

## EXHIBITIONS



Thursday, September 10-Saturday, November 21, 2020

### JASON MIDDLEBROOK: *ANOTHER WORLD*

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

*A leap into the digital world, drawing and painting transposed*

Nationally acclaimed for his shimmering, sinuously lined or geometrically patterned paintings on slabs of wood, American visual artist Jason Middlebrook envisions, creates, and then digitally renders a new 15-by-28-foot site-specific commissioned work of art spanning the length of the Moss Arts Center's prime gallery space. Titled *Another World* and inspired by the soaring architecture of the Moss Arts Center, this panoramic work invites viewers into another place—a place of inspiration, visual complexity, and delight.

### ART AND SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

*Calling attention to sociopolitical issues and the need for change*

Thursday, September 10-Saturday, October 10, 2020

### CAUSE COLLECTIVE: *IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH*

Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

*A diverse portrait of humanity; compelling, poignant, and especially significant at this moment in time*

A video installation presenting concise thoughts and observations by individuals from across the globe, grappling with one of the deepest social, political, and philosophical issues of our times: what the truth is and what it means. This exhibition is a thoughtful and profound exploration of values in this time of moral upheaval.

**ART AND SOCIAL CONSCIENCE**

Thursday, September 10-Saturday, November 21, 2020

**22 STEPS**

Grand Lobby Staircase

Ideas and words count. Rendered in text on the Moss Arts Center's stairs is a pertinent statement by Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis (1940-2020) paying attention to and reflecting our country's ongoing struggle for social justice.



Hank Willis Thomas and Emily Shur in collaboration with Eric Gottesman and Wyatt Gallery of For Freedoms  
*Freedom of Speech*, 2016-present  
 Courtesy of the artists and For Freedoms Federation

Thursday, October 15-Saturday, November 21, 2020

**FOUR FREEDOMS**

Hank Willis Thomas and Emily Shur

Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

*A call to action: re-envisioning Americana: a more diverse, inclusive, and humane society*

Renowned activist-artist Hank Willis Thomas and photographer Emily Shur update and re-interpret Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings representing Franklin D. Roosevelt's *Four Freedoms* speech of 1941, in which the president articulated four basic human freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear—as American core values and aspirations. In this photographic installation of works (2016-present) Willis and Shur redress the absence of multiple peoples and cultural narratives in Rockwell's paintings while opening, exploring, and encouraging deeper discussion of what freedom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is and can be.

Thursday, October 8-Wednesday, November 18, 2020

**STUDENT ARTS SPOTLIGHT**

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery

The Moss Arts Center Student Ambassadors are dedicated Virginia Tech students with a shared passion for the arts. Since 2015 the group has developed connections for the arts across the campus. The ambassadors present a selection of works by Virginia Tech students from numerous majors and class years in a celebration of creativity and diversity.

Free, post-matinee gallery tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis for groups that can be accommodated within the galleries' social distancing guidelines. Reserve your tour at the corresponding matinee registration links (below). No time after the show? Gallery tours can be arranged any time by contacting Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at [megh79@vt.edu](mailto:megh79@vt.edu).

For the most up to date gallery hours, please [visit our website](#).



## PERFORMANCES



Thursday, November 12, 10-11 AM

### IMANI WINDS AND CATALYST QUARTET

*(im)migration: music of change*

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

**Open to students in grades 4-8**

Two leading chamber ensembles join forces for a program highlighting the experience of migration. *(im)migration: music of change* features music written or inspired by migrants and immigrants from the African and Latin diaspora. Catalyst Quartet features alumni from the internationally acclaimed Sphinx Competition, while Grammy-nominated Imani Winds leads a revolution of the wind quintet. Performing both individually and together, the ensembles transform ancestral stories into music.

The program includes an arrangement of Cuban composer Mingo Santamaria's *Afro Blue*, Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos String Quartet no. 1, and the new work, *Sergeant McCauley*, composed by Catalyst violinist Jessie Montgomery. *Sergeant McCauley* tracks the journey of Montgomery's great-grandfather during the Great Migration. Spirituals and work songs reflect McCauley's route from Mississippi to the west, then up north, and eventually back to Georgia.

Free; registration required at [imanicatalyst.eventbrite.com](https://www.imanicatalyst.eventbrite.com).



Friday, February 12, 10:30-11:30 AM

### CIRQUE MECHANICS

*Birdhouse Factory*

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

**Open to students in grades K-4**

Enter the most unlikely setting for a circus: a factory—one where the workers are acrobats and the machines are circus props. *Birdhouse Factory* was inspired, in part, by the masterful industry murals of Mexican artist Diego Rivera, the outrageous illustrations of cartoonist Rube Goldberg, and the slapstick humor of Charlie Chaplin's film *Modern Times*. While these inspirations make *Birdhouse Factory* artful, nostalgic, and funny, the true essence of the show comes from the circus.

