Ella Kane / *Curriculum Vitae*

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Education

2023 – Present

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Printmaking and Illustration (Spanish Minor), Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Expected graduation: Winter 2027

Relevant Courses

2026 ART465: Print Media: Advanced

- Students will explore intaglio, planographic, relief, and stencil processes with an emphasis on the development of personal content and craft. Students are expected to create original work within a self-determined thematic framework, working in series or suites of prints.

2026 ART363: Screenprint and Relief II: Mashups, Mutations, Multiples

- Students will continue to explore stencil and relief printmaking processes, with particular focus on the ways in which materials and techniques can be combined, how prints can change formally and conceptually through their development, and how replicating an image can alter or enhance its meaning.

2026 ART264: Etching & Monotype

- A hands-on overview of intaglio and planographic print processes. Working primarily with etching and monotype, students will gain skills in both, while also being presented with their historical context. Specific intaglio techniques to be covered include dry-point, hardground, soft-ground, and aquatint. Approaches to monotype will include painterly, subtractive, and trace.

2026 ART481: Advanced Illustration: Narrative

- Exploring the narrative as a means of both creative expression and critical inquiry. Through this emphasis on sequence and interrelated frames, students also explore writing and visual storytelling as well as penciling, inking, color, and production. Topics include exploration of book illustration, picture books, comics, and the graphic novel.

2025 ART389: Illustration Mentorship

- Students will interface with pre-arranged illustrators, art directors and editors who will supervise, guide, and encourage the development of professional quality work, creative vision, and career preparation.

2025 ART386: Art History Study Abroad

- Of varying focus, the course makes use of the history, culture, and society of a host country in order to highlight disciplinary perspectives in context. To be taught in that country (or countries) as part of an approved study abroad program.

Campus Involvement

2023–27 SIGIL (Student Interest Group for Illustrators), Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

President, Fall 2025 – Present

- Engage 50+ community members with weekly art activities and build diverse networks across disciplines. Collaborate with other executive board members and faculty to organize student art exhibitions and sales, and assist with the planning of Grant Valley State University's "Laker Con" event, featuring professional guest artists, panels and workshops, along with an artist's market for current students and alumni.

Vice President – Winter 2024

Member, Fall 2023–24

Awards/Scholarships/Honors

2026–27 - Selected representative of the Studio Art Program of Grand Valley State University, *Art in Legislature Exhibition*, Michigan State Capitol, Lansing, MI

2025–27 - *Albert S. and Ella D. Koeze Art Scholarship*, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2025–27 - *Nedra J. Smith Otis Scholarship*, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2023–27 - *Faculty Scholarship*, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2026 - Honorable mention, *Ron Hubbard's Illustrators of the Future Contest*

2026 - Finalist, *19th Annual Gallery Collection Greeting Card Scholarship Contest*

2025 - Semi-finalist, L. *Ron Hubbard's Illustrators of the Future Contest*

2025 - (2x) Honorable mention, *Ron Hubbard's Illustrators of the Future Contest*

Exhibitions

2026–27 - *Art in Legislature Exhibition*, Michigan State Capitol, Lansing, MI

2026 - *Graveyard Shift Vol. 9: Weird Science*, Calder Atrium, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2026 - *30th Annual Student Scholars Day Art Exhibition*, Calder Arts Center, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2025 - *Project FloARa*, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2025 - *Once Upon a Nightmare*, Padnos Gallery, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2025 - *Selections from 'Fishladder' – A Student Journal of Art and Writing*, Russel H. Kirkhof Center Wall Gallery, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2024 - *Film & Video Snowfall Showcase*, Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Grand Valley State University,

Allendale, MI

2024 - *Haunted Prom*, Padnos Gallery, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2024 - *Laker Con*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

2023 - *Graveyard Shift Vol. 6: The Villains Win*, Padnos Gallery, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Commissions

2026 - (Diagram illustration) *Under the Skin: The Ideology and Reality of Cultured Meat*, Richard Giles (client)

2026 - (Oil painting) Ryan Conn (client)

2026 - (Digital illustration) Katharine Rottach (client)

2025 - (Traditional illustration) Stuart Kane (client)

2025 - (Logo design) *Brookie's Cookies*, Brooke Olejarczyk (client)

Publications/Media Coverage

2026 - Grand Valley State University Department of Visual & Media Arts social media recognition

