

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS
THESIS EXHIBITION
2026**



2026 THESIS EXHIBITIONS

THE GALLERY AT THE VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

March 26–April 12

Opening reception: March 26, 6–8pm

School of Visual, Performing &
Communication Arts, 2nd Floor

43 Lake Avenue Extension

Danbury, CT

Hours: Tues–Fri, 12–4pm Sat–Sun, 1–4 pm

203-837-8403

BLUE MOUNTAIN GALLERY

June 16–July 3

Opening reception: June 18, 5–8pm

547 West 27 Street, Suite 200

New York, NY

Hours: Tues–Sat, 11–6pm

646-486-4730

Supported by the Jason and Ellen Hancock
Student Endowment Fund

The School of Visual, Performing &
Communication Arts at Western
Connecticut State University is pleased
to announce its candidates for the
2026 Master of Fine Arts degree.

LOREN BIRTHA

OCTAVIA C. BYRD

JACQUELINE JOYCE

KATHERINE MORAN

RILEY WEAVER

Photography: Catherine Vanaria, Loren Birtha
Catalog design: Ken Scaglia

ABOUT THE MFA IN VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

The MFA program is comprised of two years of intensive, creative study and extensive interaction with resident faculty and visiting artists. Students select a concentration in painting, illustration, or interdisciplinary visual art. Workshops, professional internships, contemporary and historical research, and teaching assistantships are integral to the program. Each student has a private MFA studio in the university's Visual & Performing Arts Center, located one hour from New York City and surrounded by the landscapes of southern New England.

For more information about the program,
call 203-837-8403 or visit wcsu.edu/art/graduate





LOREN BIRTHA

Opposite: *Drowned in Good Intentions* | digital print with acrylic and gold leaf paint | 29.5 x 15.75 in.
Above: *Polymorphic Divinity* | carved redwood tree roots | 35w x 16.5h x 9.5d in.



OCTAVIA C. BYRD

Opposite: *Bare* | oil on wood panel | 24 x 18 in.
Above: *Untitled* | acrylic marker on felt, mounted on wood | 26.5 x 30 in.



KATHERINE MORAN

Opposite: *Above/Below* | gouache on canvas | 18 x 16 in.

Above, left to right: *Oval 1, Oval 2, Oval 3* | monoprints on canvas | each 12 x 9 in.



RILEY WEAVER

Opposite: *Moonage Daydream* | 3D block print and monoprint on paper | 19 x 15 in.
Above: *IC•UEVWR* | 3D block print, license plate print, cotton string, dirt and gravel on cork | 24 x 23 in.



LOREN BIRTHA
Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Visual Art
Bachelor of Fine Arts | Paier College of Art
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Website: www.lab-art23.space



KATHERINE MORAN
Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Visual Art
Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art, Painting | WCSU
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Instagram: @kmoranart



OCTAVIA C. BYRD
Master of Fine Arts, Painting
Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art, Painting | WCSU
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RILEY WEAVER
Master of Fine Arts, Interdisciplinary Visual Art
Bachelor of Arts, dual degree, Photography &
Graphic Design | WCSU
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JACQUELINE JOYCE
Master of Fine Arts, Illustration
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting & Drawing |
Purchase College
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Website: jacquelinejoyceart.com
Instagram: @jacquelinejoyceart

