

Beyond The Objects: The Grammar of Things

Esther Prangley Rice Gallery

MCDANIEL
COLLEGE

Illustrated by: Danielle Silva

Co- curated by Steven Pearson & Danielle Silva



Beyond The Objects: The Grammar of Things

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Featuring:

Scott Brodie, Alexandra Combass, Chris Feiro, Hans Habeger, Matt Klos,
John Lee, Sarah Méndez, Scott Noel, Steven Pearson, Clarissa Pezone,
Erin Raedeke, Marissa Riddell, Abbie Rubin, Nicole Santiago,
Danielle Silva & Kourtney Stone

Curator's Statement

Still Life painting is often thought of as the lowest genre in painting: It is the thing you paint when learning to paint. However, throughout art history, there are moments when still life takes centerstage, such as the Dutch still life painters in the 17th century and the Impressionist paintings in the 19th century, showing its versatility and importance. Still Life can be used to show Narrative, Time, Place, and Identity. This exhibition focuses on painting and sculpture done by artists exploring how object selection, compositional conventions, materiality of media, and the use of value and color can aid in the delivering content and conveying stories implied in the objects artists may select to make work about.

This exhibition, co-curated by professor Steven Pearson, the Joan Develin Coley Endowed Chair in Creative Expression and the Arts, and Danielle Silva, a senior Studio Art Major with a specialization in Graphic Design and Cinema Minor, is based on Student/Faculty Summer Research on the narrative possibilities of still life done in summer 2025 with Alexandra Combass '26, Marissa Riddell '26, Abigail Rubin '26, and Danielle Silva '26. During summer research we read *Looking at the Overlooked* by Norman Bryson. Bryson's book looks at the origins of still life and moves through western art history up to cubism. While Bryson connects still life to the "low plane reality" of daily life through the objects presented on the tables in the paintings, he also links it to broader cultural conversations by discussing what is sometimes seen around and beyond the still life. The students and the artists invited to participate in this exhibition address the everyday, bring mystery and curiosity to the mundane, allude to current events, touch on identity, and remind us that life is fleeting. We invite you to look beyond the objects, understand the grammar in the things depicted, and find the stories that are hidden in still life as exciting as we do.

Steven Pearson and Danielle Sliva

Scott Brodie:

BIO:



Scott Brodie is a representational painter who prefers the controlled and flexible environment of the studio, and finds delight in the hidden stories of ordinary things. Scott Brodie earned his MFA in Painting from Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA. He has shown widely in galleries and museums including Bill Maynes Gallery, Chelsea, NY, DC, Moore Gallery, NY; Andrea Meislin Gallery, Chelsea, NY; Fishtank Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA; Pamela Salisbury Gallery, Hudson, NY; Tang Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; University Art Museum,

University at Albany, NY; The Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University, PA; the Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, NY; and the Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, NY. Brodie also had several one person shows including at the Pamela Salisbury Gallery, Hudson, NY, Stavaridis Gallery, Boston, MA; Bess Cutler Gallery, SoHo, NY; and Bill Maynes Gallery, Chelsea, NY. Brodie has also been an artist at residence at the Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL; Ya do, Saratoga Springs, NY; and The Macdowell Colony, Peterborough, NH. Scott Brodie is Professor Emeritus of Drawing and Painting at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY. <https://www.scottbrodie.com>



Just in Time, oil on canvas, 8 x 10, 2024

Alexandra Combass:

BIO:

Alexandra Combass is an Artist, Educator and Creative Director from Maryland. Her work is rooted in process. She approaches art as an unfolding conversation rather than a finished product.

Alexandra's work explores femininity, not as an internal trait, but as something that exists outside of the self. Within intimates and the quiet details of daily life. A hidden softness, a deliberate fragility. Her stained-glass work mirrors her evolving relationship with femininity, fractured, reshaped, and redefined. She aims to create space where femininity is not something lost, but something built with intension, care, and permanence. Through paint, glass, clay, and more, Alexandra creates a tangible manifestation of what is often unseen.

