

THE

Arts

EDITION



THE ITHACAN
SPECIAL ISSUE

SPRING 2024

MUSIC

The perfect pairings of music and drinks

Matching music venues with their signature cocktails

BY EMMA KERSTING
PODCAST EDITOR

BIKE BAR PAIRED WITH A FRENCH 75

Bike Bar can be found across the street from The Commons, down the block from where Viva used to be. The bar welcomed Taksim on March 26 as part of their Tuesday night live music sessions.

Taksim specializes in performing Middle Eastern music using a combination of Western and Asian instruments — cello and flute, bandir, oud and goblet drums. The group fuses musical cultures of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, so there are two drinks to pair with the evening.

The French 75 — gin, lemon juice, simple syrup and champagne — brings on a bright, citrusy energy that tastes like a classic lemonade with a kick.

The Sazerac — rye whiskey, sugar, water, bitters and an absinthe rinse — is for a more acquired taste. This drink is strong with a touch of sweetness and a taste reminiscent of black licorice.

The two drinks reflect the type of night to have at Bike Bar; the French 75 is light and refreshing, perfect for a fun night out with friends. The Sazerac, on the other hand, is bold and transports the patron out of the bar to the cultural ambiguity of Taksim.

Bike Bar has a rustic feel with furnishings made from deep brown wood and the ceilings and walls donned with different bikes. With low yellow lighting, Bike Bar has a warm, welcoming atmosphere.



EMMA KERSTING/THE ITHACAN



FRENCH 75

SOUTHERN SUNDAY PAIRED WITH A LUCKY HARE DEEP DIVE PALE ALE

Check out Deep Dive — a bar and live music venue — found off the shore of Cayuga Lake 50 yards from the Boatyard Grill. Deep Dive hosts Southern Supper Sunday every other week, featuring live music, food and line dancing lessons.

Local bands perform live music throughout the night, including The Deep Dive Barn Haulers, the house band for Southern Sunday. Guests are encouraged to don their best Southern apparel and most arrive dressed in boots, cowboy hats and lots of denim.

The Lucky Hare Deep Dive Pale Ale is a sunny yellow that serves as a crisp refreshing drink, especially as you catch your breath after learning a new line dance. The ale pairs well with a hot basket of the Babe's Burgers

french fries. The salty fries come with sides of ketchup and Thousand Island dressing.

Deep Dive's visiting band was Whistlin' Dyl and the Spice Rack on March 24, who perform original Folk Country Rock music. The frontman is appropriately nicknamed, with most songs featuring a small solo of Dyl's controlled and perfectly tuned whistling.

Dyl, who had an acoustic guitar, often turned to the bassist as he played. The Spice Rack brought the action; the chemistry among the band members was clear as they all moved freely about the stage based on their playing parts.



EMMA KERSTING/THE ITHACAN



LUCKY HARE DEEP DIVE PALE ALE

THE ARTS EDITION



COURTESY OF LUSCA WATERS



TEQUILA SUNRISE

THURSGAY PAIRED WITH A TEQUILA SUNRISE

Thursgay is a weekly event at The Range on The Commons. The specialty night typically features drag performances and DJs, with the March 28 show featuring performers Sylix Morrison and Queen Tessential as the hosts of the evening.

Tequila Sunrise — tequila, orange juice and grenadine with an orange slice garnish — with a splash of cranberry was recommended by the bartender to drink at Thursgay on the eve of Beyoncé's latest album, "COWBOY CARTER."

The cocktail matches the high energy vibe of Thursgay's "Ain't no Hoe-down" party as the sugary juice with the kick of tequila bring a person to their feet to dance along with the queens on stage.

As if Beyoncé being one of the biggest stars on the planet for over 20 years is not enough to get a crowd excited, the recent single "Texas Hold 'Em" had all the patrons at The Range rushing to the dance floor. Most attendees were dressed somewhere between going to a hoedown and the "Renaissance" tour, with cowboy hats, face glitter and boots.

The Range is a hot spot for drinks and live music with its convenient location on The Commons. The bar has the distinct design of a Western saloon, but appeals to all audiences with performances ranging in style from drag shows to rock bands to country singers.

Life on Vibrant explores the genre of 'Indie Eruption'

With Ithaca College hosting more than several student bands, Life on Vibrant distinguishes itself with its unique genre, self-characterized as "indie eruption." The band has four members, including sophomores Carson Mrozinski, the lead singer, Ashlynn Rose on lead guitar, George Bailey on drums and first-year student Jake Edelstein on bass guitar. The band manages to blend the unique tastes of all the members, resulting in an artistic flair that resonates with audiences across the campus.

Newsletter Editor Jacquelyn Reaves spoke with lead guitarist Rose to learn more about how Life on Vibrant was formed, the group dynamics within the band, music inspirations of the group and performances the group has coming up.

This article has been edited for length and clarity.

Jacquelyn Reaves: How was Life on Vibrant formed?

Ashlynn Rose: I came into the band after they had already formed. On me coming into the band and us making something of ourselves was the spring semester of [2023]. We were all freshmen and I was invited by Carson Mrozinski to play with some friends he had been playing with. I come in and play a couple of Weezer covers that I had learned that night. I came in that afternoon and it was kind of set from there. When I came into their practice room at the time, I had no idea what to expect in terms of how they wrote music and who most of these guys even were. We also kind of wrote our first song during that time. I just remem-

ber starting on a simple riff, the riff that inevitably kicks off "Live on the Moon" into this fast yet chill son-of-a-gun jam. A song like that, it's the pinnacle of our band. It's airy. [It's] Life on Vibrant. That song is in D major, I believe. And we're lifting it as the song goes. I guess what it's about is, it's about us. It's our best song. We play it to end sets frequently. We played it to begin our set at Deep Dive a couple weeks ago. Very cool.

JR: What inspired you to join the band?

AR: I was friends with Carson. All of [the members of the band] currently right now are cinema production majors. Me and Carson were in [Cinema Production 1] class together. We were both musicians. I noticed the stickers on his laptop were bands that I liked. I just went up and talked to him, exchanged social media and we just started chatting and then [Life on Vibrant's] guitarist left. They couldn't find a guitarist to stay in the band. I was playing guitar around Ithaca and was looking for a group to play with; it was a match made.

JR: What does the songwriting process look like for your band?

AR: Honestly, we get food and go to our studio. One of us usually is like, "Oh, what's something you guys have been writing?" Or if none of us have been writing anything — the song that I was talking about earlier, it's called "Live on the Moon" and that was my first band practice with them. We wrote that song and it was just me fiddling around. We were in half-step down tuning and I was just fiddling around with two notes and it



Jake Edelstein, Carson Mrozinski, George Bailey and Ashlynn Rose, known as the band Life on Vibrant, jam out at Deep Dive at the Punk Rock Happy Hour, providing more "Indie Eruption."

COURTESY OF LIFE ON VIBRANT

just became a song. I don't know, it's just kind of natural.

JR: What are some goals and aspirations you have for your band in the future?

AR: We're working on possibly making an album. We want some music out there [and] currently we don't have any. We have so many songs that we play and that we've written, and so it only makes sense to, you know, make it, you know, make it physical or digital nowadays. And honestly, just spreading the love or L.O.V.E.

