

Art Educators of Towson University: A Colorful Community of Creators, Teachers, and Lifelong Learners

This vibrant art show brings together a diverse collection of artworks by art teachers and artists who graduated from Towson University's art education program across different years. Showcasing a rich variety of subject matter, styles, mediums, and techniques, the exhibition highlights the unique voices of each educator-artist.

Most of the featured artists are former interns of mentor teacher Nicki Machulcz, a dedicated Towson alumna from the Class of Spring 2015. Nicki teaches at Padonia International Elementary School, where she continues to inspire young artists and foster creativity. Padonia International Elementary also shares a special connection with the Broadmead Retirement Community, whose residents contribute greatly through volunteer work. Since 2021, Nicki has mentored nine Towson University interns, cherishing the opportunity to grow alongside the next generation of art educators. This exhibition honors the ever-evolving journey of teaching and learning through art, celebrating the powerful impact educators have on their students and each other.

Each piece in the show stands as a testament to the beauty and individuality every art teacher brings to the classroom—and to the world. Proceeds from this exhibition will support each participating artist and educator in funding their school's art program and furthering their own creative endeavors.

9 Artists Total:

Nicki Machulcz (Art Ed Mentor, Teacher T.U. Art Ed Graduate - Class of 2015)

Rachael Brennskag (Fellow T.U. Art Ed Graduate - Class of 2015)

Bailey O'Maille (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Spring 2022)

Grace Welsh (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Fall 2023)

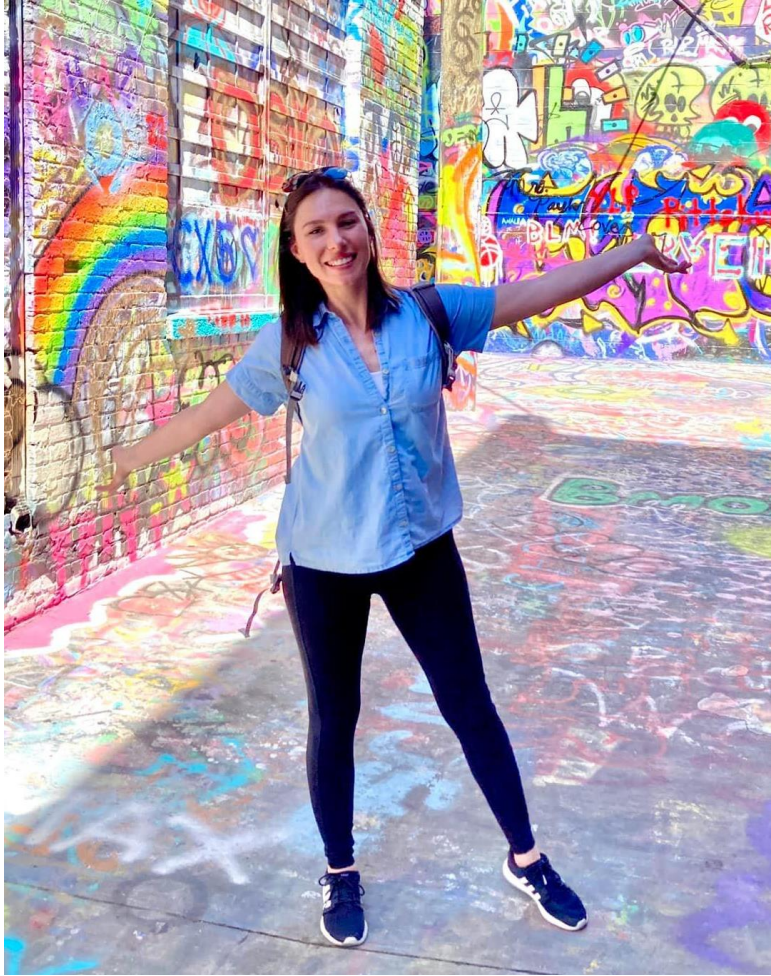
Danielle Gitautis (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Fall 2023)

Dietrich Mischke (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Spring 2024)

Erin Poynot (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Fall 2024)

Sydney Bendik (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Fall 2024)

Yu Tang (T.U. Art Ed Intern of Spring 2025)



Artist: Nicki Machulcz

Email: nmachulcz@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

Nicki Machulcz is an artist and elementary art educator from Timonium, Maryland. She earned both her Bachelor of Science (2015) and Master of Education (2021) degrees in Art Education from Towson University.

Nicki began her teaching career at Sandy Plains Elementary School in Dundalk, MD, where she taught Pre-K through 5th grade for seven years. Since 2022, she has continued her work with young artists at Padonia International Elementary School, where she serves a diverse and creative community of Pre-K to 5th grade students.