She urges viewers to engage with process and reflect on their own connection to softness and intimacy. <https://alexandracomb.com>





The Tea Party, oil on canvas, 18x24, 2025

Chris Feiro:

BIO:



Chris Feiro was born and raised in Duluth, MN. He received his BFA in painting from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 1998 and his MFA in painting from Indiana University in 2000. He has been teaching painting and drawing at the Community College of Philadelphia since 2003. In his work, he is committed to painting and drawing his immediate surroundings from direct observation.

http://chrisfeiro.com/Site_2/Home.html



Shaving Brush, oil on linen on board, 8 x 8 in, 2006

Hans Habeger:

BIO:

Hans Habeger is an Associate Professor of Art at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL. He is the Chair of the Art Department and oversees offerings in drawing and design foundations. He is originally from Wisconsin and received a BFA in painting and drawing from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. He earned an MFA in painting from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. He has previously taught as a Lecturer at Iowa State University in Ames, IA and as a visiting artist at the Community College of Philadelphia. He has shown his work in national and regional juried shows and has participated in numerous invitational shows with George Billis Gallery, New York and Los Angeles. He has exhibited in solo and two person shows at UW Parkside in Kenosha, WI, Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art in Grayslake, IL, Giertz Gallery in Champaign, IL and The Edwardsville Art Center, Edwardsville, IL. He has been a finalist in Manifest Gallery's International Drawing and Painting Annuals. His work has also been featured three times in the juried publication New American Paintings, Midwest edition. His paintings and drawings are in private and public collections including the College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL and The American Cultural Center Xian University, Xian, China. He resides in Libertyville, IL with his wife Jadie and their two daughters, Hazel and Gwen. <https://hanshabeger.com/home.html>





Distressed, conte crayon and pastel on drafting film, 22 x 22, 2020

Matt Klos:

BIO:



Matt Klos received his MFA in painting from University of MD, College Park and his BFA from Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD). He is a recipient of four Individual Artist Awards from the Maryland State Arts Council (2019, 2016, 2012 and 2008). His work has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions including the Prince Street Gallery in Chelsea, NY in 2011. He was awarded first place in the Bethesda Painting Awards in 2007 and received an Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant in 2001. Klos currently teaches drawing and painting full-time at Anne Arundel

Community College in Arnold, MD and has served as a guest lecturer/critic at various institutions including the New York Academy of Art, Boston University, College of William & Mary, Towson University, University of Missouri, and Mount Gretna School of Art. The Chemulpo Club Museum in Incheon, South Korea hosted him for a solo exhibition in June 2025. His solo exhibition, “A Light in Many Rooms” is on view now at Steven Frances Fine Art in Lynchburg, VA. He is a member of the still life painting collective, Zeuxis, www.zeuxis.us and is part of the Perceptual Painters collective. His work can be found at www.mattklos.com or on Instagram @mattklospainting. <http://www.mattklos.com>



House and Tool Wall, oil on canvas, 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 53 $\frac{3}{4}$, 2025

John Lee:

BIO:

John Lee, Associate Professor of Painting at William & Mary, is a graduate of the certificate program at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, holds a BFA from the University of Pennsylvania, and received his MFA from the University of Indiana in Bloomington. John is an oil painter who works directly from life with an interest in color, light, space, and weight. He has worked in traditional genres such as still life and self-portraiture, but his primary subject matter is interior spaces. John has shown at various venues nationally, but primarily in the northeast region, including solo shows at Bowery Gallery and First Street Gallery, NYC. He is a member of the Zeuxis Still Life Association and has shown with the Midwest Paint Group. <https://johnleepainting.com/home.html>





Quiet Zoo, oil on linen, 36 x 38, 2022

Sarah Méndez:

BIO:



Sarah Mendez is a narrative figurative painter from Maryland whose work focuses on figures, often herself, and her everyday spaces. Her work explores the narrative potential of everyday mundane settings, examining how these spaces shape and reflect her experience as a woman. Mendez earned her BA in Studio Art from McDaniel College in 2024, where she drew loose inspiration from both classical and

contemporary compositional techniques. Influenced by artists like Millais, Paula Rego, Zoe Frank and Vincent Desiderio, she creates her compositions with a contemporary twist. She has exhibited in various local galleries in both regional and national juried exhibitions. Since graduating, she has set up a home studio to continue developing her portfolio with the intent of applying to graduate schools for her MFA in painting, 2026.

