

HANNAH PARRETT

Sponsors: Kinetic Imaging, Painting, and Sculpture, Frostic School of Art.

Hannah will visit with Painting, Sculpture, Kinetic Imaging, and Senior Studio Students. She will give a public lecture to the Frostic School of Art. Hannah Parrett is an artist and educator based out of Cincinnati, OH. Her work engages fictional environments of spiritual geography and artificial utopia to reflect on the radicality of ornamentation and the softness of architectural imprints. Hannah relocated to the Midwest in 2017 to pursue her master's degree at The Ohio State University. She received the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in 2025 and was the recipient of the Greater Columbus Arts Council Fellowship in 2021. She has exhibited locally and nationally at galleries that include the Carnegie in Covington KY, Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn NY, the Pizzuti Collection through the Columbus Museum of Art, and the Louise Underwood Hopkins Center for Contemporary Art, Lubbock TX.

VSAP Dates: March 15-20, 2026

VSAP Host: Jacklyn Brickman, Cat Crotchett, Patrick Wilson

STASIA SIENA

Sponsors: Gilmore School of Music

Trained as a classical singer, Stasia Forsythe Siena holds an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a master's degree from Indiana University. She received her Alexander Technique teaching certification at the Urbana Center for the Alexander Technique and was appointed Co-Director of UCAT's teacher training program in 2017. Stasia has served on music faculties throughout the Midwest. She is currently an Artist Faculty member at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, where she teaches group classes in the Alexander Technique to musicians and actors. For over sixteen years, Stasia has taught the Alexander Technique in university, conservatory, and master class settings throughout the United States and abroad. She is an active member of Am SAT (American Society for the Alexander Technique).

VSAP Dates: March 18-19, 2026

VSAP Host: Lin Baird

JIM CARY

Sponsors: Zhang Legacy Collections Center, Frostic School of Art, and Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Jim Canary has been a book conservator at Indiana University Libraries since 1985 and in 1993 he set up a conservation studio in the Lilly Library focusing on the university's collection of rare books and manuscripts. Canary is a member of the International Tibetan Archives Preservation Project and one of the founders of Paper Road Tibet. With a background in Central Eurasian Studies, Canary has traveled extensively in Asia researching the materiality of manuscript and print culture. A long-standing focus of his work has been to collaborate with traditional craftspeople and knowledge-keepers in the Himalayas and South Asian Buddhist communities to learn, document, and share the traditional crafts of papermaking, printing, and calligraphy to support their preservation and use by future generations of practitioners.

VSAP Dates: April 1-5, 2026

VSAP Host: Dr. Susan Steuer

DR. NICOLE PIUNNO

Sponsors: Band—School of Music

Nicole Piunno is an accomplished composer of music for concert bands throughout the world. Her works are performed consistently by university, high school, and middle school bands, and it is rare to attend a major music convention that does not feature her music. Piunno is a full-time composer, after earning her composition degrees from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. Piunno will rehearse the All-Star Band and the WMU Wind Symphony during the Spring Conference on Wind & Percussion Music in Miller Auditorium on April 23, 2026. Two visiting high school bands and our WMU Symphonic Band will also perform her music. Piunno will present two clinics for attendees, and she will teach a master class for WMU composition majors on Friday, April 24.

VSAP Dates: April 22-24, 2026

VSAP Host: Dr. Scott Boerma

RONNIE MALLEY

Sponsors: Medieval Institute, Dept of Spanish and History, and the Gilmore School of Music

Ronnie Malley is a multi-instrumentalist musician, theater maker, educator, focusing on musical styles from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and medieval Spain. He has worked on plays, films, and TV series including the Grammy and Tony award-winning Broadway musical The Band's Visit, Mo (Netflix), The Jungle Book (Disney, Goodman Theatre), and Saffron Kingdom (Arfat Sheikh). He appears on albums including Ziryab, The Songbird of Andalusia, American Griot (Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Award), and Omar Offendum's Little Syria. He has a BA in Global Music Studies (DePaul), MA in Languages (Arabic and Hebrew) from Chicago, where he is a PhD student in Ethnomusicology. He will perform music from al-Andalus on May 16m 7:00pm and hold a workshop May 15, 1:30pm, both in Kanley Chapel.

VSAP Dates: May 14—16, 2026

VSAP Host: Robert Berkhofer and Marjorie Harrington

DR. EDUARDO LUCIANO TADEO HERNANDEZ

Sponsors: School of Communication, Department of Spanish, Department of Political Science, WMU Center for the Humanities, WMU Global Engagement Program at HIGE, College of Arts and Sciences Women's Caucus. Community partners: Globa Ties Kalamazoo and OutFront Kalamazoo.

