



2023-2024

Appalachian  
STATE UNIVERSITY



Carl Billingsly, *Double Wedge*



# Welcome Letter from the New Director



In the 20 years since the opening of the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, our world has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving in response to the shifting landscape of technology, culture and society.

We have used the visual arts to tell stories of where we have been and where we are headed. These stories evoke joy, sorrow, curiosity, questions and a chance to reflect inward to learn about ourselves.

As we evolve and lean into technology, the Turchin Center has embraced the opportunity to make its collections and exhibitions accessible through its online archive. Removing boundaries of physical access, this digital shift is utilized in public schools, university studies and by community members to delve deeper into the artwork and exhibitions brought to our community.

Even with technological advances, the opportunity to gather in person and experience the arts through our own senses and share conversations with others is exceptional. The Turchin Center is a gathering place for creativity and exploration for all ages and levels of experience to the arts. From a seasoned art aficionado to those walking through our doors for the first time, we welcome all.

As we build toward the next 20 years, we celebrate our own evolution and invite you to join us.

You belong here.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Auer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth Auer  
Executive Director, Arts Engagement and Cultural Resources

*The medium is the message, and I think that the art that's most important is the art that has a message or a meaning. If you're using art for something other than just decoration, then it has the potential to have power and influence, and with that, responsibility.*

Shepard Fairey, American Artist and Activist

## Mission

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in unique and meaningful experiences with the visual arts, by offering a wide array of dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs support the university's teaching mission, inspire lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them. The center is committed to building a diverse and inclusive community of arts supporters, while presenting exhibition and education programming that fosters dialogue about important issues facing today's world, including social, racial and economic justice.

## Vision

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts will continue to be an engaging and accessible resource responding to diverse educational, social and cultural needs of individuals and communities, and by providing them with opportunities to access the power of the arts to help learn, grow, flourish and be inspired.

## Curatorial Vision

The curatorial emphasis at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts supports exhibitions addressing critical issues facing our nation and the world today. We are open to a wide variety of exhibition themes exploring a broad spectrum of issues, although we place a high priority on creative responses to local, regional and global climate change and the impact that the decline of natural resources and civility have on all life on the planet. To support a sustainable and equitable future addressing the pressing needs of the planet, we consider intersectionality, diversity and inclusion in all our exhibitions; race, ethnicity, gender, age, culture, language, sexuality, dis/ability and socio-economic status are all considered in selecting artists to exhibit in the center's six galleries.

The Turchin Center encourages artists of all backgrounds. Artists may submit their ideas via the website: [tcva.org/art/artist-opportunities](http://tcva.org/art/artist-opportunities).

**8,449**

visitors

**300**

lecture attendees

**18**

public workshops

**69**

class tours

**575**

workshop participants

**723**

reception guests

**1,260**

tour attendees

**2,635**

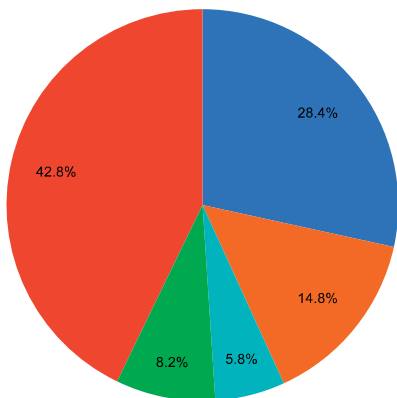
special event guests





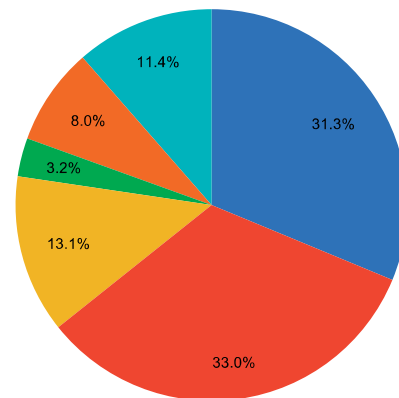
Kevin Vanek, *LOUD!*

## Numbers at a Glance



### Turchin Center Expenses

- Programming – University
- Operations – University
- Marketing – University
- Educational Programming – Private
- Exhibition Programming – Private



### Turchin Center Revenue

- State Funds
- Student Fee Support
- Advancement Support
- Gifts In-Kind
- Cash Donations
- Endowment Support