<https://www.sarah-mendez.com>



Users Undergarments, oil on canvas, 18 x 24, 2025

Scott Noel:

BIO:

Scott Noel was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1955. He completed undergraduate study at Washington University in St. Louis and moved to Philadelphia in 1978 where he has continued to live, paint, and teach for the past forty-one years. His first important solo exhibition was in the Fleisher Challenge Series in 1980. Since then he has mounted over forty major shows, seventeen in Philadelphia, two in New York and at University galleries around the United States, most recently at Hollins



University, Rider University and UNC Greensboro. Noel is represented by the Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia and is included in numerous private, public and corporate collections including the Museum of the Pennsylvania Academy, the Woodmere Art Museum, the Arkansas Art Center and the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Noel has written widely about fellow painters including catalogue essays on Larry Day, Lennart Anderson, Ben Kamihira, Rose Naftulin and Sangram Majumdar. He has assembled seven exhibitions, most recently “Observation and Invention, The Space of Desire” for the Pennsylvania Academy’s museum and “The Nude, Mirror of Desire,” for the Wayne Art Center, co-curated with Paul DuSold. Noel has received fellowships from the Cité Internationale des Art, Paris, the Independence Foundation, and the Bader Fund. Noel has taught in Philadelphia at The University of the Arts, Arcadia University, Community College of Philadelphia, and beginning in 1996, at the Pennsylvania Academy, where he teaches drawing and painting in the undergraduate and graduate programs. He currently lives in the Roxborough section of the city with his wife Jan and Courtney, the Siberian Husky.
<https://www.scottnoelart.com>



Still Life with Vase and Ceramic Rose, oil on linen, 30 x 24, 2021

Steven Pearson:

BIO:



Steven Pearson is the Joan Develin Coley Endowed Chai in Creative Expression and the Arts and Professor of Studio Art at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD where he has been teaching studio art courses since 2004. He has served as the director of the college's Esther Prangley Rice Gallery since 2005. Pearson has explored narrative through nonrepresentational and representational painting and drawing, most recently with figures and still life. He received his A.A. in Fine Art from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in Johnstown, NY, his B.S. in Studio Art from the College of

Saint Rose in Albany, NY, and his MFA in Painting from the Hoffberger School of Painting at MICA in Baltimore, MD, where he studied under Grace Hartigan, Sam Gilliam, Raoul Middleman and Archie Rand. Pearson's exhibitions have been in such places as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Arlington, VA, VisArts, Rockville, MD, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD, Art Association of Harrisburg, Delaplaine Visual Art Center, Frederick, MD, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington, D.C., Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA, Marin MOCA, San Rafael, CA, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH, and McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA. Pearson's paintings can be found in several public and private collections. He currently lives in Mechanicsburg, PA. <https://srpearson.com/home.html>

Clarissa Pezone:

BIO:

Clarissa Pezone is a sculptor living and working in Baltimore, Maryland. Her studio work encompasses figurative sculpture and installation using clay, paint and mixed media. Influenced by mythology, the uncanny and lore, Pezone explores themes that exist between reality and the unknown in her sculptures. Born in Sacramento, CA, she received her BA from Humboldt State University and an MFA from Indiana University Bloomington. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including the Indianapolis Art Center (Indianapolis, IN), C.R.E.T.A Rome (Rome, Italy), and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Arlington (Arlington, VA).