Our ability and desire to "spread love" is in the name: Life On Vibrant [LOV, without the "E"]. Through our music and performance, we long to get everyone dancing, vibing and just having a good damn time. That's all it is. Self-expression and community. It's all LOVE.

JR: How has being in a band influenced your personal growth and development?

AR: As a musician, it's kind of difficult to grow just playing by yourself. I think it's been listening to others

and their opinions on the things that I write, being able to speak about the opinions that they [have]. Making something very cohesive that we're all into. That's just been big. Having that relationship with other people. And to be able to express myself whether it'd be onstage, my confidence has possibly risen, being in that stage presence and writing good music.

CONTACT JACQUELYN REAVES
JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

Lost Mary's finds a stage for their living room jams

Lost Mary's band, made up of Ithaca College students, includes senior Margaret Harper, sophomore Zach Ryan, sophomore Chris Tassone and juniors Gerard Allen and Morrison Powell. The group formed in Fall 2023, and it is mostly a cover band but has some original songs that they play occasionally.

Nobody in the group has a designated position or instrument. Members rotate who sings depending on who knows the words best, and everyone picks up instruments depending on how familiar they are with the

instrument and the song.

This article has been edited for length and clarity.

Noa Ran-Ressler: How did you first get together?

Margaret Harper: We first got together through meeting friends of friends. It was actually Zach, Chris and I who were hanging out in my living room and somebody said the name "Joni Mitchell." We all kind of were like, "Oh, yeah, we're on the same page," and we jammed out a little bit. They invited me to do a performance of "This Flight Tonight" by Joni and then we were like, "We should do this all the time." We knew Gerard really well, so we all just became really good friends naturally through hanging out and jamming out in my living room.

Gerard Allen: The four of us, we felt like there wasn't enough rhythm in the band. We sought out far and wide to find the finest drummer in central New York and Morrison Powell became a tried and true member of the Lost Mary's band.

NR: What was it like to perform at the Young Blood Discovery Festival?

MH: We're pretty proud of that performance — definitely proud and happy. [We are] kind of happy it's over. It's been a long time coming on that one, rehearsing until three in the morning — four sometimes — having to get all the horns together, and also being full-time students. ... We have a really busy schedule. ... So it [was] just a really action-packed weekend. It's just been a lot of time.

NR: How do you manage being in a band and being a full-time student?

Zach Ryan: I don't think that the balance is very easy to accomplish. I don't really think it's possible. ... You can't get good grades and play as much as we do at the same time.



Senior Margaret Harper, a member of the band Lost Mary's, performs her stunning vocals at the second annual Young Blood Discovery Festival at Deep Dive.

CALEB KAUFMAN/THE ITHACAN

Chris Tassone: I think our balance is very off-kilter as it is. We destroyed our sleep schedules, our GPAs a little bit, too. There's no routine.

MH: [Before Young Blood], we rehearsed every day for at least four hours, probably more. It doesn't really feel like work and rehearsal. I think that's why it's so good, because we could just hang out and play. That's [how] we want to keep the foundation of the band, because it's all just stuff we like to play.

GA: That's also just loving what you do. We started as friends in a living room and we try and keep that energy at whatever cost.

NR: What does it mean to each of you to be in a band as a college student?

Morrison Powell: It means everything to

me to be a student and to play in a band.

ZR: It's the reason I came to school. I think it was honestly a dream to come to school and play music with a bunch of great musicians.

CT: It means a lot. These are my glory years and I'm gonna savor them for however long we keep playing music.

MH: This is the type of experience that I've been fantasizing about since I was a little kid: having friends and going to college and making the most out of that.

GA: These guys are my best friends, and I love doing this stuff with them. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. It means everything.

CONTACT NOA RAN-RESSLER
NRANRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU



Improved experiences at State Theatre

The State Theatre of Ithaca, located on W. State Street, is a historic, 1,600-seat entertainment venue with immense history. The State Theatre is often recognized for the preservation of its architecture, classified as having “collegiate gothic” architecture qualities.

Doug Levine '04, the current State Theatre executive director, graduated from Ithaca College with both a bachelor's and master's degree in business. Levine is passionate about the performance industry and takes pride in the theater's contribution to the live performance industry in Tompkins County.

Staff writer Georgie Gassaro spoke with Levine to examine the evolution of the theater's offerings, how the theater fits into the entertainment culture of Ithaca, as well as elements of its standout architectural makeup.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Georgie Gassaro: What is your role with the State Theatre and how did you begin your involvement?

Doug Levine: I have been the executive director of the State Theatre since 2009 which is kind of crazy. At the time, the theater was struggling quite a bit, and I just knew how important it was to Downtown Ithaca. I really wanted to be a part of its renaissance, and I have been. There were a lot of challenges in the beginning, and there are still challenges to this day, but we've gotten through a lot of things where we are definitely more stabilized now. We put on between 75 and 100 events a year now. I love the arts and I love entertainment. I've always been a huge music fan, so to be a part of that growth is awesome and to have such an impact on the economy is huge. People don't realize that not only are people from Ithaca buying tickets to shows, but we have a massive draw for people that come from out of town for shows. People are not only spending money on a ticket here, but they're staying in a hotel or an Airbnb and getting a bite at a local restaurant or getting a beer afterward. All of that helps the economy, and I'm proud to be a part of that as well.

GG: What kinds of communities attend the theater's performances?

DL: We definitely attract dif-



The State Theatre of Ithaca, located on W. State Street, is a gorgeous, historic entertainment venue that has the ability to seat 1,600 guests and features an array of different performances throughout the year.

COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

ferent types of groups of people for different shows. Some shows are skewed toward college students. Some are skewed toward the “crunchy” or “granola hippie” residents of Ithaca, and some are geared more toward the edgy hipsters. But the one thing we do try to do is be a theater for everyone. We try to offer programming that everyone will like over the course of a season, whether it be comedy, edgy comedy, political comedy, indie music, folk music, even hip-hop or metal. We try to kind of offer something for everyone throughout the course of the year.

GG: Could you talk about the different types of performances that the theater hosts and how the space accommodates them?

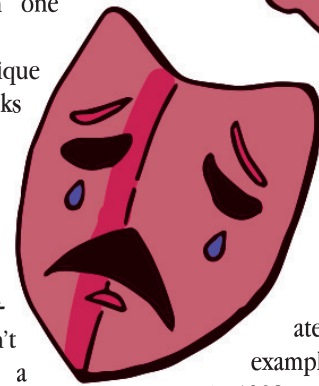
DL: We're very busy and always making improvements to the building as well, which is great. The most common performance type by far is music, like rock bands or bands in general. I'd say the second most common is comedy. And the thing about comedy is that we don't have a lot of competition. Locally, there's not a lot of other comedians coming to town, but they are coming to us, which is great. We do some theatrical performances, but we really leave that to the smaller theaters in town, like the Hanger and the Kitchen. But also, I think Ithaca College has a

wonderful theater program, and if the college puts on some great theater, we want people to go up to South Hill and see those shows. Theater shows typically run for seven to 10 days, whereas we are usually doing one-off shows that run one night only.