As both a practicing artist and dedicated educator, Nicki is passionate about fostering creativity, confidence, and curiosity in her students. She believes in the power of art to connect people, tell stories, and inspire lifelong learning.

Artwork Labels:

Nicki Machulcz
Duo Vulpes
Acrylic on Canvas
NFS

Nicki Machulcz
Fluorescent Jungle
Acrylic on Canvas
NFS

Nicki Machulcz
Abstract Botanicals (Series of 6)
Acrylic on Canvas
NFS

Nicki Machulcz
The Altruistic Bonobo
Pyrography on Wood Panel
NFS

Nicki Machulcz
Beauty is All Around Us
Pyrography on Wood Panel
NFS

Artist: Rachael Brennskag
Email: bonezieb@gmail.com

Artist Bio: TBD

Artwork Labels:

Rachael Brennskag
Cromwell Valley
Gouache on wood panel
NFS

Rachael Brennskag
Cromwell Valley
Acrylic on canvas
NFS

Rachael Brennskag
Kilgore Falls
Acrylic on canvas
NFS

Rachael Brennskag
Hampton Mansion
Acrylic on canvas
\$150

Rachael Brennskag
Cromwell Valley
Acrylic on canvas
\$200

Rachael Brennskag
Poison Type
Acrylic on wood panel
\$75

Rachael Brennskag
Acrylic Pour
Acrylic on canvas
\$50

Rachael Brennskag
Acrylic Pour
Acrylic on canvas

\$50



Artist: Bailey O'Maille

Website: animalsbybailey.com

Email: animalsbybailey@gmail.com

Instagram: @animalsbybailey

Artist Bio:

Bailey Marie O'Maille is an animal portrait artist based in Baltimore, Maryland. Her artistic focus centers on animals, flowers, and plants, capturing the essence of nature with a whimsical touch and vibrant colors that illuminate its beauty and joy.

With two degrees from Towson University in Fine Art + Design and Art Education, Bailey has showcased her work at the Holtzman MFA Gallery in Towson and various Baltimore restaurants/cafes. Another passion of Bailey's is inspiring young artists and leaders. Formerly an art instructor for Baltimore City Public Schools, she now serves as the Director of Leadership and Engagement at Art with a Heart, a nonprofit enriching the lives of those in need through visual art.

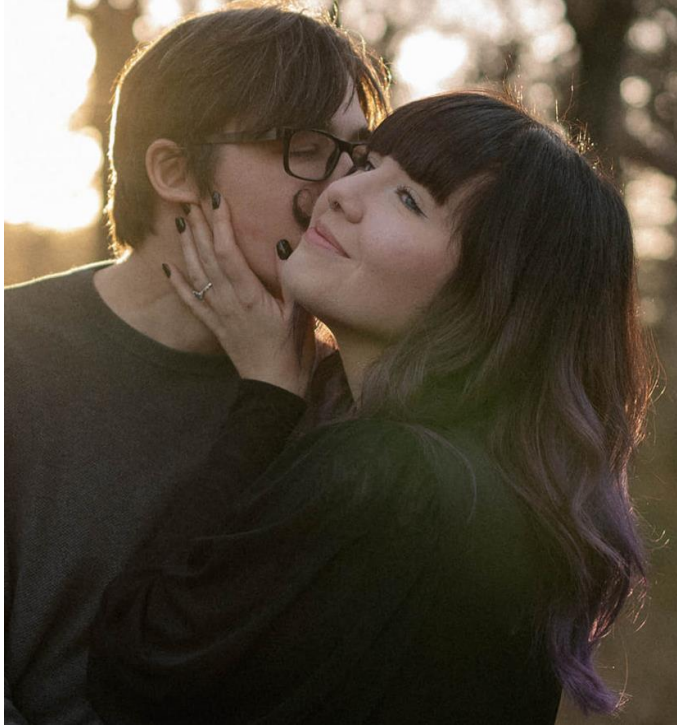
Artwork Labels:

Bailey O'Maille
Fabulous Flamingo
Acrylic on mixed media paper
\$145

Bailey O'Maille
Swish Fish
Acrylic on mixed media paper
\$145

Bailey O'Maille
Snowy Owl
Acrylic on mixed media paper
\$145

Bailey O'Maille
My Friend Parakeet
Acrylic on mixed media paper
\$145



Artist: Danielle Gitautis

Email: danielfrere@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

Danielle Gitautis grew up in Virginia and Maryland, currently working as an elementary visual arts teacher in Howard County, MD. Danielle's background includes a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from Philadelphia University and a Master's degree in Teaching from Towson University. She student-taught in Baltimore County and Howard County before graduating and joining Howard County. Danielle is embarking on her second year of teaching, excited to reflect on and improve for herself and her students. She loves creating work that includes animals and has recently been fascinated by linoleum carving and printing.

