

Roots

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Volume 1, Issue 8

Artist of the Month: 3D artist and Windgate fellow Chrissy Kuiper

Carol Detary
Arts & Entertainment Reporter

Chrissy Kuiper often reflects on the childlike wonder that many young artists experience. Kuiper believes that from a young age, children are not focused on the result of the product or the expectations of what to create.

“I think that’s the beauty of childhood and children; they do not have those external pressures and expectations on them,” Kuiper said. “More people should be embodying the idea of enjoying themselves.”

Kuiper solidified her decision to follow art as a career path while creating her school’s yearbook during a course at Community High School in her Ann Arbor hometown. From sophomore to senior year of high school, Kuiper also wrote for the

school’s publication, The Communicator at CHS. Both experiences fueled Kuiper’s creativity and desire to experiment with new methods of creation.

“High school solidified art as a huge part of my life. The yearbook helped me find art full time and I don’t just have to love this on the side,” Kuiper said.

Kuiper finds value in repeating the same course to discover new methods and refine her artistic ability in graphic design and 3D media.

“I am a serial class repeater; I had retaken film and digital photography in high school three times each,” she said.

Kuiper is currently a senior at Eastern Michigan University studying graphic design and 3D media. Her involvement in writing and visual design in high school

pushed Kuiper to begin her time at Eastern in the graphic design discipline. Through the art foundation courses, she was introduced to 2D media, but found her home in 3D media.

The combination of graphic design and 3D media allows Kuiper to create visual designs and tangible products that work together. Kuiper uses 3D media as a way to showcase movement and texture.

“With 3D ... I feel like there is an unlimited number of possibilities. There’s a million different ways to finish a 3D piece. That isn’t always true for a painting,” Kuiper said.

When EMU’s student-run Intermedia Gallery Group restructured in 2024, Kuiper joined the board as treasurer. At the start of the winter 2026 semester, she took on the position of vice-

president.

“Eastern and IGG fosters a community that isn’t jealousy driven, but appreciates that everyone can produce really good work,” Kuiper said.

Sadie Ziembowicz and Kuiper worked hand-in-hand to create art workshops hosted by IGG. Ziembowicz focused on logistics and Kuiper supplied materials and managed the setup. The goal of the workshops was to spread the art of creativity to students outside of the School of Art & Design.

“IGG is a huge part of growing as an artist and expanding your knowledge and opportunities,” Kuiper said.

Through Kuiper’s time in IGG, she was able to learn the necessary skills for creating a good art show, developing a community and stepping out of her



Chrissy Kuiper is a Windgate fellow and Eastern Michigan University student artist specializing in 3D art. *Courtesy of Chrissy Kuiper*

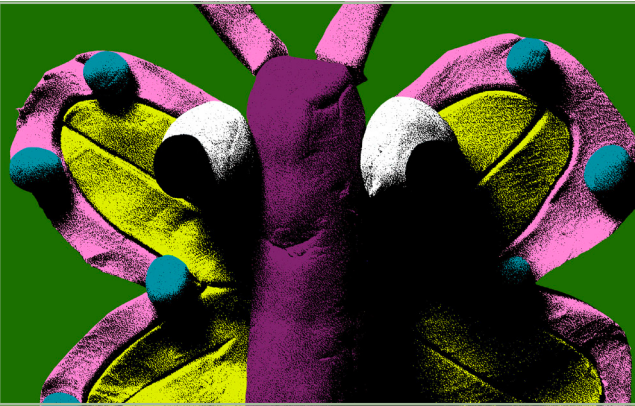
comfort zone. As a student-run organization, IGG provides support for other members so they can ask for help and support when they need it. Any student can join IGG. One way students can get involved is to volunteer as a gallery guard, organizers said on the IGG website.

“I look forward to the new wave of students to get into IGG and take advantage of being a student-run gallery that many other students don’t have an opportunity to be a part of,” Kuiper said.