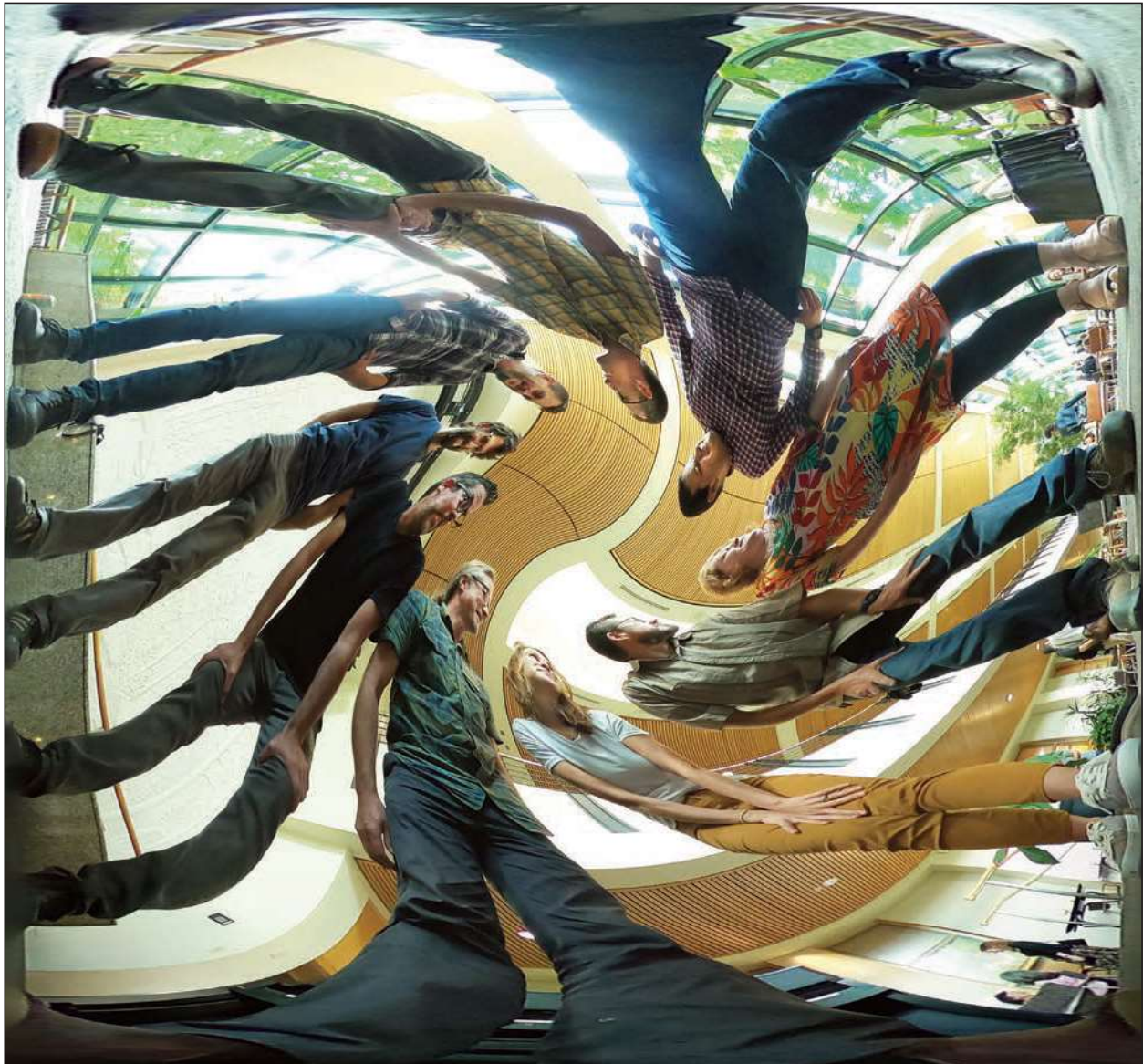
# A Look Back into 2023 Exhibitions

## Transformations: *Nexus*

Mayer Gallery

November 4, 2022 - May 6, 2023

This exhibition explored how digital tools for design and fabrication are being utilized and taught by contemporary artists, designers and architects, and how those tools influence the work being produced in various fields. Artists included educators from the Departments of Art, Applied Design and Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment.



Transformations Artists AppDigiFab Group



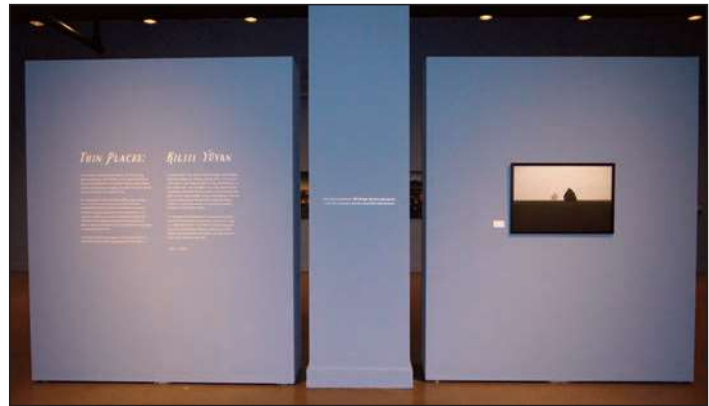


## Thin Places: Kiliii Yüyan

### Gallery A

December 2, 2022 - May 6, 2023

Stories of the Arctic and human communities are informed by ancestry that is both Nanai/Hèzhé (East Asian Indigenous) and Chinese American. Kiliii explores the human relationship to the natural world from different cultural perspectives and extreme environments, on land and underwater.



