

&

Volume 4

East Carolina University

MFA Program

2024

donor acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the donors whose contributions helped make this publication possible. On behalf of ECU, the MFA artists featured in this issue, and all the people who worked to put & together, thank you again for your support.

**School of Art and Design
College of Fine Arts and Communications
Friends of School of Art and Design
John R. McIntyre
Amy McIntyre**

from the soad graduate office

Congratulations on the release of Volume IV of &! It is inspiring to see how this publication continues to grow and evolve, celebrating the diverse, inclusive, collaborative, and innovative culture at East Carolina University's School of Art and Design.

Every year, our communities band together and build this invaluable platform to tell the stories of our students and provide the opportunity for the world to see all the fantastic work being done at the School of Art and Design.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Angela Wells, Brian Culbertson, the photography team, graduate students in our MFA programs, BFA Graphic Design Seniors, and their faculty mentor, Dan Elliott, for their tireless efforts in bringing this publication to life.

Also, a huge thank you goes to the generous sponsors who have supported this project and helped our students to thrive. Congratulations again on this incredible achievement!

Warmest regards,



Seo Eo
Graduate Program Director

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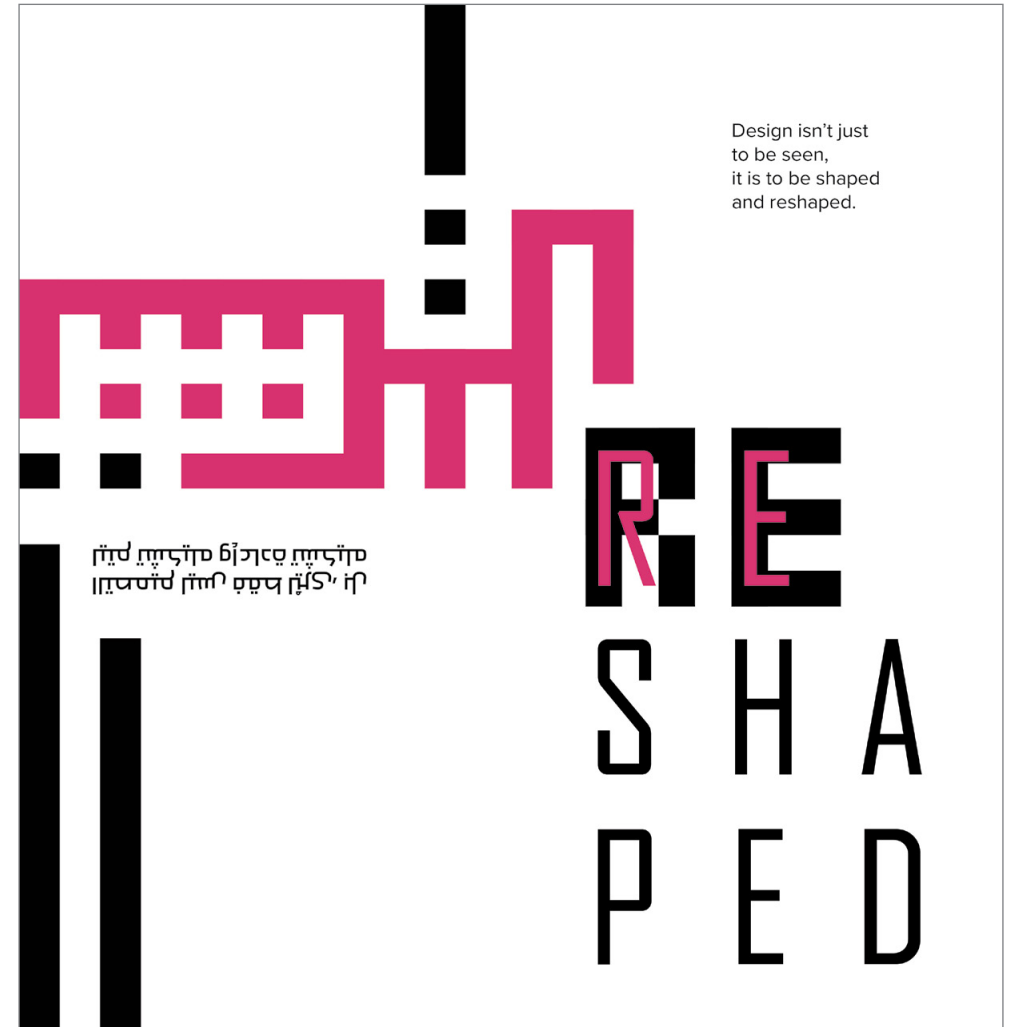
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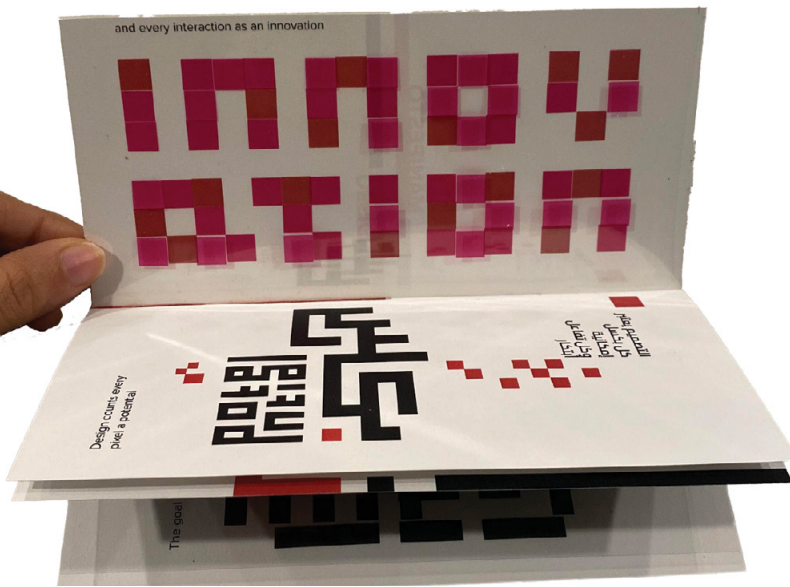
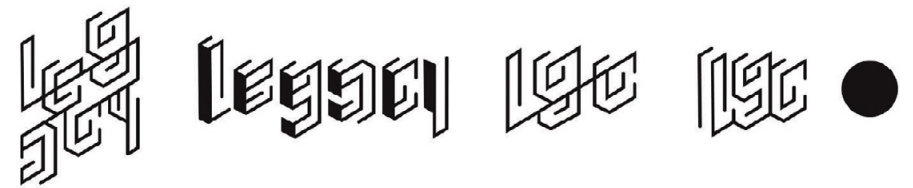
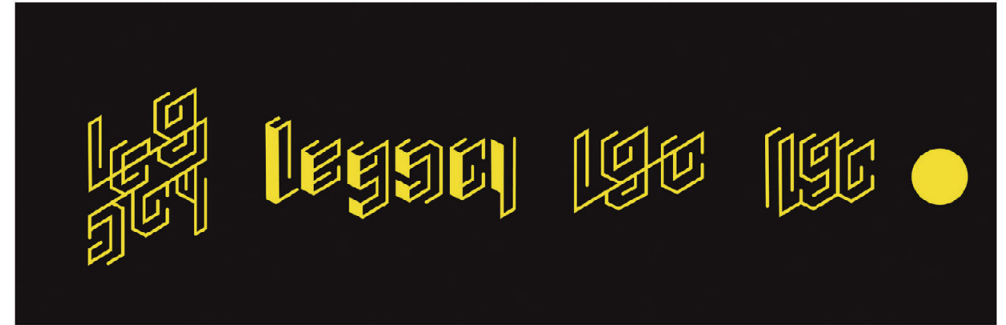
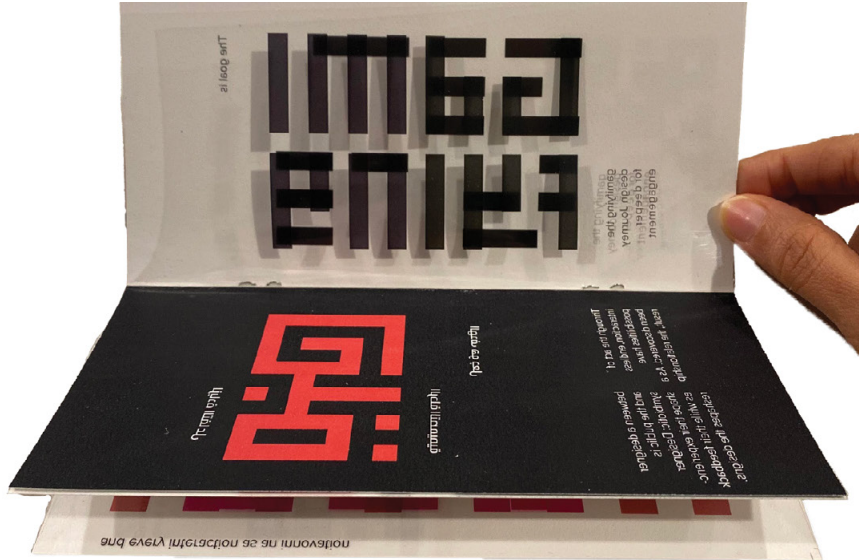
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amal abdalla

Growing up in Egypt has given me a deep appreciation for the role art plays in understanding and engaging with ancient cultures that are no longer directly accessible. This, coupled with my upbringing in a family of visual artists, has greatly shaped and influenced my passion for creating visual art. My parents, both artists and educators themselves, instilled in me a love for art from a young age through activities such as visiting galleries and exhibitions, and helping them set up their own shows. As an artist and educator, myself, I utilize an interdisciplinary approach that combines visual art and digital media to create educational experiences that are both engaging and meaningful. I am particularly interested in exploring the use of gamification to make learning more interactive and enjoyable. In my future work, I aim to tap into the unique artistic individuality of each person, creating interactive projects that allow them to express their interests and personalities in a creative and meaningful way.

