



Performance, exhibition, Homecoming with Wake the Arts

Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 3:35 PM



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

This October is packed with creative energy here at Wake Forest. I'm especially thrilled to invite you to join me and my colleague Molly Kaderka for the opening reception of our two-person exhibition at the Hanes Gallery, titled **The Darkness**, on Thursday, October 16th, from 5pm to 8pm, which will include a performance piece I call *The Induction Ceremony* at 6pm. Even if you can't join us then, I hope you'll stop by the gallery to check it out (the exhibition is on view through December 12th). I'm so excited to share this work with the entire Wake community.

My own work in the exhibition is focused on capturing this particular moment we are all living through. It consists of drawings of the major figures dominating the

headlines these days, as well as artists, writers, and thinkers we have lost in the last couple of years. Given the onslaught of daily news — much of it profoundly negative — it can be difficult to stay informed and engaged, but I think it is our duty. Accompanying my paintings is a series of ceramic works, *The Healing Devices*, and two large sculptures, *Black Rock Negative Energy Absorbers*. These works are intended to serve as a counterpoint to the harsh realities of the day, offering a solution rooted in the power of faith, the power of art, and the power of love.

My performance on October 16th, *The Induction Ceremony*, will explore these themes. As my character, *The Healer*, I will activate my Black Rock Negative Energy Absorber sculptures. This performance combines elements of jazz improvisation, experimental/noise music, and performance art to create a type of séance in which the performers and viewers are lifted out of the current political moment and brought to a place of cathartic release. This will include Rhys Shepherd and me (as *The Healer*) on midi controller, theremin, and various noise-making objects, Elia Einhorn on keys and harmonium, Marcus Braithwaite on drums, and Mark Dixon on bass.

The Art Department has many more exciting events in the coming weeks, including a **Community Night** on October 21, a talk by Vermont Cartoonist Laureate Tillie Walden titled “**Comics and Queerness in Vermont and Beyond**” on October 22, a lecture by Art History alum Andy Rosenwald titled “Life after Art History: Turning Passion into Practice” on October 23rd, and the opening of ***Let it Show!*** at stArt Gallery on November 10th.

I’m also looking forward to “**Inter Alia: North Carolina Forests**,” a collaborative commission between composer David Kirkland Garner, poet Ishion Hutchinson and premiered by the WFU Symphony Orchestra with the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra. In the coming weeks, we’ll be honored with the presence of jazz legends as the Secrest Artists Series brings **Christian McBride on bass and Brad Mehldau on piano**—and on November 9 we’ll hear words of wisdom from saxophone legend **Branford Marsalis** as he receives the 2025 Maya Angelou

Artist-in-Residence Award. I hope to see you at many - if not all - of these art focused events (and many more events, such as the opening of **Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery** that you can read about below!)

Best,

Rudy Shepherd
Professor, Associate Chair
Department of Art



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What's Happening



The Darkness: New works by Rudy Shepherd + Molly Kaderka

Opening Reception and Performance: October 16th, 5pm-8pm

Performance at 6pm

Exhibition open through December 12, 2025

Hanes Art Gallery

Additional programming:

Thursday, November 13: Joint Artist Talk

5:30pm, Hanes Art Gallery

Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd will do a walkthrough and combined artist talk, moderated by Laura Minton ('11), Wake alum and the new Acquavella Director of University Art Galleries & Collections.

Friday, November 14: Marbling Workshop by Molly Kaderka

12pm - 2pm, Hanes Art Gallery

The Darkness is an exhibition of recent works by Wake Forest University studio art faculty Rudy Shepherd and Molly Kaderka. This two-person exhibition brings together drawing, painting, sculpture, and performance, offering a dialogue between the artists' individual artistic practices.

Read more



Secrest Artists Series: Christian McBride, bass, & Brad Mehldau, piano

Tuesday, October 21

7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall (Scales Fine Arts Center)

Two of the most respected artists in contemporary jazz join forces. Brad Mehldau's "intimate piano voice" partners with Christian McBride's "sophistication and swing" to create an unforgettable evening of jazz. This longtime friendship and musical camaraderie has led to various collaborations through the years including the albums *MoodSwing* (1994), *RoundAgain* (2020), and *LongGone* (2023) with Joshua Redman and Brian Blade. Brad Mehldau says, "It is a dream come true to play with Christian in this duo setting."

