

Roots

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

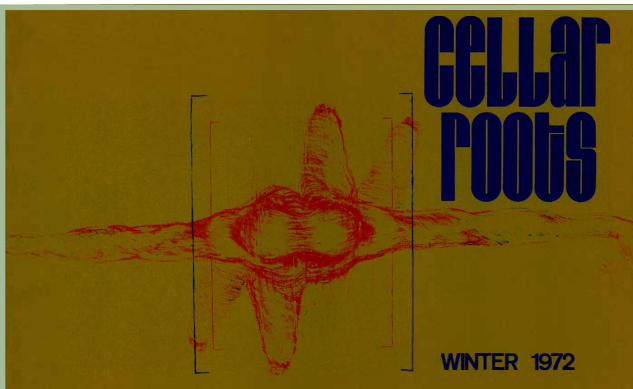
Volume 1, Issue 2

Local Artist of the Month: Singer and writer Dollie Rot



Courtesy of Dollie Rot

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Tattoo Listicle — 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

Roots corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the editor-in-chief by email at cellarroots@easternecho.com.

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Fall 2025

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Join the Roots team!

Email resume & portfolio to
[*cellarroots@easternecho.com*](mailto:cellarroots@easternecho.com)

The Eastern Echo Photo of the Month



A student prepares a detailed cyanotype at the Cyanotype Workshop in Sherzer 307 on Tuesday, Oct. 7. *Owen Cardenas/The Eastern Echo*

Local Calls For Art

Eight Walls Gallery Solo Exhibitions

Riverside Arts Center

Nov. 1

riversidearts.org

—

November Online Photo Exhibiton

Dzanc House Gallery

Nov. 14

dzanchouse.org

—

Anything But ... New Materials

Riverside Arts Center

Nov. 16

riversidearts.org

—

Joy

Dzanc House Gallery

Nov. 30

dzanchouse.org

2026 Exhibitions

Dzanc House Gallery

Nov. 30

dzanchouse.org

—

Volume 52 Submissions

Cellar Roots

Dec. 13

linktr.ee/CellarRoots

—

2026 Exhibitions

22 North Gallery

TBD

22north.org

—

2027 Exhibition

Embracing Our Differences

July 1, 2026

embracingourdifferences.org

Cellar Roots

Volume 2 Spotlight

Happy Halloween, Eagles! My name is Madison Cantrell and I am the editor-in-chief of *Cellar Roots* and the arts editor at *The Eastern Echo*. *Cellar Roots* is Eastern Michigan University’s student-operated fine arts and literary magazine. Each year, we aim to highlight the creative works of EMU students and alumni in our print publication.

To continue the celebration of the debut of EMU and Ypsilanti’s arts and entertainment magazine, *Roots*, we are spotlighting past *Cellar Roots* volumes from the EMU University Archives. This issue of *Roots* features select scans of *Cellar Roots Volume 2*, which was originally published in the winter of 1972. This volume is filled with beautiful poetry, short stories, illustrations, and photography from past EMU students. To honor the rich history of *Cellar Roots*, we will continue spotlighting past *Cellar Roots* volumes in *Roots* for months to come.

Cellar Roots published its 51st volume in March 2025 and we hope you enjoyed it. Now, it is time to start submitting visual and/or written works for consideration in *Cellar Roots Volume 52*. Visit linktr.ee/CellarRoots to fill out the Google submission form by Dec. 13 for a chance to be considered. I look forward to viewing your submissions!

Digital scans courtesy of Digital Commons @ EMU. To view more *Cellar Roots* of the past, visit the EMU University Archives' digital collection at commons.emich.edu.

Check out

Cellar Roots Volume 51

on Amazon!



PROGRESSION

Isn't it
funny
how one
can be
working
all his
life, and
only be
building
a stair-
case to Hell?

