



RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

---

# **FORCE OF CREATIVITY**

---

2022 - 2023 TRUSTEE SCHOLAR AWARDS

## TRUSTEE OFFICERS

Mr. Michael Klein, Chair  
Dr. Joel Morganroth, Vice Chair  
Mr. Ali Bahaj, Treasurer  
Ms. Teri Hansen, Secretary

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ravi Akhoury	Mr. William Kahane	Ms. Rosemary Oberndorf
Mr. Robert Bartner	Ms. Amy Kaslow	Mr. Richard Rivera
Dr. Alex Beavers, Jr.	Ms. Flora Major	Mr. Samuel Samelson
Ms. Elaine Crouse	Ms. Nancy Markle	Ms. Jan Schmidt
Mr. Maurice Cuniff	Ms. Jean M. Martin	Mr. Sam Scott
Ms. Ariane Dart	Mr. Frank Martucci	Dr. Raj Soin
Mr. Ray Dillman	Ms. Elenor Maxheim	Mr. Willie Stanfield
Mr. Dean Eisner	Ms. Arianna McAnniff '21	Mr. Dale Strohl
Mr. James Ericson	Ms. Mary Ann Meyer	Ms. Jackie Tilton
Ms. Ping Faulhaber	Mr. George L. Miles, Jr.	Rev. Liz Walker
Mr. Larry Garberding	Mr. Jonathan Mitchell	
Mr. Steve Hutchinson	Mr. Karl Newkirk	

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Ms. Emily Walsh

## HONORARY LIFE TRUSTEES

Ms. Pauline Becker	Mr. Robert Kimbrough	Ms. Diane Roskamp
Ms. Carol Camiener	Dr. Diana Lager	Mr. Ernest F. Smith
Ms. Linda Dickinson	Ms. Cheryl Loeffler	Dr. Steve Stein
Mr. Jack Harrison	Ms. Isabel Norton	Ms. Lois Stulberg
Ms. Carolyn Johnson	Mr. Brandon Oldenburg '95	Ms. Wendy Surkis
Ms. Elaine Keating	Ms. Susan Palmer	

## RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Larry R. Thompson, President  
Dr. Jason L. Good, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing  
Dr. Peter McAllister, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Tracy A. Wagner, Executive Vice President  
Ms. Jennifer Price, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Tammy S. Walsh, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students  
Ms. Lora Wey, Interim Vice President for Advancement  
Ms. Karissa Miller, Interim Director of Institutional Technology and  
Chief Academic Technology Officer  
Ms. Virginia Shearer, Executive Director, Sarasota Art Museum

## RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

# FORCE OF CREATIVITY

## 2022 - 2023 TRUSTEE SCHOLAR AWARDS

# WELCOME

---

Dr. Larry R. Thompson and the Ringling College of Art and Design Board of Trustees present the 2022–2023 Trustee Scholar Awards.

This evening we gather together to celebrate an exemplary group of students, the 2022–23 Ringling College Trustee Scholars.

While we honor the accomplishments of these 15 innovative scholar artists and designers, we also acknowledge the community that is so integral to their success: families and friends; Ringling College faculty and staff; and the supporters and champions of Ringling College. Each of you play a vital role in the achievements of our 2022–23 Trustee Scholars. We appreciate all you do, for them and for the College.

Thank you for joining us tonight in celebration of the 2022–23 Trustee Scholars!

## FORCE OF CREATIVITY

The relentless drive to redefine the creative industry and leave a positive impact on the world. Individually, these 15 scholar artists and designers are uniquely talented, dedicated, and innovative. Together, and with the support of the College's faculty, staff, trustees, friends, families, and supporters, these distinguished students are positioned to trailblaze their path ahead and prove that they are an undeniable force of creativity.

## ABOUT THE TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

---

Students at Ringling College of Art and Design are truly the best and brightest of emerging creatives—an undeniable force to be reckoned with. To be selected as a Trustee Scholar is the highest honor awarded to students who are able to rise up as leaders in an impressive community overflowing with talent. Awarded by the Ringling College Board of Trustees, the designation of Trustee Scholar recognizes exceptional creative talent; demonstrated communication and creative thinking skills; and exemplary service, to the department, to the campus, and to the community.

Selected by the heads of each academic department and the Office of Student Life, nominees for Trustee Scholar are forwarded to the Board of Trustees for final selection. In making their decisions, the Board considers the following criteria:

- Exceptional creative talent, communication skills, and distinction of mind
- Contributions to the department, College, and/or community
- Leadership, citizenship, and mentorship

I thank the Board members who participated on the 2022–23 Trustee Scholar Selection Committee for their work to determine this year’s class.

Trust me, it is no easy feat to choose between the amazing nominees presented to us. I also extend my appreciation to all my fellow Board members for the resources, time, talent, and energy you give so freely to help advance the mission of Ringling College and to support its exceptional students.