GG: What unique engineering tricks enhance the charm of State Theatre productions?

DL: In terms of our main architecture, I can't really think of a room this beautiful in town to be honest, it's just absolutely gorgeous. Now, what you see when you look from the curtains back, it is not as pretty, but everything is very functional. We have all the means to put on hundreds of different types of shows. We have the technology and the equipment to pull those off, but it's all behind the curtain. And on the outside, what you see isn't necessarily what you get. So, you're looking at all this beautiful architecture and you probably think it's stone or marble, but it's all just plaster. It is cool, but it is just not as intricate as one might think. Plaster like this was very, very common in the '20s. In terms of special tricks, the theater was built as an atmospheric theater. So when the lights go down for a show, you look up on the ceiling and we have the constellations in our ceiling with little light bulbs. There is a metal shield that rotates around each light bulb very slowly, and it creates a twinkling effect. This is not LED technology, this is 1928 technology, and it still works today, which is awesome. It does take maintenance, but it's not very complicated maintenance. We just go up there every two summers and dust things off, and they still work like they did 95 years ago.

GG: What are the most impactful challenges the theater has faced over the last 10 years? What changes have you made as a result?



DL: I mean, we face challenges every single day. With some of those challenges we've created solutions for. For example, this theater was built in 1928, way before ADA accessibility. So there are a lot of challenges with getting wheelchairs around and whatnot, but we've created ramps, we've removed chairs, we've removed steps and things like that to combat those challenges.

GG: Looking into the future, what have been the most recent goals or projects that the theater has been focusing on?

DL: Just this past January, we completed a project to create a new bar and concession space for selling beer, wine, soda and popcorn. For many years, our bar was literally inside the theater itself. It was at the back of the hall. It was annoying to sell beer and wine in the room that an artist is performing in, so we finally removed it from the theater and created a new space. It was a half a million dollar project, but we completed it, and it's working out fantastically well. We're always looking to improve, so that's the main project on the horizon right now. We're a 95-year-old building, so obviously things are getting a lot hotter and we generally don't have summer programming anyway, but even in the spring and the fall, it is getting warmer and warmer. In the next couple of years, I would like to try to figure out a way to get air conditioning in here so we can be more comfortable on those warmer days.



The State Theatre of Ithaca has been a focal piece of the area for over 100 years, and the architecture proves just how historic it is.

COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT GEORGIE GASSARO
GGASARO@ITHACA.EDU

Theater, theatres and theatrics galore across Ithaca

BY KAELEIGH BANDA • ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



The Hangar Theatre is located just a short walk from Cayuga Lake and has the ability to hold 364 guests during its array of performances.

COURTESY OF KATIE MARKS

THE HANGAR THEATRE

The Hangar Theatre is a nationally recognized regional theater located on Taughanock Blvd in Ithaca. The Hangar Theatre is celebrating its upcoming 50th season. They put on many shows each season, including three mainstage productions for adults and their “KIDDSTUFF” productions for children in the community. Their productions include mainly standard plays and musical theater. This season, their mainstage productions include “Ride the Cyclone,” “Ragtime” and “Todd vs. The Titanic.” They hold open auditions for equity actors, members of a union called the Actor’s Equity Association, and non-equity actors.

The Hangar’s season is only from June to August, however, they do have ways to be involved outside of their main season. They have a program called the Hangar Lab Performance Fellowship, which allows college students to be involved at the Hangar as a step into the professional world. The program allows them to rehearse, learn, teach and perform. College students can be employed in front-of-house jobs such as ushers.

One of the Hangar Theatre’s main goals is to create a theater space for community members of all ages. Chris Pollock, the communications & development coordinator of the Hangar Theatre, said the theater invites children from local schools to visit the theater and perform which exposes children to theater from a young age.

Since the Hangar is a nonprofit theater, help with fundraising and production from community members allows for the Hangar to succeed. Pollock said the support means that the Hangar is able to fulfill its mission.

“The arts help us articulate emotions and thoughts that we couldn’t necessarily say in straight words,” Pollock said. “Whether it’s a painting or a play or a song or anything else, it just allows us to creatively express our feelings.”

CIVIC ENSEMBLE



Uraina Bellamy and Carley Robinson performing in “Delia Divided,” which ran in May 2022 at Civic Ensemble.

COURTESY OF CONNOR LANGE

Civic Ensemble is a community theater organization founded in 2012 by Sarah K. Chalmers, Godfrey L. Simmons Jr. and Ithaca College lecturer Jennifer Herzog. Their goal is to create theater for those who have not had access to it and tell true stories of the community. Ithaca College students can be involved through volunteer work and student employment opportunities. The main way to support them is to see their shows. Their tickets are “pay what you can” in order to accommodate audience members of any financial status.

They have three main kinds of programs. Their first program is called the ReEntry Theatre Program. This program allows people who were formerly incarcerated or court-involved to create new shows about their lives and experiences. Executive Director Julia Taylor said this program is a creative community for those who have shared this similar experience.

“We are really working to shift narratives around mass incarceration and who is impacted by this system,” Taylor said. “We want to tell people’s stories and celebrate joy and resiliency and power of people in our community even when they’ve experienced challenges and trauma within the system.”

The ReEntry Theatre Program is performing an original musical called “Fallen Branches Plant Roots” about family from May 31 to June 9. The other programs are Theatre in Education and Community-Based Plays. Their education program aims to help students explore important community issues through theater. Their community plays focus on bringing to light difficult conversations that have been brought to their attention by members of the community. Civic Ensemble unites activism and theater to create art that connects to the people of Ithaca.

“We’re working directly with a vision of wellness in our community and we understand that when people, especially folks who traditionally have been excluded or not had access to educational or professional theater opportunities have access, their lives can be greatly impacted for the better,” Taylor said.

THE CHERRY ARTSPACE

In 2017, the Cherry Artspace was built, a performance venue that is adaptable for circus, traditional plays, theater in the round and more. In 2021, the Cherry added the Cherry Gallery and Camilla Studio. The studio is open to any group in need of a space to create art, which extends to Ithaca College students. They also have internships and work-study programs that are open to students. The work-study program allows students who qualify for Federal Work-Study to get paid to work with the Cherry on various tasks.

Since its founding, the Cherry has worked on creating English translations of international work. Their current production is a first-time U.S. English translation of an Italian play by playwright Pierre Lorenzo Pisano called “Carbon.” The play runs from April 5 to 14. The Cherry is known for doing plays that are non-traditional and avant-garde. Jen Percy-Edwards, the general manager of The Cherry Arts, said this unique style of theater excites her.

“The work that’s coming from an international scope can not only reflect the outside world but can also help you look at your own very local environment in a new way,” Percy-Edwards said.

In addition to their main works, the Cherry works with Ithaca Arthaus located directly above their gallery and studio. Ithaca Arthaus contains about 120 units of housing that are reserved for low-middle income families and 40 units reserved for un-housed people. The Cherry has “art hives” which are programs that are specifically for the Ithaca Arthaus residents to help build community and make change through art. Together, Ithaca Arthaus and The Cherry Arts are working toward making the arts accessible and positive.

