

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Painting, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

M.A.R., Religion and the Arts, Yale Divinity School, Yale Institute of Sacred Music,
New Haven, CT

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018–present

Professor, Galleries Director, Department Chair, Department of Art and Digital Media
Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Serving as Department Chair (since 2020): I am responsible for completing annual faculty and department reports, writing department accreditation reports, and creating and assigning department faculty schedules. Additionally, I oversee building and equipment repairs, successfully maintain a balanced annual department budget and have guided the department in developing updated Program Learning Outcomes for three degrees: B.F.A. in Studio Art, B.F.A. in Art Education, and B.A. in Studio Art. I actively collaborate with fellow art faculty to ensure course outcomes align with Program Learning Outcomes, providing leadership and setting examples. I also supervise the department administrative assistant and have interviewed and guided four adjuncts through the hiring process. To attract new students, I organize department tours and events, actively participate in recruiting efforts, and work closely with university donors to secure unique funding for our department. Furthermore, I cosponsor the TYGR, the university's student literature and art publication.

Serving as Faculty: I have developed the curriculum and currently teach two online courses: one focused on drawing and the other in humanities appreciation. In addition to my regular teaching responsibilities, I also serve as an academic advisor for approximately twenty students, guiding them through their university journey. Furthermore, I actively contribute to several committees, including the Dean's Online Advisory Board and the university's Assessment Committee. I regularly teach the following courses:

ART 100 Art Appreciation

ART 101 Fundamentals of Drawing (on-ground)

ART 101 Fundamentals of Drawing (created/teach new online course)

ART 110 The Humanities Through Visual Arts (created/teach new online course)

ART 250 Portfolio Review

ART 282 History of Western Art II

ART 308 Advanced Figure Drawing

ART 330 Studio Practices and Personal Vision

ART 408 Advanced Drawing

Serving as Galleries Director: I am responsible for scheduling all art exhibitions in the various galleries on campus, which include but are not limited to the Sims Main Gallery, Strickler Planetarium Gallery, Victorian House Gallery, Library Gallery, and the Weber Gallery. In addition, my responsibilities include organizing demos by visiting artists, coordinating gallery talks, and planning art openings for each gallery. At the Victorian House Gallery, I oversee designing and printing promotional materials for the academic year. I collaborate with the art faculty on senior exhibits and meet with students to assist them in hanging and lighting their senior thesis exhibitions. Additionally, I am responsible for hiring, training, and supervising student workers in the Victorian House Gallery. Their tasks include matting, framing, and assembling artwork for each exhibit. In the spring of 2020, I created an online gallery space for students and visiting artists, which can be found at www.olivetartexhibitions.com.

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2025 *Symphonia: Dialogues of Landscape, Ritual and Resilience*: Joanne Aono, Karen Azarnia, Jon Seals, Michelle Wasson. Sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music's Religion, Ecology, and Expressive Culture Initiative. Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2024 *Collections*: Hannah Mobley
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2024 *Postscripts*: L.M. Beatty
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2023 *Midwest Alterations*: William Porter
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2023 *Empty but Solid*: Kameron Robinson
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2023 *Quiet Garden*: Natalija Mijatovic
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2022 *Habitat*: Jessica Peterson
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2022 *Revival*: Brittany Gregory
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2022 *Microbial Mind*: Angela Dieffenbach
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2022 *New Mexico Watercolors and Lithographs*: Perry Obee
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *Not me...*; Carmen Flores
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *Fragments*; Dymphna De Wild
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *Hold Tight and Let Go*; Laura Mosquera
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *Sanctuary*; Meg Pierce
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *In The Scale of Everything*; Tracie Cheng
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2021 *Finding the Way Home*; Kirsten Moran
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2020 *In a Room with Many Windows*; Gwendolyn Zabicki
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2020 *Although I Am Not You, I Am Not Other Than You Either*; Kenny Jensen
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2019 *Mamprugu: Five Years in Ghana's Ancient Northern Kingdom*; William Haun
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2019 *Cut and Paste*; Nathan Beard
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL

