

Roots

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Volume 1, Issue 5

Local Artist of the Month: Rae Brooks-Pauli, intuitive tattoo artist, mentor and business owner



Rae Brooks-Pauli is the *Roots* local artist of the Month for January. Brooks-Pauli is an intuitive-based tattoo artist set to open a new tattoo studio in Ypsilanti in late January. Photo courtesy of Rae Brooks-Pauli Page 6



Cellar Roots — Page 3



Calendar — Pages 4 and 5



a2vintage relocation — Page 7

Roots:

Roots is the monthly arts and entertainment magazine of *The Eastern Echo* and *Cellar Roots*, highlighting the vibrant creative communities present at Eastern Michigan University and in Ypsilanti. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of *The Eastern Echo*.

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Corrections

In the Dec. 9, 2025, edition of Roots, the word Ypsilanti was misspelled twice on page 5.

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Join the Roots team!
Email resume &
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The Eastern Echo Photo of the Month



Gideon the Ghost and Guinnevere pose for a photo together. *Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo*

Local calls for art & auditions

Frosted & Fabulous | Dzanc House

Due by Feb. 20

dzanchouse.org

Ypsi Zine Jamboree | Ypsilanti Freighthouse

Due by Feb. 1

ypsizinejamboree@gmail.com

2026 Exhibitions | 22 North Gallery

TBD

22north.org

Written and Visual Art Anthology | YpsiWrites

Due by Feb. 1

ypsiwrites.org

The Hound of the Baskervilles Auditions | PTD Productions

Sunday, February 15 at 7 p.m. & Monday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Callbacks if needed Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m.

ptdproductions.com/auditions

Musical Theater Cabaret and *Our Town* Auditions | EMU Theatre

Wednesday, January 28, from 5-8 p.m.

pcardell@emich.edu

Ypsi Dance Swap | Fun Girl Dance Company

Due by Feb. 11

fungirldance.org

Cellar Roots

3

Letter from the editor



Hello my fellow art appreciators,

Welcome back to campus! I hope you found our time away restful and rejuvenating.

I want to take this time to formally introduce myself: my name is Jada Hauser. I am the new arts editor for The Eastern Echo and editor-in-chief of Cellar Roots, which you might know is Eastern Michigan University's Fine Arts magazine. I started at The Eastern Echo last semester as a print layout designer and shortly after that became print design editor. I am excited to step into this role and I am grateful that Madison Cantrell, the outgoing arts editor and Cellar Roots editor-in-chief, trusted in my abilities to take over following their visionary leadership.

I am a student here at Eastern Michigan University studying fine arts, with a concentration in graphic design and a marketing minor. Before my time here, I attended Washtenaw Community College, where I graduated with an associate's in graphic design technology as well as digital photography. During my time at WCC, I worked for The Washtenaw Voice as a graphic designer doing layout work, illustrating and creating cartoons.

It was at The Voice where I first discovered my passion for print media, which is what led me to joining The Echo when I transferred to EMU. Outside of my work as a graphic designer, I am also a multi-disciplinary artist. I express myself through a variety of different mediums, including photography, fiber arts and performance.

It was my passion for student journalism, as well as my creative drive, that inspired me to apply for the roles I now fill. My goal with Cellar Roots and Roots is to continue the legacy of all who came before me and to showcase the talent of artists on campus and in the Ypsilanti community. In addition to that, I hope that we can engage more with the community through events, such as arts and crafts nights, local artist talks and more. I hope you will stay tuned and enjoy what we put together for you here at Roots.

Thank you for reading and have a wonderful semester!