Mark A. Willett

- Eugene Steele
- Jan Randall
- Dan Forbes
- Martin Yanosek
- David Saffer

- STAFF
- Dan Forbes
- Jill LaBute
- Christopher Muto
- Linda Wigginton
- Gregg Heckert
- Patti Bogiovanni
- Gary Croft

COVER BY	Dean Peterson
PUBLICATIONS ADVISER	Dick Kreuz
EDITOR	Richard E. Kowieski



Art Exhibitions

“Michigan Water Color Society
Traveling Exhibition”

Oct. 17–Nov. 14
Fridays 4-6 p.m.
Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
North Gallery at Riverside Arts Center

“Selected Works from the Golden Years of
Michigan Art”

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Michigan Art Gallery

“Southeast Michigan Ceramicists”

Open through November
Hours by appointment
22 North Gallery

“My Divine Comedy”

Works by Danielle Owensby
Closing reception
5-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 30
Dzanc House Gallery

“Sounds: Annual Youth Art Exhibition”

Oct. 3–Oct. 31
Wednesdays-Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gutman Gallery

MFA Thesis Exhibition

Oct. 6–Nov. 7
Ford Gallery

“Currents: A Regional High School Student
Exhibition”

Oct. 27–Dec. 14
Opening Reception
Thursday, Nov. 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
University Gallery

Banned Books Week Exhibit

Oct. 5–Oct. 31
Ypsilanti District Library Whittaker Branch

Live Music/Poetry

EMU Jazz Ensemble Concert

7:30–9 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 23
Pease Auditorium

Philharmonia Orchestra, London with
Vikinggur Olafsson, Piano

Students \$15-\$20
7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 24
Hill Auditorium

Cloakfest

Cover \$10; \$5 if wearing a cloak
7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 25
Ziggy’s

Beyond Choir Concert — Eternal Light: Faure
Requiem and Palestrina

Admission \$20
3-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26
Pease Auditorium

Black Poets and the Patriots who Mocked
Them in Jefferson's America

5-6:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27
Halle Library room 300

Tymbals | Martin Babl | Dan Bennett Group |
Chuck Sipperly

8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29
Ziggy’s

Loss of Life

6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 31
Ziggy’s

Concerto/Aria Competition — EMU Orchestra

2-3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 2

Pease Auditorium
An Evening with Boz Scaggs
7:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 7
Hill Auditorium

Creative Workshops

Figure Drawing

6:30-9 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 22, Nov. 5
Dzanc House Gallery

Halloween Cookie Decorating Class

Admission: \$50
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 25
Yours Truly Event Venue

Neurodiverse Artmaking Drop-In

6–8 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27
Riverside Arts Center

Fiber Arts Drop-in Days

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1
Riverside Arts Center

EMU Events

Knight of Mystery

7-9 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 21
Student Center room 310

Book launch: "The Nonaligned Imagination"
by Dr. Nataša Kovacevic

5-6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 24
Halle Library room 301

Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Climate
Change

3-4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 24
Strong Hall room 111

Elan Golod: Screening of "Nathan-ism"

6:30-9 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27
Student Center Auditorium

America's National Crime on Trial: Ida B Wells and "Lynch Law" Today

6-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28
Mark Jefferson Science Complex room 158

Queer Stories Live

5-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29
Student Center lower level

Theatre/Film

Black Cat Folklore

Students \$12; Online \$15; Door \$20
8 p.m.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-25
2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26
The Back Office Studio

This week at Cinemark on Carpenter Road

(see theater website for specific times and dates)

- Tron: Ares
- Roofman
- One Battle After Another
- Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie
- Soul on Fire
- The Smashing Machine
- Kiss of the Spider Woman
- Anemone

Rocky Horror Picture Show

6-9 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 23
Student Center Auditorium

"Mr. Soul!" — A film presentation

5-7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 10
Student Center room 352

Community

Bad Movie Night

7-9 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 23
Ypsi Cocktail Club

Ypsilanti Cryptid Festival

4-10 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 24
Ypsilanti Freighthouse

YpsiWrites: Flash Fiction - The Art of Brevity

2 p.m.
Saturday Oct. 25, Nov. 8
Ypsilanti District Library Michigan Ave Branch

RAC-A-Fair!

