



# THE LOUPE

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

[art.ua.edu](http://art.ua.edu)



## 2024 Art & Art History Degree Recipients

*Congratulations to our 2024 graduates for all that you've accomplished this year and in the past several years. Art and art history faculty and staff are proud of you for your creativity, perseverance and resilience. We wish you all the best as you move into the next part of your life journey.*

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS, ART HISTORY**

Briley Johnston, Daphne Shearer\*

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS, STUDIO ART**

Lauren Agnello, Madison Bray, Abigail Brewer, Joseph Cousins, Michael Harris, Ja-Miyah M. Hurry, Nghi Luu, Jordan McDonough, Nadia Sarhan, Daphne Shearer\*, Ella Siccardi, Elyse Snover, Hayden Sudall, Jillian Thorson, Emily R. Verboys

\*double major

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Gabriel Allen, Audrey Charlton, Andy Nguyen, Darrell Shelby, Erin Shelton, Julianne White, Alexandria Yongue, TiYana Young

### **BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, STUDIO ART**

Cecily Downey, Drew Merriweather, Victor Morrow, Samantha Norris, Alyssa Serena, Braxton Smith, SK Steen, Aisley Walaitis, Jane Zhao

### **MASTER OF ARTS, ART HISTORY**

Ivy Borden, Taylor Daubin, Michele Taylor

### **MASTER OF FINE ARTS, STUDIO ART**

Nathan Childers, Dillan Ladner, Katherine Murray



ABOVE: Molly Lay (MFA 2023), "Be Here," 2021, cast bronze and concrete, Woods Quad Sculpture Garden, The University of Alabama.

ON THE COVER: UA Art and Art History study abroad students pose before the Doge's Palace in Venice, Italy. Photo courtesy of Professor Jason Guynes.

### **Explore Pre-Art Therapy at UA**

UA Art and Art History can provide the undergraduate coursework you'll need to enter a master's degree program in art therapy, with several options for preparatory studies. Explore the possibilities here:

<https://art.ua.edu/pre-art-therapy-at-ua/>

*The Loupe*, published since 2002, is the newsletter of the NASAD-accredited department of art and art history in The University of Alabama's College of Arts and Sciences, for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the department. Please send correspondence to: [art@ua.edu](mailto:art@ua.edu).

(loop), n. 1. a small magnifying glass used by jewelers or watchmakers, or for viewing photographic transparencies.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA\* | College of Arts & Sciences  
Department of Art and Art History

PART OF THE  **University of Alabama System.**

## WITH HIGHEST HONORS

## UA ART &amp; ART HISTORY OUTSTANDING STUDENTS NAMED

Each year, one student is selected from each of our six degree programs, to receive the Outstanding Student Award, the department's most prestigious student accolades of the year. In recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to academic achievement are: **Lauren Agnello** (BA studio art), **Ivy Borden** (MA, art history), **Nathan Childers** (MFA studio art), **Samantha Norris** (BFA studio art), **Daphne Shearer** (BA art history) and **Darrell Shelby** (BFA graphic design), selected in their respective areas. Read more about them: <https://wp.me/p4Zowu-cFp>



**IVY BORDEN** Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Art History



**NATHAN CHILDERS**, Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Studio Art



**SAMANTHA NORRIS** Outstanding Undergraduate BFA Student Award in Studio Art



**LAUREN AGNELLO** Outstanding Undergraduate BA Student Award in Studio Art



**DAPHNE SHEARER** Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in Art History



**DARRELL SHELBY** Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in Graphic Design

READ ABOUT next year's amazing group of students, our scholarship recipients, here: <https://wp.me/p4Zowu-cF0>



## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH

### Four Art and Art History Seniors Win UA ASSURE Grants

Seniors **Aubrey Dettman**, **Samantha Norris**, **Alyssa Serena** and **Braxton Smith** were awarded UA ASSURE (Arts & Sciences Support for Undergraduate Research) grants to support their senior research projects.