Read more

**Inter Alia: North Carolina Forests****Artist Residency and Concert:** October 20-25, 2025**Performance: Friday, October 24:** Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm

The UNCSA Symphony Orchestra and the Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra perform together in a free side-by-side concert at Brendle Recital Hall on the campus of Wake Forest University.

Conducted by J. Aaron Hardwick, the program features Jean Sibelius's radiant *Symphony No. 3 in C Major* and the world premiere of "*Inter Alia*," a new work for soprano and orchestra by composer David Kirkland Garner. Based on a poem of the same name by Ishion Hutchinson — a 2023 T.S. Eliot Prize finalist — the piece explores tree species native to Western North Carolina, including on the campus of Wake "Forest." Soprano Jodi Burns from the UNCSA School of Music faculty joins the orchestras in this unique collaboration, showcasing students from both institutions in a powerful celebration of nature, music and creative partnership.

Read more

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

by Ken Ludwig, directed by J. K. Curry
October 31 & November 1, 6-8 at 7:30 pm
November 2 & 9 at 2:00 pm
Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center



What danger lurks on the moors? Could it be a supernatural, bloodthirsty hound? Does the new heir to the Baskerville estate need to fear a deadly curse? Can the great detective save the day? In this lively, comic retelling of Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles," award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig creates a murderously funny adventure.

[Read more](#)



Branford Marsalis: Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence

November 9, 2025
4pm, Brendle Recital Hall

Jazz musician Branford Marsalis has been named Wake Forest University's 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence. Marsalis, a globally celebrated artist known

for his unparalleled contributions to jazz, classical music, film, and Broadway, will bring his vast experience and creative spirit to the Wake Forest campus.

The Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award was established to bring world-renowned artists to campus for engagement with students, faculty, staff and the wider community. In 2023, the residency's inaugural year, Emmy award-winning director and producer Debbie Allen was the first honoree. The residency is awarded every two years.

[Read more](#)

Homecoming Week with Wake the Arts

October 18-27, 2025

A poster for Homecoming Week with Wake the Arts. The background is a dark blue with a subtle pattern of white, thin, vertical lines. At the top left is a circular logo with the letters 'ARTS' in a stylized, gold-colored font. To the right of the logo, the text 'HOMECOMING WEEK' is in a large, white, sans-serif font, and 'WITH WAKE THE ARTS' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The poster features seven event boxes, each with a date and day at the top, followed by the event title and details. The boxes are arranged in three columns: the first column has two boxes (10/18 and 10/23), the second column has two boxes (10/21 and 10/24), and the third column has three boxes (10/22, 10/27, and 10/24).

ARTS HOMECOMING WEEK
WITH WAKE THE ARTS

10/18
SATURDAY
**WFU CHOIRS:
ALUMNI REUNION
CONCERT**
4PM, BRENDLE RECITAL HALL

10/21
TUESDAY
**ART COMMUNITY
NIGHT**
6PM - 8PM,
SCALES LOWER LOBBY
**SECRET SERIES:
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE
& BRAD MEHLDAU**
7:30PM,
BRENDLE RECITAL HALL

10/22
WEDNESDAY
**OUTDOOR POETRY
READING WITH
ISHION HUTCHINSON**
2PM, SCALES BREEZEWAY
**COMPOSITION
MASTERCLASS WITH
DAVID KIRKLAND
GARNER**
3:45PM, SAAB 101 (UNCSA)
**EXPLORE INDIE
COMICS WITH
TILLIE WALDEN**
5:30PM, ZSR 404
**"MOVING FORWARD"
FILM SCREENING**
6PM, SCALES 102

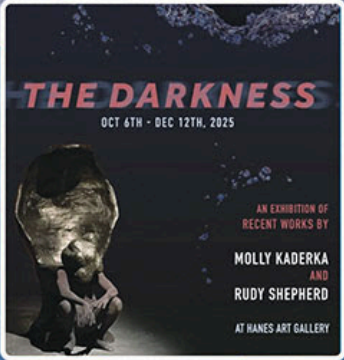
10/23
THURSDAY
**"LIFE AFTER ART HISTORY:
TURNING PASSION INTO
PRACTICE"**
LECTURE BY ART HISTORY
ALUM ANDY ROSENWALD
5PM, SCALES 102