CURATORIAL PROJECTS CONTINUED

- 2019 *Ineffable Manifestations | Miller Hall Inaugural Exhibition*; Rick Bartow, Eoin Burke, Gaby Collins-Fernandez, Ryan Foster, Bill Greiner, Camille Hoffman, Nalini Jayasuriya, Kenny Jensen, Natalija Mijatovic, Kirsten Moran, Laura Mosquera, Margaret Olin, Meg Pierce, Ellen Priest, He Qi, Marium Rana, Jon Seals
Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2019 *Fragments*; Karen Azarnia
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2019 *Seeing My Everyday*; Jennifer Small
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2018 *Rootless Fruits*; Ryan Foster
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2018 *Leaving the Noise Behind*; Alicia Forestall-Boehm
Victorian House Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2018 *From Shape to Form*; Carmen Flores, Gaby Collins-Fernandez, José Delgado Zúñiga, Rocío Olivares, Saredt Franco, Xavier Robles de Medina
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
- 2017 *The Complexities of Unity*; Edgard Rodriguez Luiggi, Esteban Cabeza de Baca, Jane Winfield, Jeremy Wright, Lily Kuonen, Noe Jimenez
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
- 2016 *Between Clock and Bed*; Kenny Jensen, Kirsten Moran, Laura Mosquera, Natalija Mijatovic, Ronnie Rysz, Stephen Knudsen
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
- 2015 *Seen*; Camille Hoffman, J.D. Richey, Perry Obee, Ryan Foster, William Greiner
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
- 2014 *Transitions*; Eoin Burke, Jon Seals, Joshua Sullivan, Tracie Cheng
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Reflections: Watercolor Notations of Natural Phenomena*, Curated by Robert “Lynn” Whitelaw, Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center, Tarpon Springs, Florida
- 2023 *Sand, Silt & Other Sorrows*, South Suburban College, Photo Four Gallery, South Holland, IL
- 2021 *Wound and Witness: Whispers from Land and Sea*, Curated by Kenny Jensen and Ann Wykell, University of South Florida, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library presented by Places, Spaces, and Art.
- 2014 *Jon Seals/Blueprint Drawings*, Brandenburg Gallery, Bourbonnais, IL
- 2012 *Ruth Eckerd Hall featuring Jon Seals*, Ruth Eckerd Hall East Gallery, Clearwater, FL
- 2012 *Memory Architecture*, Fahm Hall Gallery, Savannah, GA
- 2012 *Jon Seals' Open Studio*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Symphonia: Dialogues of Landscape, Ritual and Resilience*: Joanne Aono, Karen Azarnia, Jon Seals, Michelle Wasson. Sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music's Religion, Ecology, and Expressive Culture Initiative. Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2024 *Voices of the Midwest*, The Kavanagh Gallery, Fine Line Creative Arts Center, St. Charles, IL
- 2023 *Transformations and Transitions*, Curated by Carmen Flores, Catapult Gallery, Richmond, TX. Participating Artists: Venessa Monokian, Kevin Lopez, Peter Broz, Jon Seals, Daniel Esquivel, Jim Keller, Johnny Rojas, Thomas Avinger, Nathan Beard, Charles Weiss, Armando Rodriguez, Carmen Flores.
- 2023 *INT'L PAPERWORKS 2023*, Walter Piehl Gallery, Northwest Arts Center, Minot State University, Minot, ND
- 2022 *Fragile*, Curated by Carmen Flores, Catapult Gallery, Richmond, TX. Participating Artists: Peter Broz, Amelia Bisbardis, Daniel Esquivel, Jennifer Greenwell, Kevin Lopez, Tudor Mitroi, Venessa Monokian, Jon Seals, Carmen Flores
- 2022 *A Ribbon of Quicksilver: Art and Environment on the Kankakee River*, (two-person exhibition with Scott Dombrowski), The University of Montevallo's Gallery at Bloch Hall, Montevallo, AL
- 2021 *Lay of the Land*, Curated by Karen Azarnia, O'Connor Art Gallery, Dominican University, River Forest, IL. Participating Artists: Jacklyn Mednicovm, Judith Mullen, Soumya Netrabilem, Nina Rizzo, Jon Seals, Alexander Richard Wilson
- 2021 *A Ribbon of Quicksilver: Art and Environment on the Kankakee River*, (two-person exhibition with Scott Dombrowski), B. Harley Bradley House, (Frank Lloyd Wright's first Prairie Home) Kankakee, IL
- 2020 *Loading the Virtual Machine...*, Curated by Christine Renc-Carter, Distance Gallery (online)
- 2020 *Beyond Pedagogy*, Christopher Art Gallery, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL
- 2019 *Trace Elements*, (two-person exhibition with Kenny Jensen), Urban Arts Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2019 *Small Works*, Gutstein Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 2018 *Terrains*, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Tampa Bay Gallery, Tampa, FL
- 2018 *Solar Flare*, (two-person exhibition with Kenny Jensen), OpenHouse, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2016 *World's Greatest Kiting*, The Studio@620, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2015 *Amalgam*, Birke Art Gallery, Marshall University, Huntington, WV
- 2015 *A Mirror and a Door* (two-person exhibition, with Ryan Foster) Bloch Hall Gallery, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL
- 2014 *City-Wide Open Studios*, Artspace, New Haven, CT
- 2013 *City-Wide Open Studios*, Artspace, New Haven, CT
- 2012 *Small Works*, Gutstein Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 2012 *Open Studio Exhibition*, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY
- 2011 *eLearning Group Show*, Alexander Hall, Savannah, GA
- 2010 *Seven Days: Underground HUB*, Ybor City, Tampa, FL
- 2010 *Open Studio Exhibition*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