Best,
Jada Hauser

Cellar Roots Volume 48 Spotlight

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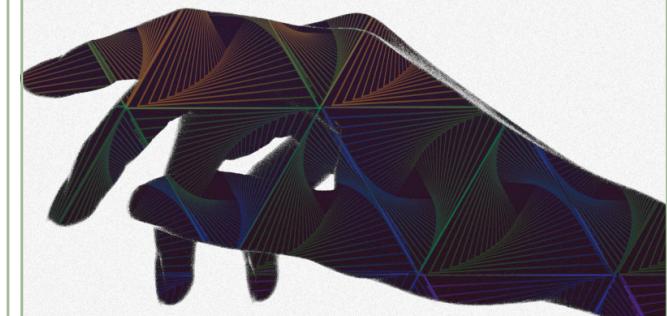
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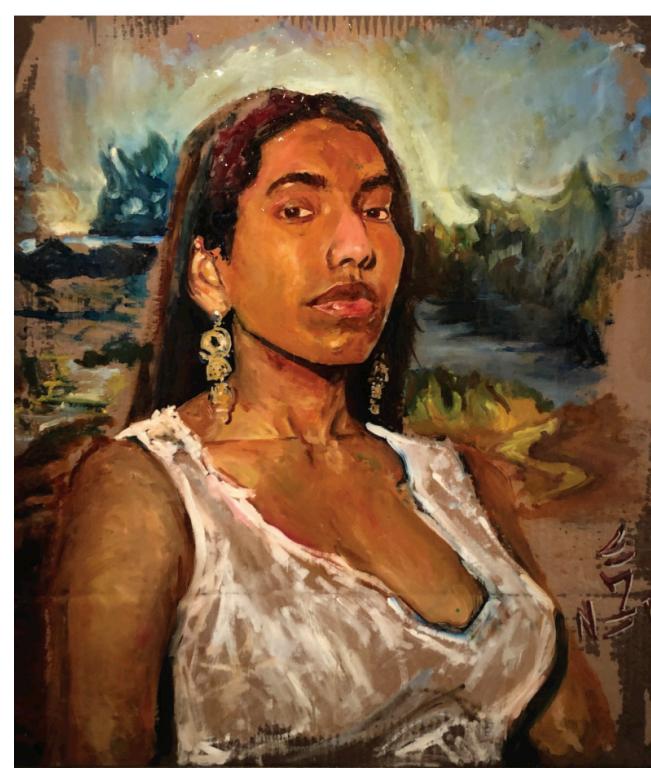
Sarah Schneider – *Social Media Outreach Coordinator*

CELLAR ROOTS Fine Arts Magazine

2022



BARBERSHOP
LAINE MATTHEWS



MATHU LISA
SHONOB

Calendar

Art Exhibitions

The Great Lakes Drawing Biennial

Join IGG for the reception of *The Great Lakes Drawing Biennial* exhibition, highlighting current contemporary art. The gallery is open to visitors from Jan. 9, 2026 through March 7, 2026.

4:30-7 p.m., Feb. 12, 2026 | University Gallery | Admission: Free

Live Music

Simulation Succ, Tired and The Burning Brain Band

Stop by Ziggy's for a night of experimental and alternative music, including *The Burning Brain Band*, visiting MI from Columbus, OH.

Doors at 7 p.m., Jan. 31 | Ziggy's 206 W. Michigan Ave. | Admission: \$12 per ticket, 21+

Midwinter Melodies

The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 27th anniversary with its 2025-2026 season. Spend the afternoon with live music by YSO.

3:30 p.m., Feb. 15 | Lincoln High School & Middle School | Admission: \$13 for adults and children over 10, \$6 for seniors, \$7 for students and \$30 for families. Children 10 and under are free.



Ziggy's is a music venue and bar. Ky'anna Coats / The Eastern Echo



Beverages at the Ypsi Cocktail Club. Caroline Murrel / The Eastern Echo

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Craft Day

Stop by the Ypsi Cocktail Club for a drink and make the perfect handmade gift for that special someone. Craft supplies are provided for free.

5-10 p.m., Feb. 4 | Ypsi Cocktail Club 102 W. Michigan Ave. | Admission: Free, but donations are encouraged

Dave and Kristi

Join Dave and Kristi on Valentine's Day for a night of heartfelt music, accompanied by Emily Slomovitz on the fiddle.

6-7:15 p.m., Feb. 14 | North Star Lounge 301 N. 5th Ave. | Admission: \$15 per ticket

Theatre / Film

PTD Productions: Doubt

Sister Aloysius suspects the priest at Bronx Catholic School may be abusing some of the male students, exploring themes of faith, certainty, power and doubt.

Feb. 12-15 & 18-21. Thursdays-Saturdays at 7 p.m., Sunday and Wednesday matinee at 2 p.m. | Theater at

Riverside Arts Center 76 N. Huron St. | Admission: \$20 for general admission, \$15 for students, seniors and active military

Proof

Written by David Auburn, "Proof" explores family relationships, grief and prime numbers. When Robert dies, a mathematical genius of his era, his daughter Catherine is left to pick up the pieces.