**AUBREY DETTMAN**, an engineering and art history major, used her ASSURE grant to travel to two historic archives and museum sites in New York to research the 19th-century artist Thomas Cole. She discovered that Cole dabbled in engineering and that no one has researched his inventions or engineering explorations. In Cole's journal at the archives, Dettman found his designs for a rudimentary hydraulic crane, years before a patent was published in the US. Dettman presented her research at UA's 2024 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) Conference, the Undergraduate Poster Session at the UA/UAB Annual Graduate Symposium in Art History, and the Hunter Museum of American Art Undergraduate Symposium in Chattanooga.



**SAMANTHA NORRIS**, a BFA studio art major in ceramics and sculpture, used her ASSURE grant to research ceramics and felting techniques for her thesis exhibition titled "Moth Holes." Norris' work focuses on her relationship with her younger self. "I channel [my] memories into ceramic work consisting of sculptural pieces made through an innocent lens." She built four large ceramic sculptures, incorporating hundreds of needle-felted "moths" made from animal fibers to suggest children's toys, conveying innocence. Norris presented her research at UA's 2024 URCA



Conference and won the Conference Award for Excellence and Achievement. She also exhibited in the 2024 Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art thesis group exhibition in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery.

**ALYSSA SERENA**, a BFA studio art major in digital media and painting, used her ASSURE grant to develop her thesis exhibition "Shadows, Spirits, and Echoes," that uses video, photography and painting to explore "situational and relational factors in the development of an individual's sense of self." Serena presented her work in the 2024 Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art thesis group exhibition, in UA's Sella-Granata Art Gallery.



MIDDLE LEFT: Aubrey Dettman studying documents in the Thomas Cole House Museum in Catskill, New York. TOP RIGHT: Samantha Norris being congratulated by "Big Al" at her URCA research exhibit. ABOVE RIGHT: Alyssa Serena, installation shot from "Shadows, Spirits, and Echoes," in the Sella-Granata Art Gallery.



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*INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH*

### What We Did on Our Summer Vacation!

During May Interim, twenty-seven lucky University of Alabama students spent fifteen days in Italy studying art history and studio art. Professors Jason Guynes, Allison Grant and Dr. Rachel Stephens led the group on a study tour of historic art and architectural sites in Rome, Siena, Florence and Venice. They were able to study up-close iconic sites including the Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica, Florence Cathedral, Uffizi Gallery, the Piazza San Marco and the Doge's Palace.

More than half of the students who traveled were art history or studio art majors; the rest were majors from fields ranging from communications, creative media and interior design, to philosophy, public health and environmental engineering. Join us in Spain in 2025!



ABOVE: UA Art and Art History study abroad students pose before the Doge's Palace in Venice, Italy. Photo courtesy of Professor Jason Guynes.



**BRAXTON SMITH**, a BFA studio art major in digital media and photography, used his ASSURE grant to research, travel and photograph important sites of Native peoples throughout the state for his thesis exhibition, "Indigenous Landscapes and Structures in Alabama." Along the way, Smith investigated his own family's history, including stories passed down through generations that his great-great-grandmother was a Native American from the Ohio River Valley. Smith presented his work at the 2024 BFA studio art thesis group exhibition in the Sel-la-Granata Art Gallery.

LEFT: Braxton Smith, "The Chieftains Mound at Moundville Archaeological Complex," photograph, 2024.



# exhibitions

## MASTER OF ARTS THESIS EXHIBITIONS

### SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY

March 1-8, 2024

& March 18-22, 2024



### *Free Form, Free From*

DEBANJALY SEN

### *Materiae Sanctus*

STEPHEN BLADES

### *In Betweens*

JIGISHA KIRAN



TOP LEFT: Stephen Blades installation view. TOP RIGHT: Debanjaly Sen, "I feel good," 2023, 42 x 60 inches, acrylic on unstretched canvas. Image courtesy of the artist. BELOW LEFT: Jigisha Kiran, "Untitled," digital photo, 24 x 30 inches. BELOW RIGHT: Stephen Blades, "Shell Relic #1," 2024, bronze, steel, mahogany, pine, walnut, cedar, maple, 1935 reclaimed yellow pine, cherry, red oak, 10 x 10 x 16 inches.