- 2024 *Craighton T. and Linda G. Hippenhammer Faculty Scholarship Grant*. One-year funding awarded for project, “*Symphonia: Dialogues of Landscape, Ritual and Resilience*”: Joanne Aono, Karen Azarnia, Jon Seals, Michelle Wasson. Sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music’s Religion, Ecology, and Expressive Culture Initiative.
- 2020 “This Stone Will Be a Witness against Us.” *Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church*, edited by Hannah Malcolm, 1st ed., London, UK, SCM Press, 2020, pp. 33–38.
- 2020 *Craighton T. and Linda G. Hippenhammer Faculty Scholarship Grant*. Two-year funding awarded for project, “*A Ribbon of Quicksilver*” a collaborative and interdisciplinary art and scholarship exhibition.
- 2019 *ArtPulse Magazine, The Other: James Webb’s Prayer & Janet Cardiff’s The Forty Part Motet*, feature article, No. 33, Vol. 10
- 2016 *ArtPulse Magazine, A Grey Dawn*, feature article, No. 26, Vol. 7
- 2015 *ArtPulse Magazine, An Exhibition of Earthly Delights*, critical review, No 24. Vol 7
- 2015 *Faculty Prize*, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2015 *Reflections Magazine*, Spring 2015, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT
- 2015 *Letters*, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2014 *ArtPulse Magazine, A Common Core*, feature article, No. 21, Vol. 6
- 2014 *Palimpsest*, Yale Literary and Arts Magazine, Volume VI: Failure
- 2014 *ArtPulse Magazine, The Sting of Art Education*, critical review, No. 19, Vol. 5
- 2014 *Letters*, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2013 *Letters*, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, CT
- 2012 *New York Workspace Residency*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 2009 *Educator Scholarship*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2016–2018

Director of Fine Arts, Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL

Administrative Director for fine arts, leading instructors of visual art, theater, dance, concert/marching bands, choral programing and all related programs, schedules, and budget items.

2015–2016

Assistant Professor of Visual Art, Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL

Created and implemented seven new visual art courses toward developing new visual art minor program including: *Color Theory, Painting I, Painting II, Drawing I, Drawing II, 2D Design*, and *Gallery Exhibitions*; established the Visual Art Minor degree; curated four student exhibitions; total credit hours of instruction: 30 hrs.

2014–2015

Adjunct Faculty, Southeastern University, Lakeland, FL

Photography (online); total credit hours of instruction: 6 hrs.

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS CONTINUED

2013–2015

Adjunct Faculty, The College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY

Exploring the Arts of New York City, Religion and the Arts, The Art of Jacob Lawrence (directed study), African American Art (directed study); total credit hours of instruction: 42 hrs.

