



Dear Friends of Wake The Arts,

I hope your school year is off to a wonderful start!

I'm thrilled to send this newsletter during "Week of the Arts" and invite you to enjoy the exciting array of events already underway. From visiting filmmakers and musicians to performances and thought-provoking panels, there's something for everyone — check out the full list of events below. I also encourage you to join us for the **Wake the Arts Center Kickoff** on Thursday at 6pm in the Lower Lobby of Scales, right before the performance of **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940** on the Tedford Stage at 7:30 p.m.

Although it's only September, the Wake the Arts Center has been busy! We've already funded more than a dozen proposals, helping to support the work of both arts and non-arts departments working together to invigorate the intellectual, artistic, and cultural life of the university.

Just this week alone, the Center has partnered on projects with the Center for Literacy Education (our newest center!), the Music Department, Art Department, the University Art Collection, the Theater and Dance Department, the Humanities Institute, and others. The arts are truly woven into the fabric of Wake Forest University!

In addition to supporting these exciting projects, we've redesigned our website and revamped our proposal form to streamline the grant process. We're energized by the influx of new and innovative proposals that are shaping the arts landscape on campus, and we invite you to partner with us.

As always, stay tuned for upcoming performances, events, and collaborations, and be sure to visit our new website to learn more.

Hope to see you around campus this fall!

Yours,

Christopher Zaluski
Co-director, Wake the Arts Center
Associate Program Director,
Documentary Film Program



Want to see what's coming up?
See our [Semester at a Glance](#) »

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What's Happening



Kick off the new academic year with Wake the Arts

Collaborate with us! We're hosting a gathering on **Thursday, September 26 at 6 p.m.** in Scales Lower Lobby – learn how the new Wake the Arts Center can help you bring your interdisciplinary ideas to fruition. Afterward, we'll head down the hall to catch *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, the first play of the Theatre season.

RSVP

Week of the Arts: September 20-30

This week is packed with arts offerings for every taste. Wake Forest University's Week of the Arts, sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement, is part of the 'First Six Weeks' program. More details about individual events may be found below in the "Coming Soon" section of this newsletter.

See the complete calendar



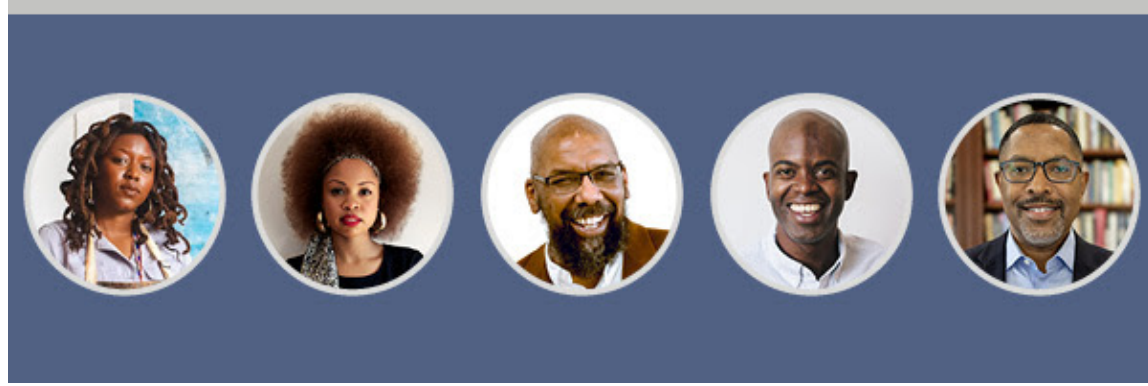
The Murder Comedy Murders of 1940 by John Bishop, directed by Cindy Gendrich

September 20-21 & 26-28 at 7:30 p.m.
September 22 & 29 at 2 p.m.
Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center

John Bishop's campy, intricately plotted murder mystery is filled with larger-than-life characters, the twists and turns you'd expect from a good Agatha Christie story, and a healthy serving of silliness. It's winter, 1940, and a blizzard can't keep a group of ambitious theatre folk from assembling at an upstate New York mansion to audition their new musical for a wealthy patron. Bodies begin to drop immediately. Love, ambition, espionage, dad jokes, recipe tips: *The Musical*

Comedy Murders of 1940 has it all. The New York Post heralded the show's "diamond wit," and The Village Voice called it "hugely enjoyable." A smart, fun choice for Family Weekend at Wake Forest. Tickets available starting September 3.