Kiliii Yüyan Installation

## Altered Environments / Tidalectics:

April Flanders, Guest Curator

Marilee Salvator: Site Specific Installation

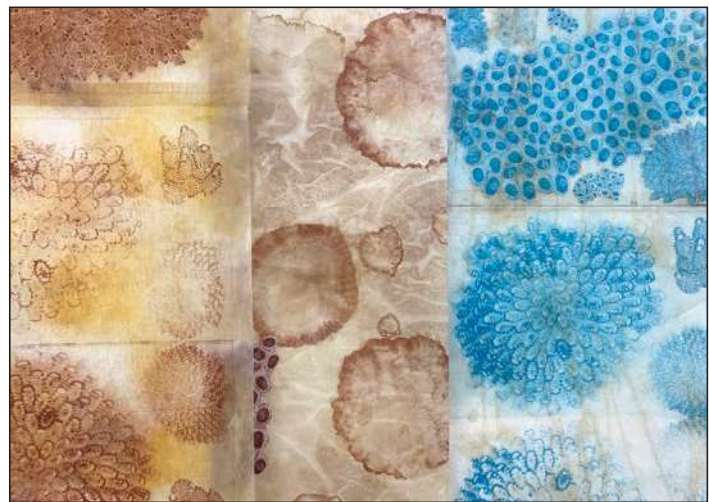


Eveline Kolijn, *Invading Familiars and Strangers* from *Altered Environments*

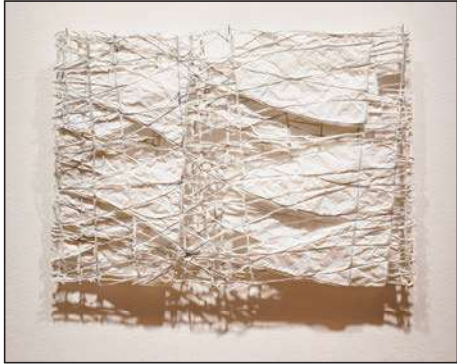
### Gallery B and Overflow

December 2, 2022 - May 6, 2023

Curated by artist April Flanders, this printmaking portfolio responded to the issue of marine bio invasions that includes 23 national and international artists from diverse backgrounds, utilizing a wide range of styles and print techniques.



Marilee Salvator, *Flourish A*



Signe Stuart, *ENFOLD 1*, Copyright Anjula and Andrew Caldwell

## *Flux*: Signe Stuart

**Hodges Gallery**

January 20 - June 3, 2023

*Flux* alludes to natural and manmade networks from rivers, neural pathways and quantum fields to systems of transportation and communications, everything interconnected and in flux.

## *Say: Word*, site-specific installation by Renee Cloud and de'Angelo DIA

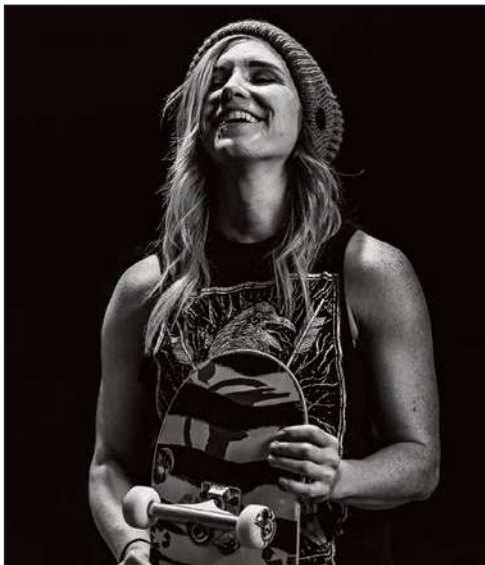
**Community Gallery**

January 20 - June 3, 2023

A dialogue between visual and poetic words reflects excavated intimate and public conversations, journal entries and social media debates. Representing the numerous questions raised when presented with shocking or almost unbelievable narratives and statements, viewers consider "if we are processing the same reality, how are we coming to a diversity of conclusions?"



Artist de'Angelo DIA with two of his Untitled pieces



Alicia Green, *It's Just a Good Time*

## 20th Annual Appalachian Mountain Photography Invitational

**Mezzanine Gallery**

March 3 - June 3, 2023

In honor of the 20th Anniversary, six Appalachian photographers were invited to participate in the anniversary invitational exhibition. Artists selected include Wendy Ewald, Alicia Green, Ant M. Lobo, Jessica Maceda, Byron Tenesaca-Guaman and Raymond Thompson Jr.





## Memento Mori: Death and the Art of Living: Larassa Kabel

**Mayer Gallery**

June 2 - November 4, 2023

This show explored the emotional and intellectual space between life and death, love and loss. Through drawing, painting, performance and sculpture, the artist confronts our view of ourselves “outside of nature” and our desire to distance ourselves from our mortality.



Larassa Kabel, *In the End* from the *Death in the Family* series



Peter Merts, *drum class in a gym at Salinas Valley State Prison*

## Circular Solutions: CENTER Award and Grant Recipients 2021/2022

**Galleries A and B**

June 2 - November 4, 2023

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts was pleased to showcase the creative work of the 2021 and 2022 CENTER award and grant recipients, addressing critical issues facing our nation and the world today.

