

VAC MSC VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

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Newsletter, Fall
2023, Vol 2

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Aggies, members, and friends,

My name is Hailey Thomas, and I am honored to serve as the MSC Visual Arts Committee Chair for the 2023-2024 school year. I am a class of '25 Public Health major from Keller, Texas, and a pre-dental student.

I have always loved art and have been an avid painter, so I was excited to join VAC during my freshman year as it allowed me to carve out time in my busy schedule to indulge in the arts. VAC quickly proved to be more than just an artistic outlet for me as it exposed me to new friends, gallery management, local artists, and leadership opportunities. During my sophomore year I gained experience planning meetings and activities as the Committee Development Director. This year I have continued to grow my leadership skills and professionalism as the MSC Visual Arts Committee Chair.

This past fall, I watched my fellow directors work hard to achieve successful exhibits such as *Len Davis: Everyday Life*. My committee worked hard to welcome Len Davis to College Station, host a workshop, plan guest lecturer times, and engage with students on campus.

Soon, during the spring semester, the annual ArtFest exhibit will be installed to allow students to showcase their own works for a chance to win a cash prize. ArtFest has always been a campus favorite as it showcases all of our talented students and a wide variety of themes, styles, and mediums.

I look forward to having another successful year with the MSC Visual Arts Committee!

Sincerely,

Hailey Thomas '25
MSC Visual Arts Committee Chair

EVERYDAY LIFE BY LEN DAVIS

About the Artist:

Len Davis is a contemporary artist living and working in Los Angeles, California. He primarily works in assemblage, collage, drawing, and works on paper to explore themes of everyday life and human emotion. His use of human figures and emotional expression is at the forefront of his work. An exhibit of Len Davis's work, is currently on display at the James R. Reynolds Gallery until February 24th, 2024. You can visit the virtual exhibit at tx.ag/LenDavis.

Workshop with the Artist:

In October, the MSC Visual Arts Committee hosted a workshop with Len Davis based on collage pieces from his A Thousand Words series. In this workshop, he walked participants of all skill levels through the process of making their own 8-inch by 5-inch collage on a wooden board, using recycled and natural materials.

They sorted through newspaper and magazine clippings, paper scraps, stickers, and even food wrappers and receipts to combine colors and textures. Then, they assembled and glued these pieces onto the wooden board and trimmed the edges. Len instructed the participants to coat one of the scrap pieces with a thin layer of gesso so that after drying, they could draw over parts of their collage. Once the drawings were completed, the collages were then sealed with epoxy and left to dry overnight. After picking up their collages the next day, students were able to attend the artist's reception, where they shared their experiences with creating their own collages and reflected on the artworks in the exhibit.



INSIDE THE GALLERY

MSC VAC takes pride in showcasing art exhibitions in the Reynolds Gallery for students on campus to visit! But to get that rewarding end result, VAC goes through a process that starts months in advance to ensure the exhibit's success.

The first step in the whole process is finding the artists we want to feature! VAC does this in many ways; we either find our artists through member recommendations, the committee's connections with external art communities/organizations, or artists reaching out to us for the opportunity to display their work.

Once we choose our artist, it's time to plan the exhibit! The first part of this step is submitting a proposal and presenting it to the MSC Visual and Performing Arts Program Assembly. Once it has been approved, the executive team works with the artist to select the specific pieces we want to display and starts designing the exhibit itself, planning promotional materials, writing the educational text about each piece, and scheduling artwork shipping and other logistics.

After details have been finalized and the art has arrived at our gallery, it's time for the installation process! The VAC members learn how to handle artwork and use gallery tools to make sure all of the artwork is safely installed. Once it's done, the Reynolds Gallery is open again to showcase a new exhibit!

LIGHTS OUT, TEXAS!

The MSC Visual Arts Committee partnered with the Texas A&M Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections and the Houston Audubon Society to raise awareness about the Lights Out! movement. Lights Out! is a national program that aims to inform the public about the dangerous impact light pollution has on bird migrations. Lights can disorient birds in flight causing them to collide into windows and buildings, or get lost and exhausted as they try to find their way at night.