Time TBA
Saturday, Oct. 25
Rynearson Stadium

Collage and Chill

6-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28
Dzanc House Gallery

Dhamrades

6-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29
Dzanc House Gallery

All Hallows Illumination

6-9 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 1
Frog Island Park

Ypsi Fine Arts Club

5-8 p.m.
Wednesday Nov. 1, Nov. 19
Riverside Arts Center

Open Mic

6-8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6
Dzanc House Gallery

Silent Sustained Reading

1-2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 8
Dzanc House Gallery

Ypsi Photo Walk

3-4 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 9
Dzanc House Gallery

Downtown Queer Crafting Group

6-8 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 10
Ypsilanti District Library Michigan Ave Branch

Classic Noir Movie Night

6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 12
Ypsilanti District Library Whittaker Branch

Ypsilanti Zine Club

6-8 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 13
Ypsilanti District Library Michigan Ave Branch

Dance

Riverside Swings

8-11:30 p.m.
Friday Oct. 25, Oct. 31, Nov. 7
Riverside Arts Center

Zumba with Kadesha and Teri

6-7 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 27
Riverside Arts Center

Unveiled Dance Company Intermediate Bellydance Class

6-7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 27
Riverside Arts Center

PoetTree Town Disability Poetics and Somatic Movement

2-4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 15
Rhizome Roots Studio

Continued from page 1

Dollie Rot finds solace creating, performing in local community

Carol Detary
Arts and Entertainment Reporter

Dollie Rot is a poet, singer and writer. Rot uses songwriting as an outlet to express her raw and unfiltered reality. The themes of Rot's work are an intimate retelling of personal tales and vulnerable experiences about romance, grief and nostalgia.

"What I put out I feel is a microcosm of something that is occurring at a much larger scale," Rot said. "My experiences are not unique."

Rot started writing in 2015 when her father passed away and started releasing music in 2017. Growing up watching him write inspired Rot to do the same.

Singing began as the vessel to have the writing be heard. Drawing inspiration from social platforms including Bandcamp and Tumblr, Rot felt accepted into a community where she could be herself.

Recording songs became a solitary practice where Rot could connect to her writing. Rot uses unconventional methods for songwriting. Rather than focusing on the mechanics or rhythms that most songs have, Rot starts with a poem or previous piece of writing and builds the guitar chords and then adds in background vocals. Pieces come together as Rot finds the perfect balance of clarity and impact.

"I like to get the words out, thoughts out, message out and then let the words act as my guide for writing the song," Rot said.

Rot has experimented with different styles, but found her flourish in a goth aesthetic. For Rot, this includes the clothes

and makeup but also influences the subject matter of the songs.

"It's all me, it's all a part of me," Rot said. "I love to be glamorous, fun and look crazy."

Catholicism was a part of Rot's childhood, and that symbolism has followed into her adulthood. Iconography is the interpretation of visual imagery in social and political contexts.

For Rot the image of the crucifixion is enthralling, representing suffering and redemption. Rot is connected to her suffering, and she says it is something that brings her comfort but also adversity.

"There is a holiness in suffering, there is a universal truth in suffering," Rot said. "We all have our own meanings of suffering, but we all experience it."

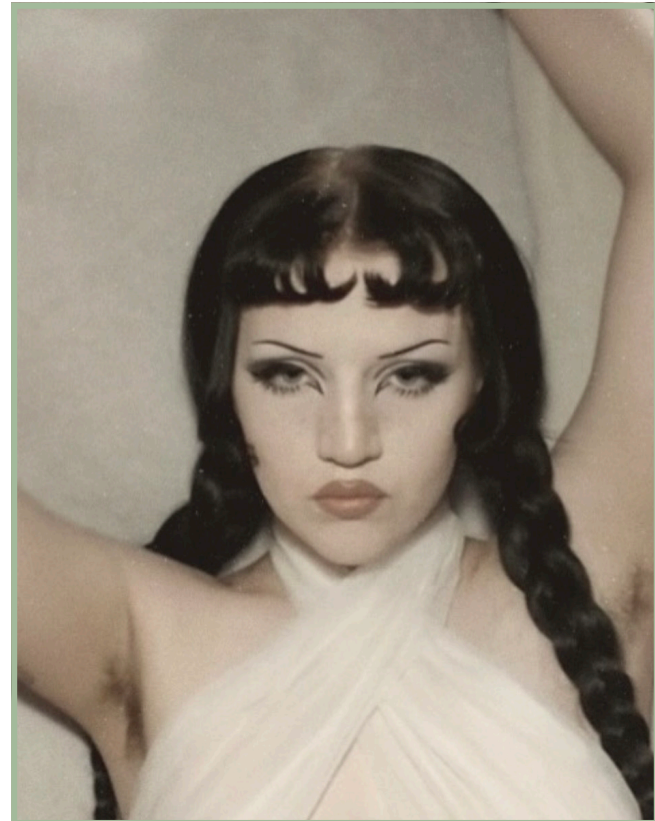
The sense of solidarity in suffering, is the community that Rot has built through online supporters and through in person shows.