2013–2015

Membership Services, and Visitor Services, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

Orient and encourage visitors of the Gallery to apply for free membership and related benefits by inviting all audiences to develop meaningful connections with the Gallery's collections, exhibitions, and programs.

2004–2013 (2011/2012 Academic School Year Sabbatical)

Visual Art Chair, Secondary Art Teacher, Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL

Foundational Art Courses, AP 2-D, AP 3-D, AP Drawing, Humanities; creator and curator of Gallery Ruach; directed annual K-12 art show with 400+ works from 19 schools; organized trips to Costa Rica, New York, San Francisco, Germany; led statewide workshops for educators on critical thinking skills.

Recent Paintings:



Notes at Brooker Creek 14

Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper

24-inch circle

2024



Notes at Brooker Creek 13
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
24-inch circle
2024



Notes at Brooker Creek 12
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
24-inch circle
2024



Notes at Brooker Creek 11
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
24-inch circle
2024



Notes at Brooker Creek 10
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
10-inch circle
2024



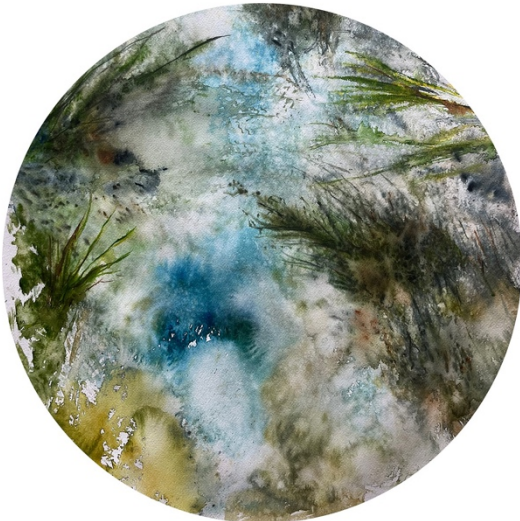
Notes at Brooker Creek 9
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
10-inch circle
2024



Notes at John Chesnut Park
Water from Lake Tarpon, watercolor on Arches paper
24-inch circle
2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 8
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
20-inch circle
2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 7
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
20-inch circle
2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 6
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 5
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Safety Harbor notation 6
Safety Harbor dock water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Footnotes at Brooker Creek
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
3.5 x 11 inches
2024

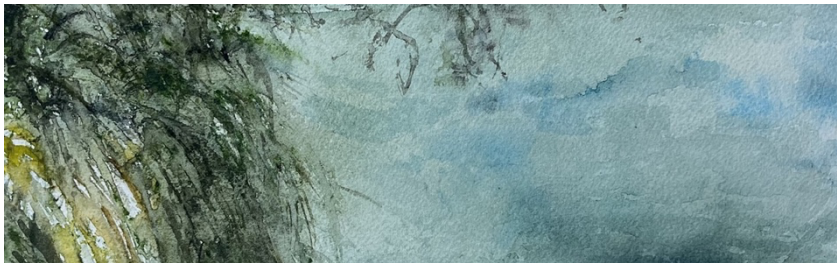


Footnotes at Brooker Creek

Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper

3.5 x 11 inches

2024



Footnotes at Brooker Creek

Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper

3.5 x 11 inches

2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 15
Water from Brooker Creek, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Kankakee River, notes on Indiana channelization I
Kankakee River water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Kankakee River, notes on Indiana channelization 3
Kankakee River water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2024



Notes on Brooker Creek 1
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
10-inch circle
2023



Notes on Brooker Creek 2
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2023



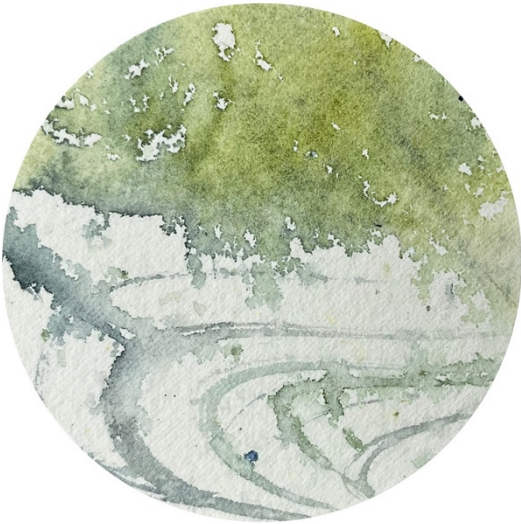
Notes on Brooker Creek 3
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2023



