Cal Poly

FRANKENREADS
Exhibition Catalogs: Faculty Exhibit Program
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Cal Poly
FRANKENREADS
An All-Day Public Reading of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein
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Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelly’s *Frankenstein*, the Cal Poly English Department and Kennedy Library organized a series of interdisciplinary events including FrankenReads, an all-day public reading of the novel. Spanning twelve hours, members of the Cal Poly community from all colleges participated in the celebration by volunteering to read portions of *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*.

From English department faculty to computer science majors, librarians to students studying microbiology, the campus gathered to commemorate Shelly’s work and its influence on not only literature, but across numerous fields of study such as ethics and philosophy.
Día de los Muertos

Originally from México, Día de los Muertos serves as a ritual of love and welcome for the dead as they temporarily return to Earth. While the festival has developed with time, it is a quintessential legacy of indigenous life. Based on traditions traced back to the Aztec civilization, Día de los Muertos is rooted in the idea of death as a natural part of life to be celebrated in memory of those who have passed on. Love and respect for the dead is demonstrated through a celebration of life that includes literary calaveras and ofrendas.

Ofrendas

Central to Día de los Muertos are the ofrendas, or altars, used to welcome spirits back to Earth. Built in private homes or cemeteries, ofrendas are decorated primarily with marigolds whose petals are used to create a path leading the dead from the altar back to their place of rest. Ofrendas also include offerings for spirits including water to quench their thirst after a long journey, a loved one’s favorite meal, family photos, incense, or a candle for each dead relative.

Literary Calaveras

These short, comedic, and often sarcastic poems usually imitate tombstone epitaphs and make fun of the living. Literary calaveras were originally printed in 18th and 19th century newspapers, but today they can be found in print, read aloud, and broadcast on television or the radio. Because their content plays with the relationship between the living and the dead, literary calaveras were soon incorporated into Día de los Muertos celebrations. Frankenstein’s monster is a hybrid of the living and the dead—a Gothic literary calavera.

Content adapted from Logan Ward’s “Top 10 things to know about the Day of the Dead” published by National Geographic.

Calaveras del Montón, Número 1
Posada, José Guadalupe, 1852-1913 , artist
Mexico City : Antonio Vanegas Arroyo, 1910.
Library of Congress
In recognition of Día de los Muertos, this ofrenda honors the contributions of Mary Shelly and others who had a creative impact in literature, the arts, and cinema. Community members were also invited to add their own personal notes of remembrance honoring someone in their life, or a person or community they would like to pay homage to. With the additions to the ofrenda’s notebook, this ofrenda was meant to represent all those that the Cal Poly community cares about.

Kennedy Library’s Ofrenda de Día de los Muertos

In recognition of Día de los Muertos, this ofrenda honors the contributions of Mary Shelly and others who had a creative impact in literature, the arts, and cinema. Community members were also invited to add their own personal notes of remembrance honoring someone in their life, or a person or community they would like to pay homage to. With the additions to the ofrenda’s notebook, this ofrenda was meant to represent all those that the Cal Poly community cares about.
To Mrs. Saville, England

St. Petersburg, Dec. 11th, 17--

You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday, and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare and increasing confidence in the success of my undertakings.

Kyle Branch (ART ’19)

Monica Shehata (ART ’20)
Liliana, age 10

Monica Shehata (ART ’20)

Iain, age 13
Paul "Samurai" Macias (ART '20)
Monica Shehata (ART '20)

Sasha Menshikova (ART '20)
Sasha Menshikova (ART ’20)
...by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open...
Environment Designers

Charmaine Martinez
Associate Professor
Art & Design
With a background in graphic design, book arts, printmaking, and mixed media installation, Charmaine embraces an interdisciplinary approach in both her teaching and her own creative practice. She believes that good design can make the world a better place. Her current research interests include: ethics in design practice and education, design as social advocacy, and design thinking for creativity.

She first read Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein in a college English course called “Victorian and Romantic Myths of Creation.” She was struck by the loneliness and tragic fate of the Creature, who yearns only for companionship and a place to belong.

