

FINE ART SERIES
ACADEMIC CONNECTION





Visual Arts Series
John Hitchcock - Esa Rosas
screenprint, acrylic paint, dye on paper

INVITATION

Fine Arts Programming at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University invites faculty and staff to integrate the Fine Arts Series into your coursework by bringing students to performances and utilizing the work performed on stage in the classroom curriculum. Student tickets are available at our most discounted rate, never more than \$10. We are committed to equity and accessibility in our spaces through creative, intentional practices and partnerships, including departmental ticket purchases and group discounts.

The Fine Arts Series creates opportunities for intentional reflection and amplifies the values of our liberal arts and sciences education. Fine Arts Programming is committed to providing exceptional art experiences that invite conversation, share the diversity of world cultures, and contribute to our students' discovery of themselves and their place in the world. As we prepare the next generation of students, the arts allow them to see the fullness of the world, while learning to nourish themselves.

This guide was created to invite meaningful associations between coursework, the 2019-2020 Fine Arts Series, the personal growth of our students, and connection to the values of our Liberal Arts & Sciences Education.

If you would like to integrate the Fine Arts Series into your coursework, please contact [Grace Davidson-Thoof](#), our Campus Outreach Manager, or [Leslie Hanlon](#), Director of Community Engagement, to discuss the different access points you can create for your students. They are available to brainstorm different ideas, discuss reflection points, and are already dreaming about ways to engage your students.

We thank you for the support and feedback on the Fall edition of the academic guide and hope that you continue to envision how you might integrate our work in with your coursework. As we finalize the 2020-2021 season we hope to receive additional input on how we can better serve you with this resource. There really is something for everyone this year -- we look forward to working with you.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through student engagement, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are preparing students for success in a complex, dynamic and diverse world. The academic experience supports the full student learning experience, empowering them to create meaningful connections between their coursework, career aspirations and communities inside and outside of the classroom.

The [CSB/SJU Institutional Learning Goals](#) are meant to create a clear vision of what students should be experiencing in and out of the classroom. The Fine Arts Series aligns with these goals in many ways. Engaging with the Fine Arts Series directly connects to the following goals:



THINK DEEPLY

- Students are encouraged to think critically, creatively and with complexity when attending a Fine Arts Event. Students engage with the performance experience and have the opportunity to utilize reflective learning to ask deep questions.
- Performance allows us to enjoy the artistic expression while providing us examples of creative ways to approaching complex situations and themes, giving us the tools to approach problems in integrative ways from multiple perspectives.

EMBRACE DIFFERENCE

- Everyone should have the experience of seeing themselves reflected on stage. We intentionally invite artists from diverse backgrounds, experience, genre, gender, sexuality, cultures, and abilities to share their talents with our community. This commitment impacts students' ability to embrace the differences in the world and in their community here on campus.
- FAP intentionally programs so that over four years students have the opportunity to engage with artists across genre, culture, and geographic lines, expanding their connection to the world and building a breadth of arts knowledge.

ENGAGE GLOBALLY

- Artists from around the world are invited to be a part of the Fine Arts Series, providing students the unique chance to dive into different world cultures from right here on campus.
- Exhibits and performances allow students to engage and share in cultures they may not be familiar with from the lens of the arts. Students are provided the opportunity to participate in cultural learning experiences, regardless of whether they study abroad.

SERVE GRACIOUSLY

- Our artists serve the CSB/SJU community and the greater Central Minnesota Community through powerful residency and educational opportunities.
- We believe in stewardship and working to create a more accessible arts community. Through accessibility partners we provide tickets, transportation, and opportunity to connect our community to transformative performance experiences.
- By engaging with the arts on a personal level, students are more likely to connect with their communities through the arts in the future and understand their impact.

LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

- Fine Arts Experiences push students into the uncomfortable – most students are unfamiliar with the kinds of fine arts events we ask them to attend. This contributes to a liberal arts education; to get students more comfortable with being uncomfortable and experiencing the unfamiliar.
- Students are challenged to explore and discover the arts on an individual level, developing the tools to understand the world they live in through an artistic lens.

JOINING US

TICKET PURCHASES

The easiest way to participate is to encourage performance attendance in your syllabus or as an additional opportunity during the semester. If you are committed to connecting your course with a performance, the box office is available to hold seats for your group to sit together. Tickets can be purchased individually by the students as required material for the course, or as a departmental purchase.