# exhibitions

## MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITIONS

SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY



### *Regulars*

KAT MURRAY

March 29 to April 9, 2024



### *Yet, Nowhere Feels Like Home*

DILLAN LADNER

March 18-22, 2024



TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: Kat Murray, installation views, *Regulars*.  
TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT: Dillan Ladner, installation views, *Yet, Nowhere Feels Like Home*.



# exhibitions

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA GALLERY

## Knowing Your Place

NATHAN CHILDERS

MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS

EXHIBITION

April 5 – May 3, 2024



ABOVE LEFT:  
Nathan Childers,  
installation view,  
photo courtesy  
Daniel White.

ABOVE RIGHT:  
Nathan Childers,  
"The Boundaries  
We're Allowed," 2024,  
oil on wood panel,  
32 x 24 inches.

LEFT: Nathan Childers,  
"Between Us," 2024,  
oil on wood panel,  
20 x 16 inches.  
Images courtesy of  
the artist.

## Garden Ethics

STEPHEN W. EVANS

January 17 - March 29, 2024



RIGHT:  
Stephen W. Evans,  
"In The Woods,"  
2022, acrylic, balsa  
wood and MDF,  
14 x 15 inches.  
Image courtesy of  
the artist.



## SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY



ABOVE: Erin Shelton (left) and Audrey Charlton (right)

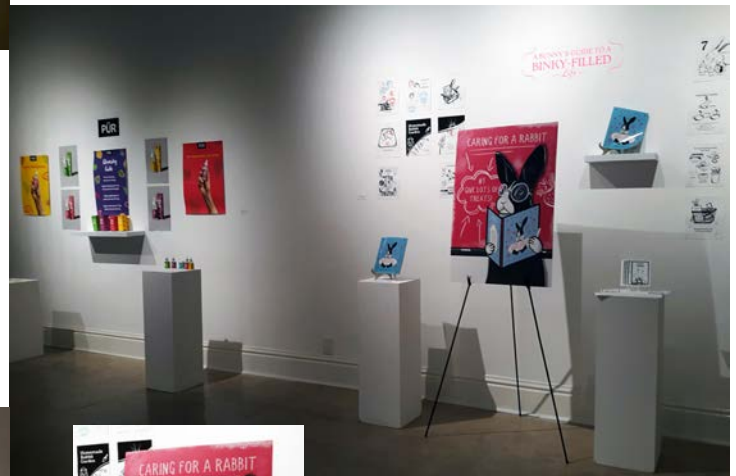


### BLENDED

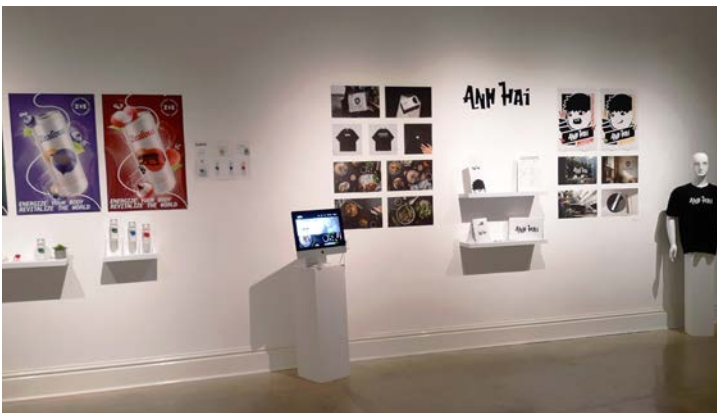
2024 GRAPHIC DESIGN THESIS EXHIBITION

April 15 – 22, 2024

Sella-Granata Art Gallery

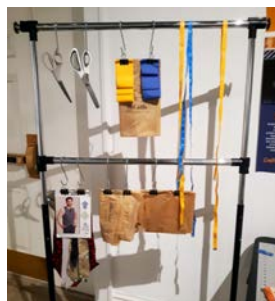


ABOVE: Alexandria Yongue (left) and Julianne White (right and left inset)