## Passage and Time Pieces: Michael Harrison and Nina Elder

**Hodges, Mezzanine and Community Galleries**

July 7 - December 2, 2023

*Passage* was an installation by Michael Harrison with musicians Elliot Cole, Ina Filip and Benoit Rolland, with lighting by Nina Elder. This immersive debut installation interpreted Earth’s light and dark using illumination and shadow to simulate cosmic movements, while presenting an interactive performative artwork that responds to the passage of one day of celestial and human time.

The graphic drawings in *Time Pieces* by Nina Elder contemplated the physical texture of time and the potential for transformation.



Nina Elder, *Migration Tradition (Sandhill Cranes)*

# Art as a Catalyst for Social Change

Art has long been recognized as a powerful tool for sparking conversations and challenging societal norms. The Turchin Center serves as a catalyst for change, opening avenues for dialogue, reflection and transformation within our community and beyond.



*Passage/Time Pieces*

## Provoking Thought and Reflection

ART provides a platform for artists to express diverse perspectives and challenge viewers to reconsider their preconceptions.



*Circular Solutions:* Maximillian Thuemler honoring the Gullah tradition of burial at sea

## Giving Voice to the Marginalized

ART ensures that these narratives are heard and acknowledged, fostering empathy and understanding by showcasing works that address issues of social injustice, inequality and discrimination.



20th Anniversary Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition - six artists' diverse approaches to sharing Appalachian experiences and stories

## Fostering Inclusivity and Diversity

ART contributes to creating a more inclusive and tolerant society by curating exhibitions that celebrate diversity and represent a wide array of experiences.



## Encouraging Dialogue and Debate

ART becomes a catalyst for engaging discussions on pressing social issues, bringing together individuals with different perspectives and fostering a culture of respectful dialogue.



Say: *Word*, de'Angelo DIA

## Addressing Contemporary Challenges

ART supports artists who use their creativity to address issues such as climate change, social justice and global health, providing a platform for these critical conversations.



Kiliii Yüyan: *Thin Places*: specifically his *Rare Waters* image of a sacred and culturally significant landscape protected from the mining industry through collaborations with local Indigenous knowledge keepers and scientists

## Educational Initiatives

ART engages students and the broader community in conversations about the role of art in social change through educational programs and workshops.



Senior Curator Mary Anne Redding facilitates ARTtalk discussion



# Empowering the Next Generation

Hands-on experience can have a profound impact on the development of emerging artists and professionals. Our commitment to empowering the next generation goes beyond the walls of our galleries; it extends to the very heart of our operations through meaningful student employment opportunities.

## Professional Development Initiatives

From curatorial and marketing roles to event coordination and gallery security, our students gain practical experience that extends well beyond the classroom and cultivates essential skills for future careers.



2023 Turchin Center Gallery Ambassadors



Students in Jody Servon's Exhibition Practicum class

## Collaboration with Faculty

This partnership ensures that the work students undertake aligns with their educational goals, providing a bridge between theory and practice.

In spring 2023, students from Jody Servon's Exhibitions Practicum class utilized a selection of artwork from the Turchin Center's Permanent Collection to create an exhibit at the McKinney Alumni Center. Titled *Watches the Clouds Roll By*, this exhibit was entirely curated and installed by the students, with guidance from the Turchin Center's Collections Manager and Preparator on proper techniques for art handling and installation. *Watches the Clouds Roll By* is available to view until March 18, 2024. It will be followed by an exhibition from the Permanent Collection curated by the students of the Spring 2024 Exhibitions Practicum class.



Addie Clark

## Internships that Inspire

Through hands-on involvement in exhibition planning, installation, marketing, and public engagement, our interns develop a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of the art industry.

Addie Clark has been an intern with the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts since 2022. She has been instrumental in connecting the arts and athletics, assisting with installations and working with the center's collection manager on the H.G. Jones collection as part of her undergraduate thesis research.

## Networking Opportunities

Student employment is an essential part of our operation to empower the next generation of artists and art makers. By providing meaningful opportunities, guidance and a supportive environment, students make a lasting impact on the world of visual arts and the world around them.



Camden McManamy

*After working at the Turchin Center for almost two years, I have learned many professional skills and interacted with hundreds of visitors, donors and students. I've also built incredible relationships, especially with my coworkers. As a team we educate visitors about the Turchin's exhibitions and bring gallery events to fruition. We are able to introduce so many visitors to the artwork here and host meaningful conversations and experiences. The Turchin Center provides some of the most unique employment opportunities on campus that my coworkers and I take pride in being a part of.*

Camden McManamy, Turchin Center Gallery Ambassador





## Class Tours

More than 1,200 students have visited the Turchin Center for customized tours with their classes in 2023. This is what they have to say:



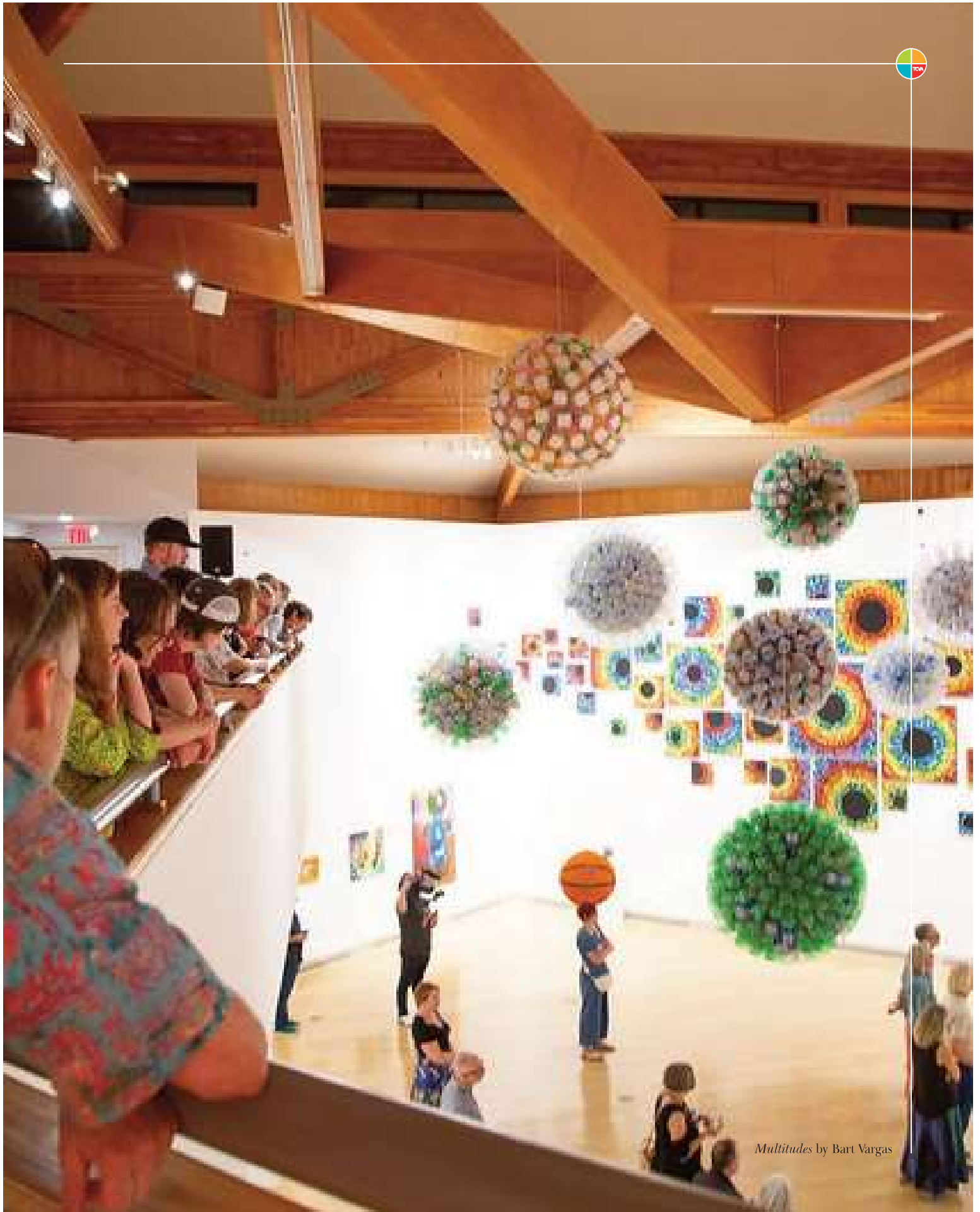
*I found nearly all of the pieces portrayed to be absolutely breathtaking, and I will DEFINITELY be returning to the Turchin Center on my own time to more fully indulge myself within the exhibits.*

*It is probably somewhere I wouldn't have gone if we had not gone on the field trip, but I would love to take a few of my friends back. I loved the elegant and professional feel of the gallery, and the big elevator was pretty cool too.*

*I think what I like most about them is getting to see the world through so many different perspectives, something that is hard to do as one singular person living in one place. I personally really love being in tune with my emotions and surroundings, and I find that while looking around, I am able to feel all sorts of varying emotions being pulled from deep within me.*







*Multitudes* by Bart Vargas

# Art Workshops and Educational Engagement



## Moskowitz Gallery

The Moskowitz Gallery was reimagined in summer 2023 into an active artmaking space through the proposal of arts management intern Crisol Campos, who now serves as our Director of Visitor Services. Preparator Gabrielle Knight designed and installed a mural inspired by the topography of the land where the Turchin Center is built, which includes words used to describe the intentions of the space, including belong, thrive and contribute. A resource section was designed in response to current exhibitions as a space for visitors to creatively interact with content and themes of the artwork on display, and highlight campus connections. Using information provided in the *Connections Document* for each exhibition, the space also features invitations to create and reflect alongside multi-media artmaking materials.



Through the generosity of the Silverstein Family, the Tina Silverstein Endowed Opportunity Fund has provided and will continue to provide financial support for a student intern to host

in the Moskowitz Gallery, which will serve as the launching point for weekly student-led docent tours.

Since July 2022, we've employed two docent interns and four workshop instructors to conduct research and facilitate tours and artmaking for 400 total hours.

