



7-24-2024

## 8th Annual Chapman Staff Art Exhibition Program

Chapman University Staff

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# **8th Annual Chapman Staff Art Exhibition**

**June - October, 2024**

Leatherby Libraries Hall of Art:

Exhibiting Art from the Chapman Community



**CHAPMAN  
UNIVERSITY**

**Leatherby Libraries**

Leatherby Libraries Hall of Art:  
Exhibiting Art from the Chapman Community

# Chapman Staff Art Exhibition

June - October, 2024

## Opening Reception

Wednesday, July 24

3:00—4:30 p.m.

Featuring works by Chapman University employees:

James "JD" Akles-Park

Alyssa Castanon

Stephanie Chavez

Hannah Clausen

Amelia Holzer

Hicsumy Jiménez

Kristin Laughtin-Dunker

Matthew Martinez

Ana Munandar

Essraa Nawar

Thomas Piechota

Sandra Rogoff

Caylin Schmenk

Annie Tang

Marcia Totten

Madalynn Wible

## The Leatherby Libraries Hall of Art

The Leatherby Libraries Hall of Art was established to showcase the creativity of the Chapman community. It was dedicated for this purpose in 2014 although the space has been available for staff and student exhibits since 2011. While past staff art exhibits featured work by Leatherby Libraries staff members only, this is our sixth year opening up the exhibit to any interested staff member of Chapman University.

The 16 artists represented here demonstrate the wide variety of talent at our university. From photography to painting, weaving to sculpture, the works you see here provide a unique opportunity to view and appreciate the diverse creative gifts of Chapman staff. For many of the artists this exhibit allows them the first opportunity to display their work publicly and has been a rewarding experience for them. We invite you to participate in future staff exhibits.

For more information please contact Alyssa Castanon, Library Outreach and Events Assistant, at [alycastanon@chapman.edu](mailto:alycastanon@chapman.edu).

# The Artists



## James "JD" Akles-Park

Theatre Technician  
Event Operations

Featured Work:  
**Loophabet** — Visualizer Artwork

James "JD" Akles-Park is a Chapman 2012 graduate who grew up overseas loving cartoon and movie soundtracks. They studied theater tech, and has worked on numerous projects, most notably sound designing the world premiere of "If All The Sky Were Paper." JD now designs lights at Chapman Auditorium located inside Memorial Hall and is happy to work on any event you want to host there. You can find more of their music at [YouTube.com/@TheOtherDimensions](https://www.youtube.com/@TheOtherDimensions).



## Alyssa Castanon

Outreach and Events Assistant  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Work:  
**Shades of Blush** — Crochet Blanket

Alyssa is the Outreach and Events Assistant at the Leatherby Libraries. She graduated from Chapman in 2023 with a BA in Political Science and Communication Studies. Alyssa is the fourth generation of crocheters in her family. Her great-grandma crocheted afghans and Christmas ornaments that are treasured by the family to this day. Alyssa loves to crochet with her grandma and mom, who have taught her new stitches that have made their way into her projects. In addition to crochet, Alyssa loves anything related to the arts and can often be found enjoying media in one fashion or another. This is Alyssa's first year participating in the Staff Art Exhibit and helping organize it, and she is very excited to see the different forms of artistic expression!



## Stephanie Chavez

Associate Director of the Chapman Fund  
University Advancement

Featured Works:

***Tales of a Backpacker*** — Photography

Stephanie is an avid mountaineer, a backpacker, a thru-hiker who has completed the entire John Muir Trail, and a rock climber! She is currently climbing all of California's highest mountains. Enjoy these beautiful remote landscapes taken by Stephanie during her adventures!



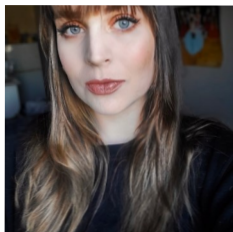
## Hannah Clausen

Academic Operations Manager  
Dodge College of Film and Media Arts

Featured Works:

***Happy Little Trees and Things*** — Acrylic on Canvas

Born and raised in Orange, CA, Hannah dreams of riding horses in distant lands like coastal Irish towns and English countryside estates—though her heart truly remains in her hometown. While currently on a mission to watch all the Best Picture Oscar winners, her life's true joy is found in the simple moments at home with her husband and two daughters and in the few moments alone to read whatever book she's currently checked out from the library. Hannah's art is crafted purely for the joy of creation, often an activity amidst friends, family, and wine. Hannah is the Academic Operations Manager at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and has been at Chapman for seven years.



## Amelia Holzer

Disability Services Specialist  
Disability Services

Featured Works:  
***Girlhood*** — Digital Painting

Before joining the field of higher education, I worked as an art therapist for nearly a decade. In addition to working in Disability Services (for over three years), I am also a doctoral student at the Attallah College of Educational Studies, with an emphasis in Disability Studies. My trajectory with art making has not been linear and continues to evolve in form (from graphite on paper to fibers and now digital art). Still, I have always taken inspiration from pop culture, magazines, fashion, and moments in history to illustrate.