To learn more, please email the [Fine Arts Box Office](#).

GALLERY CONNECTIONS

If you would like to connect your class with the gallery please contact [Jill Dubbeldee-Kuhn](#). Class visits can be arranged outside of regular gallery hours and around your class schedule with notice. This is a great way to arrange a class visual art FAE credit.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

Almost all our artists have additional engagement opportunities that take place in individual classes, public forums, or in a scheduled large group setting. Fine Arts Programming works to create connections across genre and disciplines in order to find the best match for each opportunity.


Fine Arts Programming also holds public workshops, open for everyone. These are great ways to encourage students to engage with an artist outside of the classroom. These opportunities are listed on our website and posted on the bulletin board. [Click here to learn more!](#)

If you would like to learn more about possible residency activities, please reach out to Leslie Hanlon at lhanson@csbsju.edu.

HOW TO INTERACT WITH THIS DOCUMENT

In the following sections, we've gathered information related to our spring performances and provided suggested discussion questions as a starting place for how to use the Fine Arts Series to support the classroom experience.

A useful access point for engaging students in arts experiences is utilizing Critical Response Process. The process was originally designed as a tool for artist feedback but can readily be adapted to deepen dialogue and enhance student learning. Based on neutral questions, this process invites discussion as there are no right or wrong answers and provides students with a point of entry when processing work they are unfamiliar with.

- 
1. What do you notice?
 2. What does it remind you of?
 3. How did it make you feel?
 4. What questions does it raise for you?
 5. How do you see artists convey emotion?
 6. How did that impact your experience?

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS THILE



EXPECT ADVENTUROUS

TUES., JAN. 28 @ 7:30 P.M. • ESCHER AUDITORIUM, CSB

You may know Chris Thile from acclaimed trio Nickel Creek, Punch Brothers or as the host of MPR's *Live from Here*.

But as a soloist, this MacArthur Fellow, Grammy-winning mandolin virtuoso, composer and vocalist has continued to evolve and expand, collaborating with renowned artists such as Edgar Meyer, Yo-Yo Ma and Stuart Duncan. His fresh and insightful sound encompasses classical, rock, jazz, progressive folk and bluegrass, transcending the borders of conventional genres to create a distinctly American musical voice. If there was ever a reason to venture out on a Tuesday evening in January, seeing this master in the prime of his career is it.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Music
- Communications
- Media and Society
- Storytelling
- Creative Writing

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Chris Thile](#)

[Live from Here](#)

[Genre Hopping with Chris Thile](#)

[NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert](#)

ENGAGE

In reference to his work as a musician and with his show “*Live From Here*”, Chris Thile says that, “The more you look at great art of any kind, you’ll see that there’s this thread running through all of it. What that is—the evaluation and exploration of that – is the work of the show”.

- What “threads” can you pull between this performance other great art?
- How do you define great art? How has that definition evolved as you’ve participated in Fine Art Experiences on campus?

Thile’s compositions and performances are described as being “full of whimsy and breathless virtuosity” and his music is known to skillfully merge genres.

- How would you describe the music he plays? How would you describe him as a performer?
- What did you notice about Thile’s performance and the genres he incorporated? In what ways did each song bring out different themes or emotions in the music?

Chris Thile is thought to be a Virtuoso and a prodigy, winning his first Grammy award at age 21.

- What power does the word “prodigy” hold?
- How do we determine if someone is a prodigy?
- Why do we add value to artists who have received awards, even if we don’t necessarily understand the awarding process?

RAGAMALA DANCE COMPANY

RANEE RAMASWAMY AND APARNA RAMASWAMY, ARTISTIC CO-DIRECTORS



SAT., FEB. 8 @ 7:30 P.M. • GORECKI FAMILY THEATER, CSB

Experience Indian dance in its most soulful, rhythmic and visually stunning form.

Written in Water explores the heights of ecstasy and the depths of longing to connect the human experience with the transcendent. Rooted in the South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam, this Minneapolis-based company is celebrated for pairing Western aesthetic with an Indian ethos. This program is inspired by the 2nd century Indian board game, Paramapadam (the precursor to Snakes & Ladders) and uses lush choreography, striking imagery and live music to delve into themes of ecstasy, longing and transcendence in Hindu and Sufi thought.

Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, Artistic Co-Directors

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Music
- Dance
- Indian Culture
- Asian Studies
- Anthropology
- Visual Arts
- Linguistics
- Religion
- Psychology
- Gender Studies

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[About Ragamala](#)

[Snakes & Ladders](#)

[Written in Water](#)

[Bharata Nātyam](#)

[‘Written in Water’ trailer](#)

[MinnPost](#)

ENGAGE

Co-artistic directors Aparna and Ranee Ramaswamy introduce audiences to Bharatanatyam, providing an overview of the technique, evolution, and development of this South Indian classical dance form. They examine issues of immigration, cultural hybridity, and the dynamic tension between history and the current moment.

- What is the role of culturally rooted art forms in the 21st century?
- What aspects of Western and Eastern culture did you notice in the performance?
- Are there places in your life where you have experienced intersections of your culture and identity?

Written in Water is performed with an original score and live musical ensemble with a distinct alchemy of South Indian, Iraqi, and jazz and instruments. As well, the projections on stage and upstage scrim are images of paintings commissioned for this project.

- As a multi-ethnic experience based in Indian tradition, what ways do you see the other cultural elements being presented?
- Are there qualities of this music that feel familiar to you? Which qualities are familiar?
- How does the live music impact the experience of the performance?
- How does the visual art impact the experience of the performance?

A central inspiration for *Written in Water* is the 2nd century Indian board game of Paramapadam (precursor to Snakes & Ladders).

- How did you see the inspiration come to life on stage?
- How did the moral and psychological implications of this game translate into performance?

ETHEL + ROBERT MIRABAL

THE RIVER



SAT., FEB. 15 @ 7:30 P.M. • GORECKI FAMILY THEATER, CSB

Immerse yourself in a flow of music, narrative and ritual that evokes timeless Native American traditions through contemporary music.

ETHEL, a classically trained string quartet, and Robert Mirabal, an acclaimed Native American musician, instrument builder and three-time GRAMMY Award winner, present *The River*. This integral journey in instrumental virtuosity, song and storytelling honors Water as the embodiment of spirit and its essential role in life on Earth. Filled with messages of generosity, love and gratitude, *The River* leaves audiences with hearts healed and hope renewed.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Environmental Science
- Native American Culture
- World Music
- World Cultures
- Sociology/Anthropology
- Strings

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Roots World](#)

[ETHEL + Robert Mirabal: The River](#)

[The River Study Guide](#)

[The Songs & The Artists](#)

[Baylin Artists Management](#)

ENGAGE

Water is integral to human life but also holds deeper cultural significance to many, in particular with Native American Communities. Water powers economies, supports travel, and holds spiritual power among many other purposes.

- What do you know about the history of the Native land that CSB/SJU lives on?
- Are there celebrations of land or water that we recognize on campus?
- Is there a body of water or land that is connected to your identity? What insight does this give you?

Robert Mirabal is a dynamic and highly awarded Native American artist, as the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Award for the collaborative music and dance score with the Japanese duo Eiko and Koma, entitled *Land*, two GRAMMY® awards, and the New York Dance and Performer's "Bessie" Award for composition, along with being a celebrated painter, poet and playwright.

- What other Native American artists are you familiar with? What about artforms?
- How do you identify yourself? What groups do you belong to?
- Robert Mirabal has been considered a "renaissance man" by many. Do you have anyone in your life that you would also refer to that way?

ETHEL is a classical ensemble that is known for creating works that expand beyond traditional classical.

- What is distinctive about the music that they create?
- Is this music different from the music you listen to on a regular basis? Do they share similarities? How are they different?
- What impact did the partnership with Robert Mirabal have on the music and performance?
- Did the music convey a story? What kind of story does it tell?
- When music has no words, what does it make you think about? How do you find the story in music without words?

GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS



SAT., FEB. 22 @ 7:30 P.M. • ESCHER AUDITORIUM, CSB

Imagine thrilling circus feats draped in exquisite Chinese pageantry that have been honed for 25 centuries.

The Golden Dragon Acrobats combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional Chinese dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty. These performers devote their entire lives to perfecting this ancient Chinese artform and it shows in every dazzling movement. Juggling everything from umbrellas to volleyballs and with props as unique as ladders and giant spinning wheels, the Acrobats make the impossible look graceful, magical and effortless. The group's sold-out Broadway show has performed in over 65 countries and awes audiences of all ages.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- World Culture
- Asian Studies
- Dance/Movement
- Chinese History
- Exercise and Health Science

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[History of The Golden Dragon Acrobats](#)

[Golden Dragon Acrobats | LIVE in Bicentennial Park](#)

[The New York Times](#)

ENGAGE

You can expect a modern performance highlighting a traditional art form.