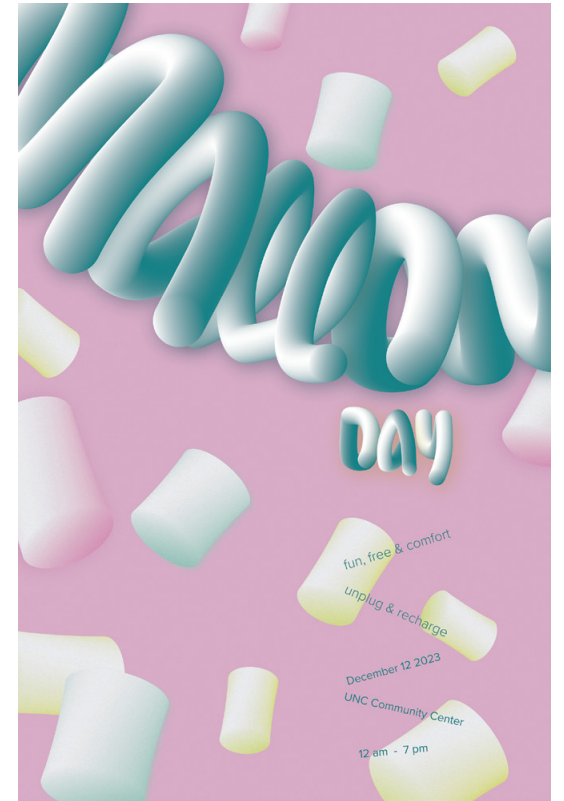




As an artist and educator, myself, I utilize an interdisciplinary approach that combines visual art and digital media to create educational experiences that are both engaging and meaningful.



Mallow Day branding Poster
24 x 36"
December 2023



nick fowler

The art I've presented here is an exploration in the field of glassblowing, as well as the beginnings of my work with characters and comedy. Glass blowing has become an enormous part of my artistic journey and the process has become one of my favorite parts of the grad program. The ceramic rats are my current focus, continuing my themes of multiples. I've worked and established my rats for a while, and soon I'll have dozens and dozens of them living out the satires and situations I've established through my research.

Cane Cup
glass
3 x 3 x 5"
2023



Glass blowing has become an enormous part of my artistic journey and the process has become one of my favorite parts of the grad program.



Murrine 1
glass
6 x 6 x 8"
2023



Murrine 2
glass
6 x 6 x 10"
2023



Pinochet
ceramic, wood, plastic
12"
2024

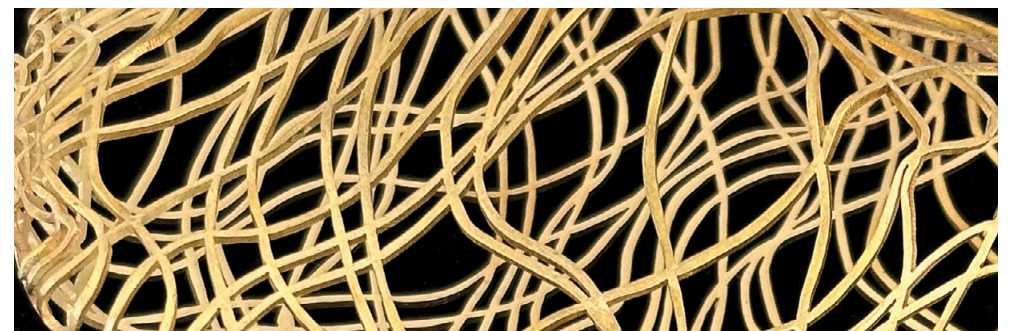
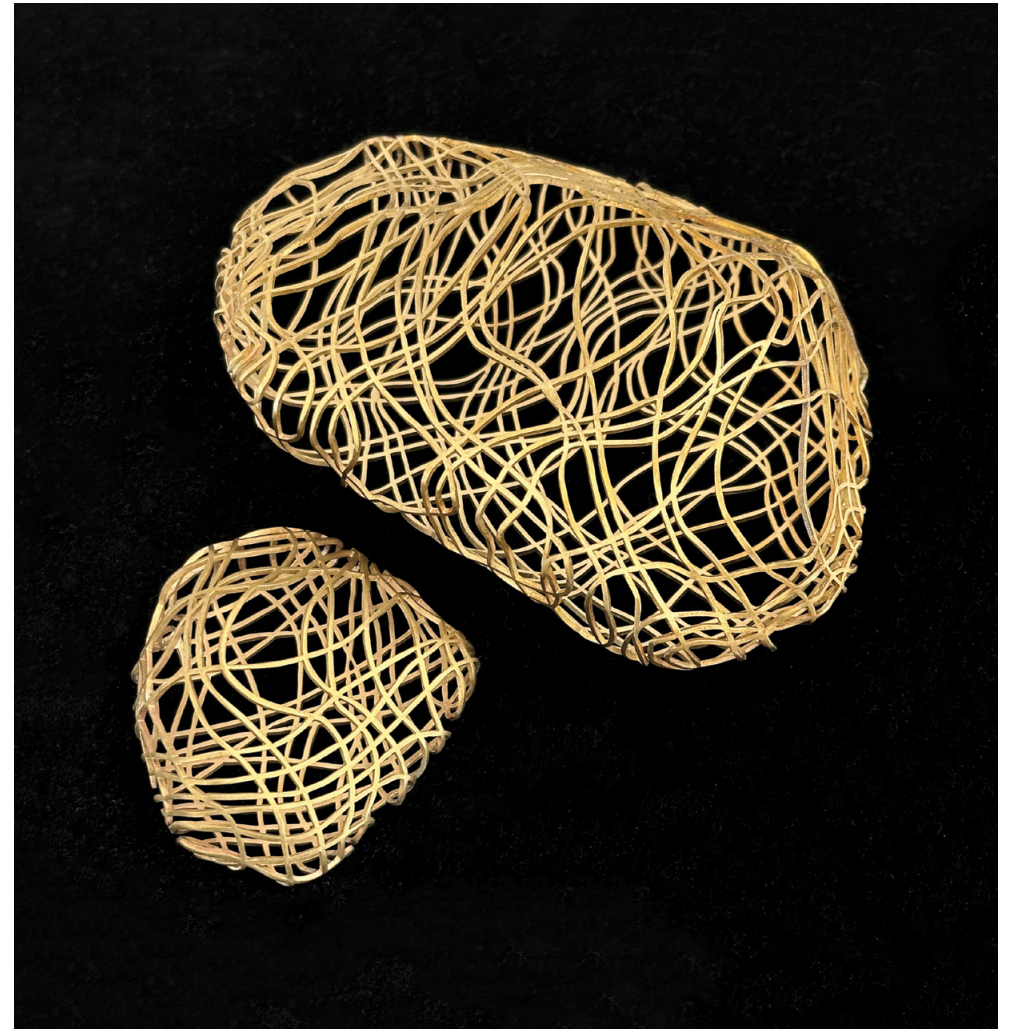
Eyes Wide Open

Pierced Brass
15 x 10 x 5"
2023

emily booker

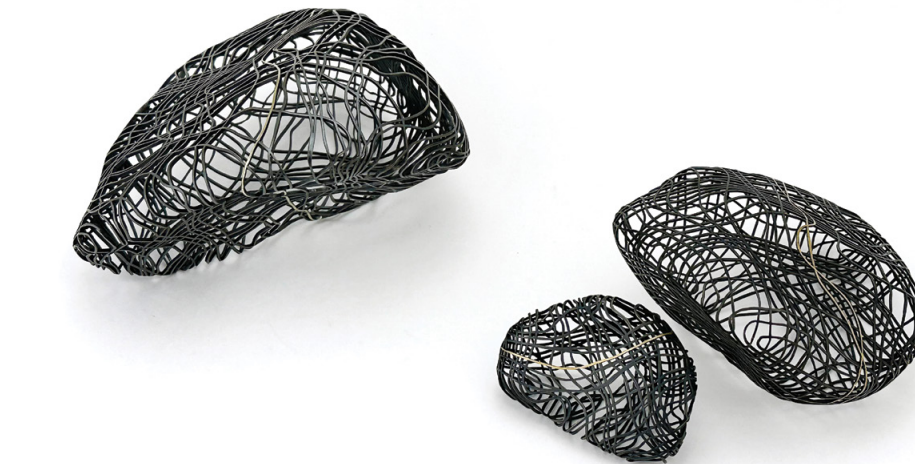
Memories serve as an internal framework through which we structure our understanding of ourselves, others, and our past experiences, but they are not infallible. My work explores the subjectivity of perception, how that becomes memories that distort over time, and the weight of those memories we carry with us. Recognizing that each of our individual journeys is as unique and complex as those around us can facilitate a shift in how heavily our memories weigh on us.

