



The Chicago
Academy for the Arts

2018 Faculty Legacy Award
Patricia Rusk



2018 All-School Showcase

Photos by Thomas Mohr Photography except where otherwise noted.

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The Class of 2018

Dear Friends,

At graduation, we were honored to welcome guest speaker Gerald Griffin, a critically acclaimed and award-winning painter, sculptor, poet, and gallery owner who has been described as the “artist of African American consciousness.” In Mr. Griffin’s moving speech, he described his belief that “artists help to shape the consciousness of society and, therefore, can have the greatest impact on whether we evolve — or devolve.”

His words were an inspirational send-off to the Class of 2018, and a fitting close to a school year that featured brilliant and socially relevant student work all year long. The work of our students not only captivated some of our largest audiences in our history, but caught the attention of the media as well. With The Academy and its students featured on WGN radio, on the front page of the Tribune, on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, on FOX, ABC, NBC, and CBS, and in dozens of papers across the country, we are proud to share our story with the world.

That story continues with our announcement today that the 39 seniors in the Class of 2018 have earned nearly \$10 million in scholarships to the best colleges, universities, and conservatories in the country. This year’s graduates will attend schools like Juilliard, Princeton, and Stanford, well prepared for a breathtaking variety of paths both in the arts and beyond.

I have often remarked that the arts catalyze the most important things in life: imagination, community, and joy. The arts inspire, unify, broaden perspective, heal, give voice, and mobilize, and I am so, so proud to share this building with so many young people so deeply committed to their work. I thank them — and I thank *you* — for being a part of this place.

Happy Summer,

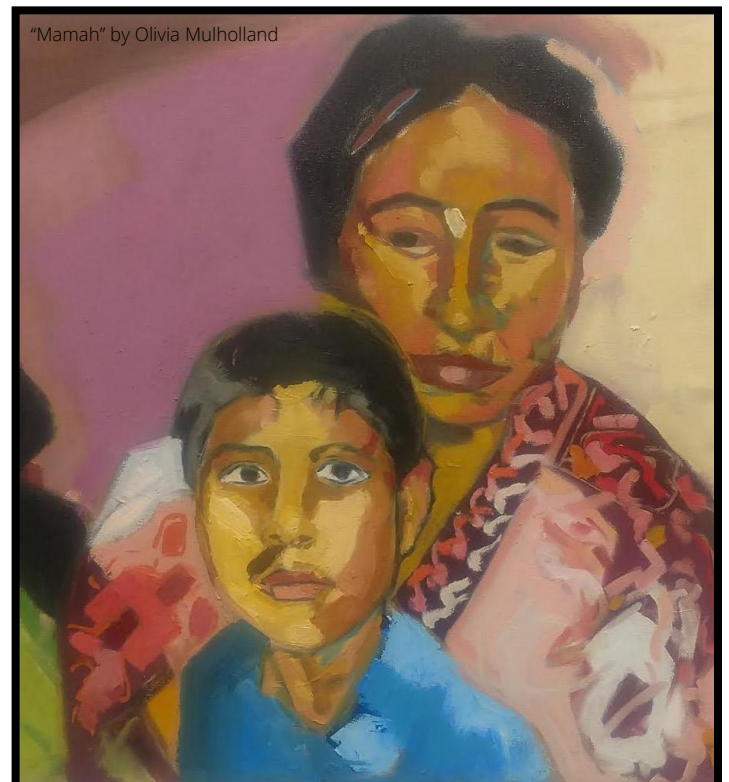
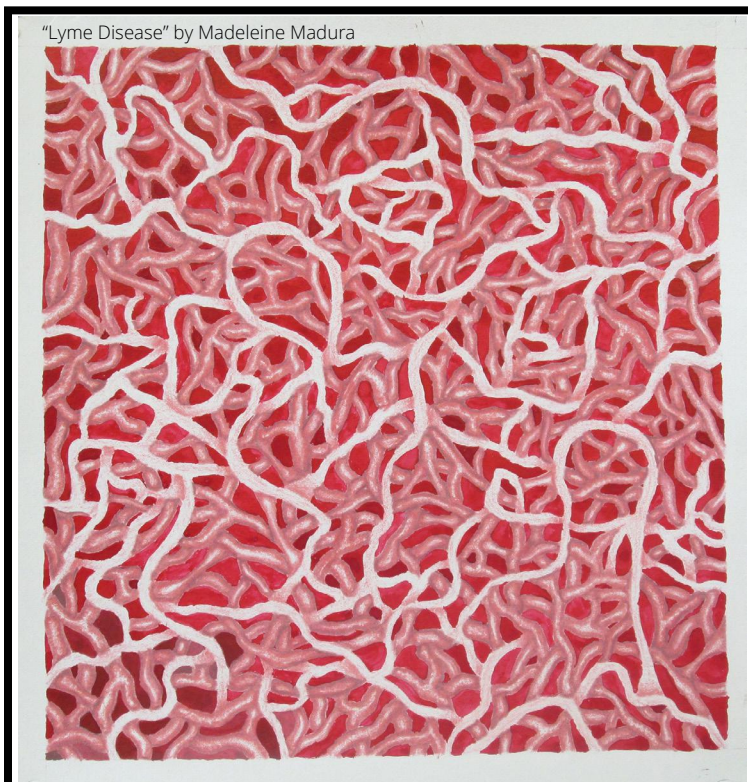
Jason Patera
Head of School