“The arts are important for healing and opening up conversation,” Percy-Edwards said. “We’ve got a lot of conflict in the world at the moment and I think the arts are able to transpose these things and make it possible for us to digest them.”



The inside of Cherry Artspace includes seating designed to be moved around into any configuration.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

KITCHEN THEATRE

Kitchen Theatre Company is entering its 33rd season since its founding in 1991. The Kitchen is a professional theater company and venue located on West State Street in Ithaca that produces new and existing plays with a focus on newer works. Opening on May 8, the Kitchen is debuting “The Turnaway Play” by Lesley Lisa Greene, which is inspired by Diana Greene Foster’s research and book, “The Turnaway Study.” Additionally, the Kitchen is hosting Ithaca College’s production of “The Liar” by David Ives from April 12 to 20. They also have opportunities for college students to volunteer at the theater and they plan to re-start their fellowship program sometime in the future.

The Kitchen’s goal is to create an anti-racist, inclusive space. Emily Jackson, the incoming producing artistic director, emphasized their mission to be accessible.

“We are really interested in having a diverse body of work,” Jackson said. “Our plays are written by all kinds of people, men, women, LGBTQ+ across ethnicity and

race, so we are very intentionally programming diverse shows so that our space can feel welcoming for a broader group of folks.

Their season runs primarily from September to May, but work is being done year round. They have auditions before and during their season that are open to any professional actor. Each season, they typically have around five productions and host many more. Compared to other professional theaters, the Kitchen is a smaller venue. However, Jackson said this is an advantage for them.

“We do character-driven plays that open our audience and our wider community to a greater dialogue with each other and with the art,” Jackson said. “[Our theater] is very intimate because we have only 98 seats, so we can really get to know folks who are in our space and make them feel welcome, heard and seen.”



Kitchen Theatre Company performed the musical “tick, tick...BOOM!” by Jonathan Larson in October 2023, featuring many professional actors.

COURTESY OF RACHEL PHILIPSON

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

Cinemapolis: Films educate community

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

ASSISTANT LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Beyond just films, Cinemapolis is a theater that uses art as a medium to enrich Ithaca residents' lives. Through the theater's screenings, it exposes the community to independent and international films that might otherwise not reach such an extensive audience.

Kate Donahue, the executive director at Cinemapolis, said the theater's purpose is to explore the power of film to entertain, to educate and to celebrate the human experience.

"I think that Cinemapolis is the home to movies you can't see anywhere else," Donahue said. "We also work hard to keep our ticket prices low. So even when we're showing the best you can see elsewhere, we're making those movies accessible to audiences and just helping them kind of fall in love with cinema, find a way to movie and have great experiences."

Another unique feature at this first-run movie theater is its work with film festivals that provide a platform to a diverse array of artists. Donahue said they also consider the programmers who are thinking about the statement they want to raise awareness through a festival or screening artists.

"Very often we feature local films that are tied very closely to the missions of some local partner organizations," Donahue said. "Recently we had an event with Cayuga Health and Cornell Cooperative Extension that featured a short documentary about inequalities in the American healthcare system and how that has been experienced by people locally, and it was part of a discussion on how to address healthcare inequality. I'm excited that we are that kind of community hub. I think that our partnerships are part of what really makes us special."

In recent years, Cinemapolis has implemented new initiatives like franchise screenings and "And The Winner Is..." an annual fundraiser screening of the Oscars. Donahue said Cinemapolis' mission has been so spread throughout the community that



Cinemapolis has five screens, whereas other independent movie theaters often have one or two screens, making it possible for them to host a great array of screenings.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

much of the time, it's the artists who approach them.

Cinemapolis hosts the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF), which has been held since 1997. The theme for the 2024 Edition of FLEFF is "Turbulence," and it will be going from April 1–14. Last year, Cinemapolis opened its doors to the Republic Justice Film Festival and the Ithaca Experimental Film Festival for the first time.

Donahue said these movies create opportunities for people to reflect, find how these resonate with them and how they might want to change their own lives or their community in response to what they're seeing.

"I think that a lot of the way we consume media right now in this country and around the world is a kind of isolating experience some of the time, but one of the reasons I am proud to work for a movie theater is that I feel like Cinemapolis is a venue

where community is really formed and fostered," Donahue said.

Donahue also said that even though there is no promise that every event being pitched can be done, they are always open to answering possible partner's questions.

"I think it's sort of worth recognizing that this is something special and ... to say that it's tough to keep a movie theater going in a lot of ways, and Cinemapolis has survived for almost 40 years," Donahue said. "And I think that's happened because this community does recognize that it's something special and ... has come out to support this theater in many ways over the years. I'm so grateful for that, and very hopeful that it will continue for many years to come."

CONTACT: MCONTRERAS@ITHACA.EDU

Cornell Cinema is a student-run operation

BY NATHAN GLASSER

STAFF WRITER

Next to Cornell's famous slope, there is a secretive theater hidden in the basement of Willard Straight Hall. With its freshly popped popcorn and historic space, this two-story theater is like traveling into the past. Audiences can experience contemporary and classic titles from around the globe all at Cornell Cinema.

Cornell Cinema was founded in 1970 and began as a student-run, university film society. Students continue to help run the theater today, with more than 25 students helping with the projection system, managing event logistics for the film screenings along with special events. These students are of different backgrounds,

class years and disciplines, but in their mission statement located on their official website, they state how they have considered their time at the theater a formative part of their college years.

"We work to expand access to and appreciation of the art of film and believe in the power of cinema to advance understanding, foster community, and inspire new ways of seeing the world," Molly Ryan, director of Cornell Cinema, said via email.

Over the next month in April, audiences can experience some of the discussions from the filmmakers themselves. Some of these include Aviva Kempner on April 10 for their film "A Pocketful of Miracles: A Tale of Two Siblings," a Zoom call with Shaunak Sen on April 15 for "All That Breathes" and Joe Peller and Angel Ellis for "Bad Press" on April 23.

"We aim to prioritize independent and international films that might not otherwise make it to Ithaca and to choose films that resonate with conversations happening across campus and in our local communities," Ryan said.

Cornell Cinema is also a "second-run" theater, so someone can also experience films that were released from several months ago that they might have missed during their first run. The films screening in the following weeks at the theater that are going on their second run are "Poor Things," "Saltburn" and "The Zone of Interest."

For the students who may go once



Cornell Cinema is a student-run movie theater on Cornell's campus, housing film screenings and special events throughout the year.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

or twice a semester, ticket prices cost \$8 for students. There are also options for students to get discounted tickets for special events with an annual pass for \$30.

Mitch McCabe, assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies at Ithaca College, said that they have much appreciation for the theater and that their first experience at the theater was an interactive performance by filmmaker Zia Anger.

"It was nearly sold out, with a super involved audience," McCabe said. "A great night and intro to Ithaca."