I relate these ideas to rocks because we often think of stone as static, unyielding, and unchanging; but over time stone will erode, change shape, and reveal hidden secrets. None of these changes happen spontaneously as they are the result of external forces interacting with each stone. In this way, memories are a lot like rocks. They are markers of place and time, subject to the transformations of external and internal forces that continue to tumble and shape them long after they're formed.





Mobius
Pierced Brass
4 x 3 x 2.5"
2023



**Moving Through the World
with Eyes Half Closed**

Pierced Brass
4 x 3 x 2.5"
2023





Kozo Fiber Rocks
Kozo Fiber
2.5 – 7"
2023

I relate these ideas to rocks because we often think of stone as static, unyielding, and unchanging; but over time stone will erode, change shape, and reveal hidden secrets.



The Distortion of Memory

Riverstone, Sterling Silver, Pierced Brass, Kozo Fiber
Each 3 x 1.5 x 2.5"
2023

tamla boone

As a conceptual artist, I love to put my legacy on a canvas. As a storyteller, I aspire to create a narrative that captivates my audience and holds them in between my lines. I hope viewers will hold a conversation with their eyes, minds, and souls.

The oral traditions displayed in my art are a collaboration of secrets about my heritage and culture. They speak of the journey of a passionate woman and her art.

While visiting one of the most prestigious museums in the world, I found the marble sculptures mesmerizing, the gold wreaths breath-taking, and the foreign gods intriguing. Each floor had representations of art from all over the world. It was defeating to discover, once again, that museums lack Afrocentric culture. There were no brown people displayed in the museum. This museum

Frog Quilt

Clay
6 x 7 x 3"
2022

was only a ship's cast away from Africa, and I determined they must have had some exposure to Africa's beauty. Yet, the museum did not display braids, broad noses, or full lips on their sculptures, figurines, or etchings. Where were the pieces that told the history of these people, my people? It's discouraging that the world doesn't see beauty in people who look like me; it's also inspirational and encouraged me to create and distribute such art.

The oral history of storytelling, coupled with African art, is the art form I produce on clay bodies. My art embodies the African symbolic systems and designs my ancestors discovered and used to communicate complex messages in stitches, patterns, designs, colors, and fabrics. I, as they did, will put my legacy on the canvas of a quilts.



Chrissy's Quilt
Clay and Milk Paint
42 x 24 x 12"
2023



Flower Geese Quilt
Clay
6 x 7 x 3"
2022



I aspire to create a narrative that captivates my audience and holds them in between my lines.

haleigh lennox brewer

Being an identical twin, I struggle to find my individuality outside of my twinship. People often neglect to view me as a separate person. I feel conflicted about possessing aspects that pertain to me that are not within my twinship. I value the connection I share with my sister. At the same time, I want to be my own person. I explore these tensions

by making photographs that use reflections, portraiture, and objects that symbolize aspects of our relationship. My research explores how twins are depicted and treated in society; how the challenges of being a twin overlooked; and the struggles that twins face within and beyond this dueling identity.





Baby B
Digital
2023



Cut Here
Digital
2023

I explore these tensions by making photographs that use reflections, portraiture, and objects that symbolize aspects of our relationship.



Keepsake
Digital
2023



Incomplete Memories
Digital
2023

katelyn brewer

My work represents the feeling of what it is like to have Tourette's syndrome. I use self-portraiture and objects to explore the personal feelings I have such as loneliness, feeling misunderstood and often ignored as well as the desire to disappear. Tourette syndrome is a nervous system disorder involving repetitive movements and/or sounds caused by dysfunctional neural circuits between the basal ganglia and other areas of the brain. These feelings are ones I have experienced since being diagnosed with the syndrome as a child and have since lived my life with it. The goal of this work is to dismantle the harmful stereotypes surrounding Tourette syndrome and to show that it is ok to be different.





Performing
Digital Photography
2023

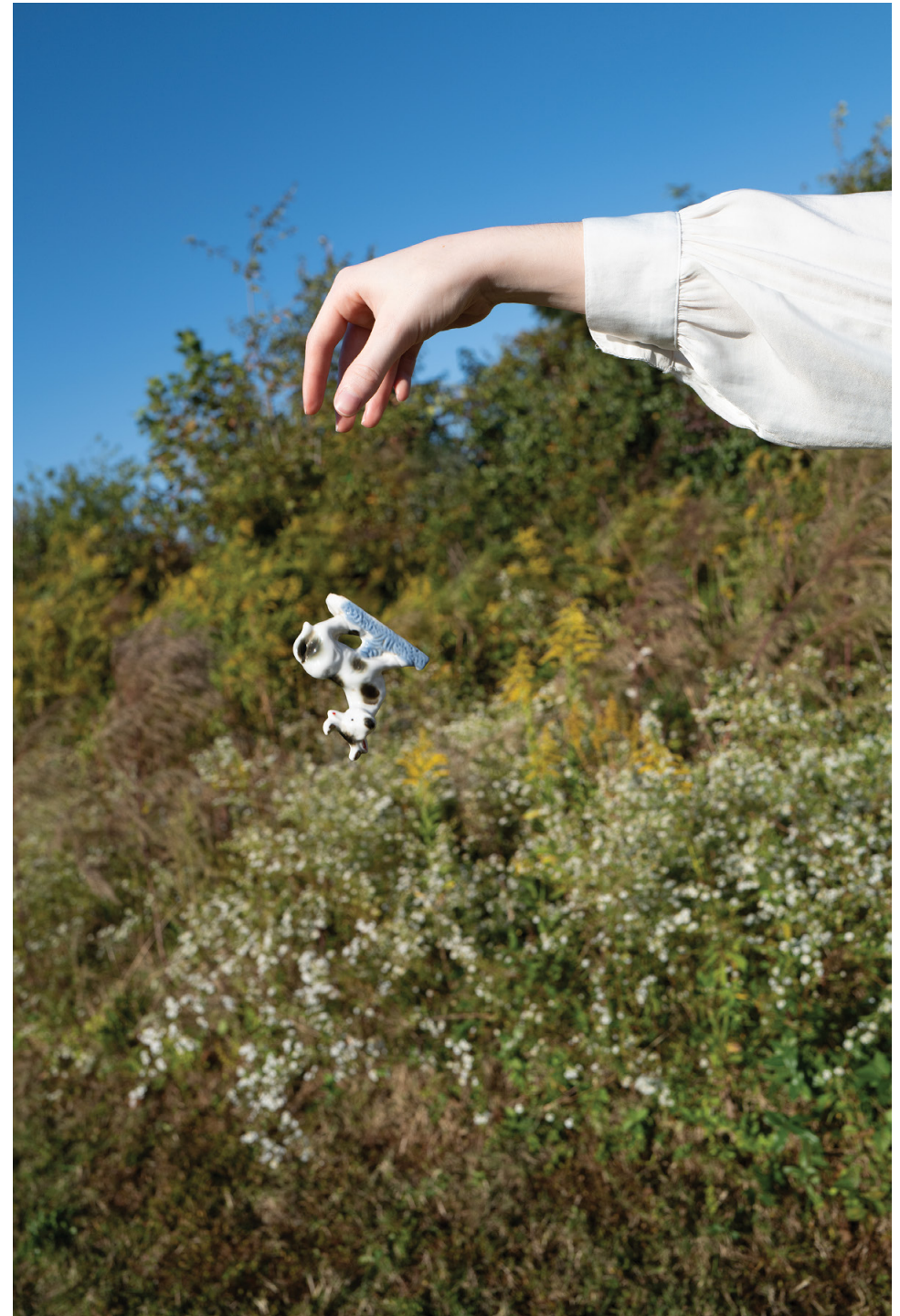


I'm Not Here
Digital Photography
2023





My work represents the feeling of what is like to have Tourette's syndrome. I use self-portraiture and objects to explore the personal feelings I have...



kate davis

My ceramic work explores materiality and the expression of chemical interactions within glazes. I enjoy the “why?” in all areas of my life, particularly in my art practice. Therefore, I experiment with recipes and processes to express colors, textures, and depth within surfaces. My process is highly calculated- make a new glaze, fire with a specific schedule, analyze results, and then tweak the recipe until it is perfect. My obsessive

nature has driven me to understand what each chemical in the glaze does and how I can make them behave in certain ways by changing small variables. For my vessels, I have found that even, rounded forms for the glaze to flow over work best. Additionally, a narrow neck or closed form is ideal. I believe that a utilitarian vessel paired with my glaze would detract from the details of my work.