## Growth of The Arts Corridor

In August 2022, the Arts Corridor was established, installing seven sculptures from the stairway mural into the heart of campus. Connecting King Street to Appalachian State University through the visual arts, the number of pieces included in each installation will eventually grow to 21 installations. With new installments every two years, the second installment of the Arts Corridor will be unveiled in August 2024.





Doris and Martin Rosen

## Taking the Art Outdoors

In 2023, Debbie Davidson, David Rosen, and Nancy Rosenblatt — along with Nancy's husband Charles — chose to endow the Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition in memory of their parents, Martin and Doris Rosen. This transformational gift ensures the future of this beloved competition and exhibition and affirms it as a representation of Appalachian State University's commitment to art in public spaces on campus. Established in 1987 by Martin and Doris Rosen, The Rosen Outdoor Sculpture Competition and Exhibition is a major point of pride for the university, a source of inspiration for thousands of visitors, area residents and members of the university community who benefit from the opportunity to explore, learn about and experience the fascinating world of contemporary sculpture.

## Turchin on the Go

In addition to its local presence in Boone, the Turchin Center and its team are active across the country through conferences, presentations and trainings.

In 2023, these activities included:

- American Alliance for Museums – Colorado
- Annual Giving Network – Virtual
- Association of Academic Museums and Galleries – Kansas
- Kennedy Center's Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability – North Carolina
- Penland Auction Exhibition – North Carolina
- Review Santa Fe Symposium – New Mexico
- Southeastern Museums Conference – Arkansas
- UNC Development Symposium – North Carolina



Christy Chenausky, Shauna Caldwell and Hannah Bennett presenting at the Association of Academic Museums & Galleries in June 2023 in Lawrence, Kansas at the University of Kansas





Dr. Chip Thomas and Travis Donovan

## Community Engagement

Dr. Chip Thomas, an internationally known physician and social justice activist who lived and worked in the Navajo Nation for more than three decades, created a mural with art department faculty member Travis Donovan. The mural highlights Junaluska's history and was installed on a building in the community after a collaborative effort between App State faculty and staff, the Junaluska Heritage Association and Dr. Chip Thomas. The project was supported by funds from the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts.

Additional community engagement by the Turchin Center staff and Student Workshop Facilitators included artmaking based on current exhibitions at the Watauga Humane Society's Camp for Kids as well, offering their support installing an exhibition designed by App State's Mathematics and Science Education Center hosted by the Watauga County Public Library.





## The Future of Permanent Collections

Thanks to the support of Peter and Joni Webb Petschauer, the services of the Museum and Collector Resources, LLC were secured to complete a needs assessment of the existing storage space for the permanent collection which continues to grow thanks to the generosity of our donors. The goal is to maximize the storage space available in the main collections storage room by adding a mezzanine level. Collections Manager Molly Schwanz is currently working with Patterson Pope and App State Facilities Operations to design a new mezzanine. Preliminary renderings have been submitted and will continue to develop in 2024.



## Continued Improvements to the Galleries and Welcome Area

As the Turchin Center celebrates 20 years in the High Country, we are continually looking at ways to invite residents and visitors into our doors and create a sense of belonging. Steps in 2023 included sensory friendly bags, which include fidget items and noise-reducing headphones. These tools support individuals with disabilities in navigating the center. As we move forward, greater resources for exhibitions information, lighting flexibility, soundscapes and technological advancements are part of the dream, creating more thoughtful and meaningful experiences for visitors.