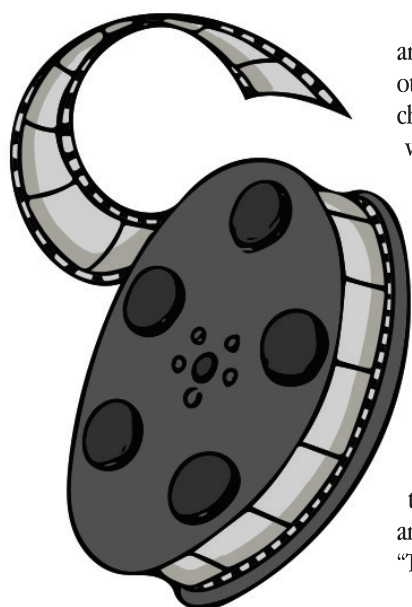
In Fall 2021, McCabe also had the chance to moderate a screening of "North by Current." This experimental documentary was directed by McCabe's friend and filmmaker Angelo

Madsen Minax. McCabe said that although there were still COVID-19 surges going on around this time, Minax attended the screening on Zoom and got some insightful questions from the audience, particularly from other trans artists.

In addition to enjoying her role as director, Ryan said she also finds lots of enjoyment through the films that are shown at the space.

"It's pretty neat to have a job that lets you watch movies all the time, but I love that I get to constantly learn new things — both through the many films I watch and through the amazing people I get to collaborate with," Ryan said.

CONTACT: NGLASSER@ITHACA.EDU



Spotlight on student thesis films and their creators



“Kalopsia”

Senior Adylise Nicholas

“Kalopsia” is a film visually showcasing my entire college experience on an old Sony video camera. I started recording footage because with my mental health it was hard to remember things. However, the film then became something in which I could heal through and showcase the struggles of mental illness in our generation. This is probably the most vulnerable film I have ever created, but I hope it will make people feel more seen.

“Where Do Puppets Come From?”

Senior TJ Bogart

I wrote this film slowly over the course of December and January 2023 with drafts going up to two days before filming. We filmed March 2, 3 and 21 and are now currently in post-production. The process was really fun getting to work with a puppet as a character in a human world. I also shot in my hometown, Geneva, New York, which allowed me to introduce my crew not only to an amazing town, but get to work effectively in a quieter town. I really enjoyed getting to experiment with more 2010s YouTube Video style brought out many of the aspects that led to why I wanted to work in film. I couldn't have done any of this to the extent that it is now without an amazing crew. If it wasn't for every individual on my set, this film would not be what it is. They laughed, had fun and most importantly, worked hard and I really appreciate each and every one of them who made this possible.



“TEN AND GUN GENERATION”

Senior Masaki Mitsuhashi

The multimedia project, “TEN AND GUN GENERATION,” was initially a short film project which the director Masaki Mitsuhashi, a Japanese senior student in Ithaca College, directs. This film depicts the two Japanese friends who have contradictory feelings on fashion and society clash their thoughts to unify them. The Japanese government has issued a policy to “Abolish all general clothing” as the world starts to close in around them and their ideals. The film was based on the poetry which he wrote when he experienced an identity crisis while spending the latter half of teenage life in fashion district Harajuku but went to Japanese high school with uniform requirements.

“Self Portrait”

Senior Selena Forlenza

This film for me was a personal experience that allowed me to expand my artistic creativity and hone in on my own art style. Revolving around an artist's creative process, this film highlights frustration in perfectionism and discovering one's true self in trusting the process and their own instincts. It's a freeing experience that shares the artist's love for art and the difficulties they encounter when they stray from their usual process.

Being a director, writer, actor and editor for this film has allowed me to gain new perspectives and think more heavily on how to operate and develop this personal film. I enjoyed how playful my crew and I were with designing the set and testing out different experimental shots. I hope the experience was as fun as it was for everyone as it ended up being for me.



“Just Forget About Me”

Senior Richard Morris

While making and directing a film, the one certainty is that things will go wrong. As you're putting all of the puzzle pieces together, you realize one or two didn't come in the box. It takes a village of talented and bright individuals who are willing to put in far more work than expected to find or completely recreate the puzzle to make every little piece fit. You'll even be surprised how the new picture on the new puzzle looks even better than on the box.

Johnson Museum: A taste of the cultures

BY SAMMIE MACARANAS

STAFF WRITER

Located in the art quad of Cornell University, the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art is a free museum that features art from a multitude of artists. The museum opened in 1973 as a free of charge art museum where students and residents alike could experience art pieces from across the globe.

The eight-floored museum contains three permanent exhibit floors, as well as three other floors that contain traveling art exhibitions. The museum also features a sculpture court and Cosmos installation outside of the second floor that is open seasonally. The museum also acts as a conference center and lecture hall. The museum features many Asian and Latin American art, including an ongoing exhibit of Colonial Spanish American art titled "Colonial Crossings," which features 24 different paintings owned by the Thoma Foundation, located on the Floor 2L gallery.

The museum also features two other temporary exhibitions, including works from the Cornell Department of Art. The exhibit features paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures, drawings, ceramics and thread art pieces made by art faculty members. The exhibit itself shows the diversity of not only the museum's art, but the artists who run the museum and art school, also located on the Floor 2L gallery.

In the 1L floor gallery, the museum features Salvadorian visual artist and healer Guadalupe Maravilla's "Armonía de la Esfera (Harmony of the Sphere)." It features pieces by Maravilla as well as pieces from the museum's permanent collections from other artists, selected by the artist. One of the most powerful pieces is a sculpture that features a serpentine, skull-like bed that has a television with a moving eye on it. Above the sculpture is a hammock and behind it is a gong. This piece, as well as many of the pieces, features objects that add meaning to the pieces, like a loofah and a pair of children's shoes.

Carly Mora, a Cornell senior who is one of the



The three permanent collections are located in the first, second and fifth floor of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, displaying works of different periods from all over the world.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

student employees at the museum, expressed her interest in the museum's art pieces from different parts of the world.

"One thing I like about the museum is that it has a really diverse array of exhibits," Mora said. "So it's not just focused on European Centric art and artists. It's diverse. Which I really like."

Located in The Harris Gallery on the first floor of the museum is a collection of gifts donated by David M. Solinger, Cornell 1926. This exhibit features nine works of modern art, including a sculpture of a person walking, facing the hallway as if the statue is walking with the viewers. On this floor, visitors can also find a wall full of American paintings, including works from Albert Bierstadt and William Bradford.

The fifth floor gallery features the museum's collection of Asian art. The collection features paintings, tapestries, ceramics and etchings from many

East Asian, South Asian and Pacific countries and artists. This floor allows Ithaca residents to explore the rich culture of Asia and the diverse cultures and art styles of each country. It features many different mediums from Iranian watercolor paintings to Indonesian shadow puppets.

The Johnson Museum is a space where art lovers can look at colorful, meaningful pieces of art, or learn a culture through their depictions of different nations' histories. Anyone can visit the Johnson Museum of Art, Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum also has many upcoming workshops and experiences for the public to attend both online and in person like a "Journeys at Johnson" Family Workshop on April 6, and a symposium of the works of Claudia Jaskowicz on April 11.

CONTACT: SMACARANAS@ITHACA.EDU

New mural in Whalen's School of Music

BY BEC LEGATO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Will Hutnick, a Connecticut-based artist who deals in the abstract and uses atypical mediums, had an artist talk for his new solo exhibition, "Changing Faster than the Weather," on March 26. Hutnick was able to collaborate with several art students to produce a mural the weekend prior, which is now on display on the third floor of Whalen's School of Music.