Notes on Brooker Creek 4
Brooker Creek water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2023



Notes on Lake Tarpon 6
Lake Tarpon water, watercolor on Arches paper
12-inch circle
2023



Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024

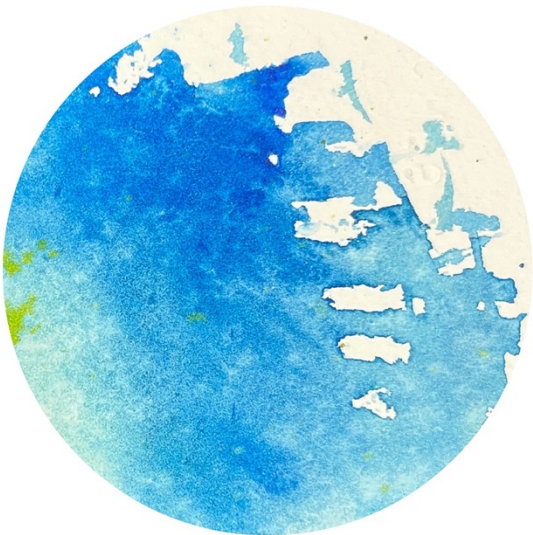


Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



Margins
Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024

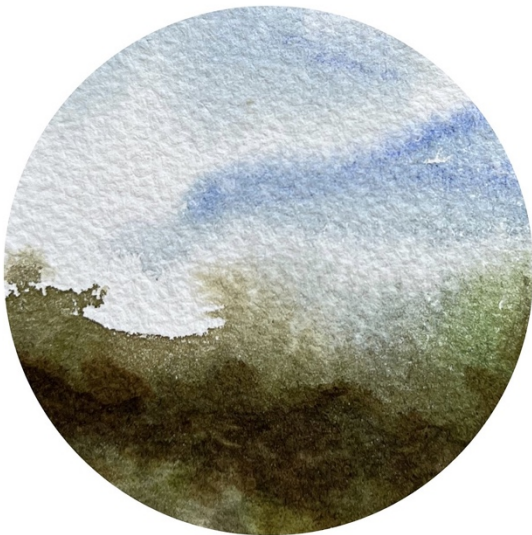


Margins
Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



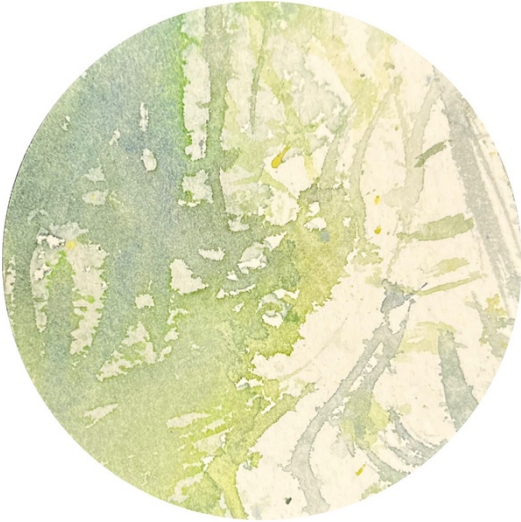
Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



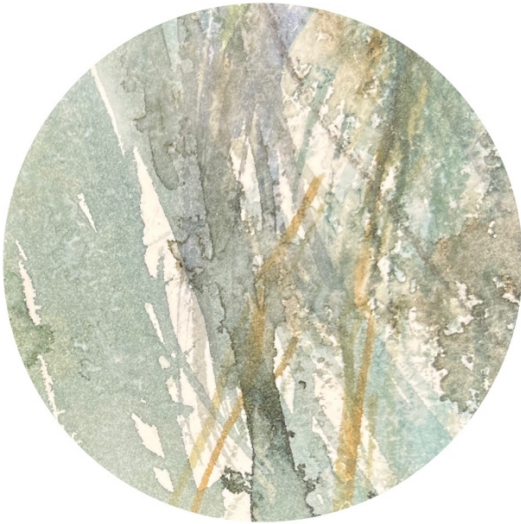
Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024



