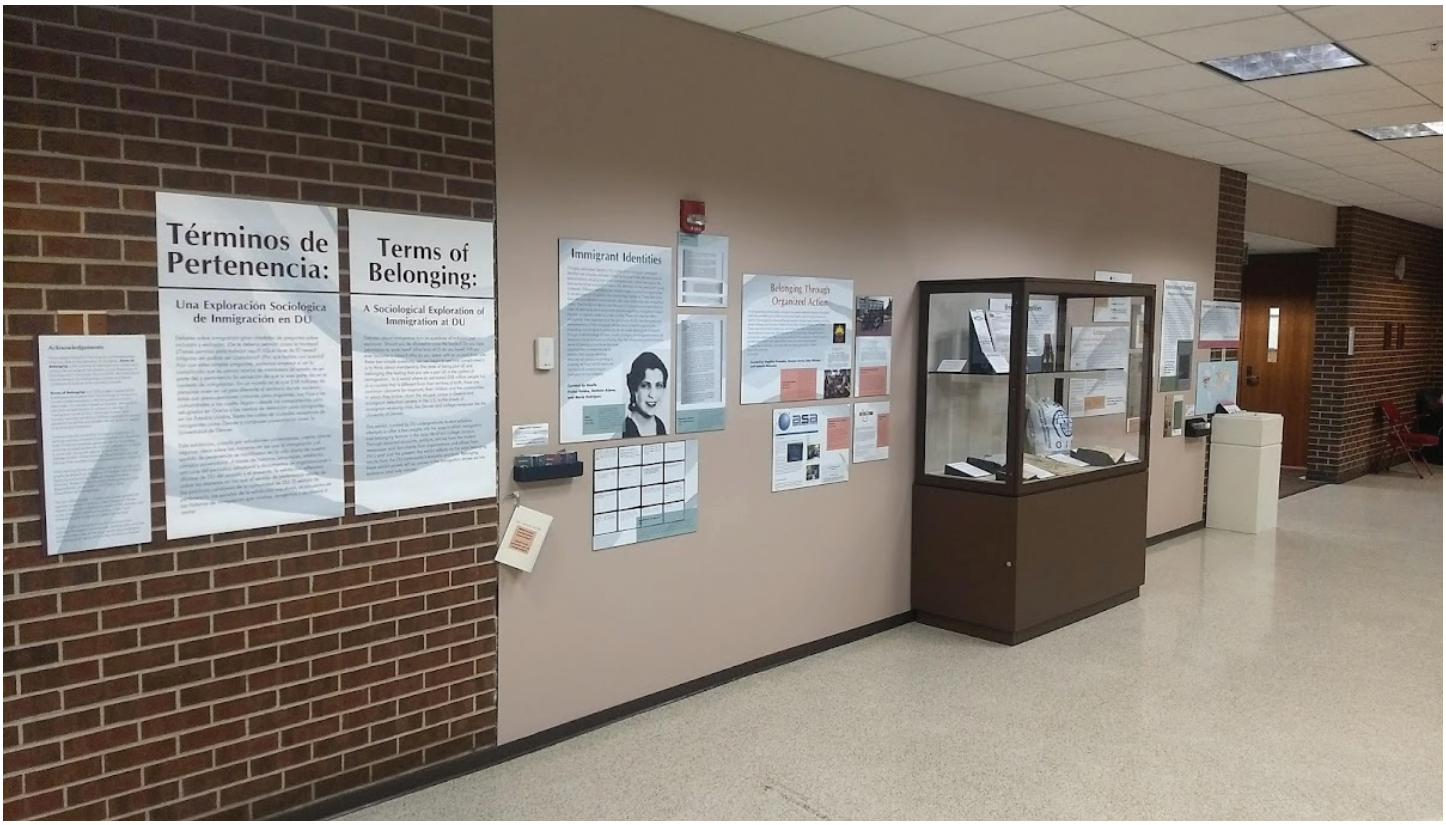
Terms of Belonging: A Sociological Exploration of Immigration at DU