Senior Leanna Yacilla, an art major at Ithaca College and a student employee at the Handwerker Gallery, volunteered to assist Hutnick in creating the mural.

"It was like controlled chaos, you know," Yacilla said. "And I feel like that's like a really good way to describe painting in general, especially [Hutnick's] style [of] controlled chaos."

Yacilla worked alongside junior Abigail Costa and sophomore art major Lee Kreshtool to complete this work over a weekend.

"I was sitting there watching him, I was like, 'Where did I paint again?' because this looks different," Yacilla said. "I was trying to find what I had done originally because things changed so much. But I wasn't mad about it. I was like, 'I knew that was gonna happen.' And it was now a fun game for me to play about like, 'Oh, where was my hand in this?'"

Paul Nicholson, director of the Handwerker Gallery, said he met Hutnick during his residency in Brooklyn.

Nicholson recalled his work ethic and dedication to following whatever is trending — whether it is a material or an art phase — and emulating it.

"All the shows that we do, typically are two unrelated solo shows that are intentionally meant to be different," Nicholson said. "So Will's creative work is sort of looking inward; he's interested in the queering of space. But he's also interested in the technology and the way it's visualized, the way we sort of work within a digital ecosystem visually."

The Handwerker Gallery exhibited Hutnick's pieces alongside "Red Parables," a solo exhibition by Geethanjana Kudaligamage, another visiting artist based in Woodbridge, Virginia, who is focused on the repercussions of the Sri Lankan civil war that occurred from 1983 to 2009.

"Geethanjana's work, it sort of looks inward and outward, in the sense that he is trying to process the costs, consequences and complexities of the Sri Lankan Civil War and his experience in that, as well as other works in the exhibition, are related to and interested in understanding and processing the lingering effects of the colonial experience as Sri Lankan," Nicholson said.

At his artist talk, Hutnick described his creative process and how it has changed over time with the changing of his medium of choice. Hutnick also began to think about how approaches to exploring spaces can shift depending on the work and the size of the canvas.



Will Hutnick stands with his new solo exhibition, "Changing Faster than the Weather," on display in Whalen's School of Music.

ALEC SCHLESINGER/THE ITHACAN

"[There is] more of these like simultaneous realities, is something that I'm excited about how I think could happen," Hutnick said. "How I think I'm navigating space, and how I hold space through my works."

Hutnick said he uses natural materials as patterns for his works. He recounted the process of finding his next inspiration in his front yard in his artist talk, applying the same technique to the mural and instructing some of the students to try and find different materials for the mural.

"There were some other plants in front of Whalen that were nice," Yacilla said. "So he just kept picking up a bunch of random things. It was like, 'Here you go. ... Some of [the

leaves]', as he was working with it, it started to morph back into themselves because the paint was so saturated that the leaves started to change their shape in a cool way. ... It looks like a fish diving down."

Hutnick's affinity toward nature patterns started during his second residency at Stove Works in Chattanooga, Tennessee, earlier this year. He said he began to experiment with some of the nature in the front yard of where he was staying and tried to make two identical paintings that could mirror each other. The piece was initially made on a large piece of canvas that ended up being split in half to account for the mirroring "Windows."

CONTACT: RLEGATO@ITHACA.EDU

MURALS AROUND ITHACA



There are over 400 murals in Ithaca according to Ithaca Murals, a project of the Center for Transformative Action. The paintings exist on every piece of surface available, including storefronts, electrical boxes and houses.

The project describes itself as “a network of people transforming gray walls into beautiful, meaningful works of art that tell the stories of the diverse people who live here.” Denoted above are just a few of Ithaca’s most prominent murals.

MURAL PHOTOS
LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

ILLUSTRATIONS
GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN
MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

The Art School

Students' musings on art courses offered on campus

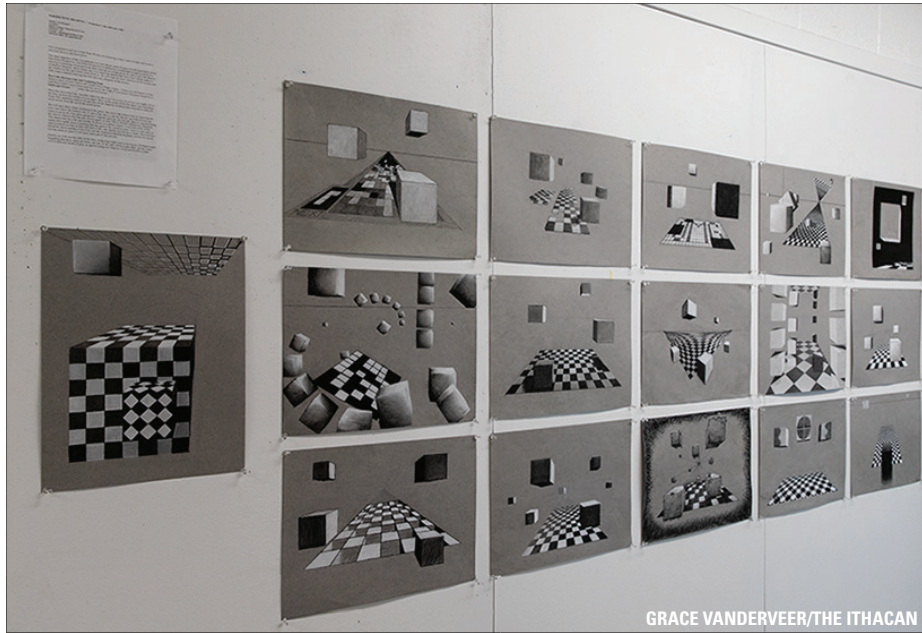


GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Senior Amanda Lewis

I took Intermediate Painting in Fall 2023 and I loved it! The projects that were assigned challenged me to be creative and go outside my comfort zone. Our final project was one of my favorites because we got to paint whatever we wanted and I chose to make two paintings focusing on the beauty of hands.

One painting was of a baby's hand grasping their mother's hand, and the other was of intertwined elderly hands. I've always had a fascination with hands because I believe they tell the story of peoples lives, so I was glad to convey that belief through this project.



GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN



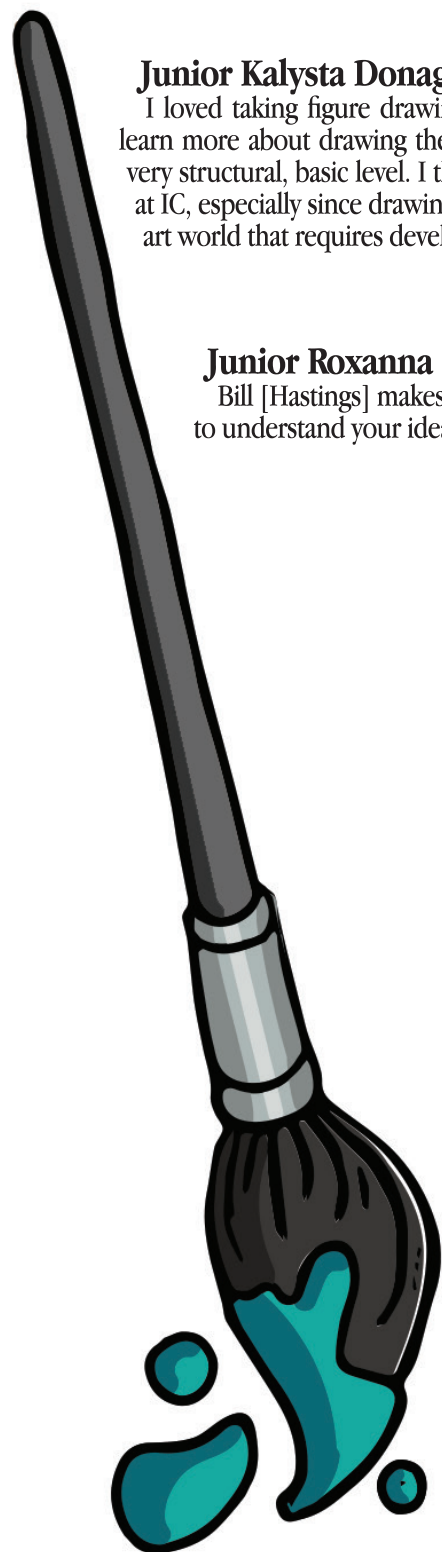
GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Junior Kalysta Donaghy-Robinson

I loved taking figure drawing because it was such a great course to learn more about drawing the human body and build my skills from a very structural, basic level. I think it is such a great course to be offered at IC, especially since drawing people is a more difficult skill within the art world that requires development and practice!

Junior Roxanna Coburn

Bill [Hastings] makes sculpture so digestible. He takes the time to understand your ideas, and he helps you make them possible.

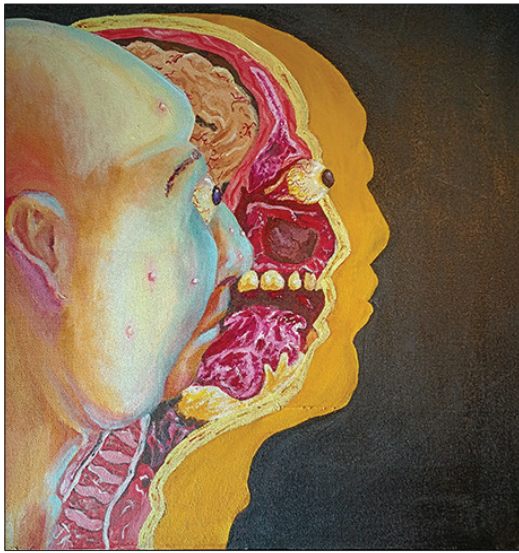


GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Junior Isabella Sloan

I took Intro to Sculpture with Professor Bill Hastings and am now in his Intermediate Sculpture class. While I may not enjoy every project, Professor Hastings pushes me out of my comfort zone to work with new materials and expand my ideas. When I started taking art classes, I didn't like sculpture that much because I struggled with ceramics. But at Ithaca I've learned to enjoy using new mediums to bring artworks into the round!

Art submissions: Gallery wall of IC student works



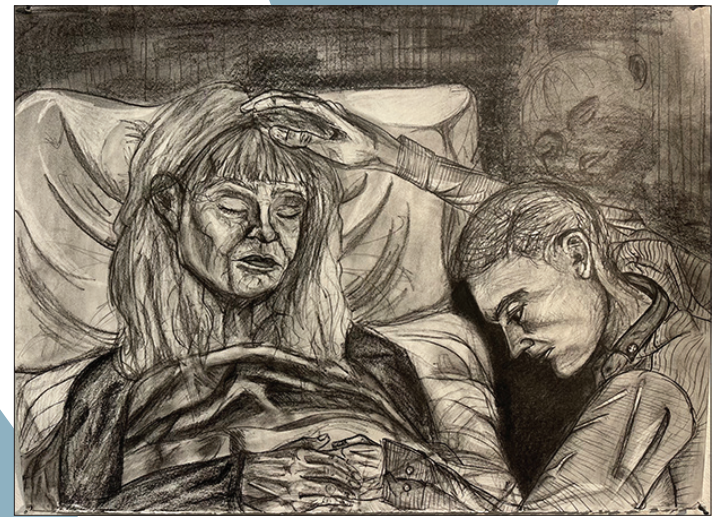
"Dissection of a Self," submitted by first-year student Jackie Kofron



"Illuminated Flower," submitted by junior Isabella Sloan



"The Labyrinth," submitted by sophomore Joey Turner



Submitted by senior Giana Haubrich



"Home," submitted by senior Leanna Yacilla



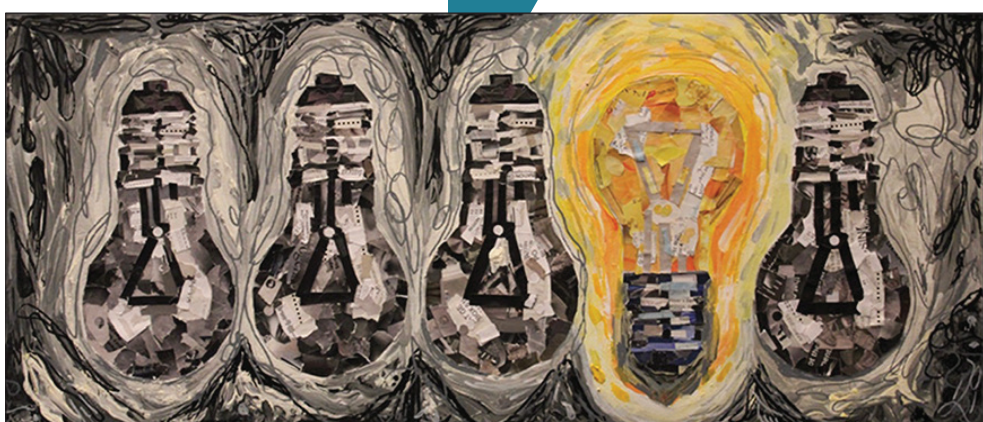
"Crucify me," submitted by first-year student Eoin Keeney-Horsch



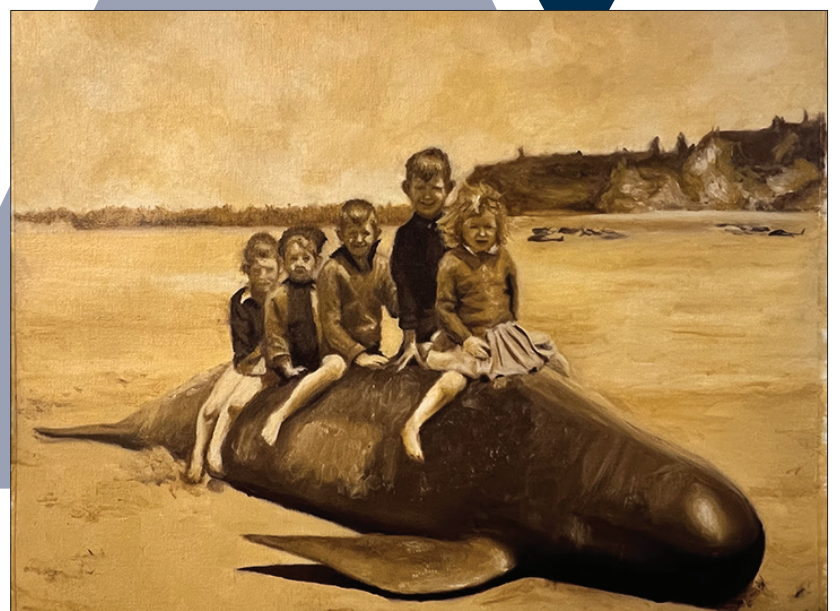
"Lady Macbeth Costume Design," submitted by senior Leanna Yacilla