# Looking Ahead: Artistic Activism in Action

## *Considering Carbon*: Kathleen Thum

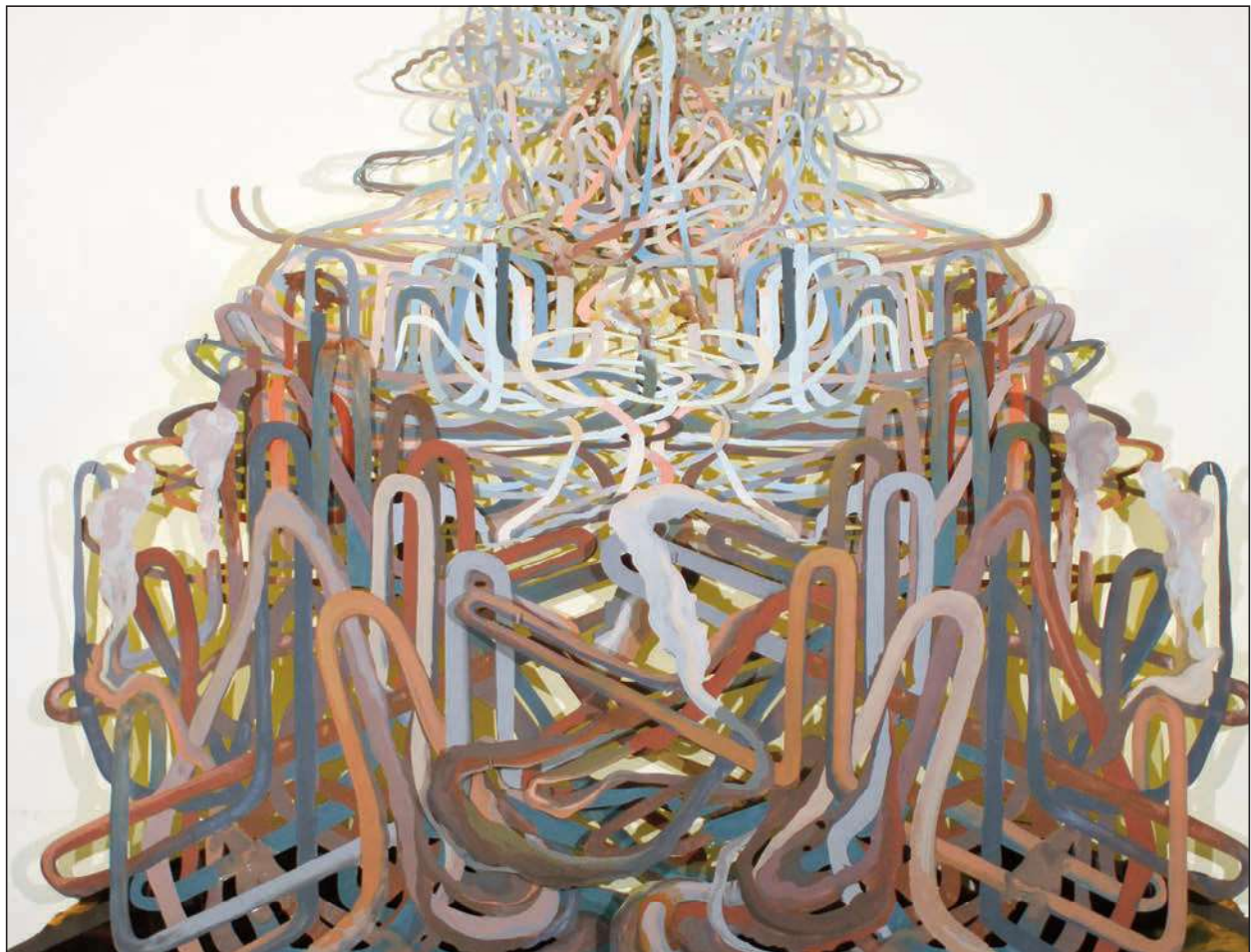
Gallery A and Christine V. Petti/Edith S. Peiser Gallery

December 1, 2023 - May 4, 2024

In *Considering Carbon*, Kathleen Thum aims to honor the power that fossil fuels have contributed to creating our modern world and equally convey the dark side of the environmental cost we must bear. It is her belief that art has the ability to problem solve, re-frame and reflect on the current climate crisis in order to inspire change in the present and future. *Considering Carbon* unearths the often-invisible pipelines that are necessary for extracting fossil fuels from the ground and explores the physicality of coal as a metaphorical and literal substance for mark-making.



Kathleen Thum, *Acrid*



Kathleen Thum, *Petrolia*





Michael O'Neill, *Untitled*

## Revelation: Michael O'Neill

Mayer Gallery

December 1, 2023 - May 4, 2024

Photographer Michael O'Neill's infrared landscapes are part of a strong tradition of magical realism in the visual arts, revealing the hidden undercurrents of magic and fantasy in the worlds we create and occupy. Through his use of other-worldly colors and subversion of typical museum-style framing of his photographs, O'Neill reminds the viewer that they aren't looking through a window into a "real" landscape; rather, they are looking at one artist's creative interpretation of the land. O'Neill uses photography to call attention to the beauty and the threats to our fragile environment – threats that may begin at the microscopic level but have lasting impacts on what the world will look like in the future.



April Flanders, *Didemnum vexillum*

## Trophic Cascade: April Flanders

Hodges Gallery

January 16 - June 8, 2024

The web of life under the surface of aquatic ecosystems is exceedingly complex and devastatingly beautiful. In a place where species interactions begin at a microscopic level, small changes have huge impacts and huge changes wreak havoc. *Trophic Cascade* addresses the causes and impacts of marine bio-invasiders on a global scale, conferring visibility to species normally unseen. April Flanders creates a conversation between art and science, raising awareness around a problem that lacks an easy solution.



Shayla Blatchford, *Red Water Pond Road*



Shayla Blatchford, *wind rips through*



Shayla Blatchford, *local residents gather*

## *The Anti-Uranium Mapping Project: Shayla Blatchford*

### **Community Gallery**

January 16 - June 8, 2024

*The Anti-Uranium Mapping Project* is an interactive audio/visual storytelling project designed to educate audiences about the environmental issues of uranium mining on the Navajo Nation and surrounding lands. The project serves as both historical documentation of the uranium mining era as well as a platform for storytelling and community building. As the demand for uranium increases with nuclear power being pitched to the world as the next “clean energy” solution, old sites of uranium mining could be resurrected. Bringing different perspectives to the conversation provides access to the information needed to make an educated decision about the future of uranium mining and other extractive practices.