ABOVE: Darrell Shelby (left) and Andy Nguyen (right)

DETAIL RIGHT: TiYana Young



ABOVE: Gabriel Allen (left) and TiYana Young (above right and far left)



## SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY

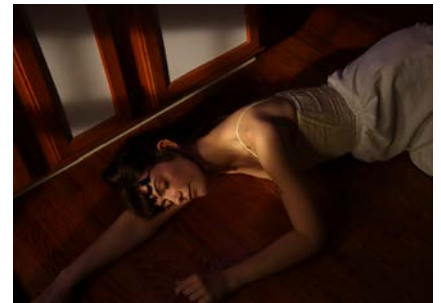


### 2024 BFA STUDIO ART SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION

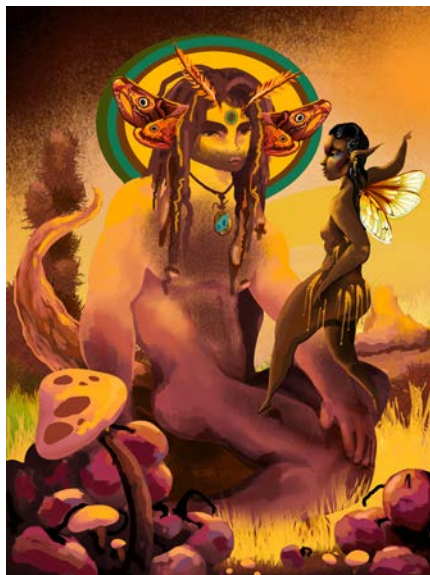
April 30 – May 4, 2024



TOP LEFT: Aisley Walaitis, installation from "Consumption;" ABOVE LEFT: Braxton Smith, "The Chieftains Mound at Moundville Archaeological Complex;" BOTTOM LEFT: Drew Merriweather, from "Brown Sugar: Land of the Gods"



TOP RIGHT: Alyssa Serena, "Shadows, Spirits, and Echoes. ABOVE RIGHT: Halle Jenkins, "The Existential Home." BOTTOM RIGHT: VJ Morrow, "Acrylic Stories"



MIDDLE CENTER: Cecily Downey, "The Things We Leave Behind"  
BOTTOM CENTER: Samantha Norris, installation from "Moth Holes"



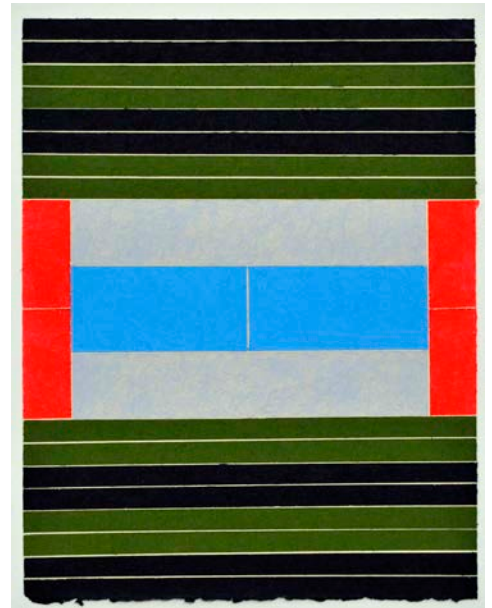
OVERLEAF BOTTOM LEFT: Jane Zhao, installation from "You Will Watch Me Die"  
OVERLEAF BOTTOM RIGHT: SK Steen, installation from "Cirque du Eskeille"



SELLA-GRANATA ART GALLERY • SARAH MOODY GALLERY OF ART

## 2024 FACULTY BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

January 11 – February 12, 2024



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT.: Jonathan Cumberland, "Earth," 2022, digital, 20 x 16 inches; Allison Grant, "Beneath the Heel/For No One," 2023, archival pigment print, 30 x 40 inches; William Dooley, "Bunker B," 2021, oil pastel on paper