Rings

Crystalline ceramics

3.75 x 3.75 x 4"

2023



Pennies
Crystalline ceramics
4 x 4 x 6"
2022



Frozen Bubble
Crystalline Ceramics
3.25 x 3.25 x 3"
2023

Homogeneous Failure

Cotton

80 x 26 x 5"

November 2023

paul edwards

A North Carolina native, Paul completed a BA in Political Science at UNC Charlotte. Through all his academic pursuits, Paul maintained a connection with Textile and Fiber Arts, focusing mainly on crochet wearables. Following the completion of his BA, Paul moved abroad to South Korea to work in English language education. While abroad, he created more figurative and conceptual work through newly self-taught skills in knitting and weaving.

Seeking a new path, in late 2022, Paul began looking at MFA programs that had weaving offerings, and in summer 2023, he returned to his home state after 17 years in South Korea. Leaving such a well-established life was a major decision, but he has always lived his life by following his passion. Paul is currently enrolled in the MFA program at East Carolina University concentrating in Textile Arts and is due to graduate in Spring 2026.





weight
Cotton
63 x 46 x 2"
November 2023



Doorslam
Cotton & Rayon Chenille
80 x 40 x 2"
October 2023



My artistic practice delves into spaces of self-obliteration, allowing myself to disassociate from the acute awareness of my own physical existence.

poverty is polic

screen print

12 x 24"

2023

parker estes

Much of my current work is centered around historic political narratives and the visual language through which we view them. We view graphic design as a purifying and neutral tool that takes information and communicates it objectively. The truth is however that, graphic design has always been political. There is just as rich a history of graphic design being used to empower social movements as to sell Coca-Cola. My aim in the future is to continue to explore how these cultural and political values have been cemented in our collective visual languages, and how I and other designers can utilize and subvert those values where appropriate to do our small part to enable a more equitable and sustainable future.



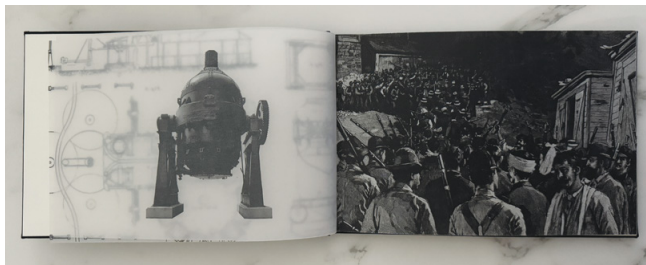
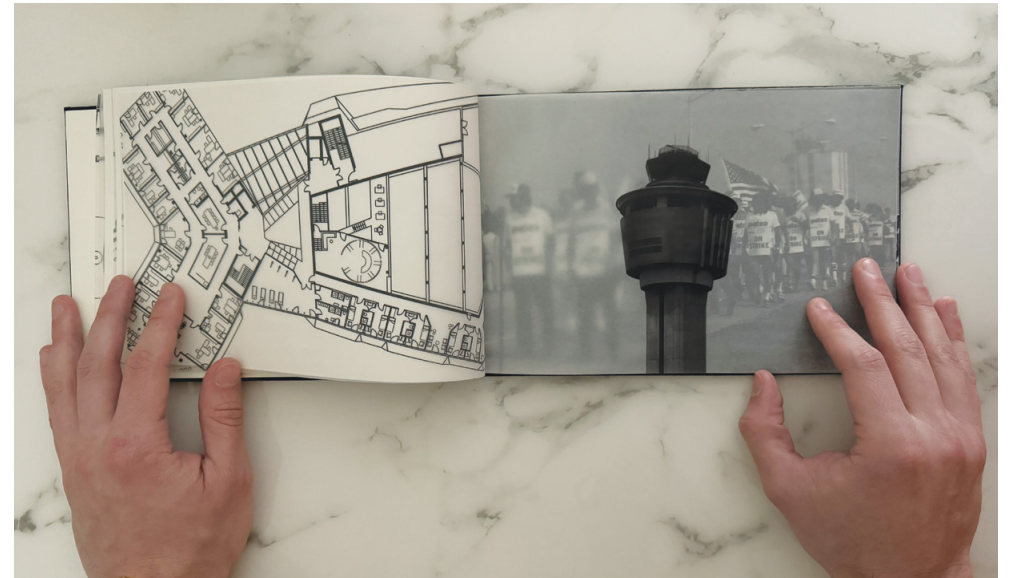


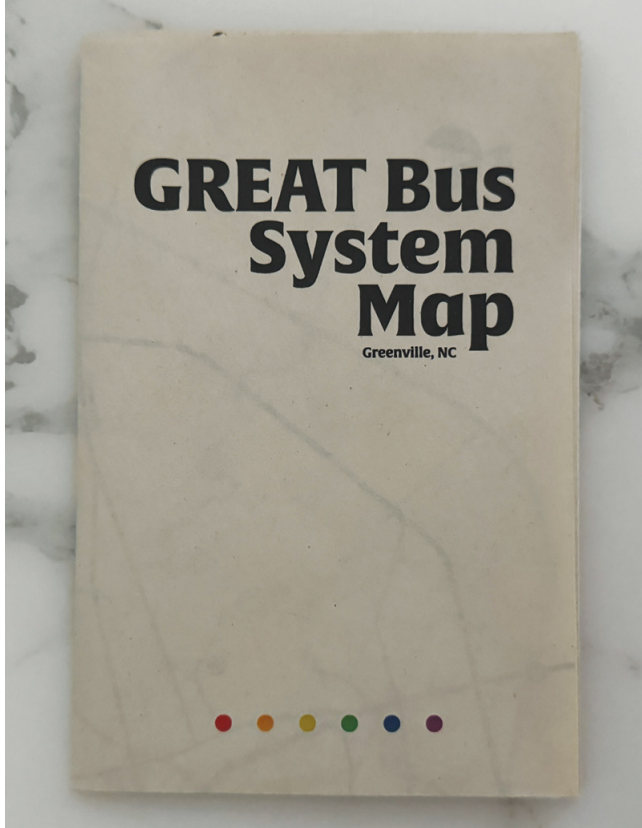
the means of production

art book

5 x 9"

2023

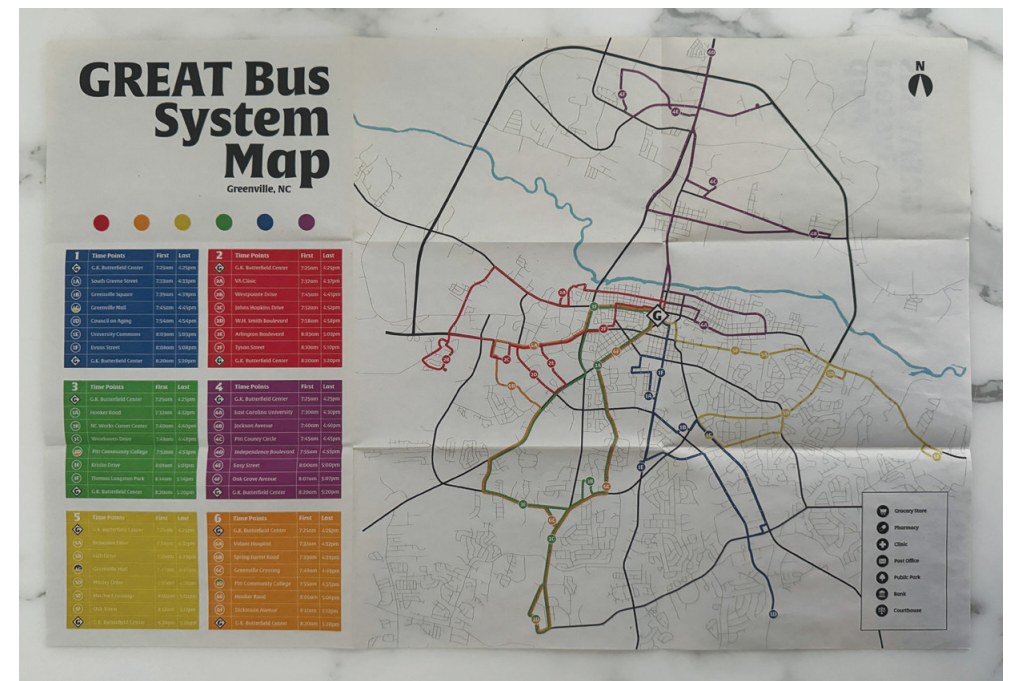




great system map
digital print
12 x 19"
2023



*The truth is however that,
graphic design has always been political.*



**Pay No Attention to the Man
Behind the Curtain**
Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023

michael gaines

This body of work explores my investigation of the intersection between queer identity and expression with the constraints and boundaries enforced by this heteronormative-driven society rooted in gender binaries and expectations. My own desire for exploration and self-expression was stunted by a fear of ridicule and ostracization from this heteronormative society that, as children, we were taught we had to belong to. I ultimately compartmentalized various aspects of my life and persona, feeling that they were diametrically opposed and could not live within the same space together.

