

PROJECT SPACE



MEMENTO

SEPTEMBER 7 - 23, 2023

We are proud to present the first ever GOCA staff show. The GOCA team is made up of talented visual artists, ambitious creatives, and hard-working museum studies majors. This group excels at working together day-to-day and now we are taking this teamwork to new levels by putting together a show digging into our personal experiences and how we as people interact with the environment around us.

Olivia Azadmanesh Student, Curator



Olivia Azadmanesh is entering her senior year studying Anthropology and Museum Studies. She is excited to be curating the GOCA Staff Show because she gets to expand her academic and professional experience while showcasing the talent of her peers, friends, and mentors.

Margaret Bailey Student, Artist



Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Margaret Bailey (she/her), has always appreciated the proximity to nature. Being so close to the mountains always felt like a privilege but also means that she has watched the landscapes change around her as she has grown up. Margaret is fascinated by how humans impact our planet and the implications that it has for the future. In making these kaleidoscope landscapes with acrylic paint, she hopes to invite viewers to explore the reflections and repetitions and mediate their place in the greater ecosystem of the Earth. Margaret is a junior at UCCS pursuing a Bachelor of Arts.

Lynné Bowman Cravens Interim Director, Artist



Lynné Bowman Cravens (she/her) is a conceptual artist and photographer. She received her BA in Photocommunications from St. Edward's University, and her MFA in Photography from the University of North Texas. Cravens was born and raised in Austin, Texas and currently resides in Colorado, where she is working as the Interim Director and the Exhibitions and Events Manager at GOCA at UCCS.

Meredith Eaves Student, Curator



Meredith Eaves (she/her) is a sophomore Museum Studies and Gallery Practice major at UCCS. She is very excited to be involved in the curation of this show. She has always been inspired by artists and their inspirations and is delighted to be able to help tell the story of her coworkers while being provided with an outstanding learning experience.

Katharina Hill Student, Artist & Curator



Katharina Hill (she/her) left her career in international youth exchange and student counseling in Denmark to follow her husband to Colorado. Here, she decided to return to school and is now a non-degree seeking graduate student with a focus on Visual Art at UCCS. For her artwork for the show, she used ink on hot press watercolor paper, rope and scavenged material like branches and bones to transform the piece from a flat drawing into a 3D-object.

Avery Jam Student, Artist



Avery Jam (she/her) is a Visual Art major here at UCCS and will be a junior this coming semester. For this show, she is working with miniature sculpture and installation sculpture, and she is so happy to be a part of the GOCA Staff!

Rachel Klap Alumna, Artist



Rachel Klap is a recent alumna of UCCS where she majored in Museum Studies and Gallery Practice. Her main focus is in mixed media primarily using acrylic, clay, and gouache for this show. Rachel is excited to be putting her artwork in shows again after the pandemic and happy to still have a hand in GOCA after concluding her time at the gallery.

Abigail Kopetzky Gallery Manager, Artist & Curator



Abigail Kopetzky is a Colorado-based museum professional currently working as the Gallery Manager at the Galleries of Contemporary Art. She graduated from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs where she majored in History and minored in Museum Studies. Her interest in women's history and historical fashion focused her creative energy into sewing and embroidering.

Daniella Mata Student, Curator



Daniella Mata (she/her) is a Sophomore in the Museum Studies and Gallery Practice major. Throughout her life, she has aspired to pursue a career in museums and galleries since she was seven years old. As a curator, the opportunity to conserve diverse commodities and convey information to viewers across the world proved just right. It's the equivalent of narrating a historical account from the past with demonstrable proof that left an influence on what would be today's time.

Noel Powell Student, Curator



Noel Powell is a junior at UCCS and is majoring in Museum Studies and Gallery Practice. She chose to be a curator because she enjoys the detailed work of putting together an exhibit from a collection of objects to show to audiences. She also enjoys watching people become visibly excited over learning about and discussing subjects that interest them.

Curator Reflections

While these members of the GOCA staff may not have their work on the walls, the part they played in the creation of this show is nothing less than masterful. These wonderful minds worked carefully to tell a comprehensive story of their friends, coworkers, and artists.

Olivia Azadmanesh

Being a part of the curatorial team for *Memento* was an extraordinary privilege. Through reflecting on transformative and sometimes difficult experiences, as well as drawing attention to the beauty of everyday life, my coworkers have created a cathartic body of work that feels so special to be a part of. After gaining this unique experience I'm excited to apply my studies to future exhibitions.

Meredith Eaves

Curating this show was both a daunting and exciting task that I was so happy to take on with my coworkers. I really enjoyed being able to work alongside this team in a new way as a curator. It was inspiring to see the art that people created from their personal walk of life, and I was grateful to be able to help tell their stories. I'm most excited for people to see the physical manifestation of these stories and to see how I and the other creators organized the pieces in a way that highlights the artist as individuals and as part of the group.

Katharina Hill

Curating this show with my co-workers has been a great learning experience. From being presented with a large body of work to narrowing down which ones to show, and to finding out what they have in common, has been an exciting journey. I felt very honored when the artists shared what personal experiences went into their art during the studio visits, and so very alive during the spirited discussions with the curator team about theme and title.

Abigail Kopetzky

It has been such a wonderful experience to work with my coworkers to curate this exhibit. We chose to highlight many works that focused on remembering experiences and commemorating places important to us. Therefore, we were drawn to the title *Memento* to reference that act of remembrance. I hope that guests will take this opportunity to learn more about the creative people who normally work behind the scenes to make GOCA's exhibitions happen.

Daniella Mata

Being a part of the curator team for the GOCA Staff Showcase entails analyzing the artwork and its larger context while producing a cohesive narrative from multiple points of view under one common foundation. We play a significant role in bringing an exhibit to life, from room arrangement to title implication to establishing the most appropriate approach for displaying them to the public. In the case of *Memento*, we wish to convey the viewpoints of numerous experiences that characterize our simple yet intricate beginnings - whether it was a moment from long ago or the journey through which we are momentarily traveling.

Noel Powell

Participating in *Memento* is my first project working as curator. As part of the student curator team, we decided on content of displays, placement of art in the gallery, and labeling of exhibits. Museum curating is fun and stimulating. My favorite part is listening to artists speak about their art and what they are passionate about. My hope is that those visiting will see the artists and their passion through the exhibition and share in their enthusiasm by connecting with the presented artwork and have it inform what they are interested in.