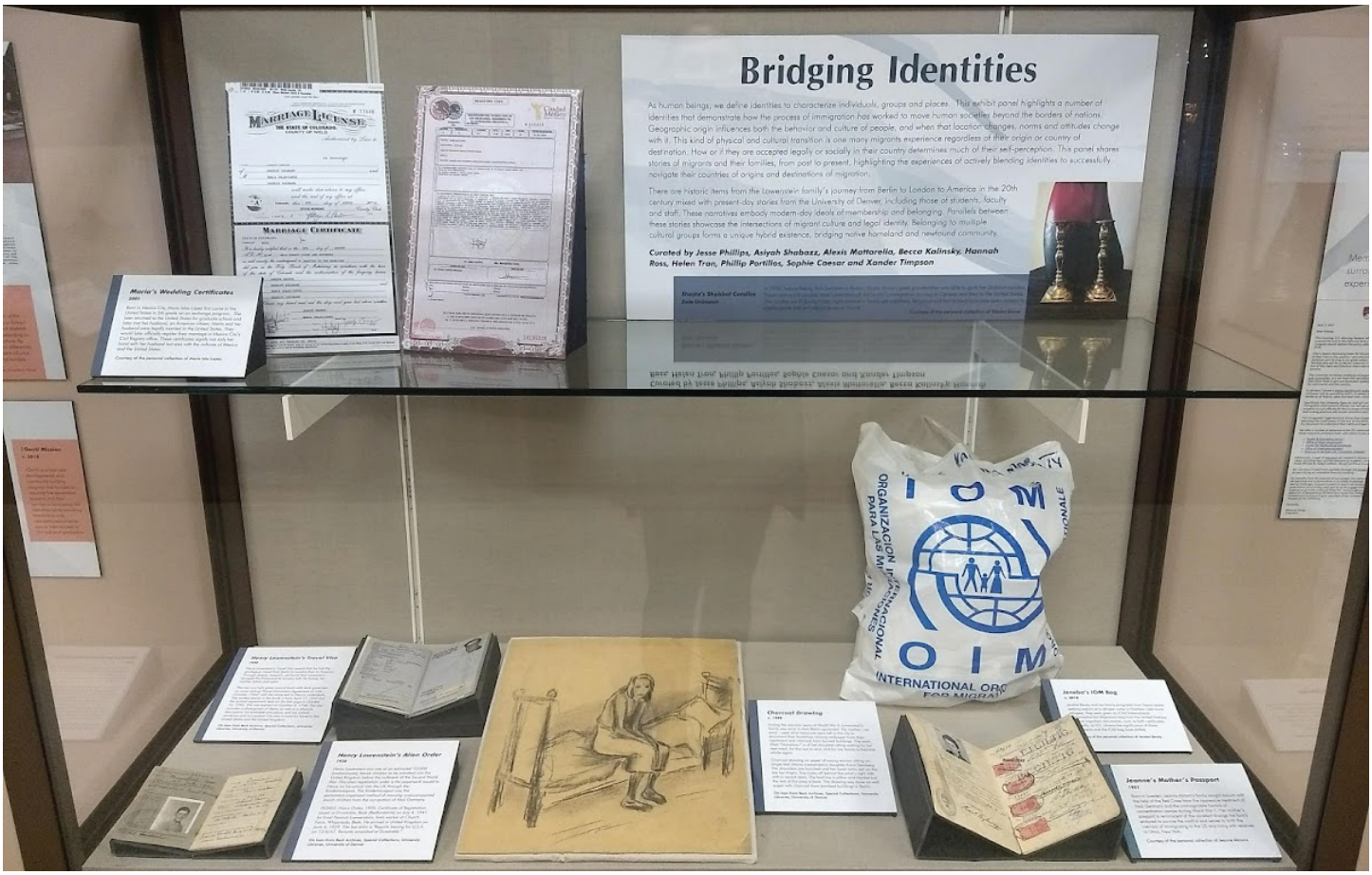
November 2018 - February 2019
Sturm Hall