Margins

Kankakee River water and/or water from the Gulf of Mexico, watercolor on Arches paper
2.5-inch circle
2024

SELECTED STUDENT ARTWORK



1. Emma Williams, color pencil on paper, ART-308 Advanced Figure Studies



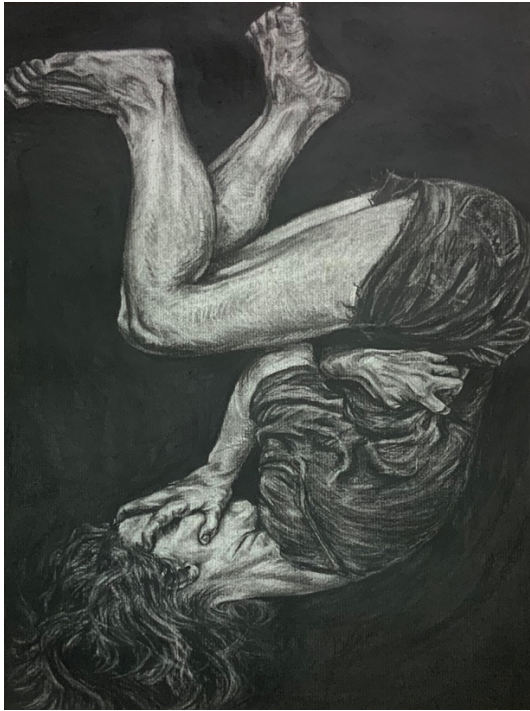
2. Tori Fox, (1 of 12 in series) color pencil and marker on paper, ART-308 Advanced Figure Studies



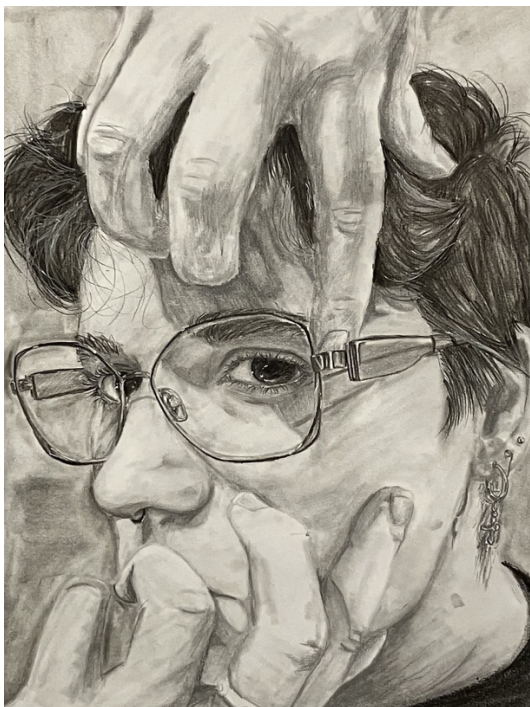
3. Tori Fox (2 of 12 in series) color pencil and marker on paper, ART-308 Advanced Figure Studies



