



GO *FIGURE*

**an invitational
exhibition
featuring works
by 30 regional
artists**

May 3 through July 19, 2026



Birger Sandzén
Memorial Gallery

Curator's Statement

Humans have been depicting stories using the figure for thousands of years. Images of figures have been found on the walls of prehistoric caverns depicting hunting and daily life. In the medieval period, the early Christian church used paintings and mosaics to teach an illiterate population. In our modern era, artists are still using the figure to create visual narratives—both true and fictional.

In the exhibition that I have organized, there is a wide range of visual stories using the figure, created with a variety of media. I did not select the artworks, but chose artists that I admire for their ability to engage an audience with their particular narrative.

Any omission of qualified artists was done out of ignorance not malice.

Michael Florian Jilg



Sandzén Gallery Director's Note

Hays, Kansas, artist Michael (Mick) Jilg plays a pivotal role on the Sandzén Gallery's show committee, so when he expressed interest in having a figurative exhibition, we were happy to tap into his expertise and professional connections. Although I didn't ever take a figure drawing class with him when he was a professor at Fort Hays State University, Mick is the one who taught me the basics of drawing there and I've been fortunate to see many of his figurative drawings, paintings, and prints throughout the years. I can't think of a better person to curate this exhibition.

Likewise, the Sandzén Gallery has a rich history of exhibiting figurative art and it encompasses an important part of our permanent collection. Our namesake, Birger Sandzén (1871-1954), led the way by consistently being a figurative artist throughout his career and collecting likeminded works. As a student of Sweden's Anders Zorn (1860-1920), he learned the details of modeling the human body and became a skilled technician at it, even as his style changed through the years. Additionally, he and his wife Alfrida acquired works by many noted figurative artists and owned an exceptional collection of Zorn's seaside nudes. His daughter, Margaret, and her husband, C. P. Greenough, 3rd, continued the tradition, often purchasing figurative pieces for their own or the Gallery's collection. The Gallery continues the practice, acquiring the occasional figurative work along with landscapes and nonrepresentational pieces.

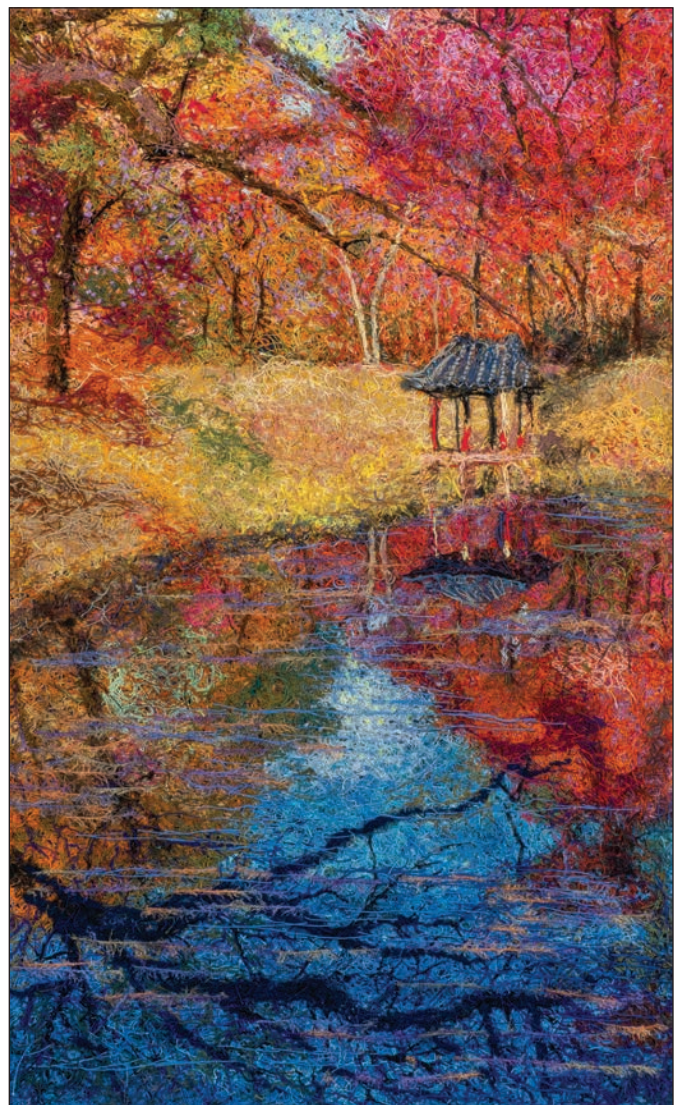
We hope you will enjoy this selection by many of Kansas' leading artists. There are direct portrayals of the human form and exceedingly indirect representations—each piece showcasing the diversity of what can be considered a figure.