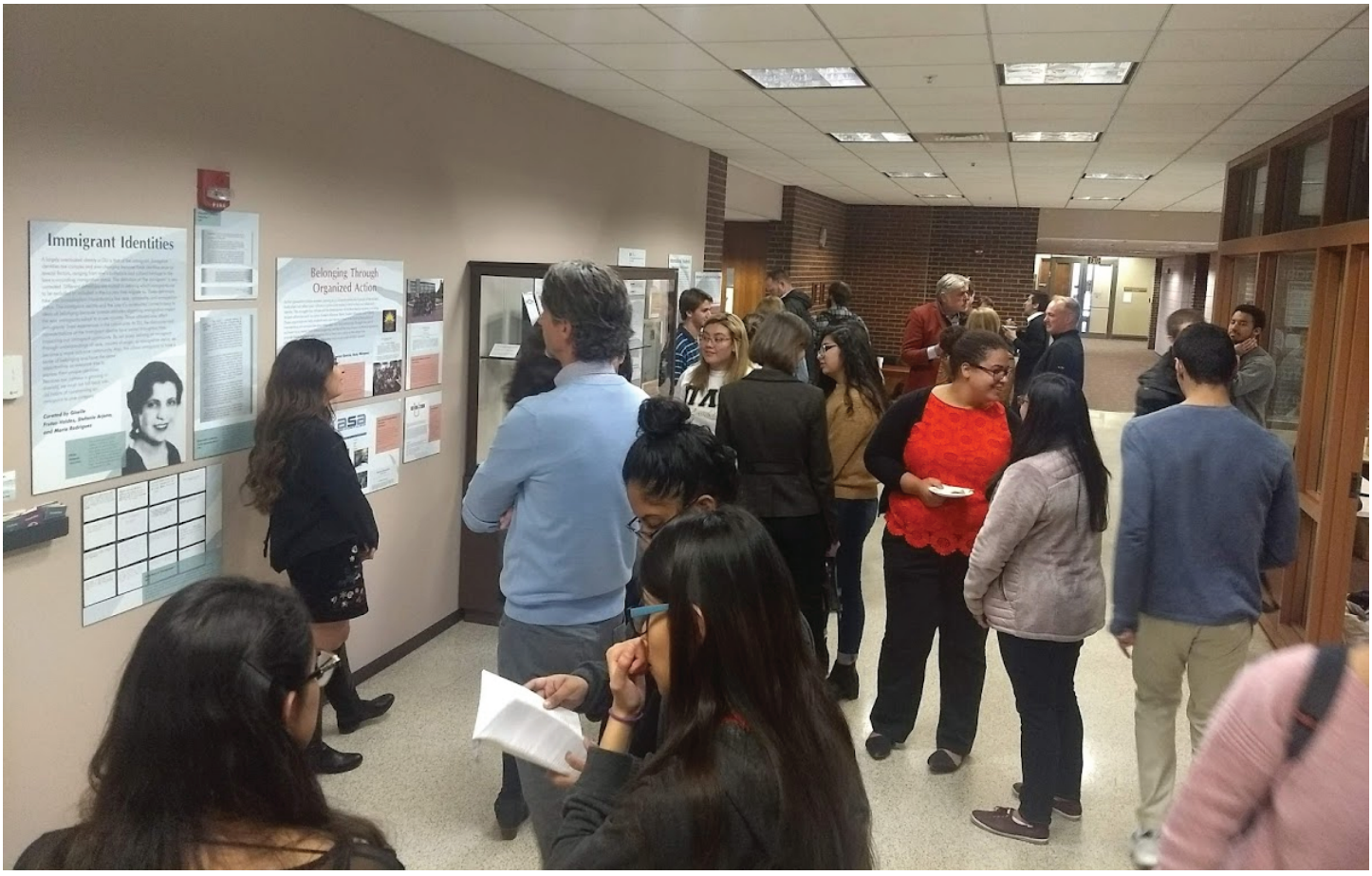
This exhibition was student-curated under the guidance of Dr. Isla-Lopex. It was a collaboration between DUMA, Special Collections, the Beck Archives, the College of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences Dean's Office, and Sun Valley Kitchen, who catered the opening reception.