"Reminiscence," submitted by junior Kalysta Donaghy-Robinson



"hopeful," submitted by sophomore Meredith Waropay

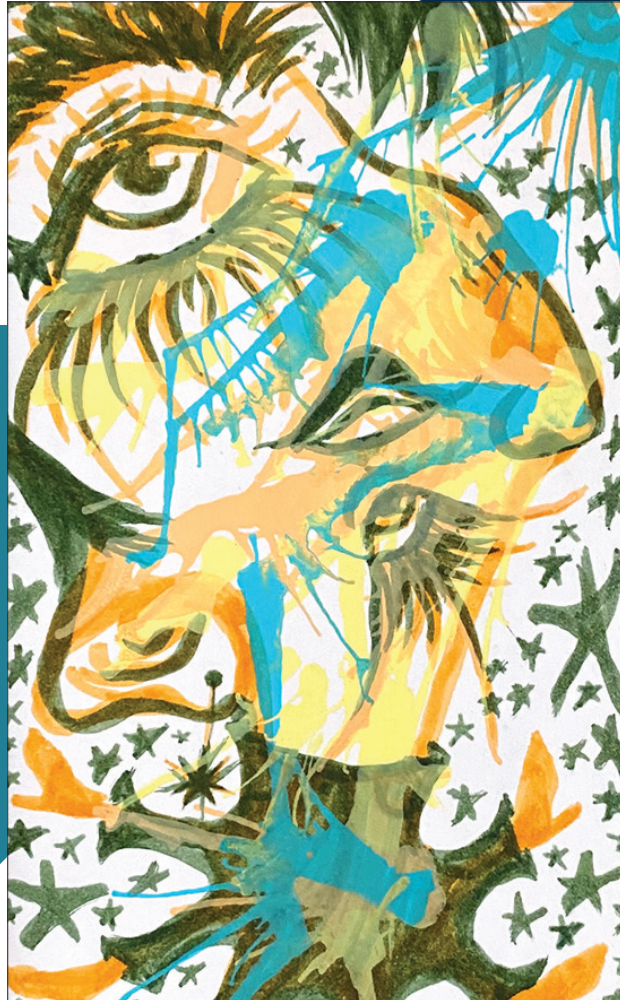


"Pilot Whales," submitted by sophomore Emma Chank

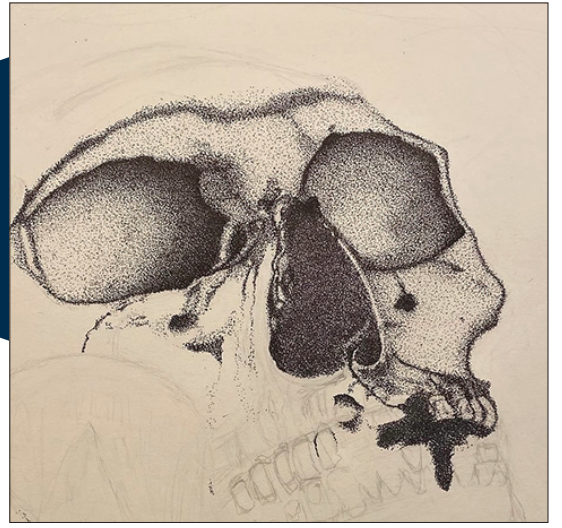
Art submissions continued



"In the Beginning" submitted by senior Amanda Lewis



"Silly Lad" submitted by sophomore Mary Townsend



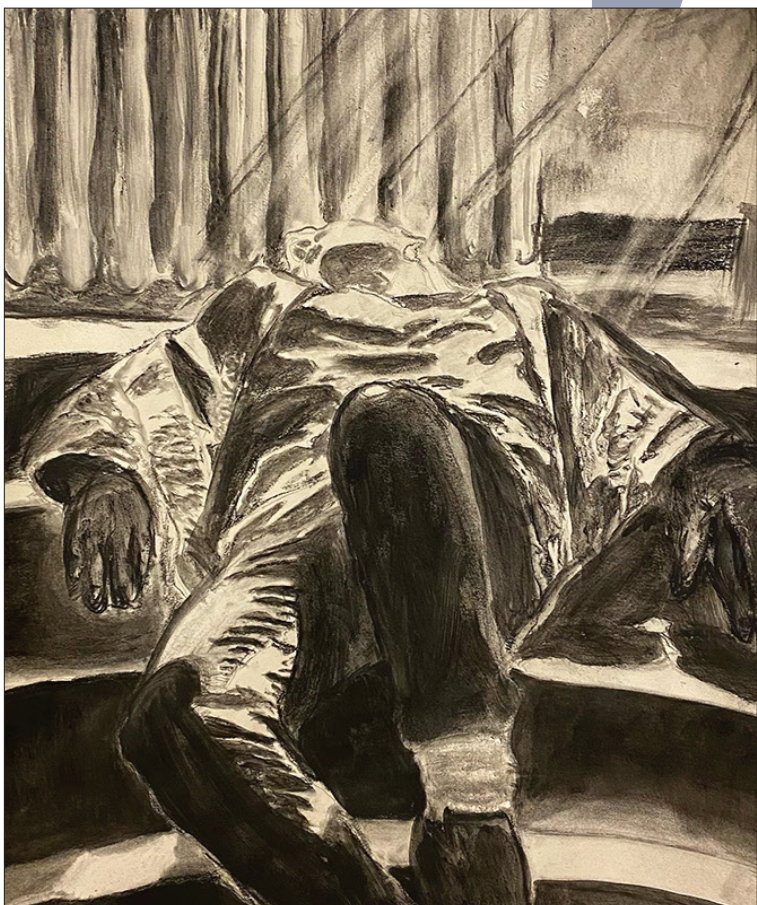
"underneath" submitted by junior MaCaleb Earle



"Self portrait" submitted by first-year student Eoin Keeney-Horsch



"Bergdorf Goodman Window Design - Gluttony" submitted by junior MaCaleb Earle



"After a Long Day" submitted by junior MaCaleb Earle

CORNELL CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

The Klezmatics

Wild, spiritual, provocative, reflective, and ecstatically danceable music.

Saturday April 13 7:30PM
 BAILEY HALL • CORNELL UNIVERSITY
 TICKETS AT CORNELLCONCERTSERIES.COM

CORNELL CONCERT SERIES

Freedom of Expression
Theme Year