SEE CHRISSEY KUIPER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Bug Pit Collaborative — Page 6



Cellar Roots Spotlight — Page 3



Events Calendar — Pages 4 & 5

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*.

COPYRIGHT @ 2026 (*The Eastern Echo*)

All rights reserved.

www.easternecho.com

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: cellarroots@easternecho.com.

Roots staff

Winter 2026

Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief, Arts Editor:

Jada Hauser

cellarroots@easternecho.com

Arts and Entertainment Reporters:

Carol Detary

Katherine Tatomir

Hannah Borders

Student Media Advisor:

Christine Uthoff

advisor@easternecho.com

Join the Roots team!
Email resume &
portfolio to
cellarroots@easternecho.com

The Eastern Echo *Photo of the Month*



Phi Delta Theta surges in front of the competition at the Eagle Regatta on Thursday, April 9, but eventually falls to Tau Kappa Epsilon who wins second overall in the event. *Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo*

Local calls for art and auditions

***JUMP! Spring 2026 Exhibition* | The Guild of Artists & Artisans**

Deadline to apply: May 2

theguild.org/gutman_gallery/opportunities/

***The Queer Show* | Dzanc House**

Deadline to apply: May 23

<https://www.dzanchouse.org/artists-opportunities>

***A2AC Shop Application* | Ann Arbor Art Center**
annarborartcenter.org/galleries/a2ac-artist-opportunities/

***2026 Exhibitions* | 22 North Gallery**
22north.org

***Southern Rapture* | PTD Productions**

Auditions in May, official dates TBD.

ptdproductions.com/auditions

***Call for Performers* | The Guild of Artists & Artisans**

abby@theguild.org

***Script Submissions* | Theatre Nova**

theatrenovaplaysubmissions@gmail.com

Cellar Roots Vol. 52 Spotlight

Hello Eagles,

My name is Jada Hauser. I am the Editor-in-Chief of *Roots* and *Cellar Roots*. *Cellar Roots* has been Eastern Michigan University's fine arts magazine since 1971.

On April 3, *The Eastern Echo* held its fourth annual Student Media Gala and Hall of Fame Banquet. At this event, I had the opportunity to preview the newest volume of *Cellar Roots* to the public. It is so exciting to reach the finish line on this publication and to finally be sharing with you select works from *Cellar Roots Volume 52* for April's *Cellar Roots* spotlight.

I hope you enjoy this preview of *Cellar Roots Volume 52*. Please consider purchasing a copy and viewing its exhibition in the Intermedia Gallery Group, or IGG, Student Center Gallery, on display now until May 3.

I would like to give a shoutout to all of the talented artists who submitted art to this year's publication. Artists, I hope you continue creating and sharing your art with *Cellar Roots* in the future.

Cellar Roots publishes once yearly; stay tuned for announcements regarding submissions for Volume 53 this upcoming fall semester.

Thank you for reading and have a fantastic summer!

Best,

Jada Hauser

Scan to purchase Cellar Roots Vol. 52



CELLAR ROOTS VOL. 52



Nightfall
Jax Young

Anxiety

Heather McKee

Galaxies swirl inside
me cold constellations
of chaos in the void
between molten planets
thoughts collide, form
asteroid belts dense and
dangerous black hole
consumes my blood
ravenous, seeking
stray illumination
spasmodic satellites
spin transmitted signals
stutter in celestial silence

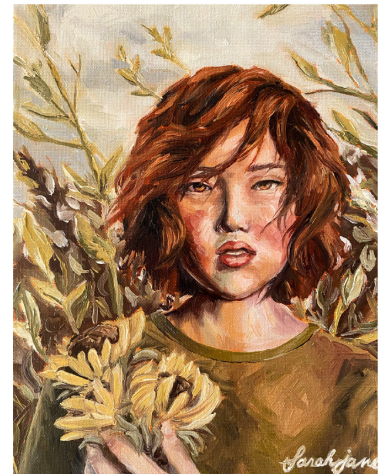
"what if... what if... what if..."