<https://www.clarissapezone.com>





Sock head, earthenware, underglaze, glaze, 9 x 13.5 x 7.75, 2025

Erin Raedeke:

BIO:



Erin Raedeke received her MFA from American University in 2009, and her BFA in Painting and BA in Art History from Indiana University Bloomington in 2000. She also studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2003. Raedeke has exhibited her work extensively in galleries and museums in both group and solo shows, nationally as well as internationally, including at the

National Portrait Gallery in London. She has been awarded a Carnegie Mellon Research Grant, and has twice been the recipient of the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award. Currently Raedeke lives in and works in a Maryland suburb of Washington DC. Website: erinraedeke.com, Instagram: [@erinraedeke](https://www.instagram.com/erinraedeke) <https://www.erinraedeke.com>



Childhood Recordings, oil on panel, 3.5 x 5, 2022

Marissa Riddell:

BIO:

Marissa Riddell is currently a senior at McDaniel College, graduating in May of 2026. She is a double major in Art and Environmental Studies with a minor in Art History. In the 2025 McDaniel Juried Undergraduate Show, two of her pieces were displayed and she was awarded second place. Her current collection of work explores the role that cancer plays in her life. A collection of her work can be found on Instagram [@mriddellphotosandart](https://www.instagram.com/mriddellphotosandart).





Wear Bright Colors to my Funeral, oil on canvas, 12x20, 2025

Abbie Rubin:

BIO:



Abigail Rubin is currently attending McDaniel as a senior and will graduate in the spring of 2026. She is a Studio Art Major with a double minor in History and Art History. Rubin resides in Westminster. Her art mostly consists of nature-based paintings, but also works with animal bones, bugs, and other oddities. She has played violin for 12 years and currently plays for the Westminster Symphony Orchestra. @crimsoncrowcrafts333



The Aftermath, oil on canvas, 16 x 20, 2025

Nicole Santiago:

BIO:

Nicole Santiago is a representational painter known for her exploration of narrative through the human figure and still life. She has participated in more than 150 group and solo exhibitions, and she is affiliated with First Street Gallery in New York City, where she is preparing new work for her fifth solo exhibition scheduled for 2027. Santiago's work has appeared in publications including *The Artist's Magazine*, *Art New England*, *INPA*, *International Artist*, and *Fine Art Connoisseur*. In 2025, she was awarded the Elaine Melotti Schmidt Award, presented by the Bennett Prize, in recognition of her achievements in figurative painting. She has also received full fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and the Ballinglen Arts Foundation. Santiago lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she teaches studio art at the College of William & Mary.

<https://www.nicolemccormicksantiago.com>





Conviction, gouache & oil pastel on paper, 5 x 5, 2025

Danielle Silva:

BIO:



Danielle Silva is currently a senior at McDaniel College, graduating in May of 2026. She is a Studio Art major with a Specialization in Graphic Design and a minor in Cinema. Silva has shown her work at Esther Prangley Rice Gallery at McDaniel College annually in the Kathryn E. Wentz Undergraduate Juried Exhibition winning an honorable mention at in the 2023 show juried by Sean Sauer, a first-place award and an honorable mention at the 2024 edition juried by Nate Foster, and a other honorable mention at the 2025 exhibition juried by Heidi Neff Chuffo. Her current work focuses on her personal identity as a Venezuelan American and her struggles with mental health.



For Your Own Good, oil on canvas, 13x16, 2025

Kourtney Stone:

BIO:

Kourtney Stone is an artist residing in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Originally from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Kourtney attended Maryland Institute College of Art, earning her B.F.A. in Ceramics and M.A. in Teaching. Then she stayed in the Baltimore area, working as a high school art teacher and grade dean. During this time, Kourtney continued to show her art and received numerous awards for her work. She also served as a board member of the Clay Connection. In 2018, Kourtney relocated to Atlanta, GA. There she studied at Georgia State University, completing her M.F.A. in Studio Art with specialization in Ceramics in 2021. After this, she served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University in Bloomington. Kourtney has presented at Mid-Atlantic Clay Conference, NCECA, and the Figurative Association Symposium. She taught national workshops at Appalachian Center for Craft and Arrowmont. Kourtney has been a resident artist at Baltimore Clayworks, Arrowmont's Pentaculum, and Watershed. She has received many scholarships and grants, including the Welch Fellowship at Georgia State University and the NCECA Graduate Fellowship. She is currently working as an Assistant Professor at Harrisburg Area Community College. <https://www.kourtneystone.com>





Fastening, earthenware, plaster body mold, wax, dresser knob, apples, 10 x 16 x 12, 2024

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