- What themes did you see throughout this performance?
- Where do you see the modern elements? Where do you see traditional cultural elements? How do they influence each other?
- Have you had times in your life where tradition and modern culture have come together? What impact has this had on your ability to carry your culture forward?

The physicality and athleticism of this performance are the result of these artists committing their mind and body to this art for their lifetime, many since childhood.

- What connections can you see in this performance between mind and body?
- Did this performance give you feelings of joy, wonder or awe?
- What are the ethics of committing your entire life to something?
- How do you feel when people do things that you can't?
- Have you had an experience where you've had to push your body to the limit? How did that affect you mentally?
- How does this performance differ from other cirque-style performances?

THE MAGIC OF KEVIN SPENCER

EXPECT APPROACHABLE WONDER



SAT., FEB. 29 @ 7:30 P.M. • GORECKI FAMILY THEATER, CSB

This is magic in its most teachable and inclusive form.

Kevin Spencer is not your typical magician. He has earned his share of accolades, including 2009 International Illusionists of the Year, 2015 International Magicians of the Year and six-time recipient of Performing Arts Entertainers of the Year. After 25 years, his generous heart drew him away from large scale spectacle performances and into ground-breaking work with children. As an educator and artist, he uses his magic to inspire, teach, transform and build community. This relaxed, sensory-friendly performance will delight audiences of all ages and all abilities with impressive illusions and heart-warming audience participation.

To provide a supportive and welcoming environment for children and families, this is a Sensory Friendly performance.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Education
- Psychology
- Arts Education
- Integrative Science
- Pre-Professional Groups, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Official Website of Kevin Spencer](#)

[This is Hocus Pocus!](#)

[Kevin Spencer - The Healing of Magic](#)

ENGAGE

Kevin Spencer's career took a huge turn when he decided to give up his extremely successful world touring illusion show to go back to school and focus on arts education and providing sensory friendly, inclusive opportunities that would allow all kids to enjoy magic.

- If you had the chance, what would you ask Kevin about this life changing career shift?
- Do you know anyone who that has made a major career shift? What led them to making that change? What impact did it have?

Kevin's focus is inclusive, family focused performances and education outreach, teaching arts based curriculum across multiple dimensions.

- What do you know about arts based curriculum?
- What is the importance of offering sensory friendly performance? For the individual? For families? For the community?
- What correlations were you able to draw between the arts, rehabilitation, and healing?

LA THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS **SEVEN**

EXPECT TRIUMPH



SAT., MAR. 14 @ 7:30 P.M. • STEPHEN B HUMPHREY THEATER, SJU

Susan Albert Loewenberg, Producing Director

SEVEN is a riveting documentary play by seven female playwrights based on the real stories of seven remarkable women who faced life-threatening obstacles before bringing heroic changes to their home countries of Pakistan, Nigeria, Ireland, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Russia and Cambodia.

The stories capture the women's struggles and triumphs over resistance, death threats, entrenched norms and pervasive violence. Since the premiere in 2008, these inspiring tales have been performed in over 30 countries. *SEVEN* reminds us that even in the darkest times, one person, one voice and a single act of courage can change the lives of thousands.

SEVEN is written by Paula Cizmar, Catherine Filloux, Gail Kriegel, Carol K. Mack, Ruth Margraff, Anna Deavere Smith and Susan Yankowitz.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Gender studies
- World cultures
- Theater
- English/creative writing
- Psychology/sociology
- Peace studies
- Political Science

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[L.A. Theatre Works](#)

[Vital Voice](#)

[SEVEN – a documentary play](#)

[AnnaMarie's Alliance](#)

[About SEVEN](#)

ENGAGE

This play shares the struggles and resilience of seven real stories of real women's stories.

- What is it like to hear such powerful stories?
- In what ways do these stories promote resilience, leadership and courage?
- How do these stories support women leading change for other women?
- What other plays have you seen with all female casts? How did the themes or messages compare?
- What are the important conversations being had today about gender issues? How and where are we having these conversations on campus?
- As a cast member, how could your personal experiences affect your ability to portray the stories in the play?
- What is the impact of sharing true stories compared to fiction?

