

2025/26 CREATIVE CATALYST GRANTEES:

Ntangou Badila - Hudson: Interdisciplinary artist with a practice rooted in visual art, and a current focus on painting.

"I plan to present this body of work through a local exhibition, starting in or near the town where I grew up and where my studio is currently based. Alongside the exhibition, I will host an open studio, artist talk, or informal workshop to share more about my creative process—especially my approach to using reclaimed materials and working resourcefully. I want people to not just see the finished pieces, but also to connect with how and why they were made. These interactive elements will create opportunities for dialogue, curiosity, and shared experience."

Deborah Rice - Hudson: A self taught wood artist whose work draws from the bold geometry of Art Deco and the clean, functional lines of Mid-Century Modern design. Working primarily with foraged, ethically sourced, and recycled wood, Deborah creates pieces that highlight the natural beauty of reclaimed materials.

"I will be working on larger pieces, exploring new ideas and getting ready for the Hudson Open Studio Tour this October. I will also document the work more professionally and share it through local shows and other opportunities."

Adriana Tampasis - Hudson: A Hudson Valley-based composer, performer, and poet. She has composed for solo, chamber, and large ensemble groups, integrating traditional and nontraditional notations including narrative and graphic scores into her compositions.

"These funds will go toward the recording of a new duo project I am working on with performer-composer, Justin Geyer. Progress of the project would be highlighted on my social media, as well as shared publicly once the project was recorded. We will perform for the public sometime in 2026."

Kate Warren - Hudson: Her artwork explores the intersections of identity, intimacy, and memory, using her reportage background to approach storytelling with heart, seeking out tender stories and clients passionate about making the world better. She co-founded Golden Kin, an equity-focused artist residency and project space on an organic farm.

"Upon completion, I will host a public artist salon at Golden Kin, the queer artist residency I founded outside Hudson, to present the project as a limited edition series of artist books. The salon will feature a facilitated conversation with two LGBTQ+ elders: photographer Morgan Gwenwald and my fellow OUT Hudson board member SJ Williams. By fostering intergenerational dialogue around queer image-making, gender, and artistic process, the project will gain rich historic context within the tradition of lesbian photography. This gathering will offer space for reflection, exchange, and celebration, deepening the project's relationship to the local arts and LGBTQ+ communities."

Nathan Gassaway - Chatham: An artist working across different mediums to explore themes of absence and reflection, challenging modern ideas about individuality. His art seeks to disrupt how viewers see and think, encouraging them to reflect on themselves and their perceptions. By shifting how people interact with art, I aim to make them question their own senses and the impact of real-time communication.

"The Creative Catalyst Grant provides crucial support for the short film I began developing earlier last year. My goal is to complete shooting and finalize the film by next spring. Once finished, I plan to screen the film at Graham Vunderink Gallery in New Lebanon."

Valerie Richmond - Hillsdale: An artist, writer, printmaker, and makes her artists' books in upstate New York. She has exhibited her Authentic Dream Movement Series "The Half Circle of Well Being" in NYC and her Buffalo Monoprints and book "Escape Across the Hudson" in Columbia County. She works with ancient themes, telling the stories of her ancestors and the wild around her as a way to be in this life.

"I will seek to create a space for both the lost and the dead in the midst of our lives, in celebration of the diverse ways our communities memorialize our ancestors. This can be achieved through project exhibitions of Book 1 and the series prototypes, accompanied with a slide and oral presentation. In addition, I hope to give a printmaking demonstration and offer an afternoon session of printmaking using a small tabletop press."

Mary Flinn - Chatham: An artist living in Chatham, NY who works mostly in oil paints and also water colors and pastels.

"My work will be on view at my studio in Chatham NY. We will have drinks and snacks and new work will be on the walls. I will also have a presentation of my process for anyone interested."

Janelle Lawrence - Craryville: An interdisciplinary artist that investigates the depth of strength with stories that explore the complex layers of perspective.

"I plan to produce a full-length, site-flexible outdoor and indoor presentation of Rosalind and Juliet, a queer, feminist reimagining of Shakespeare's canon. Originally developed as a 10-minute play, this expanded version will feature live performances in Columbia County at both traditional theatre spaces and non-traditional venues like Public Square and Promenade Hill Park or historic sites such as Hudson Opera House and Olana State Historic Site. The production will include a minimal, traveling set adaptable to various locations and seasons, allowing broad community access."

Amelia Toelke - Chatham: In her work, Amelia borrows and re-mixes the symbols and motifs inherent to adornment and signage, building a visual language that explores the profound relationship between identity, culture, and ornament. In doing so, She highlights the deep connection between jewelry and those who wear it, showing how we use objects to tell stories about ourselves.

"I will do research at botanical gardens around upstate New York in order to gather source material and learn more about the different ways we cultivate and curate the landscape. The architecture at these sites is also of interest to me as I design the different forms that my wall sculptures will take. The sculptures will be fabricated using facilities at the Tech Valley Center of Gravity, a nonprofit maker space in Troy, NY. when complete, I plan to present a public exhibition of Landscape Reflections in the communal gallery space at my shared studio, The Paper Mill, in Chatham, NY. "