

DR. EVAN LARSON

Sponsors: Department of Biological Sciences; School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability; Native American Affairs Council; Native American Student Organization; Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Dr. Evan Larson (Department of Environmental Sciences and Society, University of Wisconsin – Platteville) is a biogeographer and ecological historian who uses tree rings to uncover histories of Midwestern forests, including patterns of climate, disturbance, and landscape change. His research, funded by the National Science Foundation, fuses innovative scientific methods and intercultural knowledge-building with family storytelling. He works with sovereign tribes in Minnesota to reintroduce cultural fire practices to red pine forests, which are in decline because of forced Indian removal, subsequent settler and policy histories of fire exclusion, and today's climate crisis. These collaborations center ancestral Anishinaabe fire practices for the future, reciprocal well-being of forests and Native communities.

VSAP Date(s): November 6-9, 2024

VSAP Host: Sharon Gill (co-hosts Lynne Heasley, Dee Sherwood, Skyler Wolverton, Sherrie Fuller, Jacklyn Brickman)

LIZ CARLISLE

Sponsor(s): School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability; Department of Biological Sciences; Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station

Liz Carlisle's work focuses on fostering a more just and sustainable food system. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Folklore and Mythology from Harvard University. Dr. Carlisle's most recent book is *Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming* (2022). Dr. Carlisle will present her research in academic presentations with Western Michigan University's School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability (November 13) as well as the Department of Biological Sciences (November 14). Dr. Carlisle will participate in a moderated panel discussion centered on food, justice, and agroecology at Kalamazoo Valley Community College on Wednesday, November 13. Dr. Carlisle will also join Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station on Friday, November 15 to discuss agroecological production.

VSAP Date(s): November 12-15, 2024

VSAP Host: Nicholas L. Padilla

MIGUEL ANGEL RIVERA

Sponsor(s): Dr. Patricia Villalobos Echeverría, Frostic School of Art

The Printmedia Area of the Frostic School of Art is pleased to host Mexican American artist, Miguel Angel Rivera from March 10 - March 15, 2025. Prof. Rivera is an Associate Professor of Art at Kansas City Art Institute. He received an MFA from West Virginia University, a BFA in from Southern Oregon University and an associate's degree from University of Guanajuato, Mexico. He has exhibited internationally; he will be doing a week-long workshop that will focus on printmaking and new technologies and is geared towards art students. Prof. Rivera will give a public lecture on Thursday March 13 at RCVA Room 2008, the lecture is free and open to the public

VSAP Date(s): March 10-15, 2025

VSAP Host: Dr. Patricia Villalobos Echeverría, Frostic School of Art

MARK JOSHUA EPSTEIN

Sponsor(s): Frostic School of Art

Mark Joshua Epstein received his MFA from the Slade School of Fine Arts, University College London, UK, and a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University. Selected solo or two-person shows include Asya Geisberg Gallery (NY, NY), Ortega y Gasset Projects' Skirt Space (Brooklyn, NY), and SPRING/BREAK Art Show (NY, NY). Selected group shows include Geary Contemporary (Millerton, NY), Gaa Galler (Provincetown, MA), and the Golden Foundation (New Berlin, NY). Mr. Epstein will visit painting classes to talk to students about their work, and will give a public lecture about his work in 2008 Richmond Center for Visual Arts.

VSAP Date(s): March 19 - 21, 2025

VSAP Host: Cat Crotchett



VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTIST PROGRAM



VISITING SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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2024—2025



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 below.

DR. SKY BERGMAN

Sponsor(s): Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Western Michigan University, Center for the Study of Ethics in Society Kalamazoo Lyceum

Sky Bergman is an accomplished, award-winning photographer, the former chair (Art & Design department), and Professor Emeritus (Photography & Video) at Cal Poly State University. Lives Well Lived is Sky's directorial debut. Her artwork is included in permanent collections in the United States and Paris. Most recently Sky was named as a CoGenerate Innovation Fellow along with several others. A Life Well Lived - Kalamazoo will encompass activities that will be hosted beginning September 2024 through March 2025. The kickoff event will be the screening of Sky Bergman's Lives Well Lived and the concluding activities in March will include an exhibit featuring WMU student works of interviews of seniors, and OLLI at WMU student's Photovoice art projects. Additional activities include a book club and ongoing community conversations.

VSAP Date(s): September 2024 & March 2025 - actual dates to be confirmed.

VSAP Host: Toni Woolfork-Barnes, Ed.D.

SUZIE SHIN

Sponsor(s): Ryan Lewis, Frostic School of Art

Suzie Shin will present a public lecture on Thursday October 10th addressing how to draw inspiration from analog methods of making in a digital age and how she has built an interdisciplinary practice between fine arts and commerce. The lecture will be applicable to a wide variety of creative fields including graphic designers, product designers, studio artists, kinetic imaging students, interior design students, and art education students. The following day on Friday, October 11th, Suzie will lead a workshop for around 20 students from her experience as a designer and collage artist. The audience will include graphic design students and School of Art students from other disciplines.

VSAP Date(s): October 10–11, 2024

VSAP Host: Ryan Lewis

SARA STRONG GLUPKER

Sponsor(s): Painting

Sara spent her formative years exploring different creative paths, such as sewing, crafting, baking, and writing. As a child, she dove into any creative project she could find. Sara continued to follow these passions, and in 2005, graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. After graduation, Sara began her career by curating, exhibiting, teaching, and selling her art. She spent several years working from the Park Trades Center, but began to work from her home studio in 2012. She began the "I Like Art" podcast in 2021, and now has an international following. Sara's preferred medium is acrylic, but she loves to paint with oils and use a variety of other mediums. Sara is an alumna with a strong interest in giving back to the painting area in the FSoA, and would like to serve as a mentor for students.

VSAP Date(s): October 17, 2024

VSAP Host: Cat Crotchett

AIMEE LEE

Sponsor(s): Zhang Legacy Collections Center, Frostic School of Art, KBAC

Aimee Lee is an artist who makes paper, writes, and advocates for Korean papermaking practices in the U.S. Her Fulbright research helped her build the first hanji studio in North America and write her award-winning book, Hanji Unfurled. She has exhibited at the Fuller Craft Museum, the Museum of Nebraska Art, the Korean Cultural Center in D.C., and the Korean Consulate in NYC. Her work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and Yale University. Her second Fulbright award as a Senior Scholar in Korea focused on further research of Korean papermaking tools. She trains the next generation of papermakers in the Korean tradition from the Korean diaspora at her dedicated hanji studio in South Euclid, Ohio.

VSAP Date(s): October 30 - November 2, 2024

VSAP Host: Dr. Susan Steuer