10/24
FRIDAY
**OPEN HOUSE WITH
ISHION HUTCHIN-
SON & DAVID KIRK-
LAND-GARNER**
12:30PM - 2PM, CARSWELL 212
**"INTER ALIA: NORTH
CAROLINA TREES"
ORCHESTRA CONCERT**
PRE-CONCERT TALK
6:45PM, SCALES M201
WORLD PREMIERE CONCERT
7:30PM, BRENDLE RECITAL HALL

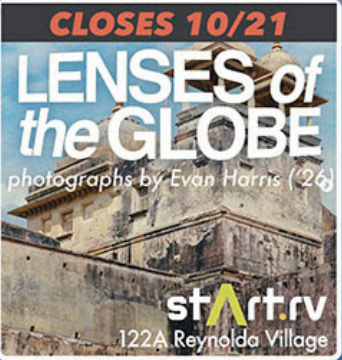
10/27
MONDAY
**OPEN STUDIO WEEK
AT START GALLERY**
OCTOBER 27-31



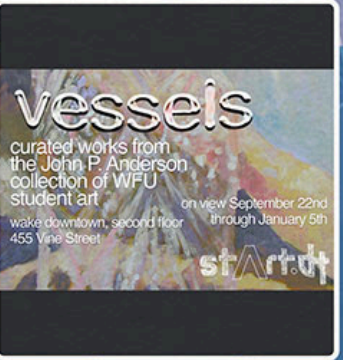
HOMECOMING WEEK ART EXHIBITIONS



THE DARKNESS
HANES ART GALLERY
THROUGH DECEMBER 12



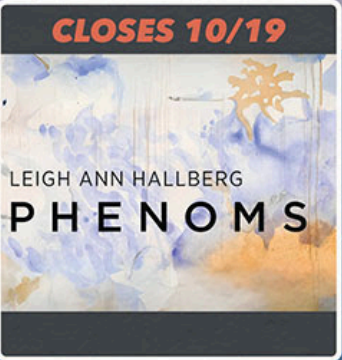
LENSES OF THE GLOBE
START GALLERY (RV)
THROUGH OCTOBER 21



VESSELS
START GALLERY (DT)
THROUGH JANUARY 5



STAMP WORKS
FARRELL SUITE A05
THROUGH DECEMBER 5



PHENOMS: LEIGH ANN HALLBERG
REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM
THROUGH OCTOBER 19



FIELDS OF FORTUNE
ZSR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
THROUGH DECEMBER 12

- **Saturday, October 18:**
WFU Choirs: Alumni Reunion Concert (4pm, Brendle Recital Hall)
- **Sunday, October 19:**
Phenoms: Leigh Ann Hallberg at Reynolda House Museum of American Art (final day of exhibition)
- **Tuesday, October 21:**
Art Community Night (6pm - 8pm / Scales Lobby)
Secrest Artists Series: Christian McBride, bass, & Brad Mehldau, piano (7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)
- **Wednesday, October 22:**
Outdoor Poetry Reading with Ishion Hutchinson, part of “**Inter Alia**” **residency** (2pm – 3pm, Scales Breezeway, Scales Fine Arts Center / Rain Location: Hanes Art Gallery)
Composition Masterclass with David Kirkland Garner, part of “**Inter Alia**” **residency** (3:45pm – 5:15pm, SAAB 101, University of North Carolina School of the Arts)
Explore Indie Comics with Tillie Walden (5:30pm – 6:30pm, Z. Smith Reynolds Library 404)
Thesis Film Showcase: Moving Forward (MFA '25) (6pm, Scales Auditorium 102)
- **Thursday: October 23:**
Movement Ecologies (ENV 303-A) with Ishion Hutchinson and David Kirkland-Garner, part of “**Inter Alia**” **residency** (9:30am – 10:45am, Wellbeing Center – Room B203)
“**Life after Art History: Turning Passion into Practice,**” lecture by Art History alum Andy Rosenwald (5pm, Scales 102)
- **Friday, October 24:**
Open House Event with Ishion Hutchinson & David Kirkland-Garner,

part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (12:30pm – 2pm, Carswell Hall, Room 212)