WFU Theatre



Art, Community, and Campus Memorialization Panel Discussion

Tuesday, September 24
5:30 p.m., Scales 102

Join Wake Forest Arts Faculty and Scholars, Dean of Divinity Dr. Corey D. B. Walker, and Baskervill architects for a panel discussion on the intersection of creativity, collective memory, and institutional spaces. The event is inspired by the acquisition of Adebunmi Gbadebo's "Untitled 3, Dolly, 2023," selected by the student-led Reece Art Acquisition Committee for the University Art Collection and on display in Hanes Gallery. Join us for an evening of insightful discussion, challenging ideas, and inspiring visions for a more inclusive and reflective campus environment.

[Read more](#)



Escape Velocities: New Acquisitions to the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art

Opening Reception: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Exhibition: August 21 - December 8

The art selected by the 2024 student members of the **Reece Collection Acquisition Committee** resists being understood as a cohesive body of work, whether based on approach, medium, style, subject, or other typical measure. What these artists and their work do share is something that would likely have discounted them even in the recent past; their imputed "marginality."

[Read more](#)

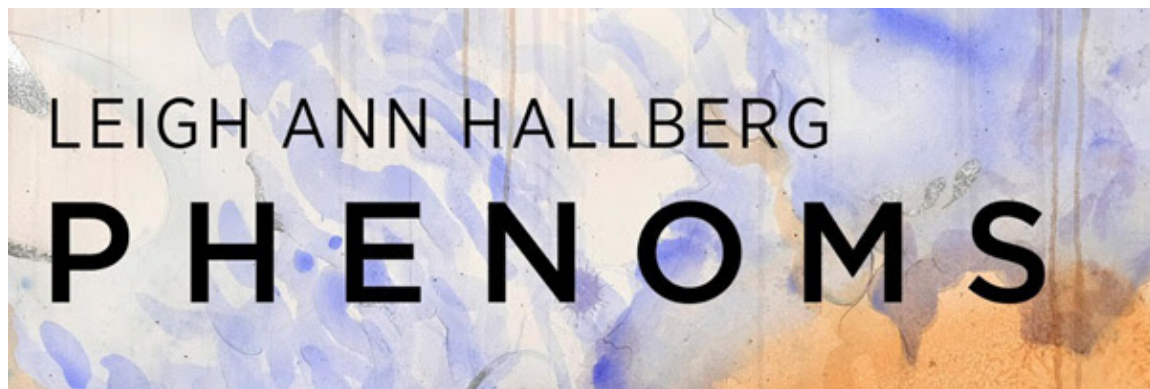


Secret Artists Series opens with icarus Quartet “Bartók Reborn”

A Secret Series world premiere! “Bartók Reborn” will be presented by the icarus Quartet, an ensemble of two pianists and two percussionists anchored by Wake Forest Music faculty member Larry Weng. Bartók’s “Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion” will be followed by three new works commissioned by the Secret Artists Series — and written in response to Bartók’s masterpiece — by composers Martin Bresnick, Viet Cuong, and Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Higdon.



[Read more](#)



Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms

Reynolda House Museum of American Art
9/20/24 - 10/19/25

Hallberg’s Phenoms at Reynolda House Museum of American Art consists of 12 works in two iterations, each part of an ongoing series. Measuring 52” x 52” x 4” and created with watercolor, graphite, and metal leaf on wooden armatures. Each Phenom is an open-ended exploration, lacking a defined horizon or specified entry point. They emerge from setting aside distractions and preconceived notions to concentrate on how the immediate perception of sights, sounds, smells, and textures contribute to a unified, experiential whole.