seven last words

Caroline Buxton

on the subject of my legs,
my mother reminds me of my feminine genius,
which, she says, requires shaving to maintain.
don't you know god made you a woman?
as if god didn't make me with leg hair,
as if we don't know by now what happens when you put
a razor in the hands of a child who is afraid to exist,
as if it was the bible and not misogyny that taught
women how to smooth, strip, soften, spend, and
apparently, perform femininity for god's enjoyment.
and you still say drag is of the devil?

my pores and glands and follicles are filled with holy water.
I nick my shin on a razor's edge,
and like jesus on the cross, it spills.



Sunflower
Sarah Eggenberger



Blooming
Guillasimo

The Dark Line

Ruqayyah Blue

I watch the thick line
as it slides down
my sister's stretched belly.
After 30 cigarettes
we return
from the abortion clinic.
The bulge
with the dark line
is still there.
Mother wears a
forced teathy smile.
My sister's sobs sound like
laughter
through the bathroom door.
I look down
my belly is flat
marked with blotches.
I wish for
a thick line
to darken.

Theater

The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats

Suggested for ages four and above, follow Peter as he experiences the wonders and wishes of early childhood. Adapted from Ezra Jack Keats' award-winning children's book, the play uses puppetry and light play to tell its story.

April 24 at 7 p.m., and April 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
| Sponberg Theatre, Eastern Michigan University |
Admission: \$6

The Hound of the Baskervilles

In this play, PTD Productions is set to bring one of Sherlock Holmes' most mysteries to life on stage with a more modern spin. Written by famous author Arthur Conan Doyle, see if the famous (and perhaps infamous) detective can come to the right conclusion before the killer gets away.

May 7-10 and 13-16 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday and Wednesday matinees at 2 p.m. | RAC Theater, Riverside Arts Center | **General admission \$20, students, seniors and active military at \$15.**

Animal Farm: A Fairy Story

The troupe uses marionettes and rod, hand and shadow puppets to bring Naia Venturi's adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian classic to life. Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

April 23 & 26 at 7 p.m. and May 1, 9 & 16 at 7 p.m. | Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. | **Admission: \$15-\$18, April 23 & 26 has pay what you can admission.**

Film

Twin Peaks - Season One, Episodes 3 & 4

Considered a landmark turning point in television drama and often listed among the greatest television series of all time, David Lynch's groundbreaking prime-time television show can now be seen in theaters!

April 22 at 6 p.m. | Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St.
| **Admission: \$9.75-\$11.75**



Dreamland Theater is putting on a puppet show of their adaptation of *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Hannah Borders / The Eastern Echo

VHS Masterpiece Theatre: Silent Running

VHS Masterpiece Theatre's Earth Day presentation of Silent Running (1972), in the Screening Room. Enjoy \$2 popcorn, snacks and pop, plus moviegoers receive a discount on Mini Golf, 18 holes for \$6!

Silent Running is a dystopian sci-fi film directed by Douglas Trumbull, featuring Bruce Dern as Freeman Lowell, a botanist aboard a space freighter. In a future where all Earth flora is extinct, Lowell rebels against orders to destroy the last remaining forest biodomes, choosing to protect them with his loyal drones, Huey, Louie and Dewey.

April 22 at 7 p.m. | Putt-R-Round, 130 W. Michigan Ave
| **Admission: Free**

Art Fairs

Pushing Up Daisies

Holy Bones presents its fourth annual Pushing Up Daisies event. Hosted at the Firehouse Museum, attendees can expect two floors of spring-themed horror art for sale.

May 2 from 12-6 p.m. | Firehouse Museum, 110 W. Cross St. | **Admission: Free**

Ypsi Artisans Market

Hosting a collection of over 40 small businesses, crafters, nonprofit organizations and food vendors based in Ypsilanti, the Ypsi Artisans Market offers attendees a chance to explore unique art and support local creators.