## Hicsummy Jiménez

Circulation Assistant  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:  
***Progress*** and ***It's Not My Birthday*** — Oil on Canvas

My name is Hicsummy Jiménez; I am from La Mirada, California. I am 22 years old and have been painting and exploring many different art mediums since I was 14 in high school. Over the years, I have expressed my feelings and experiences through art. I believe that even the smallest of moments can greatly impact one's life. Most of my art reflects experiences that have impacted me or made me feel something. I graduated with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Studio Art from California State University Dominguez Hills. I was featured in my senior art show in high school and a showcase for my sculpture class at Cal State Dominguez Hills titled *Insistent* in 2023. More of my work can be found on my Instagram, @flashbulbmemories\_vbo.



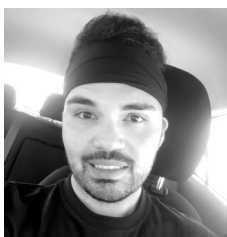
## **Kristin Laughtin-Dunker**

Chair of Resources & Scholarly Communications  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

***Woven Bands*** — Woven Textile Bands

Kristin Laughtin-Dunker is the Chair of Resources & Scholarly Communications at Chapman University and is interested in anything related to textiles. She's a self-taught sewist mainly focused on clothing and costumes, who has also taken up weaving in the last few months (inkle loom and card weaving).



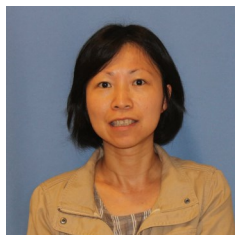
## **Matthew Martinez**

Graduate Program Coordinator  
Schmid College of Science and Technology

Featured Works:

***Death of True Love*** — Costume Design

Matthew Martinez aspired to be like his mother from a young age; he wanted to be creative and make beautiful things just as she did. When Matthew was 7, he began dancing and singing lessons. Matthew stepped into theater as a performer at 16. He was in show choir during high school, where his love for musical theatre grew. With an infatuation for fashion, Matthew went into costume design during his undergraduate years at the University of New Mexico, where he designed his first main stage production. He studied costume design at the University of California, Irvine, where he received his Master of Fine Arts in Drama with an emphasis in Costume Design in 2020. Matthew is currently working on his second wearable art submission to the World of Wearable Art (W.O.W.) Show, a renowned design competition held annually in Wellington, New Zealand.



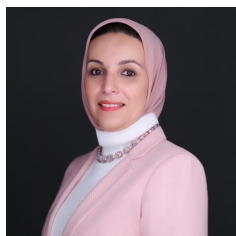
## Ana Munandar

Reference Librarian  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

**Makerspace Art Works** — 3-D Print and Laser-Carved  
Wooden Keychains

I am the Reference Librarian and Liaison to the Attallah College of Educational Studies. My love for music goes beyond just listening; it includes learning music theory. Many jazz musicians can explain the theory behind their plays and love talking about music theory. Those beautiful sounds are not random; there are theories behind them! When considering what to make at the Lab, I thought of things I could carry everywhere to help me learn music. I am so grateful to be able to explore my interests and make creative items at Chapman's Design/Create/Innovate (DCI) Lab, which is a makerspace. I utilized a laser cutter for the Spotify and piano keyboard keychains and a 3D printer for the circle of fifths model. Laser cutters and 3D printers are only two of the many cutting-edge pieces of equipment available! I look forward to exploring other maker equipment and am thankful that the Lab is available to staff.



## Essraa Nawar

Assistant Dean for Library DEI Initiatives and Development  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

**Harmony in Heritage: Yoga Across Ancient Wonders**  
— Photography

Essraa Nawar is the Assistant Dean for Library DEI Initiatives and Development at the Leatherby Libraries. Essraa's diverse educational background and multifaceted career reflect her unwavering commitment to bridging cultural divides and celebrating diversity. Essraa was recently chosen by Forbes to be the face of their campaign celebrating Arab American Heritage. She was recognized as one of Top 30 Egyptian Women Abroad, one of California's Women of Influence, one of Orange County's most influential people, and in 2024 she was named as one of the Top 40 Women of Egypt. She is currently the co-host of the podcast *Information Gone Wild* and the host of the TV show: *Salon Essraa: The TV Show Telling Stories One Egyptian Expat at a Time*. Essraa is an avid yoga practitioner, interfaith advocate, photographer, world traveler, writer and storyteller.