Tonight, as we honor our 2022–23 Trustee Scholars and their achievements as emerging artists, designers, creators, mentors, and campus leaders, we also celebrate the trustees, faculty, staff, and friends who continue to support our creative community. It is through your collective efforts that moments and opportunities like these are made possible. Together, we are moving Ringling College swiftly along the pathway to becoming the preeminent art and design college in the world.

I thank each of you for participating in this wonderful event and wish heartfelt congratulations to each of our 2022–23 Trustee Scholars!

**Michael Klein**

Chair, Board of Trustees  
Ringling College of Art and Design



## PROGRAM

### WELCOME REMARKS

**Michael Klein**

Chair, Board of Trustees

### TONIGHT'S MENU

#### Salad

Romaine lettuce tossed with sliced green olives, grape tomatoes, toasted almonds, parmesan cheese, and a garlic oregano vinaigrette

#### Entree

Seared filet of beef and miso glazed salmon with truffled potatoes, haricots verts, heirloom carrots, and red peppers

#### Vegetarian Entree

Roasted butternut squash topped with an eggplant caponata

#### Dessert

Pumpkin gingersnap tiramisu with calvados syrup

### PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

**Dr. Larry R. Thompson**

President, Ringling College of Art and Design

### WORDS FROM OUR SCHOLARS

## MEET THE SCHOLARS

**SHPRESA MEHMETI**

Business of Art and Design

**SAM GRIMM**

Graphic Design

**HAILEY BAIR**

Computer Animation

**ALE ORTEGA-ROMERO**

Illustration

**JUDE KEIFER**

Creative Writing

**Yael Bloom**

Motion Design

**BELLA CICCI**

Entertainment Design

**JESSE CLARK**

Photography and Imaging

**ANA BRIGHTON**

Film

**RYAN WIEN**

Virtual Reality Development

**LIZI BUDAGASHVILI**

Fine Arts

**MAFER BENCOMO AREVALO**

Visual Studies

**PAO CHUTIJIRAWONG**

Fine Arts

**CALVIN "CJ" CALLINS**

Student Life

**PAYTON ODIERNO**

Game Art

# SHPRESA MEHMETI

---

## BUSINESS OF ART AND DESIGN

### **I choose a future in art and design because**

I believe that creative problem solving is the answer to almost all of the problems in the world. I want to create solutions that are functional yet beautiful in nature.

### **I want my work to impact the world by**

redefining new ways of approaching startup strategies, reinventing the way we view flowers as part of our ecosystem, and by creating mediums of self-expression that have never been explored before.

### **My dream job is**

to be the CEO of my own company, Freya Flower Brand, spearheading my team to create flower strategies. In addition, I want to become a brand consultant to help brands achieve their highest potential.



# HAILEY BAIR

---

## COMPUTER ANIMATION

**I choose a future in art and design because**

art plays an incredible role in telling breathtaking stories and evokes fantastic emotions. I believe the world would be dull without the impactful work of artists everywhere.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

creating a childlike sense of wonder through the stories I tell and the characters I bring to life. Leaving theaters feeling awestruck by animated films has left me wanting nothing more than to make that same magic for others.

**My dream job is**

to be a character animator for feature films. In addition, the more I learn about the animation pipeline, the more I have kindled a love for each step of the process—leading me to the dream of one day directing my own films.



# JUDE KEIFER

---

## CREATIVE WRITING

**I choose a future in art and design because**

stories are a treasured form of communication. It is an exciting time to be dealing in stories because of the new methods within the industry.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

creating worlds that give my audience the freedom to not only express themselves but connect with others in unexpected ways.

**My dream job is**

to work in narrative design and one day, I would like to run an independent studio with peers who have shaped my education.





# BELLA CICCI

---

## ENTERTAINMENT DESIGN

**I choose a future in art and design because**

I have always been inspired by theme parks, immersive experiences and entertainment, and animated movies and shows. Creating these exciting experiences and powerful emotions for people has always been my dream.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

making entertainment and experiences accessible, inviting, and inclusive to all. I came to Ringling College with the intention of pursuing knowledge and skills to expand and bring more to the themed entertainment industry.

**My dream job is**

to serve as creative director or a member of a design and fabrication team on a major theme park, resort, stage shows, other immersive experiences around the world, or all of the above. I would like to experience as much of the industry as possible.



# ANA BRIGHTON

---

## FILM

**I choose a future in art and design because**

art is the space where I feel the most comfortable. I have always been an artist and I never thought about anything else growing up. When I was introduced to film, it was like I immediately found my calling.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

expressing my thoughts and my perspective on various topics and situations through my art. I want to be able to make a difference in people's lives with my work.

**My dream job is**

directing feature length films with scripts that I write.