Dr. Eduardo Luciano Tadeo Hernandez is a Professor-Researcher in the Department of Politics and Culture at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco (Mexico). His interdisciplinary research focuses on foreign policy and diplomacy, public and cultural diplomacy of diasporas and non-state actors, gender issues and communication. Dr. Tadeo Hernandez has worked as an advisor on international relations issues in the Mexican congress and has supported academic cooperation projects between Mexico and various countries. During his visit, Dr. Tadeo Hernandez will present a public lecture on Queer Diplomacies in the Americas, co-organized with Global Ties Kalamazoo and OutFront Kalamazoo. He will also conduct a workshop on poetry and international relations, and meet with the students in the Global Engagement Program as part of the Global Socials event series in Kanley Chapel.

VSAP Dates: March 17—20, 2026

VSAP Host: Anna Popkova

DANIEL KOBEL

Sponsors: School of Communication; College of Arts and Sciences; Center for the Study of Ethics in Society; Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Studies & School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability; Lewis Walker; Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations; Office of Information Technology-OIT); Department of English; WMU Native American Affairs Council; and World Languages and Literatures.

Daniel Kobei is a prominent Kenyan environmentalist and Indigenous rights activist from the Ogiek community. He has an MBA in Strategic Management and is the founder and Executive Director of the Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP), an organization dedicated to securing the land and cultural rights of the Ogiek people. He was instrumental in leading the historic case for the Ogiek which culminated in a 2017 ruling by the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights that recognized their rights as indigenous people and the Mau forest as their ancestral land, and a reparation judgment in 2022. His relentless advocacy has garnered international recognition and has been awarded numerous awards, including the Equator Prize by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

VSAP Dates: March 23—27 2026

VSAP Host: Lusike Mukhongo

VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTIST PROGRAM



VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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Mr. Dewei Qi

2025—2026



VISITING SCHOLARS
AND ARTISTS
PROGRAM

Established in 1960, the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program (VSAP) significantly contributes to the intellectual life of Western Michigan University. This program provides funds for academic units to bring distinguished scholars and artists to campus. These visitors meet with faculty and students in their fields and address the community at large. Since the program began, it has supported over 600 visits by scholars and artists representing more than 60 academic disciplines. Following are biographical sketches of the scholars and artists participating in the 2024-25 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program.

Dates are subject to change. For information about specific topics, detailed schedules for each scholar or artist, and specific times and locations of events, please contact the corresponding host or the sponsoring departments as outlined.

EDDY LÓPEZ

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art

Eddy A. López, born in Matagalpa, Nicaragua in the midst of the Sandinista revolution, is an artist who works with archives and memories of war, transforming these into abstractions of vibrant colors, patterns, and shapes. López uses print media to create wide-scale collages that try to find meaning in a chaotic world. López’s work has been exhibited at the International Print Center New York, The Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, the Janet Turner Print Museum, the North American Print Biennial, Art Miami, among others. His recent exhibitions include "X Factor: Latinx Artists and the Reconquest of the Everyday" at the USF Contemporary Art Museum, "Versos" at the Doris Ulmann Galleries at Berea College, among others. He is the recipient of various awards and grants including an Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellow. López’s work can be found in the collections of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Frost Art Museum, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Jaffe Center for Book Arts, and more.

VSAP Dates: September 10—13, 2025

VSAP Host: Dr. Patricia Villalobos Echeverria

MARITA GOOTEE & WENDY ROUSSIN

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art

The Photography Area of the Frostic School of Art is pleased to host artists Marita Gootee & Wendy Roussin from September 16- 18, 2025. Gootee & Roussin are Professors in Art & Communications at Mississippi State University – where they teach courses in photography and media studies. Both are MFA graduates from Indiana University and have exhibited nationally and internationally. Geared towards art students, they will be focusing on the photographic Lumen printing technique and encaustic finishing process in a 3-day workshop. Prof. Gootee & Roussin will publicly lecture on Thursday, Sept. 18 in the Richmond Center for Visual Art, Room 2008; the lecture is free and open to all.

VSAP Dates: Sept. 16- 18, 2025

VSAP Host: Ginger Owen

LYN SURES

Sponsors: Zhang Legacy Collections Center, Frostic School of Art, and Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Lynn Sures is a Professor Emerita at the Corcoran College of Art & Design, DC, who creates multi-media works examining the juncture of geology, physics and the origins of humans. She has been a SARF Fellow in Kenya and a US State Department American Artist Abroad in Sri Lanka. She has exhibited her work at the American University Museum, DC, the Museu Moll Paperer de Capellades, Spain, and the Isik University Gallery, Istanbul. Her work is in the collections of the US Dept. of State; US Library of Congress; Yale University; NY Public Library; Museo della Carta e della Filigrana, Fabriano, Italy; Museum of Art & Photography-MAP, Bangalore, India; and Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt. She was the President of the North American Hand Papermakers, 2018-2020.