May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place | **Admission: Free**



The Ypsilanti Freighthouse is located at 100 Market Place in Ypsilanti. Ky'anna Coats / The Eastern Echo

Live Music

Ian Fink at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse

An active member of Detroit's Jazz, Techno and house scene, Ian Fink has been playing for audiences since age 14. Fink, alongside other Jazz artists, is set to play at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse for an intimate performance.

April 24 at 7:30 p.m. | Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Place | Admission: Pay what you wish, starting at \$5

Beyond This Point: Musician Minus Instrument

What does a musician become without their instrument? Can they use their skills in other ways, and still make music? Musician Minus Instrument both breaks and expands what it means to be a musician and a performer. The "instruments" run the gamut from a loose jack cable to an IKEA desk lamp to simple bodies and voices. Beyond This Point, composed of Chicago-based collaborative percussion and arts trio Adam Rosenblatt, John Corkill and AJ Morrissey, straddles the disciplines of music, theater and science through gesture and ingenuity.

April 25 at 7:30 p.m. | Ypsilanti Freighthouse | Admission: Pay what you wish, starting at \$5

Ypsilanti Community Choir 2026 Spring Concert

Join Ypsilanti Community Choir for its annual spring concert at Towsley Auditorium.

May 15 at 7:30 p.m. | Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Drive | Admission: Free, donations encouraged

Fashion

Faith and Fashion Show

Aiding Ypsilanti residents with rent support through its ticket sales, Ruth Mella's Ministry presents its "Faith and Fashion Show," a night of elegant faith-based fashion and worship.

May 2 from 7-9 p.m. | Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St. | Admission: RSVP required, donations encouraged

Poetry

Jared's Amorphous Blob Workshop

Join Jared M. Bentley, winner of YpsiWrites' 2025-26 Writer of Ypsilanti award, for a night of friendly competition, innovation and storytelling in a welcoming environment.

May 16 from 2-3:30 p.m. | Ypsilanti Public Library, Michigan Avenue branch | Admission: Free registration

Dance

Anything Goes, Student Choreography Concert

Company E, Eastern Michigan University Dance's official performing company, is set to feature a night of choreography and performances by dance majors and minors.

April 25 from 7-9 p.m. | Pease Auditorium, Eastern Michigan University | Admission: \$10, LBC approved

Workshops

Intro Cyanotype Workshop with Madison Cantrell

Madison Cantrell will introduce the cyanotype process, its history and share artist examples. Cantrell. Participants will then go on a short walk to collect natural materials to create with, but are also welcome to bring their own objects. Participants will then be led to create five unique sun prints of their own to take home.

April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St. | Admission: \$35



A photo of two finished cyanotype prints. Madison Cantrell will lead a cyanotype workshop on April 22 at Dzanc House. Owen Cardenas / The Eastern Echo

Bug Pit Collaborative Arts to open auditions for upcoming production

Gray Connor

Managing Editor - Operations

Each August, Bug Pit Collaborative Arts brings a bout of experimental, low cost and original theatre to Washtenaw County.

Written by members of the group, Bug Pit's shows encourage both attendees and actors alike to reimagine what theater can look like. With a backyard as a rehearsal studio, handcrafted puppets as core set pieces and little incentive for profit, Bug Pit aims to create a space for writers, artists and theatergoers who prefer to embrace the abstract and unusual.

Lindsey Brown and Olive Cianciolo act as co-artistic directors for each Bug Pit performance. Their 2026 production, still being written by the members, will take form in three distinct stories, with one of which being a musical, and all will use devising methods to create each story.

"Devised theatre is basically [when you] get a group together, and you might have a concept or might not, and you give them a stimulus packet," Brown said. Stimulus packets can be made up of a variety of items or images, and all represent concepts or ideas meant to inspire the group. Through the packet, the group creates characters, storylines and themes.