The essay for this exhibition, “**Entangled: Leigh Ann Hallberg’s Phenoms,**” by Veronica Kavass, was supported by the Wake the Arts Center.

[Read more](#)

Who’s Making Things Happen

Wake the Arts Alumni Spotlight: Hillary Baack ('02)

“My theater major had a tremendous influence on my career, as I continued to strengthen my work as an actor, writer and director, all major aspects of my education at Wake. As for my English major, this also helped strengthen my understanding and skills with storytelling and writing. My professors and peers, across the board, have played roles in my career, as well, such as one friend referring me for an acting role.”



— Hillary Baack ('02)

[Read Hillary's interview on DeacLink](#)

Alums — do you have an exciting update you want to share with our community? We'd love to feature you on [DeacLink](#), our platform for Wake Forest Arts alumni.

Art History Professor Morna O'Neill discusses AI

Dr. O'Neill's seminar, "But What About Images?! Utilizing Image and Visual AI Tools in the Classroom" will discuss the central issues around AI-image generation and how they can be used as a tool in the classroom for discussing not only the visual but also discipline-specific content. As part of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching's AI seminar series, the seminar will look at popular AI image generating tools and how these tools use datasets and language to generate a visual image. It will also address limitations of AI-image generation and the impact it has on artists and designers.



[More about the AI seminar series](#)

Wake Women Podcast: "Objects of the Rich and Famous" with Meaghan Steele ('11)

A turn of the century pocket watch that sold for \$24 million. An original copy of the constitution that was auctioned for over \$43 million. Who buys and sells these extraordinary items? Meet Meaghan Steele ('11), Auctioneer and Director of Luxury Business Operations at Sotheby's. As an Art History major at Wake Forest, Meaghan was trained to research and interpret artifacts in the context of our history and culture. She uses that knowledge every day as she navigates the high-finance world of luxury objects in the Americas. Featured on the [Wake Women podcast](#) with Mary Tribble.



[Listen on Spotify](#)

Wake the Arts staff updates

Hayden Barnes: Artistic Director, Secret Artists Series

With the new season of the Secret Artists Series almost underway, we are excited to announce that Hayden Barnes is the new Artistic Director. Hayden first joined the Secret team as the very first student intern from 1998 to 2000 and has served as Secret Manager for the past nine years.



Rachael Hayes: Assistant Director, Hanes Gallery

Rachael Hayes will be joining WFU Galleries and Collections full-time as the Hanes Gallery Assistant Director. Rachael has made a significant impact through her part-time role as Gallery Manager, and we look forward to her continued contributions and the positive influence she will undoubtedly bring.



Coming Soon

Friday, Sept. 20:

Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms exhibition opens (Reynolda House Museum, Sept. 20, 2024 - Oct. 19, 2025)

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Sept. 21:

Girls of Yellow Diamonds (Byrum Welcome Center, 5pm)

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Sept. 22:

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Monday, Sept. 23:

"Going Through the Movements" Margaret Hodge ('25) solo exhibition opens (stArt gallery: Reynolda Village, 9/23 - 10/11)

"But What About Images?! Utilizing Image and Visual AI Tools in the Classroom" seminar, part 1 (8:30am-12pm, Scales 110)

Leadership, Equity, & Education Speaker Series with Dr. Donovan Livingston (Byrum Welcome Center, 6pm)

Tuesday, Sept. 24:

"Art, Community, and Campus Memorialization Panel Discussion" (Scales 102, 5:30pm)

"Escape Velocities: New Acquisitions to the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art" reception (Hanes Gallery, 6:30pm)

Tanganza: Faculty and Guest Artist Concert with Jacqui Carrasco and Marco Sartor (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Wednesday, Sept. 25:

Sip and Paint (Benson University Center- 401B, 5pm)

The Future of Music Leadership: Lainey Raab, Music Therapist (Scales M201, 7pm)

Thursday, Sept. 26:

Wake the Arts Center Reception (Scales lower lobby, 6pm)

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Friday, Sept. 27:

"But What About Images?! Utilizing Image and Visual AI Tools in the Classroom" seminar, part 2 (1:30pm-5pm, Scales 110)

Art Exhibition: Evan Harris ('26) Opening Reception (Brockway Recruiting Center, 5pm-7pm)

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Sept. 28:

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Sept. 29:

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Monday, Sept. 30:

icarus Quartet: "Bartók Reborn" Secret Artists Series (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Thursday, Oct. 3:

Maggie Hodge ('25) solo show Reception (stArt gallery: Reynolda Village, 5pm)

Friday, Oct. 4:

Wind Ensemble Concert (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Oct. 6:

Faculty Trio Concert (Brendle Recital Hall, 3pm)

Tuesday, Oct. 8:

Sawako Nakayasu Poetry Reading for One (Hanes Art Gallery, 5:30pm)

Wednesday, Oct. 9:

Object of the Month: Betye Saar's A Matter of Clarity (Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 12pm)

Sunday, Oct. 13:

Bring Them Home / Aiskóthkapiyaaya: Film Screening (Porter Byrum Welcome Center, 4pm)

Wednesday, Oct. 16:

Founder's Vision Curator Tour with Phil Archer (Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 3pm)

Monday, Oct. 21:

Amelia Dunat ('25) exhibition opens, including work from Claudia Gross, Adelaide Menzies, and Katie Wolf (10/21 - 11/8, stArt gallery -Reynolda Village)

Virtual Wavelengths: Victoria Banks (virtual, 10am)

Wednesday, Oct. 23:

"How brands connect with people through Interactive and Immersive Design" visiting speaker Marcos Barbato (Scales 102, 4:30pm)

A Foot On Both Logs In The River: Artists as Writers and Curators (Hanes Art Gallery, 5:30pm)

Friday, Oct. 25:

"Sounds of Adventure" WFU Symphony Orchestra Concert (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Oct. 27:

Reynolda On the House: Organ Spooktacular (Reynolda House Museum of American Art, 1:30 - 4:30pm)

Calaveritas Workshop (Lam Museum of Anthropology, 2pm - 4pm)

Tuesday, Oct. 29:

Student Showcase Recital (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Thursday, Oct. 31:

WFU Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert (Brendle Recital Hall, 5pm)

Friday, Nov. 1:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 2:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Nov. 3:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Thursday, Nov. 7:

Cuarteto Casals, Secret Artists Series (Brendle Recital Hall, 7:30pm)

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Friday, Nov. 8:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Saturday, Nov. 9:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 7:30pm)

Sunday, Nov. 10:

Love and Information theatre (Tedford Stage, 2pm)

Exhibitions

Escape Velocities: New Acquisitions to the Reece Collection of Student-Acquired Contemporary Art (Charlotte and Philip Hanes Art Gallery, August 21 - December 8)

"Going Through the Movements" Margaret Hodge ('25) solo exhibition (stArt gallery, September 23 - October 11)

Crossing Thresholds: Works from Dr. Justin Cook's JOU 380 course (stArt.dt (Wake Downtown), September 2 - October 18)

Reynolda House Museum of American Art:

- **Leigh Ann Hallberg: Phenoms** (9/20/24 - 10/19/25)
- **Founder's Vision: The Private Collection of Barbara Babcock Millhouse** (8/24 - 12/15)
- **Still I Rise: The Black Experience at Reynolda** (through 12/31)
- **Good Impressions: Portraits Across Three Centuries from Reynolda & Wake Forest** (through 10/27)
- **Smith & Libby: Two Rings, Seven Months, One Bullet**

Lam Museum of Anthropology:

- **Life after Death: Celebrating Day of the Dead** (9/10 - 12/6)

- **Poems Made to Wear: Traditional Colors in East Asia** (10/15/24 - 8/16/25)

Poets and Publishers of the Black Arts Movement (ZSR Special Collections - 625, through December)



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