

WAC MSC VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER FALL 2024



CONTENTS

Message from the Chair

Artfest 2024

Aggie Frame of Mind

Practice what we Teach

Rinsing the Sun

Meeting Recap

Interview with a Member

Meet the Leadership Team

Credits



VOLUME 3



Message from the Chair

Howdy, my name is Jordan Graham, and I am proud to serve as the VAC Chair from 2024 - 2025. I am an Ocean Engineering major from Dallas, Texas, class of 2026.

I joined VAC in my freshman year as a way to stay connected with art during my busy engineering schedule. I loved art before college, having taken an art class every year since 8th grade, and was worried about not having enough time to still have that creative outlet. VAC offered this outlet which blossomed into much more as I became more involved in the leadership and the gallery work. During my sophomore year, I took on the role of Committee Development where I planned all of our general committee meetings, and this year I am gaining more behind the scenes and leadership experience as Chair.

This fall, VAC was hit with a very unexpected change to our financial picture. We knew our status was changing from a departmental MSC Committee to a Registered Student Organization [RSO], but we did not know how that would change our finances.

As an RSO, we cannot use any of our MSC funds, or our endowment, to pay for artist travel or hospitality (which impacts our residency program drastically). We had to adjust quickly to this change when we hosted Carol Flueckiger in October.

Another area impacted is our member meetings. The MSC no longer provides funds for our art supplies that we use at our general member meetings. Meeting activities are a source of creativity and community for our members, and it's often what draws them in to higher leadership roles.

As we manage these changes, we are learning to fundraise more, but it's a steep learning curve. We continue to seek support from former members like you!

Please consider donating today at tx.ag/GiveVAC

Sincerely,

Jordan Graham '26
MSC Visual Arts Committee Chair

ARTFEST 2024

1st Place

DID YOU NOTICE ME?

By Sameeksha Sharma
Ink drawing



ArtFest is an annual exhibition that brings together the diverse and vibrant artwork of Texas A&M students in the James R. Reynolds Gallery. Each year, the exhibit features an impressive range of mediums from pencil and paint to videography and crochet. A true celebration of hthe creativity within the Aggie community.

2nd Place

HOLD ME

By Isabella Barraza
Pencil drawing



ArtFest 2025 will be on display from February 26 to April 26. Submissions open in January 2025, welcoming all current Texas A&M students to showcase their work. The top three winning entries will receive cash prizes.

Since its inception, ArtFest has highlighted student talent across Texas A&M. Each year, the MSC Visual Arts Committee sponsors this competition and exhibition, inviting students from all backgrounds to share their artistic perspectives.

3rd Place Tie

PAINT

(left)
By Alex Sabo
Acrylic Painting



A SUBLIME SYNTHESIS

(right)
By Sameeksha Sharma
Ink drawing



AGGIE FRAME OF MIND

What is AFOM?

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.



September Exhibit

In September, the Aggie Frame of Mind exhibit featured historical photographs from the Cushing Archives. Taken during the early days of Texas A&M, these photographs gave students a chance to see what our campus used to look like and how much it has grown and changed over the years.



Aggies Abroad Photo Contest

In honor of International Education Week in November, Aggie Frame of Mind hosted photo finalists from the 2024 Aggies Abroad Photo Contest. Every year, Aggies visit lots of exciting places to work, 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.



PRACTICE WHAT WE TEACH

ON DISPLAY SUMMER 2023

MEMBERS OF THE MSC VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE STRONGLY BELIEVE ART EDUCATION PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SHAPING WELL-ROUNDED, ADAPTABLE, AND CULTURALLY AWARE INDIVIDUALS. THIS SUMMER, MSC VAC WAS PROUD TO SHOWCASE ART EDUCATORS IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY BY DISPLAYING THEIR ARTWORK. THROUGH THIS EXHIBIT, WE WERE ABLE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ART EDUCATORS WHO ARE SO BUSY WITH STUDENTS AND THE DEMANDS OF TEACHING THAT THEY OFTEN DON'T HAVE TIME TO PRACTICE THEIR OWN CREATIVE ENDEAVORS.

PRACTICE WHAT WE TEACH DISPLAYED A TOTAL OF 18 ARTISTS FROM 6 DIFFERENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 4 PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND 1 COMMUNITY ART CENTER. ONE OF THE ARTISTS WAS A FORMER MSC VAC MEMBER, CLOVER COCHRAN, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN VAC IN THE 90S. HER BRONZE SCULPTURES WERE A HIGHLIGHT OF THE EXHIBIT. EACH OF HER THREE SCULPTURES REPRESENTED A DIFFERENT DIRECTION SHE CHOSE IN THE COURSE OF HER ART CAREER. HER SCULPTURES INCORPORATE THE SOUL AND HISTORY OF BRAZOS VALLEY BY SMALL DETAILS FROM TRAINS. THEY PAY HOMAGE TO THE SOUNDS HISTORY OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY SO MANY AGGIES REMEMBER.



