

# Maker's S<sup>IV</sup> Mark<sup>®</sup>



RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN





A COLLABORATIVE CASE STUDY

**RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN**



**MAKER'S MARK®**



*Make Your Mark* reflects a commitment to craft through the collaboration between the world's first premium bourbon and an internationally acclaimed art and design college famed for turning passion into profession.

See how this exhibit showcased the talent of students, faculty, staff, and alumni united in expressing creativity and contributing to the community.

## CREATIVE COLLABORATION



Students, faculty, staff, and alumni from Ringling College of Art and Design collaborated with Maker's Mark® Distillery to produce a series of uniquely designed bourbon bottles named *Make Your Mark*. This initiative is part of the College's Industry Experience (INDEX) program, providing students with real-world experience.

In June 2023, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Jeff Schwartz and a group from the College visited the distillery to select barrel number 334, which was bottled that September and donated to the College by Maker's Mark®. The barrel was crafted using a unique selection of staves, enhancing its distinctive flavor profile.













## OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS

INDEX invited the Ringling College community to participate through an open call, distributing bottles to students, faculty, and staff to design. The artworks vary widely, including hand-painted designs, sewn cloth embellishments, sculptures, and even a wooden birdhouse.

Adding another layer of creativity, Schwartz crafted 60 custom oak boxes to cradle the bottles, with graphics designed by Graphic Design Department Head Jeff Bleitz and laser cut by photographer Nancy Nassiff. Some of these beautifully designed boxes were integrated into the final artworks, enhancing the overall project's artistic flair. This attention to detail underscores the collaborative spirit and high standards of craftsmanship that define both Ringling College and Maker's Mark®.









BOTTLE NO.

008

BOTTLE NO.

041







BOTTLE NO.

039

BOTTLE NO.

024







**SHERYL HALER • ILLUSTRATION FACULTY**



**FINN WILSON • '26 ILLUSTRATION**



**ANA PEREIRA • VIRTUAL REALITY DEVELOPMENT FACULTY**

BOTTLE NO.

026





BOTTLE NO.

018



BOTTLE NO.

013





**JOE FIG**  
FINE ARTS AND VISUAL STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT HEAD



**MICHAEL WYSHOCK**  
FINE ARTS FACULTY



**MARINA SHALTOUT**  
FINE ARTS FACULTY



**JOHN QUIGLEY**  
'25 ILLUSTRATION



**VICKY RANDALL  
ESZTER SZIKSZ**  
FINE ARTS FACULTY



**TIM JAEGER**  
DIRECTOR OF GALLERIES  
AND EXHIBITIONS



**JEFF BLEITZ**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
DEPARTMENT HEAD



**TORI ABRAMOV**  
'26 ILLUSTRATION

BOTTLE NO.

059



CHARLOTTE CHEN • '24 ILLUSTRATION

BOTTLE NO.

012



STEVEN STRENG • FIRST YEAR STUDIO PROGRAM FACULTY



BOTTLE NO.

002



BOTTLE NO.

029



BOTTLE NO.

006



BOTTLE NO.

025



BOTTLE NO.

003





BOTTLE NO.

057



JOHN QUIGLEY • '25 ILLUSTRATION

036



PERCY DOOLEY • '24 ILLUSTRATION

043



EMMALEAH VICKERS • '26 ILLUSTRATION

BOTTLE NO.

058



MADDIE CINQUE • '24 ILLUSTRATION

BOTTLE NO.

021



VICKY RANDALL & ESZTER SZIKSZ  
FINE ARTS FACULTY

BOTTLE NO.

252







BOTTLE NO.  
046



BOTTLE NO.

030





**ELENA MAY BINTI SAINI**  
'24 ILLUSTRATION



**JOHN QUIGLEY**  
'25 ILLUSTRATION



**TAYLOR ROSENALT**  
FIRST YEAR STUDIO PROGRAM  
FACULTY



**MATT MYERS**  
FIRST YEAR STUDIO PROGRAM  
FACULTY



**MICHAEL MARSICANO**  
ILLUSTRATION FACULTY



**GEORGE PRATT**  
ILLUSTRATION FACULTY



**ALICIA PATAO**  
'24 ILLUSTRATION



**STEVEN STRENK**  
FIRST YEAR STUDIO PROGRAM  
FACULTY



## AUCTION LAUNCH



The initiative was launched at the College's annual fundraising event, Avant-Garde, where 11 of the art object bottles were auctioned. Twenty-four more bottles were displayed in an exhibition at the Alfred R. Goldstein Library, with 50 to 70 more being transformed into artworks for future auctions. Proceeds from these auctions will support student scholarships, furthering the College's mission to provide valuable opportunities for its students. The ultimate goal is to create and auction 200 bottles, with additional bottles available for consumption at events or as part of the art objects for purchase.

For anyone interested in obtaining one of these unique bottles, please contact us at [index@ringling.edu](mailto:index@ringling.edu). This is a rare opportunity to own a piece of art that combines the craftsmanship of Maker's Mark® bourbon with the creativity of Ringling College's talented community. By purchasing one of these bottles, you are not only acquiring a unique collectible but also supporting the future of art and design education.









## INDEX AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS

The INDEX program at Ringling College aims to bridge the gap between education and industry, providing students with invaluable real-world experience through collaborations with leading companies. This partnership with Maker's Mark® Distillery is a prime example of how INDEX helps students apply their skills in professional settings, fostering creativity and innovation. The program not only enhances students' academic experience but also prepares them for successful careers in their chosen fields.

The *Make Your Mark* project exemplifies the fusion of art and craft, highlighting the College's commitment to turning passion into profession and celebrating the intersection of education and industry.



## INDEX Center at Ringling College

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[www.ringling.edu/index](http://www.ringling.edu/index)



Ringling College  
of Art + Design

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