RIGHT: Jason Guynes, "Father and Daughter," 2023, oil on panel

*MORE FACULTY BIENNIAL OVERLEAF...*

## MORE BFA STUDIO ART THESES





# exhibitions

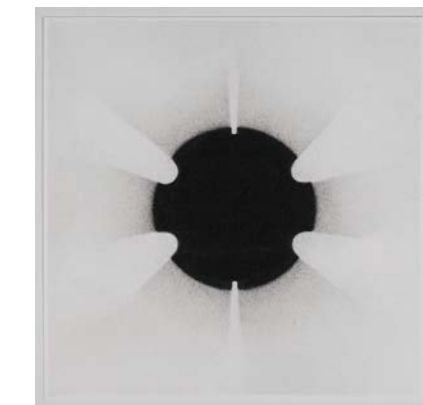
## SARAH MOODY GALLERY OF ART

### 2024 FACULTY BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

January 11 – February 12, 2024



ABOVE: Holland Hopson, "Loop Line Logics," 2023, 25 generative computer image plotter prints, archival ink on acid-free paper



TOP CENTER: Wade F. MacDonald, "Paltry Conversations: A Dedication," 2022, stoneware, underglazes, acrylic paint, Plexiglas, wood, LED lighting

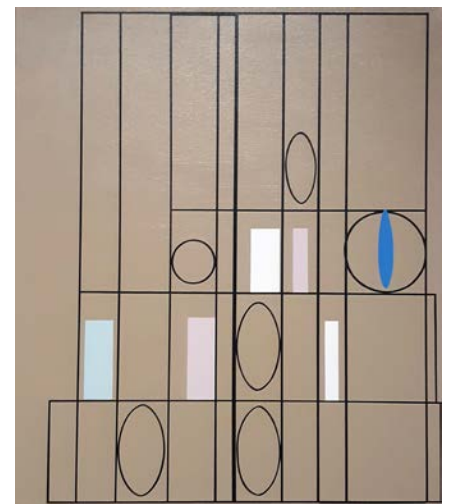
MIDDLE CENTER, Pete Schulte, "Untitled," 2020, graphite on paper

BOTTOM LEFT: Celestia Morgan, "From the Passage Series," 2016, archival pigment print

BOTTOM RIGHT: Melissa Yes, "Belief," 2022, digital video created in collaboration with an artificial intelligence



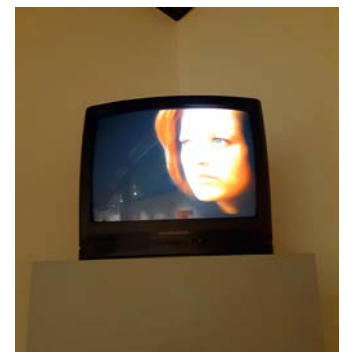
ABOVE: Sarah Marshall, "Anonymous Intimacy," 2022, screenprint, cyanotype, natural and artificial dyes, machine quilting



Bryce Speed, "Oh, Chagrin," 2023, acrylic on canvas



Jamey Grimes, "Wave," 2024, corrugated plastic





# exhibitions

SARAH MOODY GALLERY OF ART • PAUL R. JONES MUSEUM

## SHARON BUTLER: MARCH

February 27 – April 5, 2024



ABOVE: Sharon Butler, "San Miguel," 2021, oil on canvas, 52 x 45 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

## WITHIN: Portrait Responses

to the Paul R. Jones Collection

June 2 – July 28, 2023



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Self-portraits in acrylic: CHS students Calix Frierson, Zharia Simmons, Blake Easterwood, Cat Bui.

## Selections from THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

April 22 – June 14, 2024

## EUGENE MARTIN: The Creative Act

An Exhibition from the LSU Museum of Art

March 1 – May 3, 2024



LEFT: William Paul Thomas, "Marley Messai's Uncle," 2019, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches. P2019.29. Image courtesy of the artist.



