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**School of the Arts Upcoming - May 2026**

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Fri, May 1, 2026 at 9:01 AM





*Festival of the Arts and Research Days - Student Showcase 2026*

*Artist: Jane Leifer*

*Photo credit: Robert Fischer*

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## **FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND RESEARCH DAYS** **APRIL 24 - MAY 1**

*Only one day left! Check out the [full schedule here](#) - nearly 50 different events over one week!*

Thank you so much for an outstanding *Festival of the Arts*! Now in its third year, we joined forces with *Research Days* and *Admitted Students Day* to ensure the widest reach possible, and it was a great success! We also brought the *Festival of the Arts and Research Days* into our surrounding community, with exhibitions and performances at Phelps Mansion and Stellar Human.

This year's festival featured screen printing and steel drums on the spine, projections onto the Library Tower, Momenta at the Binghamton University Art Museum, student recitals and performances, a lighting exhibit, Chess the Musical, faculty presentations, and much much more!

**And there is still one day left!** Check out the [full schedule here](#) - nearly 50 different events over one week!

*Christopher Robbins  
Founding Director, School of the Arts  
Harpur College, Binghamton University*

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Students and Departments: Open Call for Tabling at SOAR FEST 2026**

Please submit this **form** if your arts organization / student group would like to participate in the SOAR Art Fest 2026.

The Fest will be held on **August 28th, 2026 from 6-8 p.m.** with a free lawn ticket(s) to the "So Good: The Neil Diamond Experience" concert to follow, courtesy of the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts.

**Deadline: May 15, 2026**

We will reach out to you in August with more information.

- **Call for artists: Broome Arts Festival**

BCAC's inaugural outdoor art festival event is in celebration of their 40-year history of promoting the arts in Broome County! It's a single-day event to take place on State Street, on Saturday, September 19th, with a rain date of Sunday, September 20th. Read more and apply **HERE**. Get the early bird price if you apply before May 17!

- **The Arts and Clean Energy Awareness Grant**

This grant supports the creation of new art with a community engagement element (visual art, murals, performing art, literary art, storytelling, or film) in Broome County under the theme Our Common Clean Energy Future. The goal is to fund new art that will promote an awareness of clean energy and empower residents to reduce their energy use and carbon footprint. Read more and apply **HERE**.

**Deadline: May 17.**

- **First Friday Funding**

Support is available for student, staff, and faculty projects at Binghamton's First Friday. Apply here.

- **Want your event documented? Let us know!**

If you have an event you'd like photographed or filmed, please submit a request at least two weeks in advance to our Student Media Team. Media Team Request Form



*Wind Symphony Concert - Spring 2026*

*Photo Credit: Robert Fischer*

## **In other news...**

- **SOAR on local TV: Binghamton University to showcase student talent at Festival of Arts and Research Days**
- **Ansa Akyea** (Theatre) co-directed the professional theater production of "Marie and Rosetta" by George Brant at Yellowtree Theatre in Minnesota. Professor Akyea also hosted award-winning actor and educator Carolyn Michelle Smith to teach an On-camera Intensive class and hosted a special screening and Q&A of the award-winning film "Familiar Touch." Additionally, Akyea was awarded 2026 Career Champion by the Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development.
- **Frank Chang's** (Art & Design) solo show, *The Mesh*, is opening May 8, 7–10 p.m. at the Hallwalls in Buffalo, NY. This show brings together a few strands that Chang has been pursuing for the last few years, including interconnectedness amidst the ecological crisis, speculative archaeology, and notions of energy from the Qing Dynasty to German Idealism to lithium extractivism today. The opening begins with an artist talk at 7 p.m., followed by a reception, and all are welcome.

- **Amir Ahmadi Arian** (Creative Writing Program) published essays recently in the [New York Review of Books](#) and the [New York Times](#). He was also a featured guest on a recent episode of [Democracy Now](#).
- **Sarah Nance** (Art & Design) wrote an essay titled "Mirage and Disorientation" for an inaugural issue of a literary science magazine [Orbital Studies Magazine](#) that will launch on May 6th, in Toronto, ON.
- **Tina Chang** (Creative Writing Program) celebrated the [40th anniversary of Poets House](#) with 40 poets, including Mark Doty, Nick Flynn, Cornelius Eady, Nicole Sealey and more on April 18, 12-6pm. Come for food, drink, birthday cake, and readings.
- **Billie Feigin** (BA Photography, Art & Design) was awarded a Woodstock Byrdcliffe Artist Residency in fall 2026.
- **Christopher Swift** (Art & Design) held a RISO Lecture and Workshop titled "Perceptual Halftones and Color Agency" at School of Art, Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences, University of Arkansas, back in February.
- **Faiza Khan** (Art History Doctoral Candidate) presented paper "Yahya Merchant's Gulistan Cinema Hall: Architecture and Nation-Building in Post-Partition Bengal" at the Symposium on the History of Art presented by the Institute of Fine Arts and The Frick Collection on April 10, 2026.
- **Andrea Kastner** (Art & Design) had an exhibition titled "Walking Distance" at the [University of Western Illinois Art Gallery](#), that was on view Feb 10 - Mar 27.
- **Art History alumni** and **graduate students** presented across multiple sessions at the College Art Association (CAA) Conference. **Emily Owens** (Doctoral student) presented her paper "These Silly Antics: Radical Pedagogy and the Situationist International" and **Sun Yang Park** (Doctoral student) presented "Oscillations of Belonging and Estrangement: Yang Haegue's Diasporic Art".
- **Eunha Chang** (Art History Doctoral student) published the essay "To Inscribe in the Ruins: Mimicry and Malware in the Work of TJ Shin and Shu Lea Cheang" in *Contemporary Lynx*. The essay appears in "Mindscapes #4: Ruins," a special issue of the journal.
- **Kyle Sossamon** (Art History Doctoral student) published a review of the book "Transmissibility: Writing Aesthetic History" by Jae Emerling in the journal *Critical Inquiry*. The full review can be found [here](#).