Iron Horse 26
by Clover Cochran

READING ABOUT COCHRAN'S AND THE TEACHERS' EXHIBIT, I FELT A FONDNESS FOR ART EDUCATORS FROM MY CHILDHOOD. ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO KEPT MY DRAWINGS THAT I WOULD'VE THROWN AWAY. THEY SAW VALUE IN EVERYTHING I MADE. IT'S BECAUSE OF MY TEACHERS THAT I'M A PART OF MSC VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE TODAY – THAT I FEEL WHAT I MAKE IS "WORTHY" ENOUGH TO MAKE ME AN ARTIST.

AARYA KANURU





RINSING THE SUN

By Carol Flueckiger

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Carol Flueckiger is a mixed-media artist whose work delves into feminist history, weather, and geography. Her signature technique builds on cyanotype, a light sensitive chemical she blends with drawing and painting. Flueckiger teaches at the School of Art at Texas Tech University, and the Charles Adams Gallery in Lubbock, Texas, represents her work. Her research draws from institutions such as the Library of Congress, the American Antiquarian Society, Women's Rights National Historical Park, Freedom Solar Corporation, and Solar Energy International. Flueckiger holds a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Minnesota and an MFA in Painting from the University of New Mexico.

WORKSHOP WITH THE ARTIST

MSC VAC and Flueckiger hosted a workshop in October that involved using a drip painting technique, continuous line drawings, and filling in negative spaces. It was centered on one of her art and research areas: sustainability and environmental awareness. One of her biggest influences is the conservation of the Ogallala Aquifer in the panhandle region of West Texas.

Using water as the primary medium, the attendees painted their "drips" and then added paint to those strokes to see their art come to life with color! The artists were then invited to attend an informal reception with Carol and other guests! These short residency programs are an important aspect of VAC's mission at Texas A&M University!

Meeting Recap

Drawn Together

MSC VAC fosters a space for artistic expression and creativity, developing a close-knit art community in the process. One of the first activities of the semester was Puzzle Piece Drawings, where each member decorated their own piece. Once all the pieces were finished, they were assembled to create the full picture!



Pass and Paint

At another meeting, we did a Pass and Paint, where everyone sits in a circle and has around 3 minutes to paint something on the canvas before passing it to the next person. Once the chain is done, each member has their canvas back, with all of the fun additions from everyone else!

Wreath for ACBV

We also worked together to decorate a wreath for an Arts Council of Brazos Valley! All of the wreaths will be auctioned to support local art organizations of the Brazos Valley.

With the transition to a Registered Student Organization we have lost all funding for art supplies. This fall we were able to plan activities using the supplies remaining from last year, but now we are running low.

7

[Please donate today at tx.ag/GiveVAC.](https://tx.ag/GiveVAC)



INTERVIEW WITH A MEMBER

Grace Zamani
History Major class of 2025

*WHY DID YOU JOIN
VAC?*

I had been looking for an art community. I missed doing arts and crafts and being creative, because I used to do those things all the time before college. I already had a friend in VAC who told me I should join.

*WHAT HAVE YOU
ENJOYED MOST?*

I have enjoyed the sense of community. Everyone is very sweet here and fun to talk to. I also enjoy the art activities at member meetings because everyone is so creative and you get to see everyone's talents.

*HOW DOES ART AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION
INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE?*

Art and creative expression influences the way I think and deal with life. A lot of my escapism comes from art and it's really nice to be able to step back and just make something. I love making any kind of arts and crafts. I've made so many earrings this semester alone.

*WHAT IS ONE
MEDIUM YOU WOULD
LOVE TO GET THE
CHANCE TO EXPLORE
IF NOTHING WAS
STOPPING YOU?*

I want to do more glass mosaic art, I always thought it was so pretty. I've done it one time and it's so fun, but it's too expensive so I haven't gone back. But if I could, I would go back and make as many mosaic pieces as possible.



Meet the Leadership Team



VAC Chair

Jordan Graham, '26

Major: Ocean Engineering

What do you love about VAC?: I love the community and a way to stay connected to art with my busy engineering schedule.

Favorite Artist? I don't actually have one. Although I love making art, I can't say that I have a favorite artist.

Favorite Art Medium? Digital art and acrylic are my favorite mediums.