*Birdhouse Factory* is a simple story of daily life in a "widgets" factory circa 1935 as workers are brought together by the most unlikely of events: a bird accidentally injured by the main steam boiler. The accident and caring for the bird bring the workers closer together and inspires them to break away from the monotony of the assembly line. They showcase their true inner talents and abilities by using their bodies and machines to build birdhouses in a more joyous and soulful way.

Free; registration required at [birdhousefactory.eventbrite.com](https://www.birdhousefactory.eventbrite.com).





Wednesday, March 31, 10-11 AM

## EPHRAT ASHERIE

*Odeon*

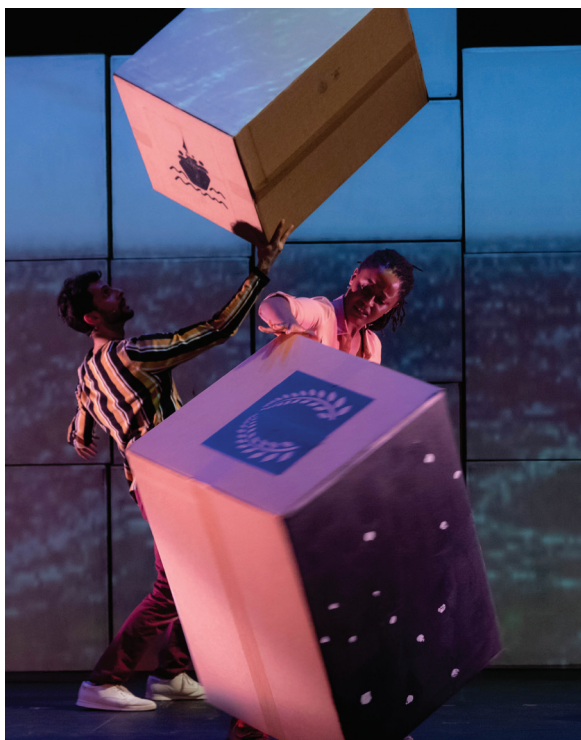
Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

**Open to students in grades 4-8**

Ephrat Asherie Dance is a company rooted in street and social dance. Dedicated to revealing the inherent complexities of these forms, Ephrat Asherie Dance explores the expansive narrative qualities of various street and club styles, including breaking, hip-hop, and house, to tell stories, develop innovative imagery, and find new modes of expression.

*Odeon*, an original dance work for seven dancers and four musicians, is set to the music of Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth, known for mixing early 20<sup>th</sup> century romantic music with samba and other popular Afro-Brazilian rhythms. This work takes a hybrid approach to movement. *Odeon* delves into what happens when you bring together the extended family of street and club dances—including breaking, hip-hop, house, and vogue—remix them, pick them apart, and challenge them to inhabit unfamiliar spatial and choreographic contexts.

Free; registration required at [ephrat.eventbrite.com](https://ephrat.eventbrite.com).



Thursday, April 15, 10-11:30 AM

## KANEZA SCHAAL and CHRISTOPHER MYERS

*Cartography*

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

**Open to students in grades 8-12**

A 17-year-old boy from Syria wonders if he ought to learn German, or if he will be going home too soon for it to be of use. A young woman draws the map of her journey to Munich, wavy blue lines between Turkey and Greece marking the night her brother slipped over the side of an inflatable raft into the cold hands of the Mediterranean. A girl cherishes the recording of her mother's voice she keeps on her cellphone. These young people are making maps of their history, of their memories, and of their futures.

This new theatrical work for young audiences explores the commonalities of migration and mapping at the center of worlds in motion. Created in collaboration by artist Kaneza Schaal and writer Christopher Myers, *Cartography* draws on their work with refugee youth.

Visual map-making meets performance elements such as filmmaking and dancing; sculptures create an array of visual journeys; sound sensor technology responds to actors' voices, activating a virtual storm; and cellphones are used to mark memories and distances traveled.

The audience is invited to examine their own lives and the maps we have yet to draw.

Free; registration required at [mosscartography.eventbrite.com](https://mosscartography.eventbrite.com).

## MORE INFORMATION

Limited seating is available based on Virginia Tech's social distancing guidelines at the time of the performance. For more information, links to study guides, to reserve your seats, or to access a private link to livestream these performances to your school, please visit the registration webpages listed beneath each performance description. Program plans are subject to change, relative to adjustments in Virginia Tech's social distancing policies.

To learn more about these performances and opportunities for in-school workshops, please contact Jon Catherwood-Ginn, associate director of programming, at [joncg@vt.edu](mailto:joncg@vt.edu) or 540-231-0872.

To explore visual art exhibitions and schedule tours, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at [megh79@vt.edu](mailto:megh79@vt.edu) or 540-231-0840.