

Culture & Animals FOUNDATION



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Think. Create. Explore. Celebrate.





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(Cover image): Folk artist Jacob Knight created this celebration for the animals at the request of the Cartin Foundation, which gifted the painting to the Culture & Animals Foundation. “On an elephant sits a man,” the painter writes, “looking at the moon with a spy-glass, and the moon looks down and sees all.”

The year 2023 has seen growth at the Culture & Animals Foundation (CAF). In January, we completed the sixth and final episode of the “[Martin’s Act at 200](#)” audio documentary. In April, we awarded grants to our [widest ever selection of applicants](#). In June, we presented our third [Nancy Regan Arts Prize](#) to photographer Isa Leshko, and in July we welcomed historian of science Whitney Barlow Robles as the fourth [Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellow](#). In October, we co-hosted with Harvard Law School the sixth [Tom Regan Memorial Lecture](#), and in November we launched the audiobook of Regan’s magnum opus, *The Case for Animal Rights*.

Through the year, we conducted interviews, produced short films, and wrote articles about our many past and present grantees and associates. Follow the links (in red) to read, watch, or listen to them as they talk about their work. We think you’ll agree with us that remarkable individuals are doing extraordinary things to raise awareness about nonhuman animals and show how we can and must honor our responsibilities towards them.

As always, thank you for supporting our collective mission: to expand our understanding of nonhuman animals and to use our intellect and creativity to advocate for their rights.

“Artists have been important vectors for social change throughout modern history. However, the struggle for resources and the higher cost of living can limit an artist’s ability to start, let alone scale up, their project. CAF’s support for artists and the arts reduces the economic burden and contributes to much-needed change for animals.”

—Praxis_vgz (see opposite page)

Since its founding in 1985, CAF has stood uniquely at the intersection of creativity and scholarship, dedicated to transforming society’s relationship with nonhuman animals. CAF’s hundreds of funded projects have explored the entire cultural language of animal rights—in the humanities and social sciences; in lectures, dissertations, books, and presentations; and through music, dance, film, photography, painting, spoken word, poetry, and drama. Learn more about our history [here](#), read about our grantees [here](#), and discover more of our programs [here](#).

Grantees Past and Present

Whether filmmaker or street artist, poet or novelist, photographer or curator, puppeteer or dancer, our 2023 creatives have expressed animals’ interests with passion and skill. Within the [research](#) category, CAF has enabled a sociologist, a psychologist, an anthrozoologist, a pair of legal scholars, and a publisher to further our knowledge of nonhuman animals. As ever, they showcase CAF’s unique role within animal advocacy.

CAF’s Grantees Make Connections

When [Kittie Mae Morris](#) danced for dolphins in Washington, DC ([above right](#)), she highlighted not only how endangered these mammals were, but the dearth of Black marine biologists. [She celebrated the Black body in motion](#), and paralleled how her community in DC, like the dolphins, suffers from environmental pollution. [The need for racial justice and more diversity in marine biology](#) also animates the progress of a children’s book on the manatee by [Sharon Jackson-Opoku](#) ([right](#)).

CAF’s Grantees Take Risks

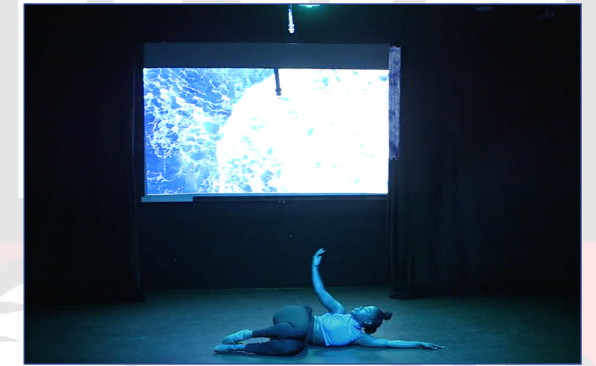
[Shannon Johnstone](#) ([below top](#)) and [Jane Casteline](#) ([below bottom](#)) received a grant for “[Picturing Pigs](#)” ([below right](#)): three billboards on a highway in North Carolina. They received so much pushback from vested interests in the state that a [local newspaper](#) covered the story of that resistance. The two are now making a documentary film of their struggle to make pigs visible.



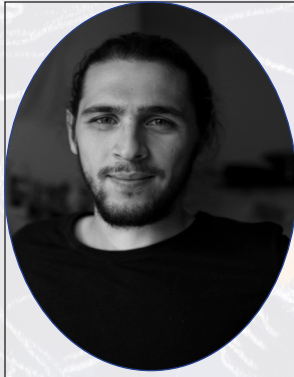
[Praxis_vgz](#)’s campaigning street art about dairy cows on Mother’s Day in New York City ([right and on this page](#)) so impressed a donor that Praxis is scaling up the campaign and taking it nationwide. Praxis is currently fighting a billboard company that refuses to allow him to show how cows are artificially inseminated in order to produce milk.