Pre-Concert Lecture with Dr. Lucy Alford: “Singing as We Circle: Branch, Blossom, and Bond in Inter Alia,” part of **“Inter Alia”**

residency (6:45pm-7:15pm, M201, Scales Fine Arts Center)

“Inter Alia: North Carolina Trees” Concert by WFU Symphony

Orchestra + UNCSA Symphony Orchestra (7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

- **Monday, October 27:**

stArt: Open Studio Week exhibition opens (October 27-31, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

The following exhibitions will also be on display during Homecoming Week:

- **The Darkness | Recent works by Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd**
Hanes Gallery of Art, through December 12, 2025
- **Lenses of the Globe** : photography by Evan Harris (‘26)
stArt Gallery - Reynolda Village, through October 21, 2025
- **Vessels** stArt.dt (Wake Downtown), through January 5, 2026
- **“Stamp Works”** Farrell Hall Suite A05 / Brockway Recruiting Center
Gallery, through December 5, 2025
- **Fields of Fortune: North Carolina’s Legacy in Leaf and Labor** ZSR
Library - Special Collections, through December 2025

4+1 Master of Arts in Content Creation & Strategic Storytelling

Do you know a student who might be interested in learning digital storytelling skills to complement their major?



The 4+1 Master of Arts in Content Creation & Strategic Storytelling is an interdisciplinary graduate program administered by the Documentary Film Program. Designed specifically for Wake Forest undergraduates from any major, the program allows students to begin taking graduate-level courses during their senior year and earn a master's degree with just one additional year of study.

To learn more, visit the [Documentary Film Program website](#)

2025 Open Call: Site Specifics (WSFC Public Art Commission)

Budget: Up to \$10,000

Applications Due: Friday, November 14, 2025 at 11:59 PM ET



The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Art Commission is seeking artists to submit proposals for public art projects in the City of Winston-Salem.

- Projects must be site specific.
- Projects may be curatorial, performative, community-based, sound-based, two-dimensional, and/or three-dimensional. Experimentation is encouraged.

- Preference will be given to temporary or semi-permanent artworks (not lasting more than 5 years).
- Preference will be given to projects that are proposed on City property, which include greenways, parks, and community spaces.

An information session will be on zoom this Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 5:30 – 6:30 PM ET. [Join here](#).

Read the full artist call

Who's Making Things Happen

Acting with Power with Melissa Jones Briggs ('04)

Can acting skills be valuable in the boardroom? How can we use the tools of theater and improvisation to enhance our leadership skills, foster authenticity, and navigate power dynamics? Melissa Jones Briggs is a Lecturer in Organizational Behavior at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and also serves as an Associate Fellow at the Oxford Character Project at the University of Oxford. She specializes in performance as a tool for social and organizational change. In this conversation, we explore the intersection of theater and leadership, talking about the importance of empathy, presence, and the role of personal power. The discussion also touches on the challenges of covering and uncovering identity in professional settings, the responsibility of the arts in social change, and the significance of relationships in defining success.



Listen to the Wake Women Podcast

URECA Day showcases student research

Studio art major Blair Newsome wanted to find sustainable ways to reconcile the use of oil paint in art classes with ecological responsibility. She combined pigment powders with seed oils, plant-based solvents, and historical binders such as egg tempera as part of her research project.



“These materials, though slower to prepare, proved cost-effective, reusable, and environmentally low-impact,” said Newsome, who is earning a minor in environmental studies. “Packaging analysis further revealed that sustainable suppliers extend ecological values to distribution, in contrast with wasteful mass-market retailers.”