Artwork Labels:

Danielle Gitautis

"Vanity"

Watercolor and pen on canvas

NFS

Danielle Gitautis

"Rebirth"

Multi-media on canvas

\$60

Danielle Gitautis
"When Pigs Fly"
Printed ink
\$20

Danielle Gitautis
"Soft"
Printed ink
\$20



Artist: Grace Welsh

Email: gfwelsh99@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

- Artist's Hometown: Sykesville, Maryland
- Artist's Education/College History: Received BFA in 2021 and MEd in 2024 at Towson University
- Artist's Teaching History or Student Teaching History: Currently teaches at Folly Quarter Middle School in Ellicott City, Maryland
- Artist's Website/Instagram/Email (optional): gfwelsh99@gmail.com

Artist Statement:

I've always had a deep love for digital art. Growing up, I was certain I'd end up working in animation but of course, plans changed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I found it hard to stay motivated creatively, especially without the ability to connect with others in person. Collaboration and experimentation with fellow artists have always been essential to my process, and that sudden isolation left a void.

It was during that lonely time that I discovered a new calling, teaching. Being surrounded by my students in the classroom has reignited that creative spark in me. I'm there to teach them, but in many ways, they teach me just as much. Their curiosity and energy have inspired me to try new things, like my recent passion for film photography. I have grown to love this older form of art and love to capture my adventures. Featured in the show are my visits to Eastern State Penitentiary in Philly, PA, Westminster, and Port Deposit in MD.

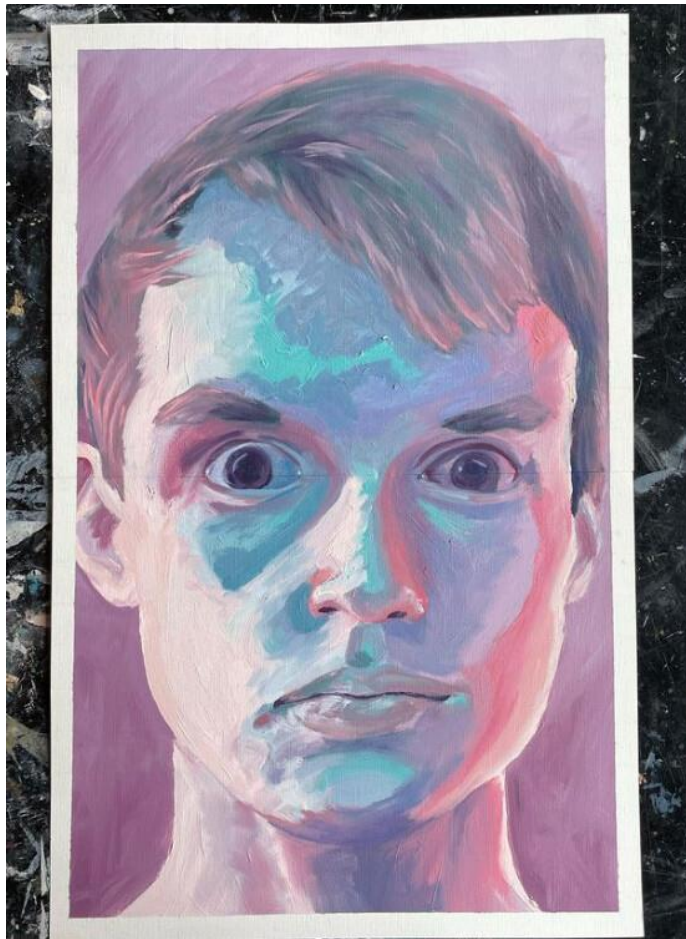
Artwork Labels:

Grace Welsh
Lost Files
Film Photography
\$80

Grace Welsh
Business as Usual
Film Photography
\$150

Grace Welsh
Saturday Morning Fields
Film Photography
\$75

Grace Welsh
Untold Stories of Eastern State Penitentiary
Film Photography
\$100



Artist: Dietrich Mischke

Email: dietrichjmischke@gmail.com

Artist Bio: TBD

Artwork Labels: TBD



Artist: Sydney Bendik

Email: sydneybendik@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

Sydney Bendik, from Ocean Township, New Jersey. Getting her undergraduate degree in Art Education at Towson University. I have taught at pottery studios in New Jersey, and student taught here in Maryland leading up to my internship! I have an instagram for my artworks which is under renovations. You can check out what I have up there so far at [syds_art_catalogue](https://www.instagram.com/syds_art_catalogue).

