

WAC MSC VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE



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A Message from the Chair



Howdy, My name is Elise Hurry, and I am serving as the VAC chair for the 2022-2023 school year. I am a chemical engineering major from Philadelphia, PA, and a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '23. Whoop!

I joined VAC during my freshman year to have an outlet for art while studying for my engineering degree. For the past two years, I served as the executive of student development, and this year I decided to step up as Chair. I love VAC because it connects people from all different backgrounds of life through education, art, and community.

The fall 2022 semester was super successful and we have an exciting lineup of exhibits coming in the next few months. In February 2023, we will host Kathleen Elliot here at Texas A&M. Kathleen is the artist of our current exhibit "Questionable Foods".

Later, in March, we will host the annual ArtFest art competition which features over 100 Texas A&M student artists a year. This summer, we will host a compelling interactive exhibit about the importance of creativity and play, called "Play!".

JUVENILE IN JUSTICE

**BY: RICHARD
ROSS**

Richard Ross is an artist, activist, and photographer based in Santa Barbara, CA. He created Juvenile-In-Justice and strives to give American juveniles the opportunity to be seen. The Juvenile-In-Justice exhibit at the Reynolds Gallery took place from August 17 - October 8, 2022.

Juvenile-In-Justice aims to tell the stories of young people in the justice system to help “facilitate better outcomes for the 53,000+ children in custody every day.” This exhibit captures the experiences of these children before, during and after incarceration. By illustrating the conditions of disciplinary institutions, photographer Richard Ross reveals what it truly means to be facing the challenges inside the system.

Impact

To provide in-person conversations with the photographer, VAC brought Richard Ross to A&M College Station. The MSC Woodson Black Awareness Committee (WBAC) hosted a dinner on October 4th with Ross, which concluded with a reception by VAC. This partnership allowed for WBAC and VAC to collaborate on an important topic for a greater impact on the College Station community.



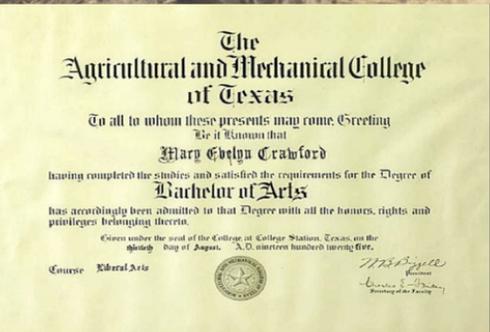
Juvenile-In-Justice was also recently featured by FREEAMERICA under their instagram page. The post was made in reference to Youth Justice Action Month.

The success of the Juvenile-In-Justice exhibit is not limited to A&M at College Station. We were excited to see the collection go on display at the Prairie View campus, who also hosted a conversation with Richard Ross.

Aggie Frame of Mind



From Wildflower Exhibit



From A&M Women's History Exhibit



From Study Abroad Exhibit

Aggie Frame of Mind is an exhibit of 12 photographs on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center, adjacent to the main entrance of the Bethancourt Ballroom. The selection of images changes every 3-4 months and features an aspect of the Aggie experience. Connected by time, location, community, and creativity, the Aggie Frame of Mind photos allow students of Texas A&M to showcase their talent and tell their stories like no other exhibit can.

This semester we had some great exhibits on display for Aggie Frame of Mind. Over the summer, we featured student-submitted wildflower photographs, including some spectacular images of pets in bluebonnet fields. In October, an exhibit focusing on the history of women's admission to Texas A&M went on display. This exhibit was an opportunity to learn about the struggles women faced to become official students and how polarizing this issue was on campus in the 1960s. In time for the winter holidays, an exhibit featuring images from student's study abroad trips went on display. This marks the second time we have featured such images, and we hope to continue this for years to come.

In Spring 2023 we will be featuring an exhibit about Texas State Senator Matthew Gaines in February and March. In April, the history of the Aggie Ring will be highlighted in time for Aggie Ring Day, with a focus on design changes throughout the years and the ring's importance in school tradition.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



KATHLEEN ELLIOT

ON DISPLAY IN THE REYNOLDS GALLERY UNTIL
FEBRUARY 25, 2023



About the Artist:

Best known for rich, delicate sculptures of botanical forms made from flameworked glass, Kathleen Elliot has recently expanded her practice into mixed-media and collage works that address the developed world's problematic relationship with food and the industries that surround it.