Theater allows for stories to be lifted up and lived out in a way that allows a level of intimacy and a shared experience for audience members.

- As an audience member, how do you carry these stories with you?
- How does power and privilege play into these stories?
- What impact can one person's story have?
- How can performances provide a space for public discussion of the cultural impact of these stories?

ANA GASTEYER *I'M HIP*



EXPECT SASS

SAT., MAR. 20 @ 7:30 P.M. • STEPHEN B HUMPHREY THEATER, SJU

You may have fallen in love with Ana Gasteyer during her six seasons of *Saturday Night Live*, where she unabashedly played, and often sang, at full tilt. On Broadway, she starred in the hit show *Wicked* as well as the acclaimed *Encores!* Off-Center production of *A New Brain*, *Threepenny Opera* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

In her hugely popular cabaret show *I'm Hip*, she steps up to the mic and delivers songs from an era when a lady ruled a nightclub. The New York Times said her strong singing voice "can stir up quite a storm," and The Boston Globe praised her "serious vocal chops!" Buckle up for a jazzy ensemble where the patter is real, the lyrics are timeless and the music swings.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Vocal performances
- Theater
- Comedic writing
- Pop Culture
- Gender Studies

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[About Ana](#)

[Ana Gasteyer Performs "Defying Gravity"](#)

ENGAGE

Ana's musical style has a retro feel that is a celebration of the night club and highlights her musical talents.

- What does her music remind you of?
- How does her music make you feel?
- How does the comedic aspect impact your experience?

Ana Gasteyer is known primarily for her career as a comedian, sparked by her popularity on NBC's *Saturday Night Live*. However, she also her degree in vocal performance, headlined on Broadway and records her own music.

- Have you had an experience where you've surprised others with a part of your identity?
- What are the parts of you that you hope to someday see thrive?

Ana is often seen on screen with her well-known crew of powerful, supportive female actors.

- How does having a supportive community effect what we achieve?
- How do you support your friends?

TERRANCE SIMIEN AND THE ZYDECO EXPERIENCE



EXPECT BAYOU BOOGIE

SAT., MAR. 28 @ 7:30 P.M. • STEPHEN B HUMPHREY THEATER, SJU

In this fun and feisty program, Terrance Simien and his bandmates create a hypnotic blend of New Orleans funk-reggae flavored-world-blues-American zydeco roots music that beckons you to your feet and into the groove.

As a two-time GRAMMY-award-winning artist, Simien has been shattering Zydeco roots music myths for 35 years. His legendary live performances incorporate spoons on washboards, complex vocal harmonies and a diverse repertoire that feel more like a party than a show. The group has toured 45 countries and have shared studio and stage with Robert Palmer, Stevie Wonder, Los Lobos, Paul Simon and Dave Matthews Band to name a few.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- American History
- African American Studies
- Roots Music
- Social Science
- French
- Rural America

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Historical Background](#)

[Music Matters](#)

[American Routes](#)

[About Zydeco](#)

[Zydeco Music in Louisiana](#)

ENGAGE

Zydeco is a fast, syncopated dance music of Louisiana's black French Creole population, combining influences of Cajun, Blues, Jazz and Soul music. The cultural intersections between Cajuns and Creoles in south-west Louisiana has created a tendency to overlook the distinctions between Cajun music and Zydeco.

- What other forms of American Roots music are you familiar with?
- Why does it matter that Zydeco is performed on our stage?
- What influences do you hear in Zydeco music?

The environment that Zydeco music creates is very important to the history and the tradition of the music, as Zydeco is known for its syncopation and as a dance music played in dance halls and in community settings.

- How would you describe the experience?
- How does the music make you feel?
- Are there other genres of music that require a specific performance environment?

Zydeco is known for its unique instrumentation, including the Rubboard the Accordion and the syncopated rhythms.

- What are syncopated rhythms? Can you identify them in zydeco?
- Have you seen these instruments on our stage before? How does the combination of the instruments and the rhythms impact at the atmosphere of the performance?

The word Zydeco gets its name from a colloquial Creole French expression "Les haricots ne sont pas salés" meaning "the snap beans aren't salty" or idiomatically for "the times are hard." Like the blues, early zydeco offered a way for the rural poor both to express and to escape the hardships of life through music and dance.