By using self-portraiture, I have begun to explore my identity more fully, forcing myself to be in front of the camera as I confront my own fears and misconceptions of who I am. Learning to say my quiet parts out loud and recognize who I am on the inside as compared to the façade everyone sees has given me power and agency in accepting and defining myself.





Twinkle Toes
Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023



**An Optical Illusion
of Consciousness**
Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023



Sanctuary of Manhood
Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023



**Pay No Attention to the Man
Behind the Curtain**

Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023

Learning to say my quiet parts out loud and recognize who I am on the inside as compared to the façade everyone sees has given me power and agency in accepting and defining myself.



High Tea & Polite Conversation

Digital Photograph
11 x 17"
2023

joogab kim

Onggi, a traditional pottery of Korea utilitarian vessel, has been used by most households to store Korean fermented foods dating back thousands of years. Unlike other distinctive types of Korean ceramics such as jade-green celadon, white porcelain, and Buncheongsagi, Onggi, the aged-old stoneware, is used as utilitarian living vessels to contain fermented foodstuffs for a long time. As a Korean Onggi potter and ceramic artist, I have researched and explored making Korean Onggi pottery in American circumstances and attempted to transform it to an aesthetic form during the past three years, and eventually, reaching to the specific conceptual themes: Diversity and Nature.

As a minority artist in diverse society, I am interested in co-existing in harmony expressed with various medium and realms on Onggi pottery. Furthermore, as we are a part of nature as well as being full of diversity, there is nothing more beautiful than the natural world for aesthetic motifs to be considered. Indeed, I hope, through these artistic approaches, Onggi pottery can be an object not only to be appreciated by diverse audiences beyond its functional features, but also to understand how traditional Korean ceramics have evolved in Western society.

Autumn Leaves

red clay
20 x 16"
fall 2023





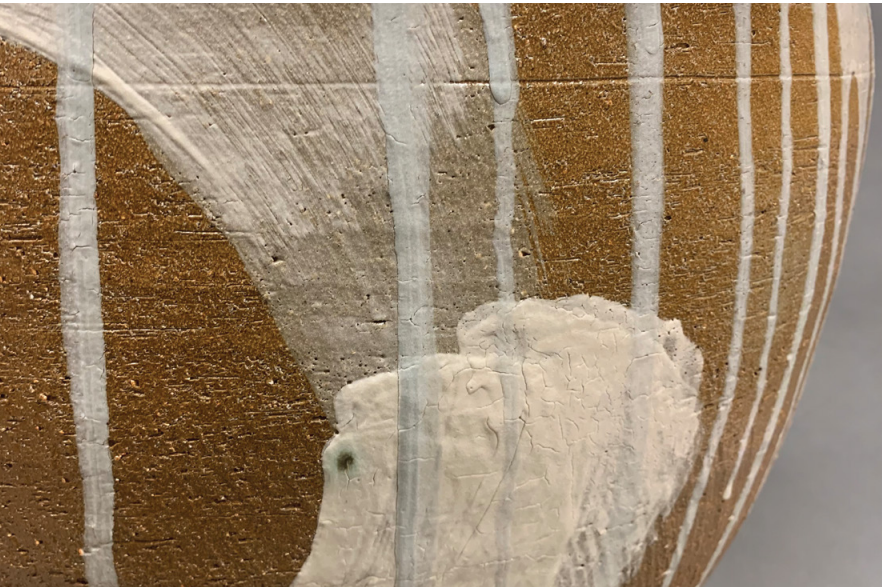
Se-Han-Do
red clay
24 x 16"
fall 2023



Tea Storage Jar
red clay
8 x 6"
spring 2023

Sun & Moon

red clay
32 x 21"
fall 2023



Furthermore, as we are a part of nature as well as being full of diversity, there is nothing more beautiful than the natural world for aesthetic motifs to be considered.



justin tyler king

Born in Rome, GA King obtained an undergraduate in Graphic Design at Mercer University and has designed for the likes of health clinics, non-profit organizations, local apparel stores, and more. Currently as a graduate student at ECU King strives for lively and empathetic design that encourages connectivity.

I seek to confront this sentiment by exercising a vibrant vitality only a human hand may have, bringing letterforms that were once trapped in a page into a three dimensional space. Experimenting with different materials I hope to convey that graphic design is not a limited practice shackled by the page, but one that is able to weave between mediums to create characters with as much personality as any individual.





2024 Annual Mothman Festival | Visual Identity System
Mixed Media
Sizes vary
2023



Graphic design is not a limited practice shackled by the page, but one that is able to weave between mediums to create characters with as much personality as any individual.



A Grotesk Heritage

Vellum; Print
8.3 x 5.8"
2023



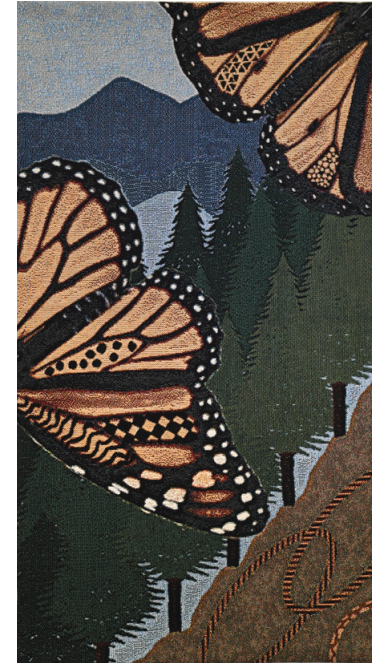
His Glory
Hand-dyed Cotton
24-shaft loom
55 x 40"
2023

rachael lowman

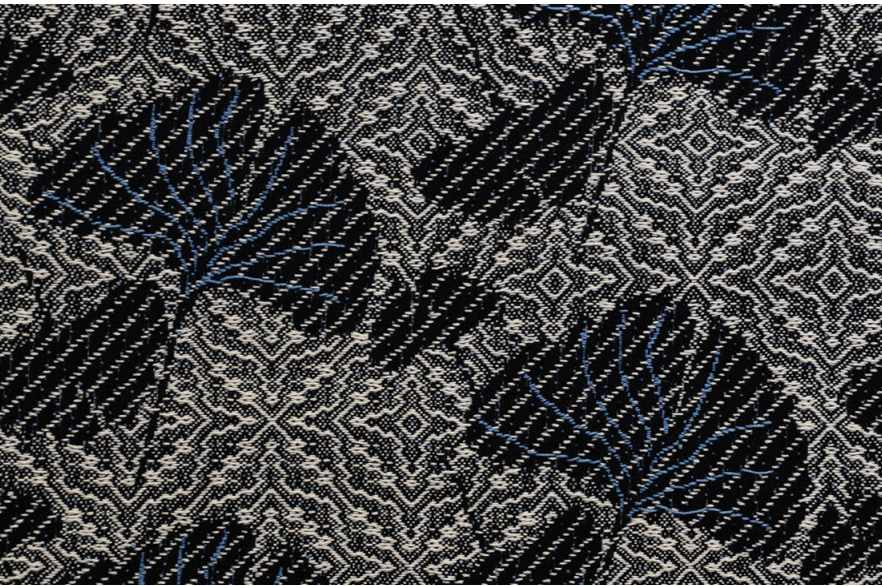
The focus of my work is handweaving. Handweaving is my greatest interest in textile design because of the versatility of the art form and the history of the craft. My more recent focus is TC2 Jacquard loom weaving and its many unique capabilities. I was first introduced to TC2 weaving at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) where my passion for the possibilities of this technology was born. My work so far has centered on the technical aspects of TC2 weaving. Conceptual themes of religion, faith and nature interweave themselves into my art. The knowledge gained from my Bachelor of Science degree in biology from ETSU informs my many conceptual choices when I incorporate natural themes.



**Heart of
My Homeland**
Cotton
TC2 Jacquard loom
29 x 40"
2023



My work so far has centered on the technical aspects of TC2 weaving. Conceptual themes of religion, faith and nature interweave themselves into my art.