An exhibit of Kathleen's work, "Questionable Foods", is currently on display in the Reynolds Gallery until February 25, 2023. Visit the virtual exhibit at tx.ag/questionablefoods.

MSC VAC: What has it been like working with VAC to showcase your work for "Questionable Foods" here at the Reynolds Gallery?

Elliot: "It's been pleasant! I have enjoyed my conversations with you and Chloe and other students. I am looking forward to being there in February and talking to the different classes and students for my visit. I love being with younger people, talking about ideas and issues and art! I love hearing younger generations' ideas and thoughts about things."

MSC VAC: Tell us about your exhibit itself! What inspired you to create it and what is the main message you want to convey?

Elliot: Around ten years ago, I started learning about the controversy surrounding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the food industry. I learned that food companies reported no detrimental effects from their own studies, but then independent studies over longer periods of time showed risks in mice! The companies making these products are saying, "Oh GMOs are safe, there is no problem with these foods," and then independent people are saying, "No, when studied over a longer time there are really bad effects from these foods." That got me motivated to learn more. Sugar is another problem in our food supply. Sugar is just snuck into so many products, even so called 'natural' or 'healthy' foods. Sugar is addictive and creates all kinds of other health problems. Personally, I have always struggled with body image and it's a personal struggle for me to accept my own body and to eat healthy. It's been a big part of my personal experience in life, and that feeds into my art as well.

MSC VAC: How do you hope your work will transcend into student's lives and lifestyles?

Elliot: My hope is that I can encourage students to learn about the food we eat and why it's marketed the way it is. Because knowing more gives people the freedom to make their own choice. Sometimes it's okay to choose pizza - and I make that choice too, I love pizza! I'm not saying that people should never eat pizza! No! That's not a satisfying life. But I think if we don't know what questions to ask, then we can't make informed choices. And my hope is that my artwork triggers people to go, "Hey, I eat this food... why is this food in the "Questionable Foods" exhibit? what can I learn here?" That's my hope - that people gain knowledge that gives them freedom to make good choices.



MSC VAC: Are you excited for your reception in February! What are you most looking forward to?

Elliot: I am excited! You know, I work alone in my little studio here in California. And I know how I feel about my art and what it means to me. It's my heart and soul. To be around other people and hear what it means to other people is a special treat. Especially college students, you are so open-minded and curious. To be around all of you while experiencing my art will be really exciting for me!

Meeting Update

At MSC Visual Art Committee meetings, there is always a unique activity planned!

This year we had the opportunity to learn about letterpress printing and the history of the printing press with Professor Jill Honeycutt. In honor of the coming season, each member created a spooky design.



We also went on a tour of the Stark Gallery Vault led by Amanda Neel, and a tour of the Cushing Preservation Lab led by Jeanne Goodman. At the Stark Gallery Vault, we had the chance to view Texas A&M's art collection and donor collections.

The Cushing Library taught us about the science and art of preservation. Jenn Korelenko, also led our committee in a discussion about disparities in the art world as a Diversity Training.

No two meetings are the same, yet they all utilize art as an outlet.



This fall, we painted pumpkins in the new Aggie Park, painted river rocks, made a Gustav Klimt inspired mural, and made mini pop art paintings on paint chips.

We had so much fun playing Telestrations and Pictionary for another meeting. As a committee we learned how to crochet with the Memorial Student Center President, Neha Deshmukh.



To welcome the cold weather, we concluded our semester with a Bob Ross paint-along of a snowy landscape!



Spooky Print Making



Halloween Pumpkin Painting



Group Mural of The Kiss by Gustav Klimt



Bob Ross Paint Along



Wishing you a Happy and Bright New Year!

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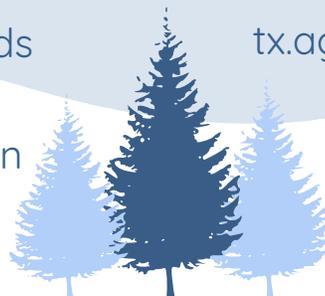
Thank you

Mr. James R. Reynolds

Crawley Family

Mr. James H. Johnson

Mrs. Mary Casillas



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