- Where do you hear similarities to jazz in Zydeco?
- Why are the arts able to create an escape from hardships across cultures?

CHANTICLEER *TRADE WINDS*

EXPECT STELLAR



SAT., APR. 4 @ 7:30 P.M. • STEPHEN B HUMPHREY THEATER, SJU

This renowned men's chorus seamlessly blends 12 voices to create an exceptional, flawless sound.

Their new program, *Trade Winds*, is a musical journey of exploration. The *Trade Winds* have always guided explorers to exotic places. Set sail with Chanticleer as they visit music from Hawaii, Samoa and New Zealand, poetry set to song from China, and robust music from the seafaring peoples of Europe. Called "the world's reigning male chorus" by the *New Yorker*, this "orchestra of voices" is known around the world for its original, often haunting, interpretations of vocal literature - from Renaissance to jazz and from gospel to venturesome new music.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- World cultures
- Asian Studies
- Vocal performance
- History

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Chanticleer - Biography](#)

[Education Overview](#)

[Chanticleer Opens 2019-2020 Season with "Trade Winds"](#)

ENGAGE

This performance highlights music as an adventure, as they share a repertoire from Pacific Islands, China, and Europe.

- Do you hear these regions of the world in their music?
- As you journey through this performance, what do you notice as distinct about each piece? What similarities do they have?
- What imagery does the music create for you?

Chanticleer is known for musical excellence as the preeminent mens choral group in the world.

- What do you experience in this performance that supports this reputation?
- How does world music impact or change European history?
- How do you experience chamber music that is non-European?

Sea Shanties are known for their call & response structure, monotonous rhythms, and masculine identity.

- What cultures or songs come to mind first when you think of work songs?
- What is a modern form of these songs?
- There is an element of utility in these songs - they allowed groups to work at the same pace and created a sense of cohesion. What are other ways that we keep groups working together?
- Many of these songs were created organically by working groups, compared to most chamber music that is created by a composer. What differences do you hear in this music compared to traditional chamber music?
- In what ways, if any, would the messaging of these songs be different if this was a group of women?

JEREMY MESSERSMITH



EXPECT INDIE CHARM

FRI., APR. 17 @ 7:30 P.M. • ESCHER AUDITORIUM, CSB

If spring were an instrument, it would surely be a ukulele. And who better to play it than indie pop genius Jeremy Messersmith?

Singer-songwriter, Wits performer and one of Minnesota's most recognized and celebrated artists, Messersmith has been praised by The New York Times, NPR, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, Spin and Rolling Stone. A thoughtful, clever lyricist with a tender voice, this Minneapolis-based troubadour crafts songs that are catchy, relatable and span the emotional gamut from poignancy to whimsy. In this performance, Jeremy is joined by his band and a hip string quartet.

Stay tuned for info about a ukulele sing-along!

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Music & Songwriting
- Arts as a form of social justice
- Storytelling
- Peace Studies
- Political Science

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[NPR - Jeremy Messersmith](#)

[PBS - Jeremy Messersmith](#)

ENGAGE

The themes of Jeremy Messersmith's music often have elements of contemporary social commentary.

- What do you think of using music as a means of social change?
- What is the roll of contemporary artist in social commentary?
- When you hear something you don't agree with, how do you deal with it?
- What is your means of expressing your opinions?

Messersmith's music tends to have a positive sound, using melodies and instruments we may connect with positivity, even when the subject or themes of the songwriting are deep.

- What does the dichotomy between positive and reality do for us?
- How do you remain positive and continue moving life forward during times of social upheaval?

ERTH'S PREHISTORIC AQUARIUM ADVENTURE

EXPECT AWE



SAT., APR. 25 @ 7:30 P.M. • STEPHEN B HUMPHREY THEATER, SJU

Erth's *Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure* is an immersive experience that invites you to jump in and explore unknown ocean depths where prehistoric marine reptiles lived eons ago - and maybe live still today!

Erth shows are at the forefront of family entertainment, using actors, technology, puppets, science and imagination to create an amazing visual experience that connects young audiences to the real science of paleontology. The audience is invited to meet one of the creatures from the show post-performance.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Education
- STEAM
- Theater
- Puppetry/Visual Arts/3D
- Biology
- Geology

DISCOVER

ARTICLES AND VIDEOS RELATED BACK TO THE PERFORMANCE:

[Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure](#)

ENGAGE

For a lot of the younger patrons at this performance, it may be their first time ever in a theater.