The *Lights Out, Texas!* exhibit showcased native Texas species most affected by light pollution. The Reynolds Gallery was transformed with dark blue walls to mimic the night sky. We also added small dot decals to our windows, which is a tool architects can use to make windows more visible to our feathered friends. Students from the Texas A&M BRTC also provided their own handmade artwork featuring printing techniques which were all hung onto a mist net used by biologists who study birds.



The *Lights Out, Texas!* exhibit was on display from June 28th through September 13th, 2023. Students were welcomed back to campus with a Howdy Week closing reception for the exhibit where we made origami birds and snacked on “bird food” as they learned about the environmental issue of light pollution as well as the intersection of art and science.

MEETING RECAP

At our weekly meetings member meetings, we always try to have something different and fun planned for our art activities.

In the spring semester, we had fun making friendship bracelets, and magazine collages and even personalized our own tote bags with paint. As a fun way to end the semester, we even made a trip to U Paint It to glaze our own pottery pieces.

Moving into the fall semester, we made colored paper collages to welcome our new artists exhibit with Len Davis. To ring in the spooky season we decorated mason jars with tissue paper and designed tarot cards in a meeting led by one of our members.

We also had fun attending a meeting with the Brazos Valley Arts Council staff where we learned about ways they support local artists in the community surrounding Texas A&M University. During this meeting, we were also able to view their current exhibits which was an eye-opening experience.

In December, we painted Christmas tree ornaments to welcome the winter break, and we had a finals study session together in the Student Programs Office [SPO].

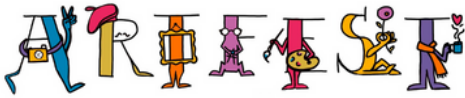


ARTFEST

Each year, Texas A&M students showcase their artwork through **ArtFest!**

ArtFest is the annual student art competition and exhibition sponsored by the MSC Visual Arts Committee. Any current Texas A&M student may submit their work to be displayed in the James R. Reynolds Gallery.

ARTFEST THROUGH THE YEARS



(2020)



ArtFest is an opportunity for the James R. Reynolds gallery to serve students by showcasing their own creativity.

The array of art always makes this exhibit stand out. Mediums vary from pencil and paint to videography and crochet. With such a wide selection, there is truly something for everyone—a great summary of the Texas A&M community.

ArtFest 2024 will be on display February 28th to April 20, 2024. ArtFest 2024 submission tickets will open in early 2024 and collection begins the week of February 19, 2024!



ArtFest 2021



ArtFest 2022



ArtFest 2023

LINKS TO OUR WEBSITE

For more information:
vac.tamu.edu/artfest

ArtFest 2023 virtual exhibit:
tx.ag/ArtFest2023

ARTFEST
2024
MSC VISUAL ARTS
COMMITTEE

AGGIE FRAME OF MIND

Aggie Frame of Mind is a revolving 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.



Last spring we ended the year with an Aggie Ring showcase of photos showing recent and former students showing off their Aggie Rings. In September the gallery became home to the Aggie Football Retrospective exhibit, which was a selection of photos from the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives football photograph files going all the way back to the first Aggie football team in 1896. This exhibit highlighted the unique community that has formed from our shared memories and experiences with Aggie football over the last 127 years. This was a really fun exhibit to research and share with Texas A&M students and visitors during the fall 2024 football season.



In honor of International Education Week, in November, Aggie Frame of Mind hosted photo finalists from the 2023 Aggies Abroad Photo Contest. Every year, Aggies visit lots of exciting places to work and study, and take some amazing photos! These photos showcase the incredible opportunities that Aggies have to broaden their perspective and travel the world. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with Education Abroad over the coming years.

Photo (top): Item 31, Texas A&M Photograph Files, Football 1960-1969, Cushing Memorial Library, Texas A&M University

Photo (left): *Rhino With an Aggie Ring* by Amanda Davidson



Happy Holidays!

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Connect

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Thank you

Mr. James R. Reynolds
Crawley Family
Mrs. Mary Casillas
and Mr. Preston
Freisner

Donate

tx.ag/GiveVAC