For this exhibition, I worked with the class to develop a visually engaging graphic design, educated them in the processes of exhibit writing, and assisted them in installing their sections.






Bridging Identities
As human beings, we define identities to characterize individuals, groups and places. This exhibit panel highlights a number of identities that demonstrate how the process of immigration has worked to move human societies beyond the borders of nations. Geographic origin influences both the behavior and culture of people, and when that location changes, norms and attitudes change with it. This kind of physical and cultural transition is one many migrants experience regardless of their origin or country of destination. How or if they are accepted legally or socially in their country determines much of their self-perception. This panel shares stories of migrants and their families, from past to present, highlighting the experiences of actively blending identities to successfully navigate their countries of origins and destinations of migration.
There are historic items from the Lowenstein family's journey from Berlin to London to America in the 20th century mixed with present-day stories from the University of Denver, including those of students, faculty and staff. These narratives embody modern-day ideals of membership and belonging. Parallels between these stories showcase the intersections of migrant culture and legal identity. Belonging to multiple cultural groups forms a unique hybrid existence, bridging native homeland and newfound community.
Curated by Jesse Phillips, Asiyah Shabazz, Alexis Mattarella, Becca Kalinsky, Hannah Ross, Helen Tran, Phillip Portillos, Sophie Caesar and Xander Timpson
MARRIAGE LICENSE
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
Maria's Wedding Certificates
Henry Lowenstein's Alien Order
Charcoal Drawing
Jenebel's IOM Bag
Jeanne's Mulher's Passport