Feb. 19-21 at 7 p.m., 21-22 at 2 p.m. | EMU Legacy/Sponberg Theatre 1030 E. Circle Drive | Admission: Non-Student tickets are \$20, student tickets are \$15 and youth tickets are \$7.



The entrance of Riverside Arts Center. Victoria Smith / The Eastern Echo

Calendar

5

The (Second Annual) Flirty Show

The Ypsi Clown Darlings presents the second annual Flirty show! Join them for a night of performances featuring clowns, burlesque, drag and more.

Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. | Riverside Arts Center | \$10 or Pay what you can

EMU Events

Eagle Con

Eastern Michigan University and Campus Life's own spin on Comic Con. Shop original art from EMU students, compete in the annual cosplay contest and more!

7-10 p.m., Feb. 17 | Location TBA | Admission: Free



Kakuatan's booth owner at Eagle Con 2025, which was held on Tuesday, March 18th at the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. Kaleb Stanley / The Eastern Echo



The establishment 734 Brewing Company is located on E. Cross St. in Ypsilanti.. Victoria Smith / The Eastern Echo

Comedy

Depot Town Comedy Open Mic

Hosted by Tommy Cook, 734 Brewing Company's comedy night is a weekly safe space for stand-up comedians of all experience levels.

7:30-10:30 p.m., Recurring weekly on Wednesdays | 734 Brewing Company 15 E. Cross St. | Admission: Free

Community

Tarot Tuesdays

Want to know your fortune? Throughout January and February, Ypsi residents can enjoy half priced mocktails and cocktails while receiving a professional tarot reading at the Ypsi Cocktail Club.

6-9 p.m., Feb. 3 & 24 | Ypsi Cocktail Club | Admission: \$10 per reading

Collage and Chill

No theme, just collaging. Spend an evening at Dzanc House, supplies provided.

6-8 p.m., Feb. 10 | Dzanc House | Admission: Free, \$5 donation encouraged

Craft Sip Eat @ Sticks Ypsilanti

Your Tuesday doesn't have to be boring! Grab your friends and let's get crafty together as you design your very own crystal air-plant planter.

6-7:30 p.m., Feb. 3 | Sticks Ypsilanti 39 E Cross St. #1972 | Admission: \$35- only 15 spots available

Ypsi Winter Games

Explore town and earn Ypsi-themed prizes by entering codes placed all around the city. For more information and hints, see more at ypsiwintergames.org.

Jan. 15, 2026 through March 15, 2026 | Throughout Ypsilanti | Admission: Free

Poetry

Poetry Open Mic Night

Poets with all levels of experience are encouraged to come share their work, from heartfelt haikus to late-night notes app venting.

7-10 p.m., Feb. 4, 2026 | North Star Lounge | Admission: Free

Dance

Lovers Valentines Night Showcase

The Eagelettes, joined by Diversion Dance Troupe, welcome EMU students to a night of love-themed music and performances.

7-9 p.m., Feb. 12, 2026 | Student Center Auditorium | Admission: Free

Bollywood Dance at River St

A Bollywood/Bhangra inspired dance-fitness class with dynamic choreography! Bellydance elements are also incorporated at the beginning and end of class. No dance experience necessary. Come celebrate life with the upbeat rhythms from the Bollywood film industry!

6:30-7:15 p.m., Recurring weekly on Thursdays | The Mix Studios 306 N. River St. | Admission: \$28 Drop-in fee

Rae Brooks-Pauli finds spiritual connection through intuitive-based tattooing



Slated to first open in late January 2026, intuitive-based tattoo artist Rae Brooks-Pauli owns Haven Tattoo Studio in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Courtesy of Cait LeBlanc

Carol Detary

Arts and Entertainment Reporter

From a young age, Rae Brooks-Pauli found themselves drawn to a spiritual nature and discovered art as a strong medium to connect their stories with others. Now, as an intuitive-based tattoo artist, mentor and business owner, Brooks-Pauli seeks methods to establish a deeper connection between their artistry and clients' spirituality.

Through hard work and dedication to their craft, Brooks-Pauli is set to open their own studio, Haven Tattoo Studio, in Ypsilanti at the end of January 2026. The private studio will allow for deeper client connection and future personal and professional growth.

