

IMPACT 2021 Performance Festival

Festival Summary

Presented virtually as an online festival in April 2021

The IMPACT Performance Festival is a thesis event designed to support graduating students creating time-based work, live-art, and performance. The festival is co-coordinated by the Performance Department and the Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies.

This year, in light of health and safety concerns for in-person events, the festival will be presented virtually as an online festival. The SAIC Performance Space (the B1-12 classroom in the 280 Building) will be set up for live stream capabilities and will serve as the main hub for producing the festival. Participating artists will also have the option to live stream from an alternative location of their choice or to have a pre-recorded performance streamed as part of the festival. How the festival is programmed and exact dates/times will be determined in conversation with participating artists. Based on the number of participants, the festival may be scheduled to take place on more than one day during the month of April 2021.

Questions? Contact Lauren Steinberg, Assistant Director of Exhibitions
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Live Performance During a Pandemic

The 2021 IMPACT performance festival is an exciting opportunity to explore the possibilities of presenting live streamed performance, as this form has become more prevalent as a way of negotiating health and safety concerns due to COVID-19. For this festival, the B1-12 classroom will be transformed into a performance venue with the key resources needed for producing high quality live stream video of live work. Additionally, the Performance Department is developing programming and curriculum to support students in pushing the boundaries of this medium.

In order to ensure everyone's safety, the primary audience for the festival will be remote and all SAIC policies for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 will be in effect. With the great increase in remote events since March, SAIC has determined that all public virtual events need to be captioned in order to be more accessible to a variety of audiences. Within these parameters, there is a lot of flexibility in how participants produce and share their work as part of the IMPACT 2021 festival.

Options for Types of Participation

Live stream performance from B1-12, the performance space in the 280 building

- Technical production of the performance is overseen and supported by the IMPACT production team.
- The IMPACT production team will produce the live stream of the artist's work including equipment and basic staffing. The goal is to have multiple stationary cameras for Open Broadcasting Software (OBS) broadcast. If moving cameras are required, artists will need to provide the additional staff and equipment to make this possible.

Live stream from a different location (on- or off-campus)

- Artists will be responsible to secure any location outside of the B1-12 performance space and coordinate the production of the performance themselves.
- Artists will be responsible to set up equipment for and coordinate any staffing needs for live streaming their performance from an alternate location
- The IMPACT production team will provide technical advice and advance rehearsals to ensure smooth participation in the festival live stream
- Artists are encouraged to work with their grad coordinator to access any department specific resources or alternate spaces they need for producing their work

Pre-recorded and edited video of performance included in the streamed performance festival

- Artists may make use of the SAIC Performance Space to perform in advance of the live stream festival and provide a video to be included in the online event. The IMPACT production team will seek, as much as possible, to provide staffing support and equipment for these advance recording sessions in the SAIC B-12 Performance Space.
- Artists will be responsible for editing the footage from the pre-recording session and supplying the final edited video for streaming (including captioning).
- Artists may also fully produce their own video of performance work at the location of their choice outside of SAIC. However, the IMPACT production team will not be able to support the production of such production shoots with staff or equipment.

IMPACT 2021 Key Dates

November 10-29

Registration Period for Graduate Thesis Exhibition and Time-Arts Events. All registrations are final.

December 11, 5:00 pm CST

Information session (via zoom) with confirmed IMPACT participants to review production process and schedule

December 18, 5:00 pm CST

Group meeting (via zoom) for participating artists to share initial thoughts about their work and start discussing possibilities for the festival

January 28

First day of Spring semester classes, begin weekly artist group meetings

February 1-11

Individual studio visits with production team

February 16

Deadline to finalize festival format and program order, including dates and detailed production schedule

Month of March

Work-in-progress showings
Initial technical rehearsals
Performance plans finalized

Month of April

Production period and IMPACT broadcast(s), date(s) TBD
Engagements with outside guest programmers and curators