For one of this year's three acts, Brown will be leading the devising stage. According to her, much of the influence for the stimulus packet comes from movement. While actors typically roam through the



The 2025 Big Pit cast and crew pose for a photo on the stage of Theatre Nova. Courtesy of Lindsey Brown

packets and then try to make a story, Brown will instead have the actors explore the production's themes through abstract movement exercises.

"There's nothing wrong with traditional scripted theatre, I also direct traditional scripted theatre, but I enjoy devising because as an ensemble member [and] actor, through the rehearsal process, you get to make choices that influence the final piece, because you're basically writing it together," Brown said. In some cases, the scripts created are more strict, while other instances see them as outlines that the actors can follow, with performances looking slightly different each night.

Brown's experiences in undergraduate studies helped her realize that she wanted to create art collaboratively and to allow for all participants to play a core role in the

creation process. The idea of theming the troupe around bugs came after.

"The idea of a bug really gets what we're going for on a gut level," Cianciolo said, who began with Bug Pit as a graphic designer, before becoming a co-artistic director. "You see bugs, they're dirty, small and there's a million of them everywhere. That's a little bit of what we're doing."

Alongside being an experimental outlet for artists, Bug Pit also provides the theatre experience at a low cost. While attendees are encouraged to purchase a ticket to support the troupe, performances can also be viewed for free.

"I think that Bug Pit is important to me because I think it's important to know and practice the fact that you can make art at any financial level," Brown said, "Especially in theater where there are so many barriers to

entry ... I think [there's] a lot of joy and a lot of liberation in making cheap art with your neighbors."

According to Cianciolo, the theatre's low cost also played a part in why the troupe named itself "Bug Pit."

"We want people to know that we're scrappy. We're professional, but we're not professionals," Cianciolo said.

For those interested in getting involved in Bug Pit's upcoming production, auditions for the show will take place on May 3, from 2-5 p.m., and will be located in Burns Park, Ypsilanti. Those not looking to act can also stop by the auditions and subsequent rehearsals if they wish to be involved at some level.

To stay up to date with Bug Pit Collaborative Art's upcoming productions, visit the group's Instagram page at bugpitcollab.

8 art-related events to attend in Washtenaw County this summer

Hannah Borders

Arts and Entertainment Reporter

Art lovers, rejoice. There is no shortage of art- and community-oriented events and festivals to attend this summer in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. From visual to performance art, from May to August, here are eight local events celebrating creativity and independent artists.

Holy Bones - Pushing Up Daisies

Pushing Up Daisies is an art market where local artists will have tables and sell their art. 2026 will mark the fourth year of this market, which will follow a theme of "Spring, Renewal, Bloom." Pushing Up Daisies will stick to the dark aesthetic of Holy Bones while embracing the brightness of spring. Attendees can expect to see a lot of botanical artwork and work that emphasizes the circle of life.

Pushing Up Daisies will take place Saturday, May 2, 2026, 12-6 p.m., at the Michigan Firehouse Museum, at 110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti.

More information is available on the Holy Bones Festival website.

Ypsi Artisans Market

For art lovers looking to shop and support local artists, the Ypsi Artisans Market annual event connects community members with the creative works of area artisans. This art market will feature the work of more than 40 local artists, small businesses and nonprofits. Attendees can expect to see arts, crafts and baked goods for sale.

"This event is the perfect opportunity to explore unique crafts, support local talent, and discover one-of-a-kind treasures," the market's Facebook Events page said.

The market, hosted at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse at 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti, will take place Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shakespeare in the Arb

The 2026 season of Shakespeare in the Arb is set to bring performances of "Love's Labor's Lost" to the outdoor backdrop of the Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor. Local performers will bring Shakespeare's comedy to life every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4-28.

Tickets are \$25 for general public, \$20 for Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum members, \$15 for students and youth, and free for children under 5 years old.

