

Dear **Visual Art** Students,

Congratulations!

The faculty and staff are delighted to have you as a part of GSA for the summer of 2025. You will participate in the first of two exciting sessions that will exponentially grow your knowledge and love for the arts. We promise you it is going to be a beautiful three weeks together. This packet is designed to give you a sense of what GSA will be like and what you need to do in preparation for the program.

To start, we (the Visual Art faculty) like to lay out the binding principle that we feel is the underlying theme to our teachings: Ultimately, the most powerful and connective artistic expression can be found in the pursuit of our deepest personal truths. Those truths that inform our work are born from the experiences of our beautiful and complex lives. It is our resiliency in the face of adversity that ultimately gives birth to our achievements. We as faculty believe that herein lies the powerful gift that is the GSA experience. We embrace the journey we are about to embark on together because as lifelong creative individuals, we are accustomed to moving in directions with unknown destinations and overcoming unforeseen obstacles. Your faculty see themselves as problem solvers seeking to inspire a new generation of hardened, tempered fixers. At present, there is an abundance of need in the world, and we are committed to being a part of the solution. We hope you as students are as committed to this venture as we are. In the end, it will require both courage and our faith in each other in order to see the experience reach its potential.

Time moves fast, so please read the following carefully. June 8th, 2025 will be upon us very soon.

During GSA, you will be working in three different studio areas:

1. **Drawing & Painting** (instructor: **Becca Stadtlander**)
2. **Printmaking** (instructor: **Jake Lee**)
3. **Sculpture/ Ceramics** (instructors: **Olivia LeQueux & Sean M. Starowitz**)

The Visual Art program includes studio projects, guest artists, and field trips during the first two weeks, with more independent work, documentation, and exhibition preparation during the third week. In addition to creating works of art, we ask that you contribute verbally in critiques and that you keep a minimum of two sketchbooks (a new one any size you like and an old one full of sketches and ideas). It is important that you come to GSA with lots of ideas and imagery you are ready to develop further.

What To Do Before GSA

- **Review the Master Artist List below (as well as the list provided on pages 5-6), and choose five artists that speak to you. Make sure you have at least one from each column.** Print out some samples of their work and attach them to one of your new sketchbooks. Then create some sketches and contour line drawings in the manner of the artists chosen. Be prepared to discuss why you chose their work and what exactly interests you about their work.

<u>PAINTING</u>	<u>PRINTMAKING</u>	<u>CERAMICS & SCULPTURE</u>
Edouard Vuillard	Haypeep	Roberto Lugo
Vincent Van Gough	Faile	Dora De Larios
Edvard Munch	Deer Jerk (Bryn Perrot)	Peter Volkous
Mark Rothko	Shepard Fairey	Barbara Hepworth
Grandma Moses	Swoon	Rachel Whiteread
David Hockney	Bill Fick	Simone Leigh
Salvador Dali	Cricket Press	Tara Donovan
Frieda Kaho	Wolfbat Studios (Dennis McNett)	Augusto Giacometti
John Singer Sargent	Jimbo Phillips	Jean DeBuffet
Andrew Wyeth	Steve Prince	

Henri Rousseau	Nicola Lopez Sue Coe Your Cinema Althea Murphy Price	Janine Antoni Alexander Calder Beth Cavener Yasue Maetake Yayoi Kusama Juliana Cerqueira Leite
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Mental Preparation

You will be involved daily with students, activities, and presentations from other disciplines during the program. The other art forms offered during the summer program include **Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Film + Photography**, and **Vocal Music**. It is very important that you come with an open mind, a positive attitude, and a willingness to participate in the artistic community. We hope that you will play a key role in making this an amazing experience for your fellow classmates.

Last, we ask that you please examine the **supply list** and **project preparations** on the following pages closely. Though we will furnish most art supplies, you are encouraged to also have some of your own. However, **if you are unable to purchase any items below due to financial reasons**, please send GSA a detailed request IMMEDIATELY to gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org. We're happy to help!

