

## *SLA Faculty Film & Music Collaboration Wins Awards*

A collaboration of Georgia Gwinnett College professors Katherine Balsley (film) and Irina Escalante-Chernova (music) has won recognition and awards at film circuits around the United States. Their short titled *Ad Meliora* earned the “Golden Badger” award in the Wisconsin Film Festival. It was also a finalist at the *Digital Graffiti* event in Alys Beach, Florida. It has played at film festivals geographically ranging from New Mexico to London, and will appear in Spain and South Korea.



*Balsley and Escalante-Chernova at GGC’s “Readings Writings and All That Jazz,” in Spring 2022.*

“*Ad Meliora* is a filmic collage that combines familiar shapes and textures of the natural world within the artifice of animation, enveloping the viewer in a beautiful mélange of sound and color,” explained Balsley. “I took hundreds of separate images of flowers, plants, and textures over a five-year period. Irina Escalante-Chernova designed the sound.”

Balsley and Escalante-Chernova had previously collaborated in 2018 on a project titled *Cosmos Obscura*. They discovered that they worked well together. “When I started working on *Ad Meliora*, Irina was the first person I thought of for sound design,” explained Balsley.

“I was very impressed with the beauty [of Balsley’s images], and I felt motivated to create something with the music that accompanied those images,” said Chernova-Escalante. I hope it helps to appreciate even more the beauty of images and to discover some sounds that seem mysterious because their origin is uncertain.” *Story by Richard Rawls, photos by Katherine Balsley*



Escalante-Chernova and Balsley (l-r). Scenes from *Ad Meliora* (below).