Performance Highlights

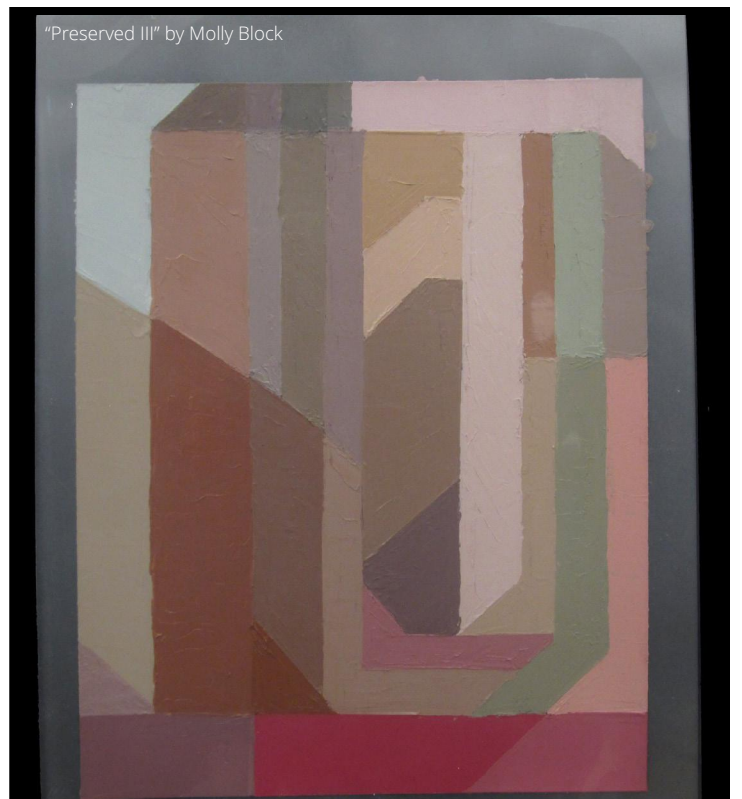
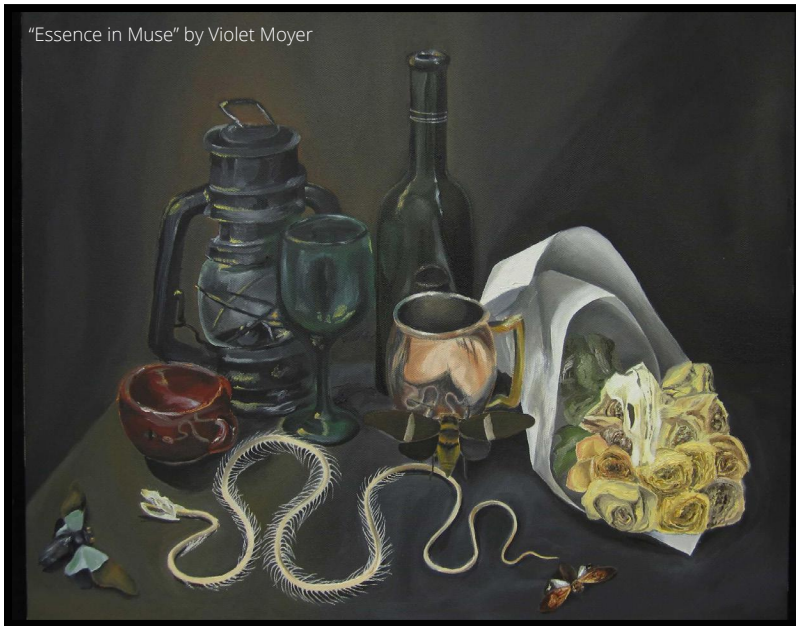