Traveling across the country in recent years and residing in Ann Arbor has allowed Rot to connect with musicians, fans and create a local support system to make the process of creation less solitary.

"I would be nothing without the people who support me and enjoy my music," Rot said.

Abuse and mistreatment are more motifs that are

"There is a holiness in suffering, there is a universal truth in suffering," Rot said. "We all have our own meanings of suffering, but we all experience it."



Courtesy of Dollie Rot

present in her writing and songs. Rot harnesses the isolation during or after an abusive relationship as a catalyst to share experiences and solitary.

The need to suffer and build strength to move through the pain is an integral part of Rot's personal philosophy on adversity.

"Suffering is just a part," Rot said. "Sometimes people act like their parts are in the way when the parts are the way."

The evolution of style and art is what Rot is doing while contemplating her newest release.

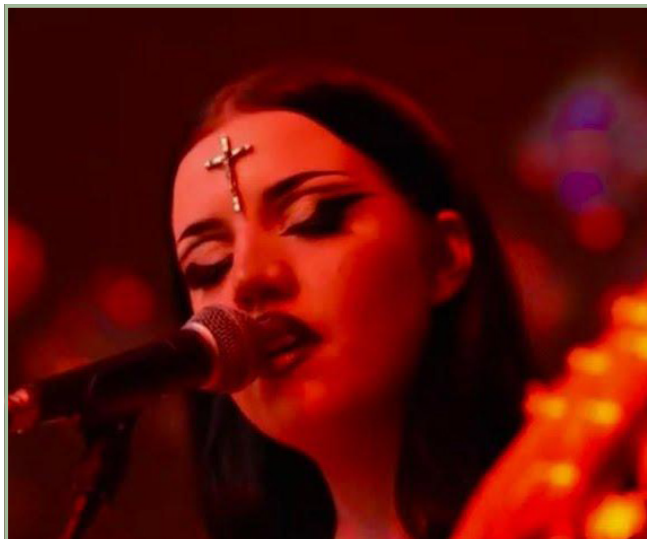
Building and growing a community in Ann Arbor has allowed for Rot to engage in self-reflection and build confidence as a performer.

"If I don't believe in what I'm doing, how is anyone else going to believe in what I'm doing?" Rot said.

Perfection is not the goal for Rot. The desired outcome is a piece of work to be proud of and grow from.

"Being afraid can be used artistically, evolving stylistically and keep pushing myself and doing more than what I am currently doing," Rot said.

Dollie Rot can be found on Instagram @DollieRot. Stream Dollie Rot's music on all streaming platforms. Find updated show dates and merch on DollieRot.com.



Dollie Rot performs at Ziggy's in Ypsilanti on Dec. 16, 2024. Courtesy of Dollie Rot

EMU AMP, Pokito Productions' Wonderfest to bring together artists

Hannah Borders

Arts and Entertainment Reporter

Wonderfest is a new event by AMP! and Pokito Productions set for Nov. 4-5 combining galleries and artist alleys to showcase student work.

The free event will take place from 5-8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Students can earn LBC credit for attending.

Artists will be featured at designated tables and a trailer premiere for “WONDERCORD” by Pokito Productions will start at 6:30 p.m.

AMP! or Amplifying the Arts at Eastern Michigan University is a student organization dedicated to bringing audiences and opportunities to student artists. AMP! encourages students to explore their creative side and even bring their creative practices into careers.

Pokito Productions is an animation studio founded by

EMU student Rylee Curley in 2022. Pokito Productions is named to mean “Little Productions” because it brings small creators together to make stories through multimedia.