## 21st Annual Appalachian Mountain Photography Exhibition

### **Bickers Gallery**

February 2 - June 8, 2024

This year’s Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition and exhibition will be juried by Dr. E. Gale Greenlee, who chose “Roots, Ground, Water, Seeds” as the theme and will select artwork related to themes of connection with the land, familial ancestral roots, groundedness, life-giving ways of being and activism as seeds of change. The Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition stands as a vital cultural and artistic cornerstone, celebrating the rich tapestry of the Appalachian region through the lens of talented photographers. This competition serves as a platform for both budding and seasoned photographers to showcase the profound beauty, unique landscapes and diverse cultures that define the Appalachian Mountains.





Nina Elder's drawings in the Community Gallery



# Artist Spotlights: Voices for Change



National

## Esha Chiocchio

Esha Chiocchio is a photographer and filmmaker based in Santa Fe, New Mexico who uses her combined knowledge of visual storytelling and sustainable communities to sow the seeds of social change. Her projects are linked to land and culture and include traditional medicine in Guatemala, the history of the strawberry in Chile and France, and the mudding of the Mosque of Djenné, Mali. Since 2020, she has been creating multi-media videos documenting regenerative agriculture and land restoration efforts throughout New Mexico for which she won the 2022 CENTER Environmental Award. Esha is a 2023 National Geographic Explorer grantee for her ongoing documentation of a land revegetation project near Lordsburg, NM. Through this work, she strives to increase awareness of the unique strategies being employed to restore balance to terrestrial and atmospheric cycles on overused land. Esha has photographed for publications, non-profits and commercial clients, including *National Geographic*, *High Country News*, *Newsweek* and Bonefish Grill. Her work has been exhibited in France; South Korea; Mali; Washington, DC; Boone, NC; and Santa Fe, NM where she is represented by Evoke Contemporary Gallery. She has BAs in Anthropology and French from the University of Colorado, an MA in Sustainable Communities from Goddard College and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa.



*Raincatcher* from *Good Earth Series* by Esha Chiocchio



Byron Tenesaca-Guaman, *Human Mounds Max Patch*



Byron Tenesaca-Guaman, *La Virgen*



### Local

## Byron Tenesaca-Guaman

Byron Tenesaca-Guaman is a visual artist and bilingual educator based in North Carolina. Byron has exhibited artwork in the Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition two times over the competition's history, as well as served as a juror and panelist in a discussion about contemporary Appalachian photography. He was born in an ancestral Kichwa Kañari community of the Ecuadorian Andes to a family of basket weavers and farmers. At the age of 11 he journeyed with his grandmother to NC to meet and live with his biological mother (both of them fundamental in his work). His passion for art and education has brought him to hold various leadership positions with The Asheville Art Museum, UNCA, Tryon Arts and Crafts School, Diamante Arts and Cultural Center, Buncombe County Schools and El Centro Hispano. His artworks in various media document, layer and weave memories, culture and history from his Kichwa Kañari heritage and that of his migration to NC, together. Through his work he explores topics relating to immigration, indigeneity and positive identity development through food, dance and storytelling.

*I believe that the stakes of representation and the fundamental connections between race, visual culture and who controls visual culture remain contentious. Through ayni (our reciprocal ways of living with the mountain), weaving, storytelling, truth-telling, solidarity and humility I seek to unite people from the Abya Yala and Turtle Island for a international minka (communal work) for the healing, protection, empowerment and prosperity of our indigenous communities and nations.*

Byron Tenesaca-Guaman, Artist

# Acknowledgments and Gratitude



## Tina Silverstein Endowed Opportunity Fund

After retiring to the High Country, Tina and her husband Gary quickly immersed themselves in the cultural life of the region, supporting both the performing and visual arts. Tina, who passed away in 2021, had a special place in her heart for university students pursuing careers in the arts. Her family has established The Tina Silverstein Endowed Opportunity Fund in her memory to support the programs for which Tina was passionate: learning opportunities for students who would like to become artists or arts educators.

### The Visionary Society

Artine & Teddy Artinian  
Mary Bertini Bickers  
Kay & Frank Borkowski  
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff  
Ted & Marty Couch  
Judith Domer  
Charlotte & Sol Halpert  
Luther H. Hodges

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David Kaplan  
Gretchen Martin  
Nanette & Budd Mayer  
Helen & Roger Michelson  
Peter & Joni Webb Petschauer  
Christine Petti  
Margaret R. Polson

Alice Roess  
The Arnold P. Rosen Family  
Doris B. & Martin L. Rosen  
The Seby B. Jones Family  
Foundation  
Lawrence E. & Harriet S. Singer  
Lillian A. & Robert L. Turchin  
Luisa Lorenzo & Timothy Wilson

The Visionary Society was established to honor donors whose commitment to the visual arts manifests through generosity, foresight and imagination, and positively impacts the cultural and educational life of Appalachian State University, this community and the region.

The Turchin Center would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our donors and supporters whose generous contributions ensure the success of our programming and exhibitions. Thank you for helping us create a community of arts advocates and for being a part of our history.





## Corporate and Community Support



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## TURCHIN CENTER for the Visual Arts

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TCVA.org