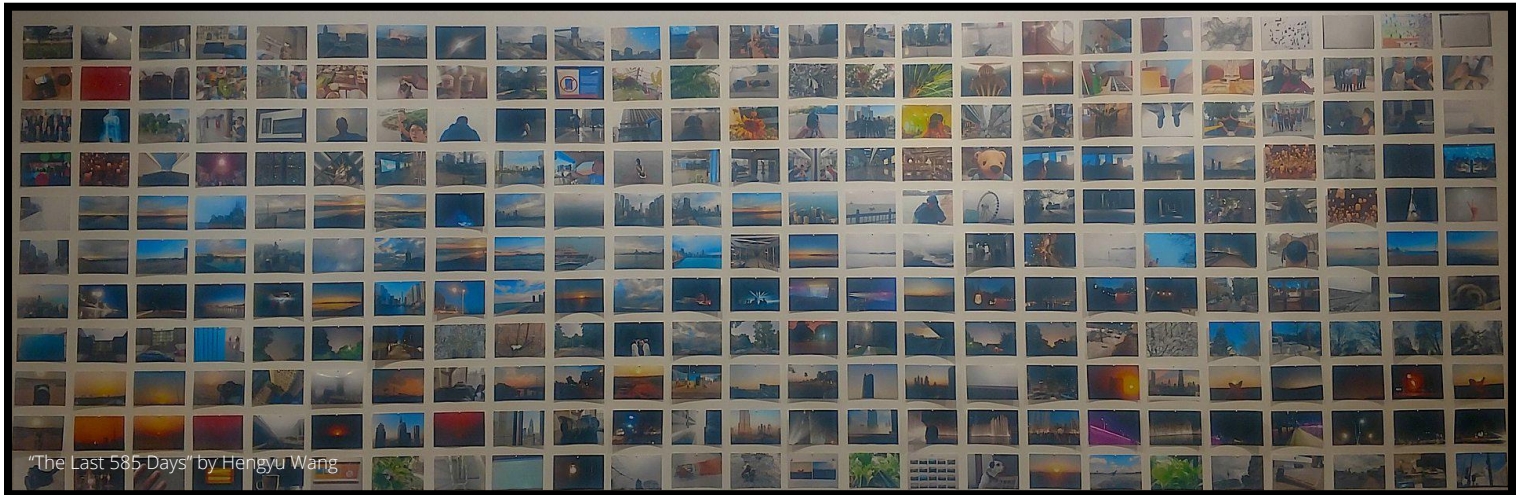
Media Arts Winter Juried Festival