Before tattooing, Brooks-Pauli followed their mother

down a path of education and creation through a variety of artistic styles transitioned from traditional tattooing work into avenues, including coaching, childcare and a year of teaching. After teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, Brooks-Pauli decided that education was not the right path for them.

Brooks-Pauli entered the tattoo industry in 2021, seeking a career with flexibility. After finding an apprenticeship to experiment with intuitive-based tattooing. Intuitive-based tattooing is a spiritual artistic process where the artist and client collaborate to create a tattoo based on current themes, experiences and the energy in the client's life. This transition increased Brooks-Pauli's desire to create a meaningful connection with their artistry and bring tattooing back to its roots.

While exploring their artistic style in tattooing, Brooks-Pauli prioritized learning as much as possible from multiple artists. Finding their style took time, as they searched for what came most naturally and with ease. Drawing from childhood experiences, Brooks-Pauli found that floral, organic and free shapes connected them back to memories of playing and planting in the garden with their mom. Natural creatures, including insects, animals and birds, are other sources of inspiration for the artist as well.

Learning from other tattoo artists consistently helped Brooks-Pauli foster authenticity and honesty with clients.

“I really want to be the person that can help others flip the script in their lives, make changes in their life and help those with similar situations as I.”

Rae Brooks-Pauli, intuitive tattoo artist, mentor and business owner

Brooks-Pauli seeks continuous improvement with themselves and found that learning to be more honest, kind and supportive in their personal life helped elevate their client experiences.

Eventually, Brooks-Pauli found themselves addicted to work and functioning within a scarcity mindset, which they found physically and emotionally draining. Knowing that a change needed to be made, the artist worked through this period by nourishing their body and mind with meditation and mindfulness exercises to find inner peace and establish a work-life balance.

“I ground myself, practice routine and lifestyle changes and commit to myself,” Brooks-Pauli said. “I don’t find myself overextending myself because I don’t feel like I have to with these systems in place.”

Creating a sustainable lifestyle and allowing for personal growth increased their demand and anticipation of future work. Once Brooks-Pauli found that taking breaks increased their creative flow, it became an established part of their regimen.

After moving from their first studio, Brooks-Pauli’s

fuel the mind-body connection through astrology and tarot readings. The artist has studied astrology for the last decade and is currently working toward completing a natal chart delineation certification at Kepler University. These methods can individualize the tattooing practice by connecting art to patterns, cycles and themes occurring in clients' lives.

“It’s beautiful that the planets and the stars create metaphors and bring out stories to life, and whole perspectives, and connect us with humanity,” Brooks-Pauli said.

In the beginning stages of tattooing and establishing their artistic identity, Brooks-Pauli sought out mentorship from Aubri McEachern, owner of Rat King Tattoo. Under McEachern’s guidance, Brooks-Pauli practiced neutrality, boundary and energy work and learned how to stay grounded during tattooing sessions. These methods are important to intuitive tattooing work as they are vital to establishing a strong artist-client connection.

In June of 2025, Brooks-Pauli officially rebranded their tattoo brand, formerly known as Luminous Lamb Tattoo, to Rae Brooks Artistry. Originally, the name was a premature decision as Brooks-Pauli moved from a previous studio. In their new era of tattooing, Brooks-Pauli felt it was time to step back into themselves and bring their name into their brand.

Rebranding also came with new client offerings. Brooks-Pauli now offers more intuitive tattooing packages, along with mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities as well.

Brooks-Pauli knew that mentorship would be a part of their future. Through their rebranding, the artist has been able to reconnect with their roots in education and create tattoo apprenticeships with more nuance than the industry standard. Brooks-Pauli seeks to curate apprenticeship experiences in this way to decrease gatekeeping in the industry.

“I really want to be the person that can help others flip the script in their lives, make changes in their life and help those with similar situations as I.” Brooks-Pauli said.

Intuitive tattoo bookings are set to reopen with Brooks-Pauli on Jan. 31, 2026, at Haven Tattoo Studio. For bookings and more, those interested can visit Brooks-Pauli’s website, raebrooksartistry.com. Brooks-Pauli’s mailing list is found at the bottom of the homepage on their website, which can be joined for updates on tattoo openings and more. Brooks-Pauli can also be found on Instagram @raebrooksartistry.

A2vintage relocates to Depot Town, introduces Student Sunday sale

Hannah Borders

Arts and Entertainment Reporter

A2vintage, a local vintage clothing and record store, has moved from Michigan Avenue to Depot Town at 21 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti.