4. Sierra Harris, watercolor on paper, ART-308 Advanced Figure Studies



5. Hope Mayo, charcoal on paper, ART-303 Advanced Figure Studies



6. Andi Ritter, charcoal and pencil on paper, ART-308 Advanced Figure Studies



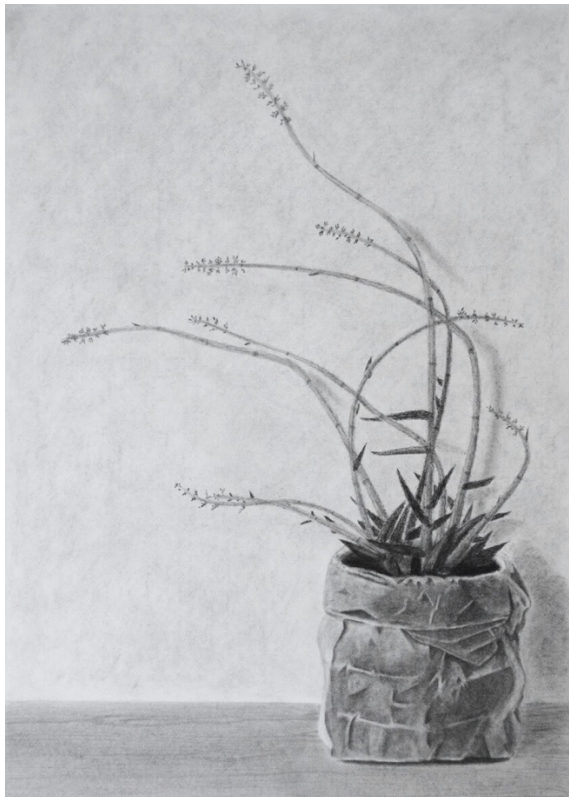
7. Jessica Baer, charcoal on paper, ART-206 Figure Studies



8. Lori Blair, charcoal on paper, ART-101 Fundamentals of Drawing



9. Lin Marijnissen, charcoal pencil on paper, ART-101 Fundamentals of Drawing



10. Raquel Gonzalez, graphite on paper, ART-101 Fundamentals of Drawing

BIOGRAPHY

Jon Seals is a multifaceted artist, educator, and curator with over 18 years of experience in the fields of art history, painting, drawing, curating, and teaching. He holds a M.A.R. from Yale Divinity School and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, where he studied the intersections of religion and visual culture, and a M.F.A. in Painting from Savannah College of Art and Design, where he developed his conceptual and technical skills as a painter. As the Department Chair, Galleries Director, and Professor of Art and Digital Media at Olivet Nazarene University, he leads the academic and administrative functions of the department, oversees the exhibition programming of the Victorian House Gallery and other campus venues, and teaches courses in studio art. He is also a curator of exhibitions for Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, showcasing the work of contemporary artists who engage with spirituality, environmentalism, and social justice among other topics. His own artwork, essays, and reviews have been published and exhibited in various magazines and galleries across the country. His artistic practice is driven by his passion for exploring the ways in which identity relates to memory, loss, and redemption in visual culture.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I create mixed-media works using materials harvested from bodies of water and land in environments undergoing significant ecological alterations. These locations include the Gulf of Mexico along Tampa Bay in Florida and the Kankakee River south of Chicago, Illinois, where, until just over a century ago, an Everglades-like wetland stretched as far as Florida's. My artworks develop through processes such as pouring, dipping, and combining hand-drawn and painted elements, utilizing the materials I collect and engaging directly with the soil, water, and plant life.

The materials I use are sourced from the two states where I live, located in very different regions of the United States. By employing site-specific soil, sand, and water, I seek to listen to and echo the wounds and stories of the earth, exploring how the environment influences my artistic voice. While my training has equipped me with techniques to manipulate these materials, I've found that a lighter touch, allowing more of the earth's influence, yields more intriguing results. Early in my practice, unable to achieve the control I desired, I dipped paper into a mix of water from Florida's Gulf Coast and soil materials from Illinois. The outcome, where clean paper meets soiled and wet paper, resembles the roll of an ocean wave against the sky, merging my two homes into one. While this is my interpretation, shaped through attentive listening to the materials, it represents a symbiotic relationship where the materials' voice is also influenced by my temporal and spatial presence.

Living in both Florida and Illinois has uniquely informed my understanding of natural surroundings. Over the past few years, I've collaborated with local artists and scientists to address growing environmental crises affecting the Kankakee River ecosystem in Illinois. Through mixed-media works combined with scientific field research, my project seeks to learn from and listen to natural materials, fostering a hope that viewers will engage with their surroundings with renewed reverence and care. In the summer of 2023, I integrated traditional watercolor paints with water collected from the Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay, and regional freshwater lakes. Painting en plein air with water sourced on-site has deepened my connection and intimacy with both land and sea. Since 2023, I have developed an interlocking series of 2.5 inch circles cut from the discarded margins of larger paintings created on Arches watercolor paper using water from the Gulf of Mexico and the Kankakee River. These smaller compositions inspire larger paintings, which will become features in new works. This cycle will repeat, as I am challenged and inspired by both the larger paintings and the smaller compositions found along the edges beyond the matboard and framed boundaries.