“Thank you so much for CAF’s continuing support, insight, and encouragement! This project is a labor of true love. The more resistance we get from Big Ag, the more motivated we are to shed light on these beautiful animals.”

—Shannon Johnstone and Jane Casteline



MOTHER AFTER BIRTH



CAF enabled **Jusep Moreno** (left) to shoot his documentary film on the *correbous*, a form of bullfighting in his native Catalonia. CAF also sponsored **Nirupama Sarma and Gautam Sonti's** (right) documentary film on veganism in their homeland of India. All three have come under attack from nativists in their countries, who have threatened them for daring to expose how culture is being politicized at animals' and others' expense.



CAF Showcases Activists from Around the World

Whether it's **Namita Kandel** (below left) curating plays to protect vultures in Nepal, **Teatro Tironeta** (below right) using puppet theater to advocate for opossums in Colombia, **Jes Hooper** creating a documentary film



on the plight of civets used in coffee production in Asia, **Samantha Derrick** encouraging plant-based diets in Mexico, or **Marcia Govinda Gladys Condoy Truyenque** constructing an online animal law course in her native Peru, CAF's grantees are raising consciousness at the grassroots, national, regional, and international levels.



CAF in Conversation

Throughout 2023, CAF followed up with our grantees to unpack and learn from their expertise.

- **Tymesha-Elizabeth Kindell, Lauren Stohacker,** and **Patrick Fuery** explored wolves in the American imagination (above right).
- **Just Wondering's** animation studio described how they embed antispeciesism in their art.
- Painter **Jane O'Hara** toured her monumental series of all the states of the Union and their view of animals.
- Scholar **Nathaniel Otjen** explained how pioneering women primatologists changed the face and study of science in the 1960s.
- And **Hayley Singer** (right) summoned the courage to explore the psychopathology of our attitudes to animals and find a new language to address them.



The Nancy Regan Arts Prize

In 2021, the CAF Board honored the contribution of CAF co-founder **Nancy Regan** by establishing an arts prize in her name, on behalf of an individual who had produced an outstanding body of work in support of animal rights.

In 2023, CAF awarded the third annual Nancy Regan Arts Prize to **Isa Leshko** for her astonishing collection, *Allowed to Grow Old: Pictures of Elderly Animals at Farm Sanctuaries* (below). A CAF grantee (2016), Isa's photographs reveal farmed animals in all their maturity, dignity, and personality. Such animals are very rarely seen, since the overwhelming majority of animals raised for food are slaughtered as infants or very early in their natural lifespans. Watch CAF associate **Laura Alvear Roa's** beautiful and thoughtful **video essay** on Isa Leshko's work.



Isa Leshko
(photo: Ron Cowie)



Buddy, Appaloosa Horse
Age 28



Ash, Domestic White Turkey
Age 8

"If you really are *looking* at the animal—it's considered sentimental, not serious. I am working in that climate for years and really struggling to get recognition and support for the work. And then I discover the Culture & Animals Foundation, and it was just remarkable to see a foundation that is actually encouraging you to make this work."—**Isa Leshko**

"The portraits of these animals show us that they are, as we are, part of time, transformed by time, and have made of time a recollection of events that manifests in our bodies. These animals have been allowed to grow old by people who have rescued them from the fictional parallel space where there is no time and there is no self. Here, on the other side, in the world of love, where life is possible, Isa Leshko offers us intimate encounters that depend on deep attention, passions, and one's own openness to the other: to be vulnerable and to be changed."—**Laura Alvear Roa**

Nancy Regan Arts Prize Awardees

- 2023: **Isa Leshko**
- 2022: **Sue Coe**
- 2021: **Joan Chan Wing Yan**

The Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellowship

In 2000, the **Special Collections Research Center (SCRC)** at the NC State University Libraries established the **Tom Regan Animal Rights Archive**, which consists of notes, letters, manuscripts and typescripts, and audiovisual materials documenting the history of the animal advocacy movement. Since then, it has grown into the largest such archive in North America, with pamphlets on animal protection from 1874 to 1951, the records of the Animal Rights Network and the Animal Welfare Institute from 1903 to 2003, the Argus Archives of work from 1937 to 2004, and Wim DeKok's Animal Rights Collection from 1911 to 2016. In 2022, the archive welcomed material from the Humane Society of the United States and historian Bernard Unti.

In 2019, CAF established a visiting fellowship in co-founder Tom Regan's name. This year, the Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellowship was awarded to historian of science **Whitney Barlow Robles**. She investigated the paradox that so much of our knowledge about animals has traditionally come from the killing and collecting of them. Whitney, who is the author of *Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History*, wrote about her experience in the archives in October 2023.