Visual Arts Department Senior Exhibition



Summer Newsletter



Theatre Department's *columbinus*



Musical Theatre Department's *All Shook Up*



Visual Arts Department Spring Exhibition





Senior-Choreographed Dance Concert



Spring Dance Concert



Spring Jazz Concert at Jazz Showcase



Summer Newsletter



Shakespeare Festival



Luminarts Speech Contest



Jason Patera: Golden Apple Finalist

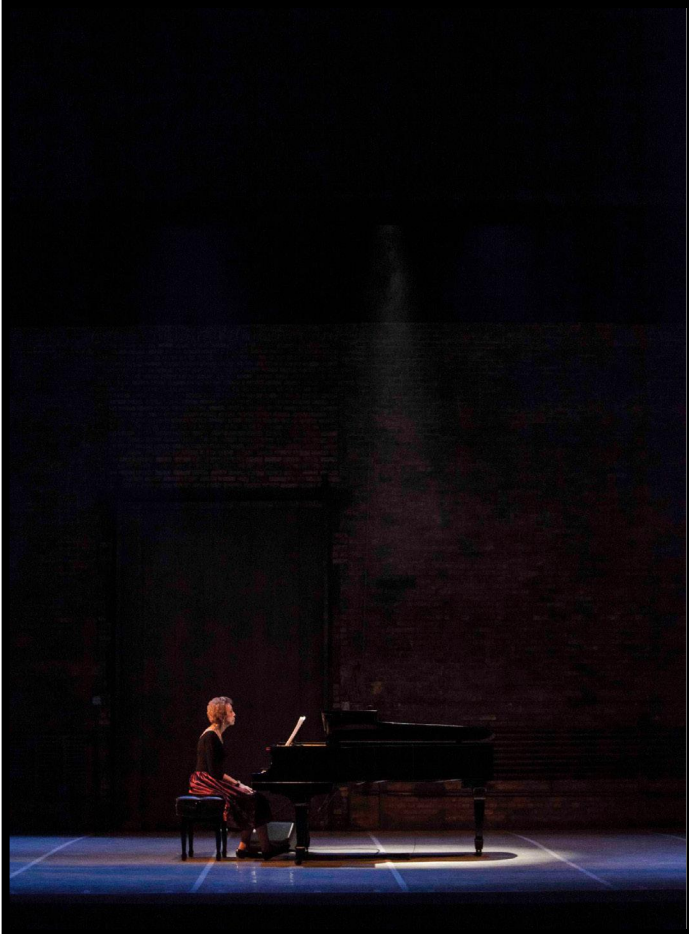


WTTW Fundraiser



2018 All-School Showcase



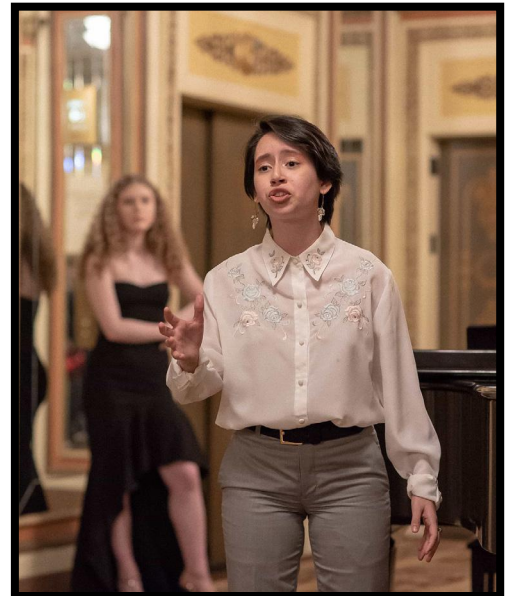
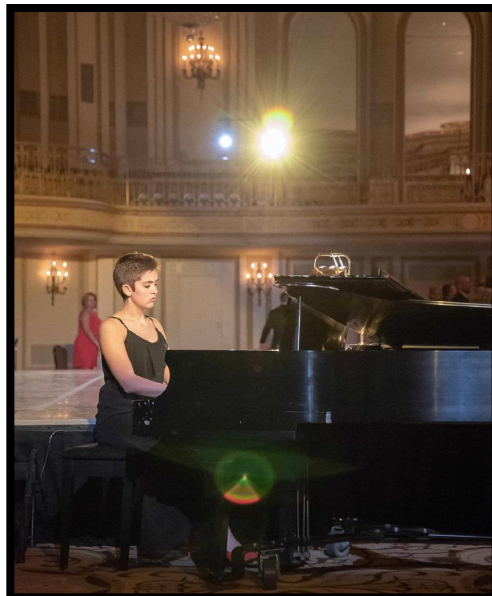


“ Why do I love this school? It's the kids. I love musical directing, and coaching and accompanying them. I love it when my theory class gets so excited about a concept that they can't contain themselves. I love it when one of my lunch hour class students realizes that he or she can sing.

People ask me why I don't retire. When I walk in the door of The Academy and don't have a smile on my face, I will know that it is time.”

- Patricia Rusk, recipient of the 2018 Faculty Legacy Award

2018 IMAGINE Gala





Rusty Hernandez-Sanfilippo and Jeffrey Sanfilippo accepting the Leadership and Legacy Award at the 2018 IMAGINE Gala

“ There is a huge need for professional young men in dance. And The Academy prepares these artists to pursue these opportunities. Many of these young men have the talent, passion, determination, and the will to make sacrifices for such an opportunity. And in spite of all of their parents' sacrifices, tuition becomes a barrier.