# LIZI BUDAGASHVILI

---

## FINE ARTS

**I choose a future in art and design because**

this is what I am meant to be doing. I have felt the creative call ever since I was little. In recent years, I realized I could not waste what I have been gifted and have since dedicated my life to artmaking.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

reminding people of the power of love and honesty. I want to share my experiences and invite people to relate and see the beauty in the hardships of their lives; the beauty in imperfections.

**My dream job is**

to work with and for different galleries and museums and paint in my studio.



# PAO CHUTIJIRAWONG

---

## FINE ARTS

**I choose a future in art and design because**

I was drawn to the potential of art as a form of mark-making and memorandum of the present context.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

making art to be experienced and appreciated by others. I want to tell stories of the environment and locations from perspectives which have not previously been remembered or noticed.

**My dream job is**

to work in the field of art by making works that can be used and appreciated by people of different cultural backgrounds.





# PAYTON ODIERNO

---

## GAME ART

**I choose a future in art and design because**

I cannot imagine my life without creating art. It is the main reason that I get out of bed every morning.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

providing quality visual storytelling and entertainment that allows the viewer to get lost in these fictional worlds.

**My dream job is**

to focus on environments in the game industry. There is so much to love about working in game art.



# SAM GRIMM

---

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

**I choose a future in art and design because**

having the knowledge and skills to create a better world through visual communication marries my love for design and our planet.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

helping individuals, communities, and businesses reach their goals through visual communication.

**My dream job is**

to start a successful design agency.



# ALE ORTEGA-ROMERO

---

## ILLUSTRATION

**I choose a future in art and design because**

there is no alternative to art in my life. Although I considered different avenues, I always returned to illustration as a source of comfort and self-expression. Despite starting off as a distraction, art became my entire center of attention.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

leaving a positive impact on a young audience that is also interested in art, showing them comforting characters and narratives they can relate to. Especially for kids in Central America, where I am from, to show them how to tell their own personal stories.

**My dream job is**

to work anywhere in the world in an animation studio with my friends, working alongside one another. I'd especially like to work in children's media, creating visually appealing but also meaningful stories that can leave an impression on them.



# Yael Bloom

---

## MOTION DESIGN

**I choose a future in art and design because**

art and design have always been topics of interest to me. I love finding creative solutions through design. Animation is a great outlet to experiment and really explore a full spectrum of mediums.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

Exploring ways to communicate big ideas through visually engaging means. Motion Design is essentially an animation major with a focus on communication.

**My dream job is**

to work with a well-established studio that works mostly in advertisement and short form animation. I also really love stop motion and experimental animation. I really love that my field of interest allows for many smaller projects at once.





## JESSE CLARK

---

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGING

**I choose a future in art and design because**

out of the many hobbies and activities I've been a part of, art has been the one that has moved me the most. It has provided me avenues and platforms in which I could fully express myself while also shaping people around me.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

moving humanity closer together. Most of my artwork showcases the beauty of different identities and the importance of us acknowledging each other's histories and existence. Change happens when we work together.

**My dream job is**

two-fold. The first is being a Fine Artist which I'm currently pursuing and working my way towards success with. That is where I see myself making the most change. And secondly, a Photographer for *Vogue* magazine.



## RYAN WIEN

---

### VIRTUAL REALITY DEVELOPMENT

**I choose a future in art and design because**

it has given me a voice and platform that I never had previously. Virtual reality allows me to interpret life in a three-dimensional world that simulates real world experiences and goes beyond the mainstream limits of other types of art.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

helping others grow and learn through technological means. This industry aids others in important areas including mental health and other medical-related needs.

**My dream job is**

to work in the medical virtual reality space. I want to aid prospective companies with new ideas on how to utilize virtual reality platforms.



# MAFER BENCOMO AREVALO

---

## VISUAL STUDIES

**I choose a future in art and design because**

creativity and systems thinking are vital when envisioning and building a more equitable world.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

creating spaces that facilitate healing, conflict resolution, and radical imagination.

**My dream job is**

in a think tank that accelerates the growth of startups and civil society initiatives in Latin America.



# CALVIN "CJ" CALLINS

---

## STUDENT LIFE

**I choose a future in art and design because**

it allows a full life of creativity. As an artist, we truly have no limits and can really do anything through our art when we put our time, mind, and passion into it.

**I want my work to impact the world by**

showing everyone the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", does not have to be a singular answer. You can do, and you can be, as many things as you want.

**My dream job is**

to entertain and educate as a film director, disc jockey, actor, and event host.







## THANK YOU

Thank you to all the faculty and staff who have worked to make this inspiring and amazing evening possible. An event like this takes the time and talents of many and we deeply appreciate all your efforts on behalf of the 2022–23 Trustee Scholars.

## **C R E A T I V E**

© 2022 Ringling College Design Center

Design by Joel Reyes '23, Graphic Design

Photography by Matthew Holler '11, Photography & Imaging





2700 North Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, Florida 34234-5895