Previous awardees of the Fellowship are philosopher **Rachel Robison-Greene** (bottom), whose research in the Regan library contributed to her book *Edibility and In Vitro Meat: Ethical Considerations*, published by Lexington in November 2022. In 2022, historian of science **Kat Poje** (below left) and anthrozoologist **Joshua Russell** (below right) studied in the archives.



Whitney Barlow Robles
(photo: Katie Lenhart)



“My deepest gratitude goes to the Culture & Animals Foundation for their support of this research and all the archivists and librarians at NC State who made it happen.”
—Whitney Barlow Robles

Tom Regan Visiting Research Fellows

- 2023: Whitney Barlow Robles
- 2022: Kat Poje and Joshua Russell
- 2019: Rachel Robison-Greene

The Annual Tom Regan Memorial Lecture



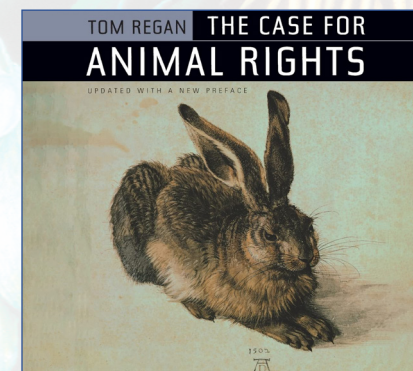
Cheryl Abbate
(photos of Cheryl and Harvard:
Jo-Anne McArthur)

Cheryl Abbate, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, delivered “**The Philosophy of Animal Rights: A Way of Life or Religion?**”, which asked whether animal rights theory is just a philosophy or contains a set of beliefs that are religious in nature, according to the standards of U.S. law. The respondent was a CAF **advisory board member**, the philosopher Dale Jamieson. The lecture was co-hosted by **The Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program** at Harvard Law School, with Kristen Stilt the moderator (below).



Tom Regan Memorial Lecturers

- 2023: Cheryl Abbate
- 2022: Charlotte Blattner
- 2022: Kim Stallwood
- 2021: Syl Ko
- 2019: Sherry F. Colb
- 2018: Carol J. Adams



The Case for Animal Rights Audiobook

To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the publication of Tom Regan's magnum opus, *The Case for Animal Rights*, CAF worked with a producer and narrator to publish an audiobook of this pioneering work of analytic philosophy. The audiobook contains a recording of Regan talking about how he wrote *The Case* and an audio essay from philosopher Gary Comstock on Regan's place within the animal advocacy movement of the last fifty years.

“It was a wonderful and fun challenge narrating *The Case*. I've been aware of *The Case* and its place in the animal rights movement since I started thinking about animal rights and veganism 20 years ago, so it's truly an honor to get to work on this. It's such a special thing when the work I do also aligns with my values and what I want to see in the world, so thank you to CAF for letting me be a part of it.”
—Jennifer Pickens, audiobook narrator

Martin's Act at 200 Audio Documentary



On July 22, 1822, the Cruel Treatment of Cattle Act, sponsored by the Irish Member of Parliament **Richard “Humanity Dick” Martin**, was signed into law by King George IV. The Act is widely considered to be the first piece of animal welfare legislation from a Western political body. CAF’s audio documentary “**Martin’s Act at 200**,” written and produced by Alex Lockwood, recreates that period and through interviews with historians and legal scholars traces the story of animal advocacy in the Anglo-American world from 1822 to the present . . . and into the future. As the bicentennial year of the founding of the first SPCA in 1824 approaches, we invite you to listen to this comprehensive, entertaining, and informative audio documentary.



Nancy Regan Arts Prize awardee Sue Coe was so inspired by “Martin’s Act at 200” that she drew “The Trial of Bill Burns” (above), which depicts the moment when Richard Martin brought an abused donkey into court as evidence of animal cruelty.

The Culture & Animals Foundation in 2024 . . . and Beyond

For many of the hundreds of social scientists, literary critics, historians, philosophers, and other scholars, as well as the painters, photographers, filmmakers, sculptors, dramaturges, poets, novelists, dancers, musicians, and others whom we’ve helped over the years, a grant from CAF is often *the* initiating moment of validation, the inflection point for a career in the academy or the arts—and all of it on behalf of nonhuman animals. *Their work, our work, this work* must continue. We hope you’ll consider supporting CAF to help us find the next important voice.

Our plans for 2024 and beyond involve consolidation of our existing programs and development of others. Among our short- and medium-term goals are:

- To provide more visibility to our grantees, our researchers, lecturers, and arts prize winners.
- To ensure that animal advocacy pioneers are honored and their wisdom collected using oral history. (Watch [this video](#) to learn more.)
- To revive the **festivals** for which the Culture & Animals Foundation was well-known two decades ago.
- To expand our **audio documentaries** to encompass animal advocacy movements around the world.

DONATE

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US**

“CAF gives people confidence, hope, and recognition, and it trusts them to use those things in the best interest of animals.”—**Steve Baker**, CAF grantee, artist, scholar, and author of *Picturing the Beast*