RIGHT: Installation view, Eugene Martin: The Creative Act, Paul R. Jones Museum. Photo courtesy Daniel White.



## FACULTY RESEARCH



## Works by William Dooley Featured at ASFA

In February, William Dooley, director of the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art and associate professor of drawing, showcased his paintings in a three-person exhibition, “Similar but Different,” at the Vulcan Materials Gallery at the Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA) in Birmingham.

## AAH Hosts First International Art History Symposium on UA Campus

Art historians Dr. Tanja Jones, Dr. Doris Sung, and Rebecca Teague organized and held the 2024 symposium, “Challenging Empire: Women, Art, and the Global Early Modern World,” March 1-2, 2024, at UA, the Birmingham (AL) Museum of Art, and online, the first international art history conference hosted on UA campus. Developed from their ongoing digital project *Global Makers: Women Artists in the Early Modern Courts of Europe and Asia*, the symposium showcased cultural production by and for early modern women – particularly those associated with the courts – on a global scale. Sixteen leading scholars representing national and international institutions presented their research during the two-day event. The symposium was supported by the Samuel H. Kress

## Bethany Moody Named Artist-in-Residence for Studio By The Tracks

Bethany Moody, a full-time instructor in UA art studio foundations, was selected to be the spring artist-in-residence for Studio By The Tracks (SBTT) in Birmingham, a nonprofit art studio that serves adult artists with autism spectrum disorder. Noting the uniqueness of SBTT’s programs, Moody said, “As a neurodiverse person, it can be challenging to find communities where I feel a true sense of belonging, where I can deeply connect with people and build relationships that feel enriching and sustainable.” Moody was awarded Best in Fine Art Crafts in the 2023 Robin Nance Metz Art Competition at Shelby County Arts Council, Columbiana, AL, and has exhibited her work nationally and regionally.



Foundation, Birmingham Museum of Art and The University of Alabama’s Office for Research and Economic Development, Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies, Medieval and Early Modern European Studies, Asian Studies, Alabama Digital Humanities Center, College of Arts & Sciences, and the departments of religious studies and art and art history.

ABOVE LEFT: William Dooley, “Tender Bright,” 2023, oil pastel, ink, pencil on paper, 14 x 11 inches. Photo by Allen Rosen. ABOVE RIGHT: Bethany Moody, courtesy of the artist.



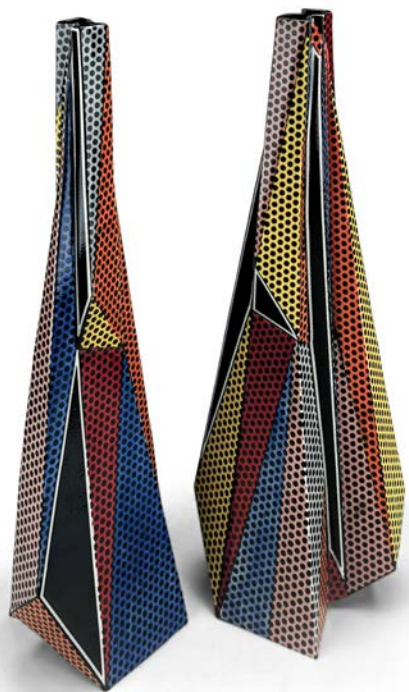
## FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AUM Hosts Celestia Morgan Solo Exhibition**

Assistant Professor Celestia Morgan held a solo exhibition, *Disparities*, at the Cason McDermott Art Gallery, AUM (Auburn University at Montgomery), in February and March. In conjunction with her exhibition, Morgan gave a talk about her work at AUM's Taylor Center, hosted by the Civil Rights & Civil Virtue Society.

**Wade MacDonald Wins South Arts Career Grant**

Assistant Professor Wade MacDonald was awarded a South Arts Career Opportunity Grant in May and will use the funds to attend an invitational artist residency, *Digital Clay*, at Watershed Center for Ceramic Art in June. The first of its kind, the residency will bring together 30 ceramic artists from around the US who are developing and implementing digital approaches to clay.