## Thomas Piechota

Interim Dean of the Fowler School of Engineering  
Fowler School of Engineering

Featured Works:

***Carrot Wood Bowl*** — Wooden Carved Bowl

Dr. Thomas Piechota is Interim Dean of the Fowler School of Engineering, Professor of Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy at Chapman University, and Co-Director of the Grand Challenges Initiative. He received his BS in Civil Engineering in 1989 from Northern Arizona University, his MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1993 from UCLA, and his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1997 from UCLA. He has co-authored more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, and reports, and his work has been cited more than 4600 times. Dr. Piechota is a licensed Professional Engineer in California. Dr. Piechota is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He started woodworking about 25 years ago, learning from his father, a master of woodworking. Additionally, Dr. Piechota likes spending time with family, skiing, hiking, and serving his community.



## Sandra Rogoff

Office of Research Coordinator  
Office of Research and Graduate Education

Featured Works:

***Pete the Planter*** and ***Thanksgiving Décor*** — Sculpture and Papier-Mâché

My name is Sandra Rogoff. I have worked at Chapman University for five years. I have always had a love for art and was fortunate to grow up in an environment that fostered the arts. My middle school art teacher loved to work with all mediums so that we could dabble in different styles, which gave me more confidence to try out and attend the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA). I like to create art for friends and family. I often make decorations and centerpieces for holidays and birthdays. While I enjoy working with different mediums, my recent focus has been sculpting.



## Caylin Schmenk

Library Operations Manager  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

***Calm Before the Storm*** — Photography

Caylin is the Library Operations Manager of the Leatherby Libraries and has been with Chapman University for over two years. She usually coordinates the Staff Art Exhibit and is excited to be an exhibitor this year! She loves reading (she does work at the library for a reason) and will try to convince you to join the Community of Readers program every summer at Chapman. Beyond reading, she loves music and animals. She loves animals so much that she even earned her degree in Animal Science at UC Davis. As a result, any time she travels, she loves to go horseback riding. It's a great way to see areas often not viewable or accessible to the public. She is your girl if you ever want to know fun animal facts.



## Annie Tang

Chair of Special Collections & Archives  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

***Wonder Librarian's Crown, Gauntlets, and Sword*** —  
Cosplay Prop Design

Annie Tang is the University Archivist, the Chair of Special Collections and Archives, and the Subject Librarian for Film and Media Arts at Chapman University. At Chapman, she serves on the Japanese American Incarceration Memory Project committee, which amplifies Japanese American incarceration history through outreach around the Munemitsu-Sasaki Family Collection. Annie also raises awareness of Chicano history through collections related to the Mendez v. Westminster federal court case, which desegregated white-only and Mexican-only public schools in Orange County, California. An archivist at heart, she has worked for several repositories, including those at the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Santa Cruz; and Johns Hopkins University.



## Marcia Totten

Operations Assistant  
Musco Center for the Arts

Featured Works:

***Take Me to the World, Monostorm, and  
An Unexpected Song*** — Acrylic on Canvas

Currently working part-time as an Operations Assistant at Musco Center for the Arts, Marcia has had a creative bent most of her life. She worked in paper arts for many years and owned a rubber stamping business. Teaching stamping classes and selling at craft stores was part of her business, Stampideedoodah. For Marcia, the focus became creating cards, gift bags, and wall art with papers and embellishments. With the lockdown of 2020, Marcia's time with Disney Weddings eased, and she was able to concentrate on a few projects that had been on the back burner, such as creating a children's book and exploring other art techniques. Thus, the joy of acrylic painting was born. Lots (and lots) of canvases later, Marcia would like to share her work with you.



## Madalynn Wible

Circulation Assistant  
Leatherby Libraries

Featured Works:

***Daisies and Falling*** — Poetry Posters

My name is Madalynn, and I've been working at the Leatherby Libraries as a Circulation Assistant for over a year. I graduated from Whittier College in 2023 with a BA in Digital Art and Creative Writing. I will start my master's degree program at San Jose State University in August. I plan to earn my MLIS (Master's in Library and Information Science) and become a full-time librarian while continuing to write and publish poetry in my free time. My ultimate life goal is to write, design, and publish a poetry book that combines beautiful graphics and ethereal prose to illuminate an intimate part of my innermost self.

# Acknowledgments

Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning and display of this exhibition, and our opening reception, including:

Alyssa Castanon

Essraa Nawar

Julie Artman

Katherine Roth

Caylin Schmenk

Kevin Ross

Eddie Saucedo

Bartwood Construction



### *Mission of the Leatherby Libraries*

The mission of the Leatherby Libraries is to provide personalized services and relevant content in support of the curricular, creative, and scholarly needs of the Chapman University community to ensure the development of the information-literate global citizen.

### *Vision of the Leatherby Libraries*

The vision of the Leatherby Libraries is to be a preeminent portal to the world's knowledge, an intellectual and cultural center, and a distinguished resource for teaching, learning, and scholarship.



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