

Dear UCLA Department of Art Community,

We are in the midst of a national uprising following the brutal killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and the deaths of tens of thousands of people of color disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 due to the systematic dehumanization and devaluation of Black and brown bodies and lives. It is up to all of us, and each of us, to carry this moment forward to bring an end to institutionalized racism and violence against Black people. Whether we do that by joining protests, supporting social justice and anti-racist organizations, organizing in our own communities, or through our work as artists and educators, it is imperative that we channel our anger and anguish—including the anguish of complicity—toward meaningful action for positive, structural change.

As department chair, I am concerned for the physical and emotional wellbeing of all of you as members of the Department of Art community. If you join protests, I urge you to continue to practice social caring through safe distancing and to wear a mask at all times. If you are suffering anguish and rage alone in lockdown, I urge you to reach out to friends, loved ones, and UCLA resources for support. Consider virtual organizing and action. Write, draw, paint, sculpt, photograph, film, imagine and develop projects that will contribute to racial justice and positive change.

If you are a student struggling to focus on exams and final coursework while bearing the stress of the Covid-19 pandemic and the pandemic of racism, I can assure you that Art Department faculty have been advised that your care and wellbeing are of primary importance. The Dean's office has directed faculty to check in with students about the best ways to complete the quarter and the academic year, including adjustments to final projects, papers and exams.

If you are a faculty member or teaching assistant, I urge you to review [these guidelines](#) for "Acknowledging the Current Racial Crisis in the Classroom," recently posted by the UCLA office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Below, is a list of resources for self-care and for action in support of Black lives, distributed by UCLA Center for the Advancement of Teaching. You can find additional UCLA resources [here](#). These lists are not exhaustive and I encourage all of you to reach out to your student and community leaders for additional resources for action and self-care. You may also reach out to me, Caron Cronin, and to your faculty mentors and we will do our best to provide support or direct you to available resources.

In solidarity,
Andrea

UCLA RESOURCES:

- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Staff and Faculty Counseling Center](#)
- [UCLA Student Legal Services](#)
- [UCLA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

DONATE:

- **Los Angeles:** [People's City Council Freedom Fund & Black Lives Matter LA](#)
- **Los Angeles:** [Californians for a Responsible Budget \(CURB\)](#)
- **Minnesota:** [Black Vision Collective & Reclaim the Block](#)
- **National:** [Campaign Zero](#)

LEARN:

- [Difficult Knowledge, Trauma Informed Pedagogy and Safe-ish Spaces \(UC Berkeley\)](#)
- [Affirming Black Lives Without Inducing Trauma \(Teaching Tolerance\)](#)
- [Zinn Education Project Teaching Materials \(Zinn Education Project\)](#)
- [Resources for Engaging in Anti-Racism Work \(Sarah Sophie Flicker & Alyssa Klein\)](#)

REFLECT:

- **Rachel Miller (Vice),** [Self Care Tips for Black People Who Are Struggling With This Very Painful Week](#)
- **Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (The Atlantic),** ["Who Gets to Be Afraid in America?"](#)
- **Roxane Gay (NY Times),** [Remember, No One Is Coming To Save Us](#)