- Do you remember your first time in a theater?
- Can you think of a specific experience from your childhood that inspired parts of who you are now or what you are studying?
- Why does it matter that this performance has STEAM ties?
- How would you describe the connection and impact that imagination has on the sciences?
- What did you learn about dinosaurs?

JOHN HITCHCOCK

BURY THE HATCHET: PRAYER FOR MY P'AH-BE



JAN. 16 - FEB. 28
ALICE R. ROGERS & TARGET GALLERIES, SAINT JOHN'S ART CENTER, SJU

Please join us for a reception and concert in the gallery:
Thursday, January 23rd from 5-7 p.m.

Artist Talk/Q&A: 6-6:30pm • **Band Performance:** 6:30-7 p.m.
Concert at Brother Willies Pub 9:30-11:45 p.m.

Bury the Hatchet is artist John Hitchcock's mixed media, cross-disciplinary, multisensory installation. Hitchcock combines his interests in printmaking, Rock n' Roll, and Kiowa and Comanche history into one visual expression that offers a re-telling of the narrative of the American Frontier. Working from the theme of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Bury the Hatchet develops a shared language to interrogate historic and modern institutions to prompt a re-definition and re-imagining of our present reality.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Print Making
- Folk Arts
- Native American History
- Storytelling
- Cultural Memory

ARTIST WEBSITE

[John Hitchcock](#)

QUESTIONS

The media used in Hitchcock's bodies of work on display brings together traditional, organic materials along with new media, all in their time used as mediums for storytelling.

- Why do you think he incorporated this mixture of media?
- What comparisons can you draw to these distinct choices?
- How do these choices play into the themes of challenging historical perspectives?

This work offers a multi-sensory re-telling of the narrative of the American Frontier. Traditionally in western culture written word holds power, compared to Native identity and tradition of oral history.

- What holds power for you- hearing a history or reading the word?
- How has digital culture redefined the power of written history and spoken history?
- Does your family have any traditions of passing history down by word?
- How are memories passed down, compared to histories?
- What is the difference between re-framing history versus sharing a memory?

RACHEL MELIS

FRUITFUL AND FRETFUL: FORTY WEEKS IN WATERCOLOR



JAN. 16 - FEB. 28
GORECKI GALLERY, BENEDICTA ARTS CENTER, CSB

Artist Talk/Q&A: Apr. 16, 5-7 p.m.

Rachel Melis is an Associate Professor of Art at the College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University with an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Several years ago, as a pregnant printmaker, Melis found herself beginning a series of paintings inspired by the seed pods (common fruits and vegetables) used as metaphors for human embryos. Eagerly and anxiously wanting ways to visualize the changes happening inside her, Melis used gouache watercolors and metallic inks to emphasize this tension between surface and interior. Just as pregnancy, though treated as public and definite, is personal and unpredictable, each piece shimmers with illusory transparency. The changing scale of frames circling the gallery makes the metaphor especially literal--highlighting the difficulty of trying to see the invisible and feel the future.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Art
- Language
- Sociology
- Health Studies
- Evolution in Action
- Human Anatomy and Physiology

ARTIST WEBSITE

[Rachel Melis](#)

QUESTIONS

The use of fruits and vegetables as the subject matter creates an element of humor in this exhibit as a metaphor for life, growth, and our connection to nature as humans.

The process of growth starts with planting a seed and relying on nature and nurture to control the process.

- Why do we use metaphors for visualization?
- Is there an element of control you gain through this type of visualization?
- How do you implement "controls" through visualization or metaphors in your life? In your studies? What is the impact of having control?
- What is successful growth?

This work was created with dry brush watercolors, requiring close attention to detail and skillful hand-eye coordination.

- What is the significance of seeing this level of detail in this subject matter?
- How does the creative process relate back to the themes of the exhibition?

Melis is a book artist, among many other things, using books to carry stories forward.

- How does this concept relate to pregnancy?
- What do you carry forward when you create life?
- How does this relate to planting a seed?
- What do we carry forward through our environment?

We all have some context to birth and life.

- Do you know the personal history of your birth story?
- What emotions or challenges arise when discussing this?
- What do you understand about the positive and negative emotions someone may experience in this exhibition?