“My vision since I started many years ago has always been in Depot Town.”

— Kelly Callison, a2Vintage store owner

The store front in Depot Town will be a2vintage's fifth location, store owner Kelly Callison said.

“We started the shop in 2011. We were right next door to Puffer Reds on Michigan Avenue. We rented a small, maybe 800-square-foot, space from Puffer Reds, and we started with records, upcycled and repurposed furniture and clothing, anything that looked fun, and quirky and cool,” Callison said.

Callison reported that the business was doing well for a long time, but they saw a shift in what people wanted, so they made a switch from carrying mostly records to primarily vintage clothing.

“Not new clothing that is made to look old, but actual sustainable vintage clothing,” Callison said.

After having success with switching its focus to vintage clothing, a2vintage moved to a bigger location just across the street from its previous one. The store has since moved three times due to various reasons before settling in what was expected to be its permanent location at 130 W. Michigan Ave. However, that ended up not being the case.

“My vision since I started many years ago has always been in Depot Town. I think it's a more walker-friendly, easily accessible kind of retail business environment. I like the buildings; I like the architecture. There are just so many things that I really like, so that was always my vision — just the timing and opportunity never worked out,” Callison said.

A2vintage will be celebrating its grand opening Friday, Feb. 6, 2026. It will be celebrating with a 40% off storewide sale on items bought with cash, and additional items will be marked down.

Additionally, a2vintage is introducing a new Student Sunday sale. Every Sunday, students of all ages from any school can come in to shop and receive 15% off their entire purchase when they present their student ID at checkout.

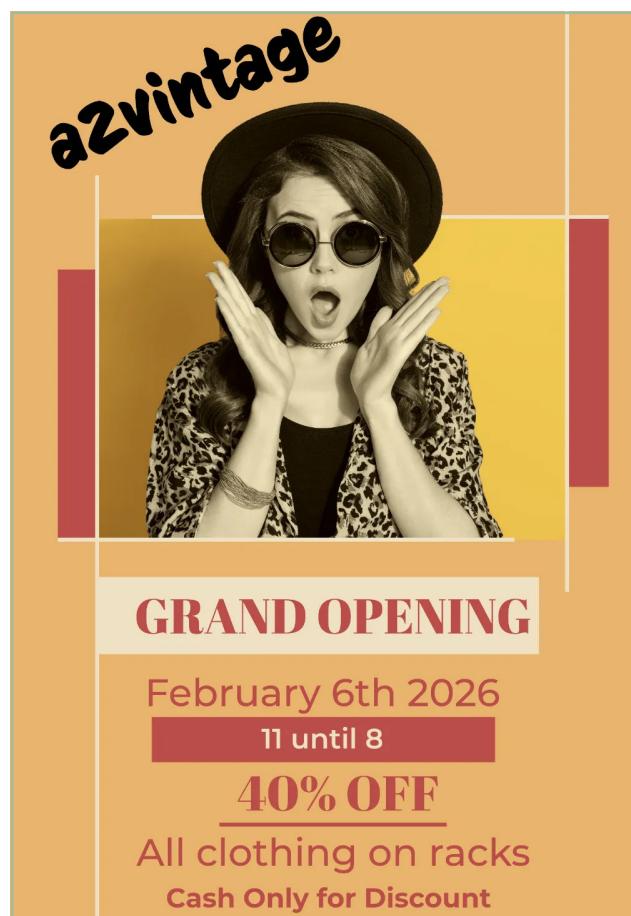
A2vintage is hoping to expand even more with its relocation. Although the space is smaller, there is greater opportunity to be purposeful and expand their footprint on the city, Callison said.

“It allows me to really build out the vision for what I had for our shop,” Callison said.

For more information, follow a2vintage on Instagram @ a2vintageypsi or go to its website at a2vintageypsi.com



A2vintage's new storefront is located at 21 E. Cross St. in Depot Town, Ypsilanti. *Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo*



A2vintage's grand opening is happening Feb. 6.
Photo Courtesy of a2vintage



Student Sunday

Receive 15% OFF your total purchase with valid student ID

A2vintage's new Student Sunday sale takes place every Sunday. Students from any school can receive 15% off their total purchase when presenting their student ID at checkout.

Photo Courtesy of a2vintage



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