VSAP Dates: October 5—9, 2025

VSAP Host: Dr. Susan Steuer

SHOHEI KATAYAMA

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art

Shohei Katayama is a Japanese American artist whose work delves into the intricate relationships between nature, technology, and the scientific forces that shape human experience and interaction. Through his work, Katayama illustrates the entanglements present within these systems and the disruptions that arise when individual elements are manipulated, embodying a philosophy rooted in ecological awareness and examination. Katayama received his MFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 2019. He is a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award by the International Sculpture Center, and the Frank-Ratchye Fund for the Art at the Frontier Award. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at the Palazzo Mora in Venice, Italy; the Mattress Factory International Residency; and the Arctic Circle Residency in Svalbard, Norway.

VSAP Dates: October 7-10, 2025

VSAP Host: Jacklyn Brickman

MIKEY WINSLOW

Sponsors: School of Theatre and Dance

The School of Theatre and Dance will host Choreographer Mikey Winslow for an eight-week residency. He will choreograph our anticipated production of the musical CATS that opens on October 24 for 11 public performances. In addition, he will offer a master class for performers and an informative open forum about the industry and his career. Mikey Winslow has had an illustrious career as a Broadway performer and Dance Captain. He has been featured in the Broadway and national touring productions of HAMILTON, ON THE TOWN, CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, WICKED, AMERICAN IDIOT and WESTSIDE STORY.

VSAP Dates: October 24, 2025

VSAP Host: Jay Berkow

AMY DURY

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art

Amy Dury is a painter who draws inspiration from pre-digital photographs and home movies, using them as a foundation to explore themes of memory, identity, and social structures. Extracting figures from found imagery, she instinctively pauses on frames that resonate—often those reflecting societal roles, hierarchies, and power dynamics. Color plays a central role in her process, guiding compositions that blend oil, acrylic, charcoal, and pencil. With a background in printmaking, she embraces layering and structure while allowing fluidity in her painterly approach. Her work balances loose, textured marks with precise detail, informed by a strong foundation in portraiture and figure drawing. By reconstructing past moments through digital and painterly interventions, they examine the ways history shapes, distorts, and informs contemporary life, evoking both nostalgia and critical reflection.

VSAP Dates: November 3-7, 2025

VSAP Host: Cat Crotchett

NIKA SIMOVICH FISHER

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art, Students from multiple disciplines within the School of Art, and RIDI

Nika Simovich Fisher is a multi-disciplinary graphic designer, design strategist, and Assistant Professor at Parsons School of Design in New York. Nika also runs Labud, a design and development studio. On 2/19 Nika will provide feedback on senior graphic design students’ thesis projects. Later that evening Nika will present a public lecture about how research and in-depth interviews inform her creative process and how focusing on the most idiosyncratic aspect of a project can help build a clear narrative. The event will benefit students from many creative fields including graphic designers, product designers, motion artists, interior designers, and artists. On 2/20, Nika will lead a workshop for around 20 students about how to use focused searches and online archives to inform writing and visual research.

VSAP Dates: February 19–20, 2026

VSAP Host: Ryan D. Lewis

DR. ANNA KORNBLOH

Sponsors: Frostic School of Art, Dept. of English

Anna Kornbluh is Professor and Associate Head of English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is the author of four books, including Immediacy, Or, The Style of Too late Capitalism (Verso 2024), as well as essays on climate aesthetics, tv, academic labor, finance, and psychoanalysis. Her cultural criticism earned her the #9 slot on the Art Review Power 100 List for 2025. At WMU, Kornbluh will conduct a workshop for graduate students on Immediacy, and deliver a public lecture which examines the contemporary aesthetic judgement of “mid”, that encompasses the disappearance of middlebrow culture and the historic decline of the middle class caused in part by the “missing middle” housing crisis. Kornbluh's talk experiments with a formalist approach to mid aesthetics: "good enough art.”

VSAP Dates: February 26, 2026

MIKE ESPERANZA

Sponsors: School of Theatre and Dance

BARE DANCE COMPANY is a collective of multifaceted artists who collaborate to create dimensional, boundary-pushing work while embracing diverse lives that sustain and enrich our artistry. They believe that a thriving creative practice is rooted in a balance of movement, exploration, and lived experience, allowing them to bring depth, authenticity, and innovation to the stage and beyond. WMU Dance plans to bring BARE Dance Company (this is 7-9 professional dancers) to campus to teach classes and choreograph a new work to be performed following the residency that will include both professional dancers and WMU students in the work. Rehearsals of the piece will be open to the public.

VSAP Dates: March 2-9, 2026

VSAP Host: Whitney Moncrief