The Young Men's Dance Initiative is meant to help overcome this barrier. And in no time these students will become an inspiration in their own right. They'll become role models, leaders, and phenomenal artists. And, in turn, they will affect the lives of all they touch.”

*- Rusty Hernandez-Sanfilippo, Founder of the Young Men's Dance Initiative
and 2018 recipient of the Leadership and Legacy Award*



Video: How Would You Describe The Academy?



**Click [here](#) to watch the Academy video
that premiered at this year's Gala!**

Alumni Profiles



Akenya Seymour

Akenya Seymour graduated from the Music Department of The Academy in 2010. Since then, she has completed a degree at New England Conservatory in Boston, released her own EP, and performed both live and in the studio with popular artists and musical legends. Read the full interview below to get to know Akenya's story and her experience at The Academy.

[Read more about Akenya](#)

Jeremy Callner

Jeremy Callner graduated from The Academy Music Department in 1994. He pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Music at the University of Hartford in Connecticut for two years, where he studied with Jackie McLean, a jazz legend who played with musicians like Miles Davis and Charles Mingus. In 1996, he moved back to Chicago to complete his degree in jazz saxophone at Roosevelt University. Later on, Jeremy started a music school called Caltera School, with Academy Head of School Jason Patera.

[Read more about Jeremy](#)



Application for 2018-2019 School Year

Summer is here, but it is not too late to submit an application to The Chicago Academy for the Arts for the 2018-2019 school year!

Click below to start your application and schedule your audition, and please contact the Admissions Office with any questions! See below for the 2018-2019 Admissions Season Calendar. Registration for these events, and the online application for the 2019-2020 school year will be open in August.

Start Your Application

Full Admissions Calendar



APPLICATION OPEN IN AUGUST



SUMMER PROGRAM 2018

Register for the Summer Program
June 25-30

Students in the News



COLUMBINUS

Featured on ABC7 Chicago,
Chicago Tribune, WGN, WBBM,
Patch, and Fox 32

[Read more here](#)



HALEY BOLITHON

Featured in the Daily Herald

[Read more here](#)



ZACH JEPPSEN

Featured in The Chicago Tribune, The
Jam, Wilwaukee Journal Sentennial,
Northwest Harold, CBS 58, and more

[Read more here](#)



ELISE ROBINSON

Featured on WGN

[Read more here](#)



JASON PATERA

Featured on WGN Radio and
in My Suburban Life Magazine

[Read more here](#)



ISAIAH DAY

Featured on ABC7
and in Southside Weekly

[Read more here](#)



MICAH COLLIER

Featured in The Daily Southtown
Chicago Tribune

[Read more here](#)

Dear Alums,

The third-annual “Patera Era” Chicago alumni party will be on Thursday, August 9! We’ll have live music, food, and plenty of embarrassing photos from the archives.

We want to send the class of 2018 off to college in style, as well as welcome as many alums as possible from the 80’s to 10’s.

Soon, we’ll announce the 2018 Alumni Grant Program, and we’ll announce the winners that night.

You’re going to be there right? RSVP below!

Happy summer, friends,

Jason

RSVP Here



*An online journal assembled and curated by
The Chicago Academy for the Arts Media Arts Department.*

Animation, Creative Writing, and Film

Check out the Latest Issue

A Letter from Media Arts Chair Jessi Meliza

Chicago spring is a vibrant, dynamic time. Every year, I expect lush greenery and bright flowers to be popping up by the beginning of April, leading to long, contemplative walks in a light jacket. These are expectations that can set one up for utter disappointment.

As of this publishing, this spring has hosted not just “showers,” but out-and-out snowfalls. Fluffy white accumulations cover flower beds and greenspaces. My heavy winter coat is slung on the back of my chair. Instead of falling into a full pit of despair, though, this year I am savoring a mug of hot chocolate and catching up on great books and a long list of streaming films.

Though my expectations were dashed, I think about the great creative work that is burrowing, gestating, slowly growing roots just below the surface, ready to spring forth with a moment of warm sun and still afternoons. *Germinate* brings you some of the incredible work by young creative people. Please enjoy viewing and reading these collected works that have sprouted and taken root on these virtual pages. Spring is here!