ABOVE LEFT: Wade F. MacDonald, "Tall Fracture Vases," 2023, porcelain, underglazes, glaze fired to cone 5, 13.5 x 4.5 x 4 inches. Image courtesy of the artist. ABOVE RIGHT: Rachel Dobson, photo courtesy UA Photography.



TOP RIGHT: Celestia Morgan, "Walmart (Fairfield 1972)," 2021, archival pigment print. Image courtesy of the artist.

**Rachel Dobson to Retire**

Rachel Dobson, the department's communications specialist, will retire this summer after more than twenty-five years at UA, twenty-three in art and art history. After working at *Alabama Heritage* and the UA Press, Dobson was hired as the art department's slide curator in 2001 just a few years before the world shifted from analog to digital technology. As teaching resources changed, Dobson stopped making slides and found other ways to be useful. She started an in-house news flyer that branched into an online monthly newsletter and a 16-page magazine (*The Loupe*) that covers department activities each semester. In 2011, her title officially changed from slide curator to communications specialist and visual resources curator, recognizing her work on the department's library, website and social media accounts, including a 6,000+ online photo collection on Flickr.com and two book collections totaling more than 2,500, cataloged on LibraryThing.com. As her job description morphed over the years, Dobson said, she learned many of the skills needed for her work through UA's staff training courses and by pursuing master's degrees in art history and in library and information studies at UA. "As the world and our work changed, my department and my professors always supported my learning while working. I'll always be grateful for the opportunities to learn on this campus."





## UA's Graphic Design Program Named GDUSA Top Design School

In May, *Graphic Design USA* included UA's Department of Art and Art History graphic design program in its list of Top Design Schools. *GDUSA* is one of the oldest graphic design organizations in America. UA AAH student accolades have been gaining other national and local attention this year:

- The February 2024 issue of *Graphic Design USA* included two UA BFA graphic design majors in their "Students to Watch" feature: **Katelyn Daniewicz** (BFA 2023) and senior BFA major **Darrell Shelby**.
- Four students in Assistant Professor Jonathan Cumberland's graphic design classes have been recognized for their work in the 60th *GDUSA* Annual Showcase. **Katelyn Daniewicz** (BFA 2023), from Northport, AL, won for her "Foxfire" Logo. **Katie Nebbia** (BFA 2023), from Buffalo, NY, won for her design of a mobile website for "Fuku Ramen." Senior **Andy Nguyen**, from Madison, Ala., won for his design of a mobile website for "Viet Huong." Junior **Reese Yarbrough**, from Alabaster, Ala., won for her "Hive Mind" brochure. The students are all BFA graphic design majors.
- Closer to home, three BFA graphic design majors brought home local ADDY awards in December. Reese Yarbrough won the Gold ADDY and Best in Show for Book Design for "The Virginian." She also won the Silver ADDY and the Judge's Choice Award for Editorial Design for her "Baldessari Interview." Andy Nguyen won the Silver ADDY for Book Design for "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Typeface." Junior Jacey Wieter won the Silver ADDY for Collateral/Brochure design for "Pool: Skill, Strategy, Community." In addition, in the professional category, Jonathan Cumberland won the Silver ADDY for Illustration for his "Brilliance of Fire" for The University of Alabama National Alumni Association.



### LIFE AROUND WOODS QUAD



#### 2024 | STUDENTS TO WATCH



KATELYN DANIEWICZ  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



DARRELL SHELBY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



BOTTOM LEFT: Students and creative professionals meet for 2024 Alabama Design Portfolio Review hosted by UA. Photo courtesy J. Cumberland. MIDDLE RIGHT: *GDUSA* clipping, "2024 | Students to Watch," February 2024. BOTTOM RIGHT (L-R): Jonathan Cumberland, Andy Nguyen, Jacey Wieter and Reese Yarbrough show off their 2024 ADDY awards. Photo courtesy Tuscaloosa ADDYs.