“WONDERCORD” is an animated series that follows 10 characters stuck in a new world. The characters must explore game worlds to collect batteries for the portal back home.

Each world changes animation style to reflect the game that the characters are exploring. According to wondercord.com, the series was inspired by the idea of using a visually captivating world to tell a story.

WONDERCORD is meant to appeal to everyone, even those with niches. Some of WONDERCORD’s voice actors will be in attendance at Wonderfest to host a Q&A session after the trailer viewing.

Wonderfest is intended to provide a collaborative space for artists to mutually benefit and share their work with the community.

Curley is the event coordinator for Wonderfest.

“Through artist tables, live presentations and networking opportunities, we seek to spark engagement and inspire students at EMU,” Curley said.

Curley's work on Wonderfest is part of her Symposium Undergraduate Research Fellowship. SURF offers students the opportunity to enhance their educational experience and academic passions outside of the classroom.

Curley plans to go over the event planning in detail as well as more about WONDERCORD and Pokito Productions at the Undergraduate Symposium in March 2026.

“For years, I’ve spent time sifting through photos online and creating vision boards,” Curley said. “Now I aim to learn more about how local artists brand themselves. This event hosts the perfect conversational setting to discuss more with each presenter.”

Editor’s Note: Rylee Curley works at The Eastern Echo as Design Editor.

5 tattoo shops near EMU's campus

Carol Detary

Arts and Entertainment Reporter

Tattooing is a historical and cultural practice that has existed for thousands of years. For those looking for a new form of expression, this list is a great place to start within the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area. Here are five tattoo shops within 10 miles from Eastern Michigan University's campus.

Michigan Ave Tattoo and Piercing

Michigan Ave Tattoo and Piercing at 133 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, Michigan is approximately 2 miles or a five minute drive from north campus.

To set up an appointment visit its website and fill out the questionnaire under the tab “Request Appointment”. Walk-ins are welcomed when there is availability, it is advised to call ahead for your convenience.

Michigan Ave Tattoo and Piercing was founded in 2019 and has a full female/queer staff and promotes itself as a safe space for all. There are five artists and one piercing specialist.

Three Bird Tattoos

Three Bird Tattoos at 1687 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is approximately 8 miles or a 15 minute drive from north campus.

To set up an appointment visit its website and reach out to your selected artist under the “Booking” tab. Walk-ins are welcomed when there is availability, however it is

advised to call ahead for your convenience.

Three Bird Tattoos was founded in 2016 and has tattoo artists ranging from 3 to 20 years of experience. As a private studio, Three Bird Tattoos works to bring a warm and welcoming environment to its clients. The shop is home to four artists.

Brite Idea Tattoo

Brite Idea Tattoo at 128 W Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, Michigan, is approximately 2 miles or a five minute drive from north campus.

The shop is open from 1-7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Walk-ins are welcome when there is availability, however it is recommended to call ahead.

Brite Idea Tattoo was founded in 2012. There are two artists.

Lucky Monkey Tattoo

Lucky Monkey tattoo at 3024 Packard St, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is approximately 4 miles or a 10 minute drive from north campus.

To set up an appointment visit its website and reach out to your selected artist under the “Contact” tab. Walk-ins are welcomed when there is availability, it is advised to call ahead for your convenience.

Lucky Monkey tattoo was founded in 2002 and is owned by married duo Dana Forrester and James Trunko. There are 15 artists.

Depot Town Tattoo

Depot Town Tattoo, at 33 E Cross St, Ypsilanti,



The inside of Michigan Ave Tattoo and Piercing at 133 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, Mich. *Courtesy of Michigan Ave Tattoo & Piercing*

Michigan, approximately 2 miles or a six minute drive from north campus.

The shop is open from 1 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12-6 p.m. on Sundays. Walk-ins are welcome when there is availability, it is advised to call ahead for your convenience.

Depot Town Tattoo was founded in 2009, owner Jon Larson welcomes monthly guest artists to showcase a rotating style of different styles. There are five artists.



SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

For Cellar Roots Volume 52

How to Submit :

- Go to linktr.ee/CellarRoots •
- Click “Submit to Cellar Roots Volume 52!” •
- Complete the Google form •
- Submit your original art and/or writing •

Deadline: 13 December, 2025