MFA PROGRAM FACULTY

Ken Scaglia, Chair, Department of Art
MFA, Yale University

Darby Cardonsky, MFA Coordinator
MA, Hunter College

Riley Brewster
MFA, Yale University

Leslie Cober-Gentry
MFA, University of Hartford

Sabrina Marques
MFA, Yale University

Rob Nadeau
MFA, Rhode Island School of Design

Amber Scoon
MFA, American University
PhD, European Graduate School

Jack Tom
MFA, University of Hartford

Emeritus Resident Faculty
Abe Echevarria
Margaret Grimes

VISITING ARTISTS AND LECTURERS

2000-2022

Daniel Adel
Eric Aho *
Adele Alsop
Emma Amos *
Vincent Arcilesi
John Arthur
William Bailey *
Scott Bakal
Melinda Beck
Seth Becker
Robert Berlind *
Caitlin Berndt
Jake Berthot *
Guy Billout
Robert Birmelin
Gideon Bok
Matt Bollinger
Roger Boyce
Steve Brodner
David Brinley
Tom Burckhardt
Nina Buxenbaum
Chris Buzelli
Charles Cajori
Paul Calle
Marcos Chin
Joan Chiverton
Susanna Coffey *
David Cohen
Raul Colón
Kinuko Craft
Robert Crawford
Bob Crofut
John Cuneo
Amy Cutler
Fielding Dawson
Janet DeCarlo
Jackie Decker
Vincent Desiderio
Grace Devito
Ray DiCapua
Lois Dodd *
Bruce Dorfman
Daniel Dos Santos
Hilary Doyle

Fritz Drury
Angela Dufresne
Randall Enos
Constance Evans
Alan Feltus
Janet Fish *
L. Everett-Fisher
Audrey Flack *
Andrew Forge *
Connie Fox *
Stephanie Franks
Chie Fueki
Magge Gagliardi
Betsy Garand
Brenda Garand
Michael Garland
Charlie Gehm
Shelia Geoffrion
Robert Giusti
Judy Glantzman
Glenn Goldberg
Jane Goodall
John Goodrich
James Grashow
Norman Green
Margaret Grimes *
Barbara Grossman
James Gurney
Rudy Gutierrez
Richard Haas *
Catherine Haggarty
Nancy Hagin
Ellen Harvey
Josephine Halvorson
Steven Harvey *
Julie Heffernan *
Mark Hess
N. Charkow-Hollander
Eric Holzman
Fritz Horstman
Yvonne Jacqueline *
Elisa Jensen
David Johnson
Victor Juhasz
Wolf Kahn
Aya Kakeda
Roger Kastel
Ken Kewley
Tom Kidd
Don Kimes
Richard Klein
Jon Krause

Stephen Kroninger
Stanley Lewis *
Ying Li
Edward Little
Lynette Lombard
Mathew Lopas
Maria De Los Angeles
Sharon Louden
Dennis Lyall
Ross MacDonald
Gregory Manchess
Christopher Manning
Fred Mason
AJ Masthay
James McGarrell
Beverly McIver
Ruth Miller *
John Moore *
Howard Munz
Matt Murphy
Rob Nadeau *
Laini Nemett *
Graham Nickson *
Adam Niklewicz
Tim O'Brien
Hugh O'Donnell
R. Andrew Parker
Charles Parness
Jim Peters
Dorie Petrochko
Stephanie Pierce
Jerry Pinkney
Anna Poor
Kelly Popoff
Walt Reed
Kenny Rivero *
Edel Rodriguez
Joseph Salerno
Jennifer Samet *
Zina Saunders
Bill Schmidt
T. Lanigan-Schmidt *
Danny Schwartz
Amber Scoon
Heather Scott
Susan Shatter
Yuko Shimizu
Jon Sideriadis
Elena Sisto
Paul Smith
Gene Sparkman
Don Spaulding

Nancy Stahl
Kyle Staver
Clintel Steed
Amy Smith-Stewart
Bill Sullivan
Altoon Sultan
Andrea Sulzer
Lynn Sweat
Bill Thomson
Cathleen Toelke
Grier Torrence
Lee Tribe
Selina Trieff *
Ed Tuttle
Audrey Ushenko
Victoria Vebell
Eric Velasquez
Raymond Verdaguer
John Wallace
Susan Jane Walp *
James Warhola
Chuck Webster
Ellen Weinstein
Michael Whelan
Andrea Wisniewski
Judy York
Deborah Zlotsky

2024-2026

Hangama Amiri
Todd Bartel
Guy Billout
Tom Burckhardt
Glenn Goldberg
Rudy Gutierrez
Josephine Halvorson
Phoebe Jane Hart
Fritz Horstman
Will Hutnick
Jim Lee
Ying Li
Maria de Los Angeles
Jenny Lynn McNutt *
Cheryl Mukherji
Amber Scoon
Jon Sideriadis
Eric Velasquez

* Weir Farm Art Alliance
co-sponsored lecture



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SCHOOL OF VISUAL,
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