Immigrant Identities
Belonging Through Organized Action

All That Glitters: Micaceous Clay Pottery of the Southwest

August 2018 - October 2018
Sturm Hall

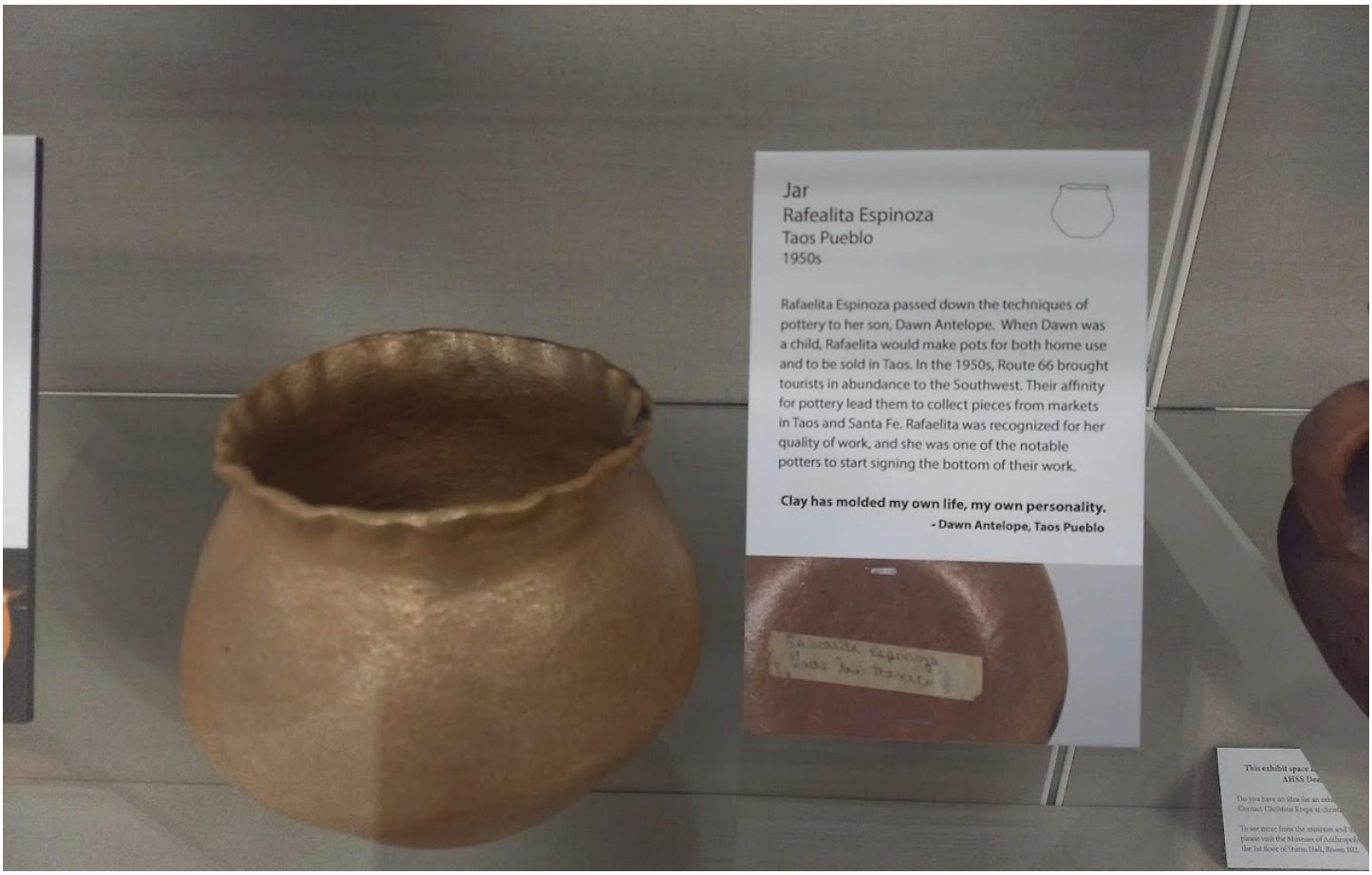
This was the inaugural exhibition of the new display case acquired by the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology. It featured newly accessioned items from a donation of pottery and basketry from a DU alumna alongside other micaceous clay pieces from the collection.

For this exhibition, I conducted object research, curated the objects and text, designed the graphics, and installed the ceramics.






Pitcher
Taos Pueblo
Prehistoric
Jar
Taos Pueblo
Prehistoric
The people of the northern Rio Grande region have used roughly the same methods to make their micaceous clay pottery for over 700 years. Even after the Santa Fe Trail opened the way for trade with the Southwest in 1821, the local communities did not abandon their clay vessels for metal pots and pans. The properties of mica enhance the durability and insulation of the clay. Micaceous clay pots are safe to use on a stove top while such direct heat would damage a plain clay pot.
These are the same forms that have been worked on through the centuries.
- Dawn Antelope, Taos Pueblo


Jar
Rafealita Espinoza
Taos Pueblo
1950s
Rafaelita Espinoza passed down the techniques of pottery to her son, Dawn Antelope. When Dawn was a child, Rafaelita would make pots for both home use and to be sold in Taos. In the 1950s, Route 66 brought tourists in abundance to the Southwest. Their affinity for pottery lead them to collect pieces from markets in Taos and Santa Fe. Rafaelita was recognized for her quality of work, and she was one of the notable potters to start signing the bottom of their work.
Clay has molded my own life, my own personality.
- Dawn Antelope, Taos Pueblo

This portfolio only represents ten exhibitions.
To view a more complete list of exhibitions I have curated, co-curated, designed, installed, and assisted in their development in other ways, please visit my online portfolio at madisussmann.wordpress.com.