Monarch
Cotton
Mill woven
47 x 27"
2023

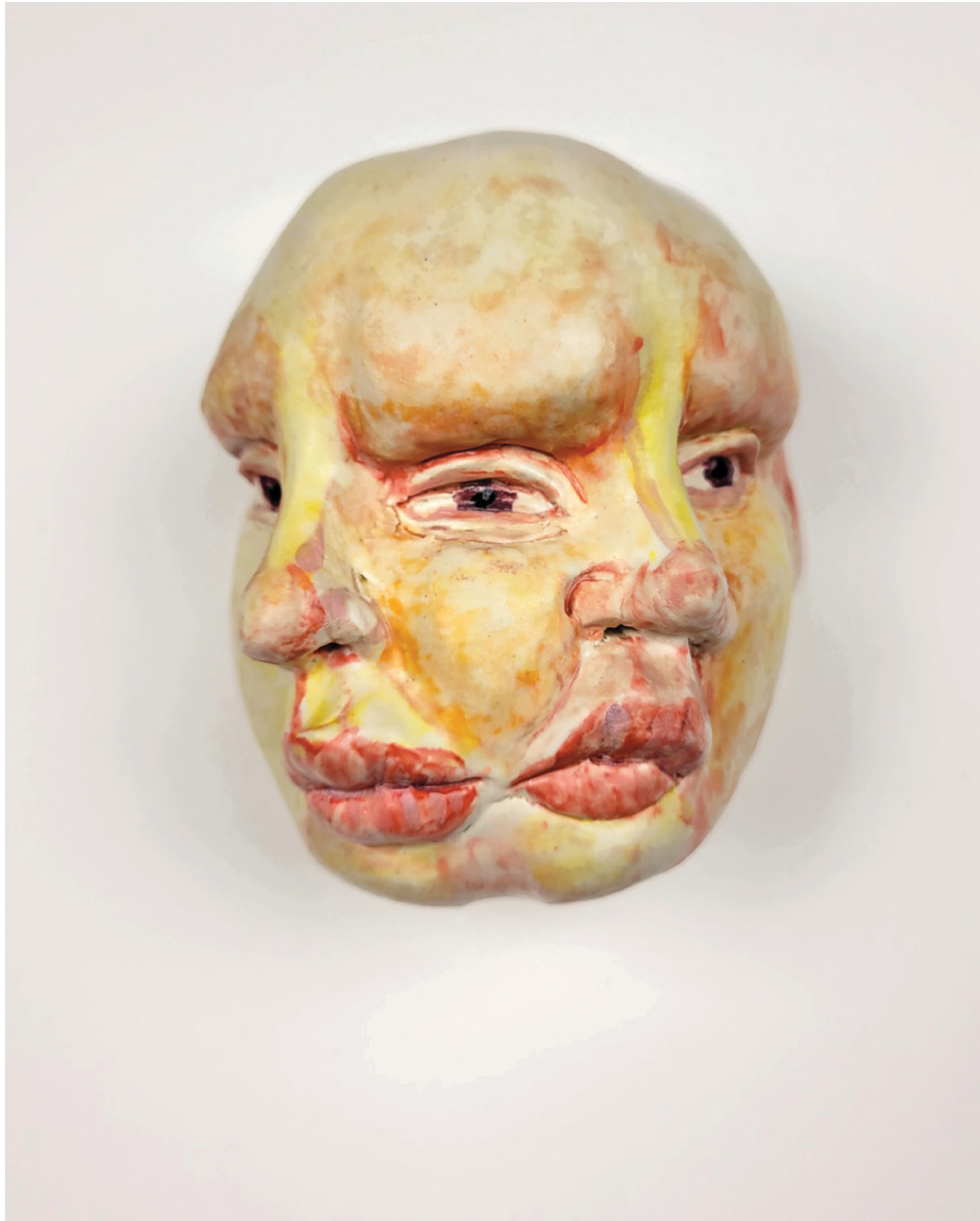


haley mcelroy

Haley McElroy is a 2nd year Candidate in Ceramics. She grew up in New Bern, North Carolina. She attended Appalachian State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Ceramics in 2015. After graduating, she returned to the East Coast and taught visual arts at Ben D. Quinn Elementary School. Haley is now pursuing her master's to become a ceramics professor and develop her conceptual work.

Pink Gloop
Ceramics
18 x 10 x 5"
2023





Gemini
Ceramics
4.5 x 3.75 x 3.25"
2023

My process helps me remove the negativity from my mind through reflection and analysis while conveying that inner chaos and discomfort to the viewer.

Big Pink Secrets
Ceramics
8 x 7.75 x 3.5"
2023



Tripping the Light Fantastic

Oil on Canvas
40 x 30"
2023

loraine scalamoni

In my most recent work I am exploring portraiture through drawing, painting, and a mixing of other media to capture a piece of each model. Within each work I aim to show the passions and interests of the subject through symbology both unique to the model and intimate to the viewer. This allows the audience to see the unique through the familiar, exposing the many sides of the individual on a visual level.

Using such symbols, be it words, objects, or animals, I am visually conveying who the person is. There are clues which may be very clear to the model and myself but, at the same time, are left for the viewer to interpret. In addition, I use bright and saturated color, especially in skin tones, to further emphasize my unique vision of each person.





Calla Hedron
Acrylic and Mixed Media on Canvas
64 x 30"
2023





Determined

Acrylic and Oil on Canvas

48 x 36"

2023

Within each work I aim to show the passions and interests of the subject through symbology both unique to the model and intimate to the viewer.



Contain Yourself

brooch

copper, enamel, sterling silver, fine silver, steel

chase shotton

Exploring the intricate tapestry of ornamentation within public spaces unveils a narrative of cultural expression, architectural legacy, and societal identity. As an MFA candidate specializing in metal design, my work is deeply rooted in the examination of ornamentation's historical significance in shaping public environments and its contemporary relevance.

From the grandeur of ancient monuments to the intricate details adorning modern urban landscapes, this presentation delves into the multifaceted history of ornamentation in public spaces. Through an exploration of architectural marvels, urban landmarks, and communal gathering places, we trace the evolution of ornamentation as a reflection of societal values, beliefs, and aspirations.

Drawing inspiration from this rich tapestry of ornamentation, my work as a metal designer seeks to reinterpret and reimagine traditional motifs within the context of contemporary public spaces. By blending craftsmanship, innovation, and artistic vision, I strive to create immersive experiences that resonate with the essence of their surroundings.

Through a synthesis of historical research, material experimentation, and conceptual design, I explore the transformative potential of ornamentation in revitalizing public spaces and fostering a sense of community and belonging. By engaging with the past while embracing the future, my work seeks to evoke a dialogue about the enduring significance of ornamentation in shaping our shared environment.

How gentrification has played a role in the ornamentation of public spaces.





Jenkins 1322 doorstop
cedar, sterling silver
2023

*By blending craftsmanship, innovation, and artistic vision,
I strive to create immersive experiences that resonate with
the essence of their surroundings.*



All the Clothes I Bought Were Ten Pairs of Socks

Letterpress Print

19 x 12.5"

2023

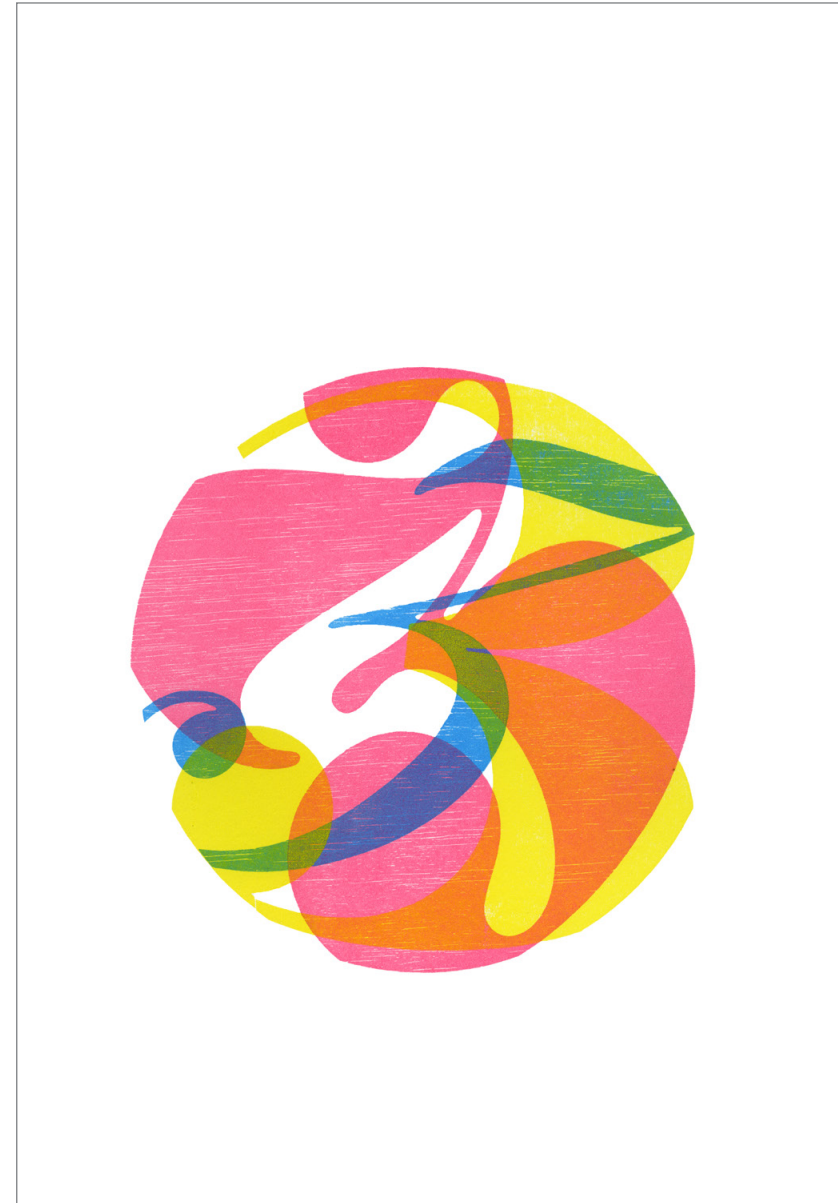
lee turner

My work delves into the paradigm of degrowth, a philosophy that advocates for a deliberate reduction in economic and material consumption, with the goal of achieving harmony between humanity and nature. The pursuit of endless economic growth has become an unquestioned mantra, deeply ingrained in our societal fabric.