Artist Statement:

This piece was created inspired by the little things in life. Far too often, we go through the days zooming through all of our tasks and forget to take a moment to appreciate the little things. This piece is meant to remind us of the little things in the world that we forget about. It is 18" by 24" oil paint on canvas. It was created this year, and the series Zoom In is a two piece series, including Aster and Oleander.

Artwork Labels:

Sydney Bendik

Oleander

Oil on canvas

NFS

Sydney Bendik

Aster

Oil on canvas

NFS



Artist: Erin Poynot

Email: erinpoynot@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

“Hello! My name is Erin Poynot, and I’m an artist from Ellicott City, Maryland. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher since the day I dressed up as one for career day in kindergarten, and I fell in love with art when I was even younger. I met Nicki Machulcz when I student-taught at Padonia International Elementary School with Sydney Bendik, and I miss the kids and community there everyday. I have excitedly accepted an art teacher position at Ridgeway Elementary in Anne Arundel County, and I will be starting in the fall! Painting has always spoken to me because it let me explore the color and texture I see in my own little world. When I couldn’t find the space to paint anymore, I bought a pack of Crayola markers and haven’t looked back since. I like the city; Baltimore is a city I fell in love with because it is a city I fell in love in. I see it through so much love and light, and that’s something I want to share in my artwork. My biggest hope as a teacher is to inspire my students to always draw things that make them happy, with so much color and with so much love.”

Artwork Labels:

Erin Poynot

Row Houses in Red and Blue

Marker on paper

NFS

Erin Poynot

Table and Chairs

Acrylic on canvas

NFS

Erin Poynot

Adirondack Chairs

Oil on canvas

NFS

Erin Poynot

Waverly

Acrylic on canvas

NFS



Artist: Yu Tang

Email: teddytang@gmail.com

Artist Bio:

Artist's Hometown: Cheng Du/China

Artist's Education: Art Education at Towson University

Art & Design at Sichuan University (China)

Art & Crafts at Sichuan University of Science & Engineering (China)

Artist's Teaching History or Student Teaching History: Mays Chapel Elementary School, Padonia International Elementary School, Western High School of Technology & Environmental Science, Towson University's Summer Art Program, Baltimore Chinese School.

Artist Statement:

As an art educator, I find joy in exploring how visual expression connects people across cultures and experiences. My work is shaped by both Eastern and Western influences, blending traditional and modern techniques to tell meaningful stories. I'm especially passionate about creating opportunities for others—especially students—to discover their own creative voices through art.

Art Series Description:

The Mogao Caves, also called the "Caves of a Thousand Buddhas," are located on the cliffs of the Mingsha Mountains, about 25 kilometers southeast of Dunhuang in western China. The

first cave was created in 366 A.D. by a monk named Lezun, who believed the area was a sacred place. Over the next thousand years, more caves were added, making the Mogao Caves a major center of Buddhist art and culture.

Unlike Indian cave art, which was carved from stone, the Mogao Caves are made with clay sculptures and wall paintings because the local rock is too soft to carve. One of the most famous images in the caves is the Feitian, or flying goddess. These figures are inspired by Indian gods of music and song, but over time they became a mix of Indian, Chinese, Taoist, and Silk Road influences. In China, Feitian are not one specific god—they represent beauty, grace, and spiritual freedom.

Today, 492 caves remain, and nearly every one features Feitian flying through colorful murals.

Artwork Labels:

Yu Tang

The Disappearing Mogao Grottoes and the Flying Goddess

Printmaking, Edition: 2/5

\$200

This printmaking work reinterprets the flying goddess murals of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang. While celebrating the spiritual beauty of the ancient art, it also evokes a sense of loss, reminding us that the thousand-year legacy of the Mogao Grottoes is gradually disappearing.

Yu Tang

Calmly

Reduction Printmaking, Edition: 3/5

\$120

This print depicts a serene Buddha in quiet contemplation beside a blooming lotus flower, within which a fish gently emerges. The imagery symbolizes peace, spiritual awakening, and the unity of all living things. Rendered in warm, earthy tones and rhythmic lines, the composition evokes a state of inner stillness and harmony between the Buddha and the natural world.

Yu Tang

Bless

Printmaking, Edition: 3/3

\$100

This print portrays a Buddha surrounded by spiritual elements such as lotus petals and a leaping fish—symbols of enlightenment, purity, and renewal. With eyes gently cast downward,

the Buddha offers a silent blessing to the natural world and humankind. The flowing lines and monochromatic texture convey a sense of calm reverence, suggesting the Buddha's compassionate presence and the spiritual harmony between all living beings.

Yu Tang

Still Life – Apple

Soft Pastel on Paper

\$100

This still life captures the natural textures and luminous colors of fresh apples through the expressive use of soft pastel. The interplay of light and shadow highlights the contrast between whole and sliced fruit, inviting the viewer to appreciate