More about URECA student research

Coming soon

Thursday, October 16:

The Darkness | Recent works by Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd

OPENING RECEPTION + PERFORMANCE (5pm - 8pm, Hanes Gallery of Art)

World Cultural Festival

(4:30pm – 7:00pm, Upper Davis Field)

Peter Kairoff plays music of Bach, Schubert and Brahms(7:30 pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, October 17:

Rainbow Writing Circle

(6pm-8pm, LGBTQ+ Center)

Saturday, October 18:

WFU Choirs: Alumni Reunion Concert

(4pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, October 19:

Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms

(Reynolda House Museum of American Art) **FINAL DAY**

Monday, October 20:

An Evening with Curtis Chin: *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*

(5pm, ZSR 404)

Tuesday, October 21:

Lenses of the Globe: photography by Evan Harris ('26)

(stArt Gallery – Reynolda Village) **FINAL DAY**

Lecture by Dr. Dana A. Williams

(5pm, ZSR 404)

Art Community Night

(6–8pm, Scales Lower Lobby)

Secrest Artists Series: Christian McBride (bass) & Brad Mehldau (piano)

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, October 22:

Outdoor Poetry Reading with Ishion Hutchinson,

part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (2–3pm, Scales Breezeway, Scales Fine Arts Center / Rain Location: Hanes Art Gallery)

Composition Masterclass with David Kirkland Garner, part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (3:45–5:15pm, SAAB 101, University of North Carolina School of the Arts)

Explore Indie Comics with Tillie Walden

(5:30–6:30pm, Z. Smith Reynolds Library 404)

Thesis Film Showcase: *Moving Forward* (MFA '25)

(6pm, Scales Auditorium 102)

Thursday, October 23:

Movement Ecologies (ENV 303-A) with Ishion Hutchinson and David Kirkland-Garner, part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (9:30–10:45am, Wellbeing Center – Room B203)

Talk with Andy Rosenwald: Life after Art History: Turning Passion into Practice (5–6pm, Scales 102)

Friday, October 24:

Open House Event with Ishion Hutchinson & David Kirkland-Garner, part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (12:30–2pm, Carswell Hall, Room 212)

Pre-Concert Lecture with Dr. Lucy Alford: “Singing as We Circle: Branch, Blossom, and Bond in *Inter Alia*”, part of **“Inter Alia” residency** (6:45–7:15pm, M201, Scales Fine Arts Center)

“Inter Alia: North Carolina Trees” Concert — WFU Symphony Orchestra + UNCSA Symphony Orchestra

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, October 26:

Halloween Organ Spooktacular

(2pm, Reynolda House Museum)

Monday, October 27:

stArt: Open Studio Week exhibition opens

(October 27–31, stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

Tuesday, October 28:

The Tale of Oba: Gender at the End of the World

(12pm, virtual)

stArt: Open Studio Week exhibition RECEPTION

(5–7pm, stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

WFU Music Student Showcase Concert

(7:30–8:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, October 29:

Queer Beats, Black Roots Music, Resistance & Care

(6pm, Intercultural Center)

Thursday, October 30:

A Gothic Romance Event

(3:30–5pm, ZSR 404)

Friday, October 31:

WFUSO Halloween Concert

(5pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Saturday, November 1:

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Sunday, November 2:

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(2pm, Tedford Stage)

Thursday, November 6:

American Coup film screening and discussion

(6pm, ZSR 404)

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Friday, November 7:

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Saturday, November 8:

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Winston-Salem Choral Artists: *The Sacred Veil*

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, November 9:

Branford Marsalis: 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence

(4pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Monday, November 10:

stArt: Let It Show! exhibition opens

(November 10–January 13, stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

Tuesday, November 11:

stArt: Let It Show! exhibition RECEPTION

(5–7pm, stArt Gallery, Reynolda Village)

Thursday, November 13:

The Darkness – Artist Talk with Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd

(5:30–7pm, Hanes Art Gallery — reception to follow)

Secrest Artists Series: Raphaël Feuillâtre, guitar

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, November 14:

Marbling Workshop: Molly Kaderka

(12–2pm, Hanes Art Gallery)

WFU Choirs Concert

(7:30–8:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, November 15:

Concerto Competition

(All day, Brendle Recital Hall)

Sunday, November 16:

Gamelan Giri Murti Concert

(3pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, November 18:

Wind Ensemble Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, November 19:

Faculty and Guest Artists Concert

(7:30–8:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Thursday, November 20:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Chamber Ensemble Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, November 21:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Concert

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Jazz Ensemble Concert

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, November 22:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Concert

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Sunday, November 23:

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Concert

(2pm, Tedford Stage)



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