I feel a responsibility to challenge this status quo and explore alternative narratives—such as degrowth—that prioritize the wellbeing of our planet and its inhabitants. My information design work is comprised of my personal data on implementing simple living practices grounded in degrowth values.

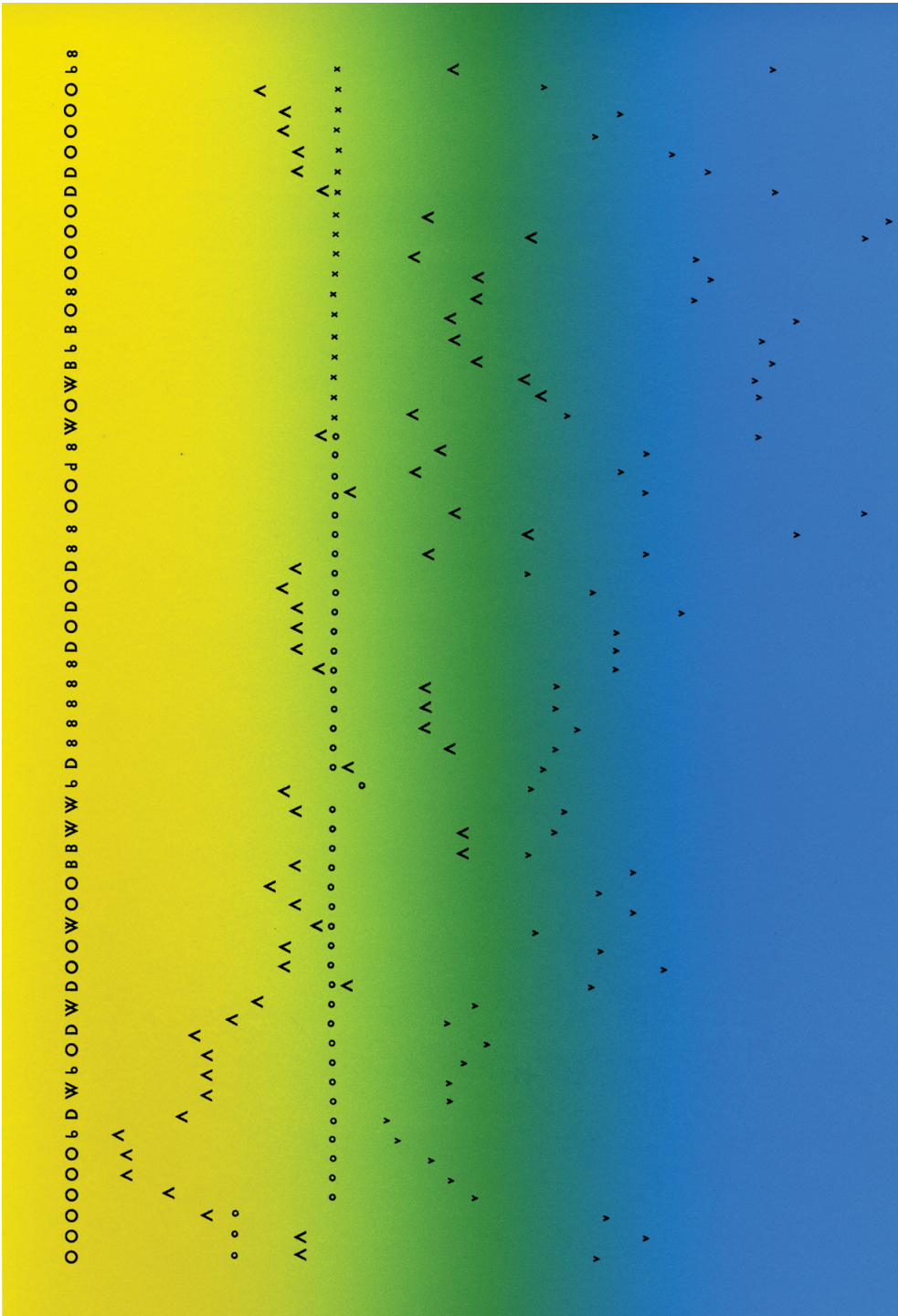
These data visualizations are executed through the process of letterpress printing. The slower, intentional technique of letterpress printing embodies the degrowth tenets of taking care and spending time on what is important. Ultimately, this work advocates for a fundamental shift in societal values—one that celebrates human connections, ecological balance, and the beauty of simplicity.





Damn Emails
Letterpress Print
19 x 12.5"
2024

I Only Used the Dryer Three Times
Letterpress Print
19 x 12.5"
2023

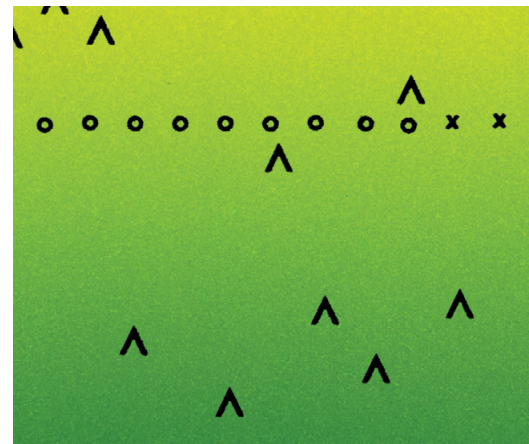


Outside Temperature vs. Thermostat Setting

Letterpress Print

19 x 12.5"

2024



*I feel a
responsibility
to challenge
this status quo
and explore
alternative
narratives.*

Untitled_5

MDF, Resin acrylic pigment, cast mirrored acrylic,
architectural grade Aliphatic Polyurethane
18 x 28"

christopher zidek

I aim for adroit elegance in my work. I believe craftsmanship to be a moral obligation. This body of work demonstrates attention to surface, and light reflectivity, while obtaining a balanced curvilinear geometry. Within these low-relief works, surface, dimension, and a sense of depth arise from an ongoing dialogue between digital, machine design, and human craftsmanship. I employ contemporary techniques for painting and sculpting, which include complex automotive coatings and a variety of materials, such as plastic, wood, high-density foam, and composites. I aim for these works to not be objects of interest, but rather objects of desire.





Untitled_1

MDF, Resin acrylic pigment, cast mirrored acrylic, and architectural grade Aliphatic Polyurethane
24 x 26"



Untitled_4

MDF, metallic resin acrylic pigment, Aniline dye, cast mirrored acrylic, and high solids urethane clearcoat
48 x 55"

I aim for these works to not be objects of interest, but rather objects of desire.





Untitled_3

MDF, Resin acrylic pigment, cast metallic acrylic, and
architectural grade Aliphatic Polyurethane
40 x 68"



artist biographies

amal abdalla

Amal Abdalla is a graphic designer, currently pursuing her MFA in Graphic Design, Third year at East Carolina University. She is interested in interactive application design and gamification. The themes and designs of Abdalla's work come from the original meaning of graphic design, which is about creating visual communication with the public to send specific messages. She believes involving technologies in her designs enhances and strengthens the relationship between the designer, the design, and the target audience. In addition, Abdalla worked as a graphic design instructor at Art Education College Egypt. In 2018, she was awarded a tuition waiver scholarship to study her second master's degree in creative technology at ILSTU to open the possibility of using technology in visual art.