We've also included a brief message from our counselors-in-residence:

GSA is an experience like no other with opportunities to make memories and be part of an arts community to cherish for a lifetime. In preparation for your time with us, please keep in mind a few important points for both your physical and mental health.

- Even though your brain might go into “summer mode” after wrapping up the school year, please know that the 3 weeks of GSA aren't like a typical summer camp. Every day you will work and play hard and, along the way, be challenged and inspired!
- Because our days are full of activity, be sure to try your best to prioritize rest, healthy eating, and opportunities to recharge when you can. Quite honestly, we recommend making these priorities right now in preparation, so it's a smoother adjustment.
- The GSA staff, faculty, and counselors are available to help if you ever feel out of balance while on campus. We're your go-to people to help you find the best fit in our unique community and to help with any adjustments that are needed. Don't wait to reach out because we're there to help from Day 1!
- As it applies to you, don't forget to bring any prescribed medication (we can help with reminders but do not administer) and know that we can help with coordination of telehealth therapy sessions (with your already established provider) while at GSA as long as it's not overly disruptive to your studio schedule.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, June 8th!

Get ready for the opportunity for an amazing, life-changing experience! The rest will be up to you.

Sincerely,

Jake Lee, Sean M. Starowitz, Olivia LeQueux & Becca Stadlander – *The Visual Art Faculty*

VISUAL ART SUPPLY LIST

Art Wear & Cleanup

- **Closed-toe shoes** - Be mindful, the program involves a lot of walking and time on your feet. Bring comfortable shoes.
- Old t-shirt, smock and/or cloth apron. **You will be working with messy materials every day, do not anticipate wearing your most precious clothes to the studio.**
- Sunhat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.
- Four old t-shirts (to use as rags for cleanup in painting and printmaking)
- Towel (to sit on outside)
- Bottle of hand lotion
- Pack of baby wipes

Art Materials & Mark-Making Supplies (We will provide all of the necessary supplies for your formal projects - but you may want to bring some of your own supplies!)

- Minimum of two sketchbooks - (1) one that is new/blank and (2) one that is currently in use up to half full with great ideas, sketches, and/or prints of your own photographic images.
- **Your favorite mark-making materials**, such as a set of watercolors, markers, colored pencils and assorted drawing pencils.
- **Fish tackle or art box** (with handle) for carrying and storing your supplies
- **Hard-copy photos** for image references. You will not have access to your phone or internet while in the studios nor the ability to photocopy
- **Fine detail paint brushes and any preferred paint brushes for water based media such as (acrylics, gouache etc)**
- Bring a few (2-3) **recycled containers with a lid**, plastic works best. These will be used to save screen printing ink
- A **large recycled container** for plaster casting (**Good: Laundry detergent jug, almond milk jug; Bad: Yogurt container, plastic water bottle**)
- **Other personal favorite art supplies/ brushes** that you may want to use when working independently.

Art Inspiration

- **Original color and black/white photographs**, as well as **original drawings** you've made.
- **Sketches and drawings** created in the manner of the 5 specific artists you've chosen from the lists provided.
- Print out samples of the 5 artists' work and create sketches and contour line drawings in your new sketchbook. Do this in the manner of the artists themselves.
- Be prepared to discuss why you chose their work and what exactly interests you about it.

Miscellaneous Supplies

- **Spending Money** – Though housing, meals, room, and board are covered by GSA, you might want a little extra money for GSA merch on-campus or souvenirs during field trips.
- GSA is not planning to require face masks or coverings, but you are welcome to wear one anytime. If you prefer to wear masks while at the program, please pack enough to last all three weeks.

