

Dear **Visual Art** Students,

CONGRATULATIONS! You will participate in the second 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. Time moves fast, so please read the following carefully. July 6th, 2025 will be upon us very soon!

To start off, we (the Visual Art faculty) like to lay out the binding principle that we feel is the underlying teaching philosophy: 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.

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

1. **Drawing & Painting** (instructor **Nathaniel Hendrickson**)
2. **Printmaking** (instructor **Jake Lee**)
3. **Ceramics & Sculpture** (instructors **Azucena Trejo & 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 to 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

- Please choose artists from the studio preparation prompts (**no less than three artists, ideally at least one from each additional list provided for our three studio areas throughout this document**). If you're having a hard time choosing, ask yourself this: **"Which three artists speak the most to me?"** Print out some samples of their work and attach them to your new sketchbook. 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 his or her work. *Please note that you might be asked to use these drawings and work samples to create art at GSA.*

Mental Preparation

You will be involved daily with students from many disciplines during GSA. The other artforms our summer program offers are **Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film + Photography, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, 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, July 6th!

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

Sincerely,

Azucena Trejo, Jake Lee, Nathaniel Hendrickson & Sean M. Starowitz – *The Visual Art Faculty*

VISUAL ART SUPPLY LIST

Art Wear & Cleanup

- 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.**
- Closed-toe **shoes**. **Be mindful that the program involves a lot of walking and time on your feet. Bring comfortable shoes.**
- **Sunhat, sunglasses, and sunscreen**
- **Four old t-shirts** (to use as rags for cleanup in painting and printmaking)
- **Towel** (to sit on outside)
- Bottle of **hand lotion**

Art Materials & Mark Making Supplies (We will provide all of the necessary supplies for you for formal projects)

- **Two sketch books (one new, one old)**
 - **New sketchbook (size of your choice)** is what you'll always have to take notes and sketch. *And, as a reminder—this is also what you're using to research your five artists.*
 - **Old sketchbook** is already full of great ideas, sketches, and/or prints of your own photographic images.
- **Your favorite mark-making materials**, such as a set of watercolors, Crayola markers (bold or original), pastels and/or oil pastels and/or colored pencils and assorted drawing pencils (2b, 6b or whatever you like to use!)
- **Fish tackle or art box** (with handle) for carrying and storing your supplies
- **Hard-copy photos** (including a side view/profile photo of yourself) for image references. You will not have access to your phone while in the studios
- **Other personal favorite art supplies/ brushes** that you may want to use when working independently.
- **A fine detail paintbrush**
- **Workable fixative spray** used on charcoals and pastel drawings
- **Collage materials** for printmaking
- Bring a few (2-3) **recycled containers with a lid**, plastic works best. These will be used to save screen printing ink

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. This course also emphasizes environmentally friendly art-making practices, so the importance of recycling and repurposing materials is central to all printmaking projects at GSA.**

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 **(at least 5) 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.)

Printmaking Artist List	Althea Murphy Price
Haypeep	Jimbo Phillips
Deer Jerk (Bryn Perrot)	Dennis Mcnett (wolfbat studios)
Faile	Mary Claire Becker
Sue Coe	Cricket Press
Sean Starwars	Bill Fick
Shepard Fairey	Swoon
Aubrey Beardsley	Wangechi Mutu
Steve Prince	Favianna Rodriguez
Ericka Walker	Nicola Lopez
David Wischer	Ryan McGinness
Breanne Trammel	Patrick Turk

CERAMICS & SCULPTURE PREPARATION

Instructors – Azucena Trejo & Sean M. Starowitz

At GSA, you will get introduced to a range of **sculptural/3D principles**. 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.

*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**: Mayan and Incan, Greek and Egyptian, and sculptural and experimental forms made in the 20th 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.*

Ceramics & Sculpture Artist List	Olafur Eliasson
Damien Ortega	Louise Bourgeois
Roberto Lugo	Sam Gilliam
Simone Leigh	Maria Montoya Martinez
Karyn Olivier	Bread and Puppet Theater
Jean Debuffet	Alexander Calder
Squallis Puppeteers	Abigail Deville
Raven Halfmoon	Rachel Whiteread
Christo & Jeanne Claude	Cornelia Parker
Samantha Dickie	Dora De Larios
Raheleh Filsoofi	Augusta Savage

DRAWING & PAINTING PREPARATION

Instructor - **Nathaniel Hendrickson**

In the Drawing and Painting Studio, we will work from a variety of sources, including direct observation, imagination, and print/collage material.

PROJECT OPTION #1 – SELF PORTRAIT:

INNER / OUTER / SELF / TRANSCENDENCE

CONCEPT– Inspired by Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Devan Shimoyama, T.C. Cannon, Carrie Anne Baade, Maryam Hoseini and Chris Ofili, students will combine traditional figure painting from life with visual elements that mirror their inner & outer world(s) (real, emotional, virtual/actual, cultural, social, political, desired, or imagined). You will use traditional oil painting techniques inspired by direct observation and collage for this project.

To prepare: Bring materials that represent your inner and outer worlds to collage (i.e. magazine clippings, newspaper images, old photos, etc.). If the pictures are precious, bring photocopies so you can feel free to cut them up.

PROJECT OPTION #2 – INDEPENDENT STUDY:

PAINT THE PEOPLE'S FIRE / STIR THE STILL IMAGE / DISMANTLE THE FRAME

CONCEPT — Create a politically charged artwork that exists at the crossroads of **painting, protest, and activism**, inspired by artists such as **Faith Ringgold, Leon Golub, Ardeshir Mohassess, Jacob Lawrence, Emory Douglas, and Ai Wei Wei**. Engage with current or historical social justice movements, revolutionary iconography, and the aesthetics of dissent. Draw from sources such as **photojournalism, political posters, zines, graffiti, courtroom sketches, news clippings, and personal or collective memory**. Incorporate layers of **pattern, symbol, text, and color** as tools of resistance and storytelling.

Using oil paint along with a **secondary medium** of choice that you'd like to learn or push further—this could be printmaking, textile, found object collage, projection, or sound. Combine techniques such as **direct observation, historical research, imaginative reconstruction, collage/decollage, and textual intervention**. Consider whether your piece should **remain within the frame** or **break it entirely**—can it become a **banner, mural, protest prop, wearable, or public intervention**?

Ask yourself:

- Who is your audience—and how does your piece reach them?
- What truths are obscured, and what must be uncovered?
- How can paint become a tool, a wound, a salve?

Artists to look at: *Faith Ringgold, Leon Golub, Ardeshir Mohassess, Jacob Lawrence, Emory Douglas, Ai Wei Wei, Sue Coe, Tania Bruguera, Dread Scott, Forensic Architecture, the Guerrilla Girls.*

How To Prepare For These Projects (Before GSA) – Visit moma.org, metmuseum.org, and art21.org to browse their vast art collections! Choose at least 5 artists whose work you find interesting and write them down in your sketchbook, and print out inspiring examples of their work. Do a little research on their background and their art. This will help inspire you while you work in the studio at GSA!

Drawing & Painting Artist List	Mark Bradford
Kerry James Marshall	Zhang Xiaogang
Liu Xiaodong	Ayana Ross
Jordan Casteel	Daniel Gordon
Wangechi Mutu	Peter Doig
Salmon Toor	Lucian Freud
Neo Rausch	Liu Wei