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emily booker

Emily Booker is a metalsmith and mixed media artist from Chapel Hill, NC. After earning her BA from University of Vermont, she honed her technical skills while employed as a bench jeweler and started her own small jewelry business, Ursa Metals. Booker is a 3rd year MFA candidate in Metal Design at East Carolina University where she endeavors to build a studio practice that balances wearable objects and conceptual bodies of work. She is currently working with metal, stone, textiles, paper, and light. By using material as representation for the translation between perceived reality and remembered experience, she works to acknowledge the existence of multiple perspectives — and the validity of each one.

www.ursametals.com
[@emilybookerjewelry](https://www.instagram.com/emilybookerjewelry)



tamla boone

Tamla Boone is from Asheville, NC where she was inspired by the vibrant Blue Ridge craft scene. She is ceramicist and her conceptual art may include paint, wood, metal or glass. Tamla is an Art Educator to students of all ages in various venues. Her experience includes collaborations with Schools, Science Centers, Historical Sites, Arts and History Centers. She's travelled by horse and buggy, lived in Civil War Forts, caused explosions and set herself on fire several times all in the name of Passion. She is passionate about teaching her crafts, history and adventures. She serves as a resident artist with Granville County Schools, Durham Arts Council, Carborro Arts, Asheville Taapas, and Odyssey Clayworks. She has a BA in Communications from UNC Chapel Hill, a MAT in Art from UNC Pembroke and is currently a candidate for a MFA in Ceramics at ECU.



katelyn brewer

Katelyn Brewer is a North Carolina based photographer who works with digital and alternative processes. She received a BFA and minor in Global Cinema at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2020 and is currently a second year MFA candidate in Photography at East Carolina University at the School of Art and Design.



haleigh brewer

Haleigh Lennox Brewer is a North Carolina based photographer who is currently a third year MFA candidate in Photography at East Carolina University at the School of Art and Design. Haleigh received her BFA and minor in Global Cinema at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2020. Haleigh currently uses digital photography to explore her individuality within her twin relationship.



kate davis

Kate Davis is a first-year graduate student pursuing an MFA in ceramics. She is originally from North Carolina, but she spent the majority of her life living in Georgia where she received her BFA in sculpture and ceramics from Augusta University in 2022. Her current work explores materiality and the interactions of chemicals in ceramic surfaces and glazes. Kate's main work has been in crystalline glazes for the past three years, but she is also interested in further exploring atmospheric firings such as soda and wood. She also has experience in collecting and processing natural clay and hopes to eventually combine her knowledge of natural clay and glaze materials with her crystalline work.



paul edwards

A North Carolina native, Paul completed a BA in Political Science at UNC Charlotte. Through all his academic pursuits, Paul maintained a connection with Textile and Fiber Arts, focusing mainly on crochet wearables. Following the completion of his BA, Paul moved abroad to South Korea to work in English language education. While abroad, he created more figurative and conceptual work through newly self-taught skills in knitting and weaving.

Seeking a new path, in late 2022, Paul began looking at MFA programs that had weaving offerings, and in summer 2023, he returned to his home state after 17 years in South Korea. Leaving such a well-established life was a major decision, but he has always lived his life by following his passion. Paul is currently enrolled in the MFA program at East Carolina University concentrating in Textile Arts and is due to graduate in Spring 2026.

parker estes

Parker Estes is a Graphic Designer and first-year MFA candidate based in Greenville, North Carolina. Originally from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, He worked for several years as an instructor and visual program designer in marching arts education before receiving his BFA in Graphic Design from the University of Southern Mississippi. As a young person, he developed a deep affinity for the visual storytelling of movies, television, and video games. This fascination with visual media and a penchant for technology eventually led him to become a graphic design practitioner.



nick fowler

Raised in Laurinburg, North Carolina, Nicholas Bisbee creates art that addresses aspects of childhood and medical practice. Raised alongside his brothers by his pharmacist father and art teacher mother, Nick learned to appreciate both science and art from a young age. Originally a student of mechanical engineering, Nick eventually switched majors to art, earning a bachelor's of art with a concentration in sculpture from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 2020. After working as a hardware store employee, cameraman, and middle school art teacher, Nick is now a second-year ceramics graduate student at East Carolina University, creating multimedia art in clay and glass.



michael gaines

Michael Gaines is a 3rd year MFA candidate concentrating in Photography. Originally from Virginia, he moved to Philadelphia in 2004 where he spent discovered his interest in photography. Having a life-long interest in architecture, over the next twelve years he nurtured his interest in photography through explorations of the city and the built environment around him. Gaines moved to North Carolina in 2016 whereupon he decided to go back to school, earning two Associates degrees and a BFA in Photography from Appalachian State before coming to East Carolina for his MFA. In addition to analog and digital photography, Gaines' interests also include Alternative Photographic Processes and Book Arts. His thesis is centered around investigations into fears of expressing his authentic self and how they relate to a larger conversation about the perception of identity and code-switching as means of survival and perseverance.



joogab kim

As an electrical engineer, a church pastor, and a teacher, he had been working hard to fulfill each role well for the past 30 years. These previous careers have given him a great opportunity not only to have various experiences as a human being, but also to be a good dad and husband for his family. However, he realized these roles were not what he truly wanted to be, but he just did his best with whatever he faced. Meanwhile, he happened to visit an exhibition of Korean ceramics 6 years ago where he was opened to the world of ceramics. This world is fundamental and traditional and expresses who he was as an artist. Thus, he began practicing pottery and other necessary skills to be a potter as a final step in his life. Now, he is honored to learn ceramics in the MFA program at ECU, and he aspires to be a professional Onggi potter after graduation.



tyler king

Born in Rome, GA King obtained an undergraduate in Graphic Design at Mercer University and has designed for the likes of health clinics, non-profit organizations, local apparel stores, and more. Currently, as a graduate student at ECU, King strives for lively and empathetic design that encourages connectivity.

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rachael lowman

Rachael is a weaver and textile artist who was raised on a farm in northeast Tennessee. From a young age, she worked in various textile art forms. As a teenager, she learned the art of weaving from her mother and the Overmountain Weavers Guild in Kingsport, TN. The inspiration for her work comes from traditional Appalachian weaving, nature, and her faith. Rachael gains inspiration for her use of nature to communicate conceptual ideas in her work from TC2 Jacquard weavers such as Cathryn Amidei. During her undergraduate career, she was awarded the Fine and Performing Arts Honors Scholarship from East Tennessee State University and the Dendel Scholarship from Handweavers Guild of America (HGA). Rachael's weaving has been published internationally in HGA's Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot. Her first semester of graduate school has been both exciting and challenging. She looks forward to the educational journey in fiber art that is to come.



haley mcelroy

Haley McElroy is a 2nd year Candidate in Ceramics. She grew up in New Bern, North Carolina. She attended Appalachian State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Ceramics in 2015. After graduating, she returned to the East Coast and taught visual arts at Ben D. Quinn Elementary School. Haley is now pursuing her master's to become a ceramics professor and develop her conceptual work.



lori scalamoni

Loraine Scalamoni began her art training in New York City at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Initially a Fashion Illustrator she worked with the figure, but in a commercial capacity. Her curiosity and desire to explore the figure more thoroughly prompted her continued studies, receiving a BFA degree in Fine Art and enrolling in the MFA Graduate program in Painting and Drawing at ECU. As a figurative portrait artist Loraine explores the genre through experimentation, use of color, mark making and mixed media. She portrays her subjects through observation and intuition depicting her version of the sitter's personality. Capturing the essence of her subject is the goal and she does so through the inclusion of objects she deems significant to the sitter, the palette she uses and the addition of patterning. Her concern is not to create an exact replica of the person but to create a mood showing a version of their personality.



lee turner

Lee Turner is a third-year MFA candidate in Graphic Design. Prior to her studies at ECU, Lee founded an arts-based educational nonprofit that operated out of Harrisonburg, VA & she studied Art Therapy at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Lee holds a BS in Studio Art from James Madison University and a Graduate Certificate in Racial Equity Studies from ECU. Currently, Lee is focusing her academic efforts on exploring the intersection of graphic design, environmental conservation, and climate justice. Lee is a staunchly opinionated leftist who desires to work for good. Through graphic design, she seeks to take steps toward a more equitable, just, and peaceful future. Outside of her creative research, Lee enjoys cooking from scratch, reading in the sun, going for walks, watching baseball, and strengthening her meditation practice. Lee is very excited to turn 40 in 2024.

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chase shotton

Chase Shotton is a second year graduate student in metal design at East Carolina University. Chase received his BA in anthropology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2020 while studying jewelry and metals under ECU alum Sharon Massey.

Chase makes work that explores the complex relationship of the math that defines shapes found in nature, and ornamental designs found across cultures throughout history. He is currently developing a body of work that focuses on adorning functional objects that have historically been deemed not worthy of ornamentation.

@chase_the_wrapper



chris zidek

Chris is currently enrolled as a third-year MFA candidate at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He is exploring new material technologies in conjunction with machinery used to create a new body of work bridging the gap between Art Nouveau and Post Graffitiism. Chris's clients include Google, Nissan, Microsoft, Vuse, Keep a Breast Foundation, Hutton Hotel, and the Ad Council. His Mural work has been written about in Forbes magazine, Huffington Post, Surface magazine, Brooklyn Street Art, and other street art magazines. He is currently a second-year MFA candidate in painting at ECU.



colophon

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