Fun Fact? I played basketball for 12 years, plus a bunch of other sports such as softball, volleyball, and karate in elementary and high school.



Committee Development Director

Sanjana Thiagarajan, '25

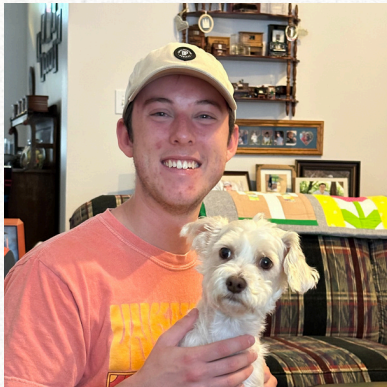
Major: Supply Chain Management

What do you love about VAC? I love the family we were able to create in VAC, that greater sense of community. Even when I'm having a bad day, my VAC family never fails to lift my spirits up.

Favorite Artist? This is a hard one because I have so many. One of my favorite artists is Claude Monet. Something about his impressionist paintings makes me feel a sense of calm, almost at peace, no matter how chaotic the world around me is.

Favorite Art Medium? My favorite art medium would be graphite or charcoal!

Fun Fact? I actually can't smell! Since birth!



Marketing Director

Finnegan Hein, '25

Major: Visualization Graduate Student

What do you love about VAC? As a Visualization major it can be difficult to create art without thinking that what makes it successful is whether or not it would get a good grade. VAC provides a stress free environment to exercise creativity by cultivating a judgment free space for artistic expression.

Favorite Artist? Moebius.

Favorite Art Medium? Digital.

Fun Fact? I learned how to read music before I learned how to read.



Henderson Hall Gallery Director

Aarya Kanuru, '26

Major: Statistics

What do you love about VAC?

The community! Everyone's so friendly and welcoming. I was able to make such good friends even though I was a member for less than a year.

Favorite Artist?

Kel Lauren, a graphic designer, their work is so cool and I love how they connect graphic design to current events.

Favorite Art Medium?

Digital for graphic design but I also love handmade multimedia work.

Fun Fact I went to preschool with the daughter of the 9 director of movie RRR!

Meet the Leadership Team continued...



**External
Development
Director**

Elena De Orive, '27

Major: Sociology

What do you love about VAC? I love the people and how down to earth everyone is! Also a great avenue to be creative when it's hard to find time between classwork.

Favorite Artist? Andy Warhol.

Favorite Art Medium? Simple but Probably black ink!

Fun Fact? I can recite the alphabet backwards!



**Reynolds
Gallery
Director**

Amelie Puga, '27

Major: Landscape Architecture

What do you love about VAC? I love the community and energy that is cultivated by these awesome people that come together to be creative! Members are different from one another, but the conversations and activities that happen during our meetings are so open and genuine. As gallery director, I really enjoy getting to learn about the behind the scenes of gallery work, as well as getting to work with artists to understand their inspirations and work.

Favorite Artist? Paul Klee. I'm a big fan of his unique combo of surrealism and colors that evoke a strange feeling of nostalgia in me.

Favorite Art Medium? I like chalk pastels because they make me feel free in my strokes and what I produce. I can create shapes, lines, colors, layers, and I feel like I can channel movement very well.

Fun Fact? I've lived in 4 countries!



**Aggie
Frame of
Mind
Director**

Grace Styskal, '26

Major: Business Honors

What do you love about VAC? I love having a time each week set aside to hang out and do art.

Favorite Artist? Alphonse Mucha.

Favorite Art Medium? Alcohol markers.

Fun Fact? I am mildly allergic to pineapple.



**Graphics
Director**

Chloe Boerner, '25

Major: Architectural Engineering

What do you love about VAC? Artist workshops.

Favorite Artist? Vincent van Gogh.

Favorite Art Medium? Pencil.

Fun Fact? I love watching Family Guy!



MSC
VISUAL
ARTS
COMMITTEE

Prepared By

Jordan Graham, *Chair*

Chloe Boerner, *Graphics Director*

Amelie Puga, *Reynolds Gallery Director*

Sanjana Thiagarajan, *Committee Development Director*

Grace Styskal, *Aggie Frame of Mind Director*

Elena De Orive, *External Development Director*

Aarya Kanuru, *Henderson Hall Gallery Director*

Finnegan Hein, *Marketing Director*

Mary Compton, *Advisor*

Connect

 /MSCVAC

 /msc_vac

 /MSC_VAC

Thank you

Mr. James R. Reynolds

Crawley Family

The Good Bull Fund

Donate

tx.ag/GiveVAC