Liliana, age 10
Creative Collaborator
Liliana loves cats, ballet, musical theatre, and all things cute. She chose to portray the softer side of the Creature, who she envisioned as a gentle soul.

Iain, age 13
Illustrator
Iain has always been fascinated with the macabre. He draws everyday and his favorite tools are brush markers and an Aquash pen filled with sumi ink. In his rendering of the Creature, he has depicted him as a broken, tortured, tragic figure with blood on his hands.

Sasha Menshikova
ART ‘20 Graphic Design Concentration
Sasha Menshikova is a third-year Art and Design student from the Bay Area. She appreciated the Frankenstein novel for its exploration of the challenges and responsibilities of creation and the dangers of focusing on science and technology without acknowledging humanity.

As a science fiction enthusiast, Sasha is excited to commemorate this book as it is considered the first traditional science fiction novel. Sasha hopes to continue exploring storytelling and conceptual design as a print or UX/UI designer.

Kyle Branch
ART ‘19 Graphic Design Concentration
Kyle Branch is a fifth-year Art and Design student from San Diego. The story of Frankenstein fascinates him because it has been reimagined and retold in so many different ways across many years, all stemming from a single novel. He has always been drawn to storytelling in its many forms, but is particularly drawn to immersive and experiential storytelling. This passion has driven him to pursue a career in themed entertainment design, and he has already gained experience working with Disney, Universal, and other smaller companies in the industry. Beyond graduation, Kyle hopes to continue to contribute to the design of theme parks and other location-based entertainment venues around the world.
Melanie DelaCruz
ART ‘19 Studio Art Concentration

Melanie DelaCruz is a fourth-year Art and Design major from San Diego. Her personal body of work explores an individual's pursuit for identity and the categories they mold themselves into in order to feel a sense of belonging.

She was drawn towards the overall structure of Mary Shelley's novel, of being a stitched together composition of different voices, tenses, and perspectives. Upon graduating, Melanie hopes to further pursue her education and achieve single-subject teaching credentials in Art and English.

Monica Shehata
ART ‘20 Graphic Design Concentration

Monica Shehata is a third-year Art and Design student currently based in San Jose. Growing up, she lived in different countries which influenced her sense of adventure and her continuing influence of multiculturalism in her design work.

She is drawn to the strange tale of Frankenstein's unique composition and motifs. She is also interested in the story's reimagined retellings over the ages, which have taken different shapes and forms to bring us to today's vision of the green monster. Post graduation, Monica aspires to bring artistic creations to life through the field of motion graphics.

Paul “Samurai” Macias
ART ‘20 Graphic Design Concentration

Born and raised on the central coast, Paul is a third-year transfer student from Allan Hancock College. Drawn to morbid themes and topics, Paul found the story of creating life an engrossing idea because it was done so by a madman with a vivid imagination, and human body parts.

The story of Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus also challenged established beliefs and/or customs for it's time, a feat that Paul attempts to achieve with his art. After graduation, Paul will continue to grow his freelance graphic design business, Samurai Design, and pursue a career as an art instructor.

Victoria Herrera
ARCH ‘23

Victoria Herrera is a first-year Architecture student from Los Angeles with a visceral love for squirrels. She was drawn to Frankenstein's literary immortality and hopes to create work as impactful as the story.

In her free time, Victoria likes to write fanciful compositions heavily influenced by her family. Through her work, she hopes to celebrate her Latin roots. Upon graduating, she has ambitions to establish herself as a production designer in film.
Social Media Campaign
Design by Sasha Menshikova (ART ’20)

Cal Poly
FRANKENFALL
Celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein
1818 — 2018
FRANKENREADS
An all-day public reading of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein novel.

Halloween, October 31
8am to 8pm

Cal Poly
Finished
Frankenstein!

It only took 11 hours!

Thanks to all our readers!
FRANKENREADS
An all-day public reading of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein novel.

Halloween, October 31
8am to 8pm
Kennedy Library, 2nd floor
Thank you to our readers!