2026 - Grand Valley State University *Fishladder* journal publication

2025 - Grand Valley State University *Fishladder* journal publication

Lectures/Presentations/Workshops

2026 - *Telling Stories through Traditional Media*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Panelists: Cara McGee, Christopher Moeller, Mark Smylie, John Van Fleet)

2026 - *Building Worlds in Comics*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Panelists: Katie Cook, Serena Guerra, Comfort Love, Mark Smylie, Adam Withers)

2026 - *Swimming in Mainstream Comics*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Panelists: Chris Brunner, Cara McGee, Christopher Moeller, Brad Walker)

2026 - *Telling Other Stories Inspired by Comics*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Panelists: Hannah Batsel, Christopher Moeller, John Van Fleet)

2026 - *Strike While the Needle is Hot: Vinyl Listening Party*, Black Dog Books & Records, Grand Rapids, MI (Host: Josh MacPhee)

2025 - *Illustrating Business,* Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Lecturer: Mark Smylie)

2023 - *Inside the Mouse Guard*, Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (Lecturer: David Peterson)

Collections

- Grand Valley State Art Museum Allendale, MI

Related Experience

2026 – Present — Department of Visual & Media Arts, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Printmaking Area Shop Technician, Winter 2026 – Present

- Assist area faculty in the maintenance of a 7-studio facility (4,350+ sq. ft.) and specialized tools including 4 etching presses, 2 large hotplates, 2 darkroom exposure units, a sheet metal cutter, and smaller equipment including paper cutters, screenprint stations, and hundreds of ink rollers. Student Shop Techs keep materials such as emulsion, grounds, ink, solvents, tarlatan, and newsprint stocked, clean, and organized, and support faculty in technical demonstrations by gathering/organizing materials, mixing colors, and cleaning up. In addition, each Technician is trained to assist faculty in the production of film positives and negatives that are used in various print processes (screenprint, photogravure, transfers). Films are printed in a small Printmaking mini-lab comprised of 2 desktop Macs, 2 HP scanners, 2 black/white HP laser printers, and 2 Epson ink jet printers. Shop Technicians also help to manage and maintain this equipment. Finally, Technicians support faculty by assisting other students through various print processes.

Painting Assistant, Spring/Summer 2026

- Involves the organization and cleaning of the Painting Studio, including sorting materials, general studio cleanup, and preparing the space for future classes.

2026 – Present — Allthread Ink, Allendale, MI

Shop Assistant

- Utilize 10 and 12 head screenprint presses and two large conveyor dryers for completing a variety of customer orders with both plastisol and water-based screenprint inks. Inks are made special using in-shop recipes. Shop Assistants are also trained to use heat press equipment for executing Direct-to-Film (DTF) heat transfers. Often in large quantities, projects include printing on different textiles, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, towels, aprons, and other commercial textiles. Shop Assistants help prepare screens for the printing processes, involving the use of an auto coater, Computer-to-Screen (CTS) printer, a darkroom exposure unit, and a washing station. Screens are taped prior to project set-up.

Research Travel

2026 — Edinburgh, Scotland

- *Chemistry Printmaking Workshop*, Edinburgh Printmakers

2026 — Los Angeles, CA, United States

- Animation studio visits to Sony Animation (host: Ron Kurniawan), Warner Brothers (host: Jake Hair), Dreamworks (host: Melissa Massingill), Disney Features (host: David Bess)

- Getty Museum

- Private lectures/discussions with professional artists (Jay Francis, JP Mavinga, Zelda Devon, Brian Busch, Phil Craven, Brendan and Elyse Regulinski, Lindsey Pollard, Kat Hudson)

2026 Chicago, IL, United States

- Professional artist visits to Marwen (hosts: Martha Ruize and John Lyons), Lillstreet Studio (host: Tikal Rivera), Spudnik Press (host: Meg Duguid), ACRE (host: Kate Bowen), Smart Museum of Art

- *Graduate Studio Open House*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2025 Granada, Spain

2025 New York City, NY, United States

- Studio tours and conversations with professional artists (Betsy Lewin, James Yang, Donata Giancola, Brad Walker, Anita Kunz, Marcos Chin, Nancy Stahl)

- *Life Drawing Session,* Society of Illustrators

- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art

- Private visits to the New York Times (host: Rodrigo Honeywell), First Second Books (host: Robyn Chapman)

2025 Stockbridge, MA, United States

- Norman Rockwell Museum

2024 Kyoto, Japan

- *Kintsugi Workshop*, Shikata Urushi