2018 Commencement Ceremony

“ Finding your rhythm is a process not a destination. Class of 2018, we have learned something about ourselves over these past four years. Now it is time to commit to a rhythm...be ok with building a new sound...finding a new beat...a new groove...a new band.”

- Micah Collier, student speaker at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony, Music '18



“ The world we live in is flawed... But it is the young artists who hold the key to the world we live in tomorrow. I believe artists help to shape the consciousness of society and therefore, can have the greatest impact on whether we evolve—or devolve.”

- Gerald Griffin, guest speaker at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

SASHA BASS-ULMER
DANCE



VERONICA BEDRIO
MUSICAL THEATRE



MOLLY BLOCK
VISUAL ARTS



HALEY BOLITHON
MUSICAL THEATRE



MOLLY BREMER
MUSICAL THEATRE



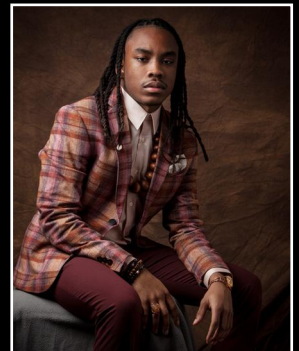
MORGAN CLUNE
DANCE



We thought we were choosing The Academy for the guidance for our daughter's dance career. What we received was that plus so much more."

-Dean Clune
Father of Morgan

MICAH COLLIER
MUSIC



TYLER CREED
MUSIC



SAM DOORNEBOS
MEDIA ARTS



EMILY GAY
MEDIA ARTS



AVERY GLUNT
DANCE



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

ANTON GRATCH
MUSIC



IVAN JARAMILLO
THEATRE



ALISON KANE
THEATRE



Sitting in the costume shop with my friends doing homework and preparing for a show. I will miss that. I will miss the atmosphere. It's why I came here. It didn't feel like a high school -- like any other high school."

-Ali Kane, Theatre



It has been exciting watching Meghan grow not only as an artist and student, but as a member of society with an awareness of community, others in need, social challenges and core values of being an accepting person who understands doing the right thing."

-Joe Krueger
Father of Meghan

MEGHAN KRUEGER
MUSIC



AUDREY LANDGREN
VISUAL ARTS



JORDYN LANDO
DANCE



ELANA LEE
MUSIC



MADELEINE MADURA
VISUAL ARTS



CALE MANNING
MEDIA ARTS



NORA MCKIRDIE
THEATRE



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

CAITLIN MORLEY
THEATRE



MATI MORROW
MEDIA ARTS



VIOLET MOYER
VISUAL ARTS



I find myself being inspired by music and dance — not just other paintings. I love seeing others do what they love. The environment creates this mutual understanding. It just feels like there is so much empathy within this school."

-Violet Moyer, Visual Arts

OLIVIA MULHOLLAND
VISUAL ARTS



JACK O'CONNELL
MUSICAL THEATRE



I would also want other people to understand that if you are looking for a career in the arts, the training that you get here is really second to none. And it really prepares you for getting into college and then the future career you may have."

-Jack O'Connell, Musical Theatre

JUSTINE OSWIECIMSKI
DANCE



My time at The Academy has really prepared me for the future because I've been able to fully pursue my art and delve into creative writing at a young age. "

-Sarah Pazen, Media Arts

SARAH PAZEN
MEDIA ARTS



CERIDWYN QUAINANCE
THEATRE



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

JOHNNY RABE
MUSICAL THEATRE



At The Academy, Johnny immediately felt at home. He's loved being in a community where he can be himself. He doesn't have to pretend to be someone that he isn't. He doesn't have to act when he is not on stage."

-Lilah Rabe,
Mother of Johnny

PARIS RICHARDSON
MUSICAL THEATRE



MAKAYLA RICO
MUSICAL THEATRE



ELISE ROBINSON
VISUAL ARTS



STELLA ROTHENBERG
MUSIC



GIANNA ROTKVICH
DANCE



ARIANA SUGAY
DANCE



LAUREN THOMPSON
MEDIA ARTS



HENGYU WANG
VISUAL ARTS



ILANA WEISBACH
MUSIC



**All photos by
Thomas Mohr Photography**