ALaura Mcguire, English
Alena Avila, English
Allie Figueredo, Sociology
Allixandra Harrison, English
Amanda Almada, Mechanical Engineering
Amanda Simonich, English
Amber Petersen, Forestry
Ameria Meyerhoff, English
Amy Boggan, Philosophy
Anna Shambaugh, Graphic Communication
Annemarie Sohn, English
Ashlyn Donnaho, English
Ashlynn Ritter, English
Audrey Sargent, Comparative Ethnic Studies
Austen Ford, Environmental Management and Protection
Bess Nicolds, English
Braden Wicker, Computer Engineering
Bree Lewis, English
Bridget Butler-Sullivan, English
Brooke Goldfader, Child Development
Caleb Nichols, English Master’s
Camille Sibel, History
Carina Casissa, English
Caroline Quill, English
Carson Willits, History
Carter Quinn Harrington, Journalism
Casey Everitt, Graphic Communication
Cassie Stevenson, English
Catherine Waitinas, English Chair
Christian Roberts, General Engineering
Claire Caputo, Biological Sciences
Clarissa Gallo, Sociology
Cole Tretheway, English
Cortney Bauer, Economics
Daniel Curiel, English
Daniel Sandborn, Chemistry
Daniel Smith, English Lecturer
Daria Majlessi, English
Davis R. Zamboanga, Music
Dorothy Chu, Business Administration
Duncan Jesse Eshom, Biology
Elizabeth Muenzen, English
Ellie Dynes, Statistics
Elliot Kane, Aerospace Engineering
Emma Whitwam, Psychology
Emma Zumbro, English
Eric Schwegman, Biochemistry
Erika Arteaga, Graphic Communication
Eshley Freed-Doerr, Computer Science
Farah Sallam, English
Gabriel Damon Lavezzi, Psychology
Gabriella Fredericks, English
Gaby Messino, English
Gloria Chavez, Modern Languages & Literatures
Hailey Hokenson, English
Hannah Holmes, English
Hannah Levin, English
Hannah Morrow, English
Jake McEwen, English
Dr. James B. Cushing, English Faculty
Jasmin Fashami, ASI President, Political Science
Joann Sagaral, Food Science
Jordan Ticktin, Industrial Engineering
JUAN VERGARA, English
KATE CAGANEK, English
KATHERINE FLITSCH, English
KATHLEEN ENZ FINKEN, Provost
KATIE BREYMAN, Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies
KATIE SIMAS, English
KAVYA MAKAM, English
KAYLA PEREZ, Psychology
KELLY CARROLL, Communication Studies
KELSEY HAMPSON, English
KELSEY MANDELL, History
KELSEY MOLINA, English
KENDRA COBURN, English
KIMBERLY LOPES, English
KRISTA BALSTER-GEE, English
KYLE KRUCLI, English
LAURA SORVETTI, Library
LAUREN DAVIS, Political Science
LAUREN TURNER, English
LEA BRUDER, English
LESLIE ST. JOHN, English
MARGARET MIKHAILOVA, Business Administration
MARIANA SILVERMAN, Graphic Design
MARION WINROW HART, World Languages and Cultures/Communications
MARY HYNES, English
MATTHEW LAM, English
MIA DANIELE, English
MICHAEL HALLOCK, English
MICHELLE AUSMAN, Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies
NICHOLAS DOCKERY, English

NICOLE GRIFFITH, Computer Science
RACHEL BURGESS, Anthropology and Geography
RACHEL CLARK, Child Development
RACHEL HANNAH COHEN, Microbiology
ROBERTA WOLFSON, English
ROBYN HASTIN, Psychology and Child Development Department
RORY AMUNRUD, English
SAMANTHA MACKENZIE, English
SARAH BERGMAN, English
SARAH MOSICUK, English
SARAH WIX, English
SAVANNAH BOSLEY, Mathematics
SERENA VON HARTMANN, EIM
SHIVANI SANKAR, Business Administration
SOPHIA MICHELETTI, English
STEPHANIE ZAPPELLI, English
TARYN MCLAUGHLIN, English
TAYLOR MORENO, English
VIRIDIANA CAMORLINGA, English
WILLIAM HUGHS, English