PRINTMAKING PREPARATION

Instructor – Jake Lee

At GSA, you will be introduced to a range of printmaking processes, like traditional relief and screen-printing techniques, processes assisted by modern technology, and those which blur the boundaries between sculpture, printmaking, and painting. **Students will leave GSA with an understanding of the expanded field of printmaking and its applications in contemporary artistic practices.**

How To Prepare For Your Projects (Before GSA) – It is important that you come with **images and ideas** that you can easily transfer and translate onto the matrices we will use in the printmaking process. I recommend you bring photocopies of high-contrast drawings, photographs, magazines, comic books, etc. that you may use for reference and inspiration. **Preferably, the images should have definite lights and bold dark tones. Images should not be larger than 8.5" X 11".** Think about how different images might work together if layered on top of each other. It's good to note that gray (lacking contrast) images do not translate very well. **You will also need to bring at least one article of unwanted clothing to be used as a cleaning rag.** For our screen-printing project, you will need to collect a few **containers w/lids for ink.**

Materials We'll Use

- **Empty containers w/ lid** (sour cream, butter, pasta sauce, etc.)
 - **Please do not bring containers that previously held anything related to drugs, alcohol or tobacco. These items will not be allowed at GSA (even if empty).**
- **Two pencils and two fine point sharpies**
- **Photocopies** of high-contrast drawings, photos, etc. that you can use for reference or inspiration
- **Collage materials** (magazines, newspapers, comic books, etc.)

DRAWING & PAINTING PREPARATION

Instructor – Becca Stadtlander

The Drawing and Painting studio will focus on both direct observation skills and expression to help develop your individual creative perspective. Students will be introduced to figure drawing, still life, landscape, self-portrait, and illustration. You will be exploring color theory, expressive mark making, the abstract and the realistic - while focusing on water-based paints including gouache and acrylics (oils will be available). All supplies will be provided but students may find it useful to bring some of the items on the non-required list of supplies listed above.

Your illustration project will involve the Tarot. It will be incredibly useful for you to have some reference material. Please have a look at a tarot deck and pick a card from the major arcana that speaks to you. You can also just google "tarot major arcana" if you can't find a physical deck. You will be interpreting this into a painting using your own reference, so I encourage you to bring a flash drive with inspiration and reference photos since you won't be able to use your phone. I will have a physical deck and some reference books that you can use at the program, but I also encourage you to bring images of your own art or any art or references that you think might be helpful at any point during your time drawing & painting studio classes.

Please look at your own work and other artists' work that you enjoy and have an idea of WHY you like it, so you can start thinking critically about how you want to make art in this session.

CERAMICS & SCULPTURE PREPARATION

Instructors – Sean M. Starowitz and Olivia LeQueux

At GSA, you will be introduced to a range of **Sculptural/3D techniques**. By working with ceramics and not-so-traditional materials, we will explore how different methods of making will expand your artistic practice. We will work through a variety of projects that will challenge scale, material, and conceptual making. During the program, we strongly encourage interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration between Visual Art and GSA's eight other artforms.

Ceramics:

In order to gather inspiration and excitement about the projects you will create, please spend some time online or in the library researching various ceramic forms throughout human history. Look at a wide variety of ceramic vessels: Greek and Egyptian pottery, sculptural and experimental forms made in the 20th century and beyond. Which vessels attract your attention and why? What is the nature of functionality? Does form follow function? Consider the ways we treat vessel surfaces, whether decorated, carved, or given a nontraditional finish. Draw or sketch 3-5 of your favorite ceramic vessels in your sketchbook.

Sculpture:

Your sculpture project(s) will include plaster casting and carving; with emphasis on playing with gesture and transformation. Look at some unusual and expressive sculptures: Do they look like something from this world? Could you find the same rhythm and/or imperfection in nature? How does light and shadow play with the architecture? Think about the childlike qualities of experimental design. In your sketchbook, draw 3-5 loose gestures of sculptural designs that have no clear function.

Please bring a small found object with you to use for inspiration. This object needs to be of importance to you but not so precious that you wouldn't incorporate it into a sculpture.