All tickets are general admission. Attendees should expect lawn-style seating and be prepared for weather conditions; periods of sitting and standing; and three miles of walking across inclines and slopes, staircases, grass, gravel and mulch throughout various locations, the Arb website states.

Tickets go on sale May 12 at 11 a.m. for members and May 19 at a.m. for the general public. For more information on purchasing and picking up tickets, visit the events page on the University of Michigan **SEE ART EVENTS,** **CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

Art Events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum website. Showtime is at 6:30 p.m., and shows run to about 9:30 p.m. American Sign Language interpretation will be available at the June 7 performance, with discounted tickets for audience members using ASL services.

Ann Arbor Summer Festival

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is an annual outdoor festival with events and shows throughout the month of June. The festival will feature various performing arts, such as comedy, music, theater and dance. It also features movie nights, with titles like “Hamilton,” “Sinners,” “Coco” and “It’s A Wonderful Life” scheduled for screenings.

While the full festival lineup won’t be revealed until May, last year’s A2SF

included local and regional music favorites such as Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers, Frontier Ruckus, Djangophonique and others. In addition to musical performances, the festival includes other activities, such as the KidZone for interactive, family-friendly fun; yoga and dance fitness classes; workshops; and more.

90% of A2SF’s more than 200 events offer free admission for the community, the festival website states. Performances, movies and events occur on various dates and at various times throughout June, with a full calendar available online.

Read more on the A2SF website.

Ann Arbor Art Fair

Considered the largest juried art fair in the country, the Ann Arbor Art Fair is a three-day annual event that happens every July. Ann Arbor Art Fair is one

comprehensive event that includes three distinct fairs: Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, The Original; The Guild’s Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair; and Ann Arbor State Street District Art Fair.

The art of more than 1,000 artists will be on display and for sale. The Ann Arbor Art Fair includes music performances on three stages, featuring Michigan artists and local legends across genres. The festival also offers a variety of participatory and demonstrative art activities, including a chalk walk, ceramics demonstration, live glassblowing and a kid-friendly art zone. Food trucks and street vendors will be set up throughout downtown Ann Arbor for the fair.

This year, the fair will take place July 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and July 18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It will span more than 30 city blocks in downtown Ann Arbor. More information is available on the Ann Arbor

Art Fair’s website.

Ypsilanti Pride

Co-founded by two Michigan-based queer artists in 2016, Ypsilanti Pride is an event that celebrates the queer community in Ypsilanti. It was born out of the 2013 establishment of First Fridays Ypsilanti, the FFY website states.

“Ypsi Pride’s mission is to bring awareness and visibility through education and celebration of diversity to our community. Our vision is to create a welcoming and accepting community that exists to empower all LGBTQIA+ individuals,” the FFY website states.

There will be celebration, events, performances and sales. While the lineup and details have not been released yet, the Ypsi Pride Facebook called for applications from entertainers, including drag performers, dancers, musicians and bands, comedians and poets. The Facebook also posted that

about 10,000 attendees are expected.

Ypsilanti Pride is free to attend and will take place July 18, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Depot Town.

Ann Arbor Pride

Ann Arbor Pride is a festival in Ann Arbor that celebrates the queer community. There will be vendors, entertainment, community and pride. Ann Arbor Pride is hosted by the Jim Toy Community Center, an advocacy group in Ann Arbor named for the Michigan queer activist Jim Toy.

Last year, Ann Arbor Pride saw more than 20,000 attendees, its website said. Entertainment at the event is family-friendly through 6 p.m., the website stated. The free event will be on Main Street in Ann Arbor and is slated to occur Aug. 1, 2026.

Ann Arbor Pride is accepting vendor applications until June 30, 2026. Vendor information

and an application link are available online on Ann Arbor Pride’s website.

Fun Fest at Frog Island Park

Hosted by Fundamental Sound Co., Fun Fest at Frog Island Park is a day-long event featuring live music, art and vendors. The event will be Aug. 8, 2026, starting at 1 p.m.