- Associate Director of Creative Writing **Jen DeGregorio** (Creative Writing Program) was a featured reader with [The Fields](#) reading series at the duCret Center of Art in Plainfield, NJ, on April 23 and with the [Couplet](#) reading series at Books Are Magic in Brooklyn on April 24.
- **Tom McDonough** (Art History) published an article in *Texte zur Kunst* reporting on Christopher Williams's double LP *Radio Play*. Available for reading [here](#).  
McDonough's 2004 essay on Pierre Huyghe, "No Ghost," has been reprinted in the new "OCTOBER Files" anthology devoted to the artist.  
He also presented "Syntaxes of Dependency: In the Library with Liam Gillick" at CAA.
- **Kari Varner** (Art & Design) is having a two-person photo exhibition titled "Canal as Collaborator," along with Sarah Cameron Sund, that will be on view Apr 17th - Sep 27th, in the Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse, New York.  
Varner also received a 2026 NYSCA Support for Artists Grant for her project "Eutrophia" sponsored by the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes. This award will support the use of living algae as a photographic medium to explore the cycle of growth and decay in New York States fresh water ways.
- **Hippocrates Cheng** (Music) shares his [Desktop Discovery: the ancient Chinese bells in his office](#)
- **Marcus Newton** (Art & Design) had several photography group exhibitions this spring: "Contemporary Landscapes: From Observational to Symbolic" at the Mosesian Center for the Arts (Massachusetts) that was on view Jan 23 - Mar 6th; "Evident Nature" at The Idea Kitchen (New York) that was on view Feb 2 - Apr 30; "Infinite Weight/Present Histories" at the University of West Georgia that was on view Mar 3 - 26; and "FotoFest 2026 Juried Exhibition" at the Art League of Baytown (Houston, TX) on view Mar 12 - May 16th.
- [Hiding Places: Filmmaker's work explores the boundaries of human and non-human - Magda Bermudez's experimental film will screen at the European Media Art Festival in Germany](#)
- [Student-curated "To Whom It May Concern" screening set at April 10 at Bundy Museum: Free event draws from international film archives, presenting pieces rarely seen in public settings](#)
- [One Pulse: Event to showcase multicultural dance groups on campus: The April 11 event in the Chamber Hall also included a free ethnic/cultural food-tasting](#)
- [Binghamton University Junior's 'American Idol' run ends at the top 12: Junior Jesse Findling performs 'Wonderwall' on '90s Judges' Song Contest' night](#)

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To have your update featured, please fill out this [form](#).

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS May 2026

Please see below for highlights from each department, and check out the [School of the Arts calendar](#) for much, much more. [Subscribe from your phone](#) for easy access.

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### SOAR

*Festival of the Arts and Research Days*

4/24-5/1

### THEATRE

#### **Chess**

5/1 | 8 p.m.

5/3 | 2 p.m.

Watters Theater | [Ticketed](#)





## ANDERSON CENTER & MUSIC

***Indigo Girls, performing with the Binghamton University Symphony Orchestra***

5/3 | 7:30 p.m.

Osterhout Concert Theater | [Ticketed](#)

## CINEMA

***End of Semester Film Show***

5/7 | 4:30 p.m.

LH 6 | Free Admission



## MUSIC

***Pocket Opera***

5/9 | 3 p.m.

Tri-Cities Opera Center (315 Clinton St., Binghamton) | [Ticketed](#)

## ART AND DESIGN

### **Senior Exhibition closing**

On View: 4/30-5/16

M-F | 9-5 p.m.

5/16 | 9-5 p.m.

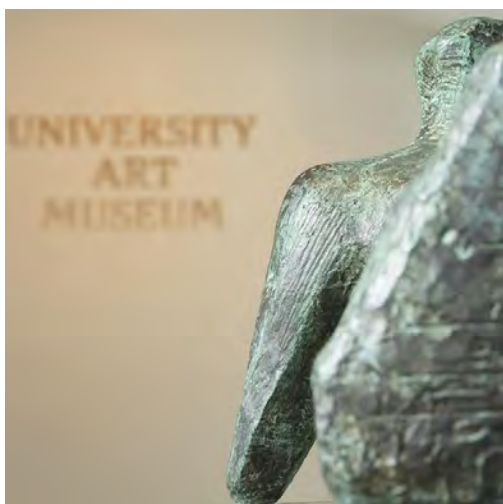
Rosefsky Gallery & Grand Corridor |

Free Admission



## BU ART MUSEUM

### **Exhibitions Closing:**



- "Line, Color, Contrast: Japanese Prints and New York Arts and Crafts"
- "Drawing Connections: Frank Lloyd Wright"
- "Why So Blue? The Influence of Chinese Blue-and-White Porcelain"
- "Figures and Fragments: Collage and the Human Form"
- "Japanese Card Games and the Significance of Flora"

On view: 1/29/2026- 5/16/2026

T-S Noon-4 p.m. | TR Noon-7 p.m.

5/16 | 12-4 p.m.

BUAM Galleries | Free Admission

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**SUBSCRIBE TO SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CALENDAR  
BOX OFFICE**

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