Fun Fest is an annual event. While this year’s music lineup has not yet been released, Fun Fest 2025 included performances from musicians Marcus Elliot, Peter “Madcat” Ruth, Al Bettis, Dani Darling, Ma Baker, Jacuzzi Beach and Violet Sol, as well as aerialist Cassie Catania from Resonate Bodies Healing & Circus Art.

Frog Island Park is at 9 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Those interested in being a vendor at the festival can email the organizers at fundamentalsoundco@gmail.com.

Chrissy Kuiper

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Digital fabrication was a pivotal course in Kuiper’s art journey at Eastern. Originally uninterested in the process, Kuiper was later intrigued by the prospect of manipulating and adjusting textures. The course consists of a variety of Computer Numerical Control, or CNC devices, and learning how to use 3D printers and scanners, laser cutters and CNC milling machines that can enhance traditional art practice.

When Kuiper’s grandmother died in 2024, the artist used her digital fabrication skills to honor her memory. Kuiper was inspired to create “Handmade with Love” in 2025, a 3D-printed quilt design. As a young girl,

Kuiper’s grandmother was a skilled quilter and brought to life any vision Kuiper had through her talents. Kuiper worked to commemorate her grandmother’s work through a recreation of her quilt design. She used 298 3D printed diamonds that were individually sanded and hand-painted to create the piece.

Kuiper will create two additional quilt pieces by the end of the winter 2026 semester that also use a 3D-printed design. She will also use a quilt design to create a wood-working version. This piece will use different wood types to replicate the different variations of the quilt’s colors.

Kuiper said she enjoys

3D art because of the hands-on and structured process that guides her.

“I know all the steps I need to do and I can experiment within those steps, but I still have those steps,” Kuiper said.

In her junior year of high school, Kuiper was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. After the diagnosis, Kuiper was able to adjust her artistry in a way that allows her to focus on the process.

“I can slow down and zone in on exactly what I am doing. My brain quiets down and I don’t have to think about everything I’m doing,” Kuiper said.

Instead of focusing on the end-result or product, Kuiper stays in the moment, concentrating on the current artistic process.

“I think focusing on the

process really takes away the stress of trying to achieve a final product. This mindset doesn’t inhibit anything. It makes things simpler to not be focused on exactly what the final product looks like,” Kuiper said.

Kuiper uses the principle of working on one piece at a time to find the beauty in the process of creation.

“If I don’t even have a plan, then nothing is a mistake and it is all a part of the process,” Kuiper said. “I love to experiment and try new things, and I can’t do that if I go into the project with a set plan.”

Many art students manage a full schedule, with three-hour studio classes and an additional five hours of expected work outside of each class period. Art students are also expected to

complete dense projects that can take multiple weeks to complete.

To manage the stress of a busy schedule and to avoid burnout, Kuiper uses baking as an outlet. She finds respite in the use of exact measurements and the satisfaction that comes from the final product of a completed baked good.

Despite the time pressure of completing projects, Kuiper takes breaks to strengthen her focus on the artistic process.

“This is what makes art so beautiful is the process, not the final products, but the time, effort and patience that goes into the final product — that’s what matters,” Kuiper said.

Kuiper is a part of the first generation of Windgate Fellowship students. The

Windgate Fellowship helps art students participate in more experiential learning and community engagement opportunities through a one-year stipend to support tuition, fees, travel and incidental expenses related to creative activity and scholarly research, said an article written by Brittany Mobley on EMU Today.

Kuiper is set to graduate in May 2027 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and concentration in graphic design and 3D media.

“I really never lost that childhood whimsy. I always try the new things I want to try, and when I got to college, I just couldn’t see myself doing anything else,” Kuiper said.

To follow along Kuiper’s artistic journey, follow @chaotickcreations24 on Instagram.



The Eastern Echo



**Subscribe to
The Eastern Echo's
newsletter!**

Get *Echo* news in your
inbox every week!