Ron Michael

**Aaron Morgan
Brown**
Wichita, KS
Urbania 4
2026 oil on panel
24 x 48 inches



Shin-hee Chin
McPherson, KS
Reverberations
2023 Perle cotton thread, wool, polyester
thread, linen threads, woven fabric, polyester
50 x 31 inches



Lee Becker
Lindsborg, KS
Figurative Print
2026 color linoleum cut and ink
19 x 15 inches

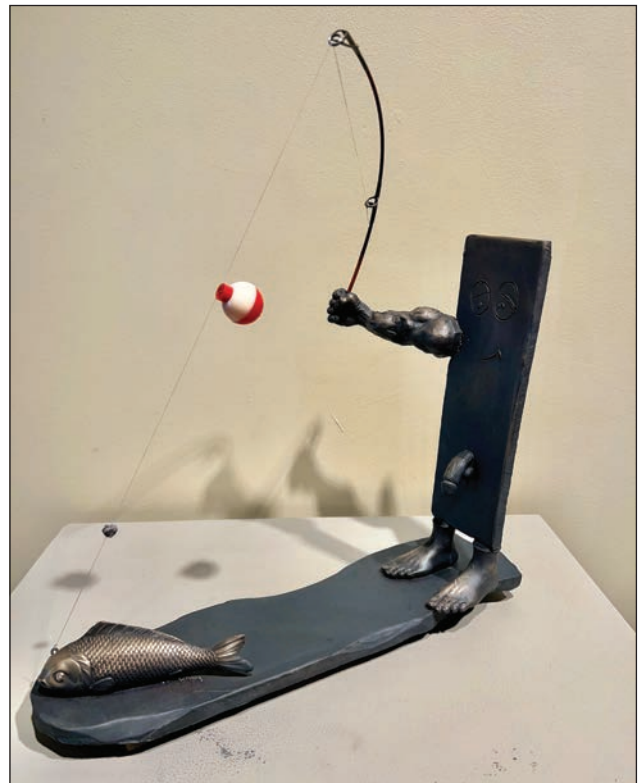


Rachel Curtis
Towanda, KS
Halloween Party
2025 oil on canvas
40 x 52 inches



Patrick Duegaw
Wichita, KS
Study for the Accidental Soldier
(or) Portrait of Elizabeth
2025 graphite on cotton paper
81 x 36 inches

Toby Flores
Hays, KS
Self Portrait Toby
2024 bronze, bobber
14 x 16 x 5 inches





Linda Ganstrom
Hays, KS

Backup
2026 porcelain figures painted with
layers of Golden Fluid acrylic seated
on a fabric cushion
36 x 60 x 53 inches



Devlin Goldworm
Dodge City, KS

Coffee Shop
2026 graphite
22 x 30 inches



Mike Hartung
Lindsborg, KS

Sleep in a Closed Garage
1980s oil on Masonite
48 x 48 inches

Michaela Groeblacher
Lindsborg, KS

Hardy Marty
2016 ceramic, paint, fabric,
& found objects
44 x 24 x 34 inches





Brian Hutchinson

Hays, KS

Kiteswoop

2025 mixed print media

49 x 21 inches



Marco Hernandez

Wichita, KS

La Battalla (The Battle)

2016 etching

9 x 12 inches



Jee Hwang

Allendale, MI

Bloom Rupture

2025 magazine collage, carbon paper, glue,

fabric, acrylic gouache, and pencil on paper

20 x 17 inches



Michael Florian Jilg
Hays, KS

Base
2005 charcoal, acrylic, and collage on stretched paper
43 x 49 inches



Michael Kent Knutson
Garden City, KS
Neon Tether
2026 oil with mixed media on assembled surface
48 x 36 inches

Kris Kuksi
Lawrence, KS
Figure Study
2026 acrylic
29 x 58 inches





Carol Long
St. John, KS

Woman in a Blue Habitat
2026 ceramic
19 x 11 x 7 inches

Matt Miller
Victoria, KS

Digital Dilemma
2013 oil on canvas
35 x 36 inches



Michael McCaffrey
Lawrence, KS

After a Fall
2024 oil on canvas
72 x 57 inches

James Munce
Manhattan, KS

Resurrection
ink on AP etching paper
12 ½ x 13 ½ inches





Barbara Waterman Peters

Topeka, KS

TS: The Plan

2026 oil on canvas

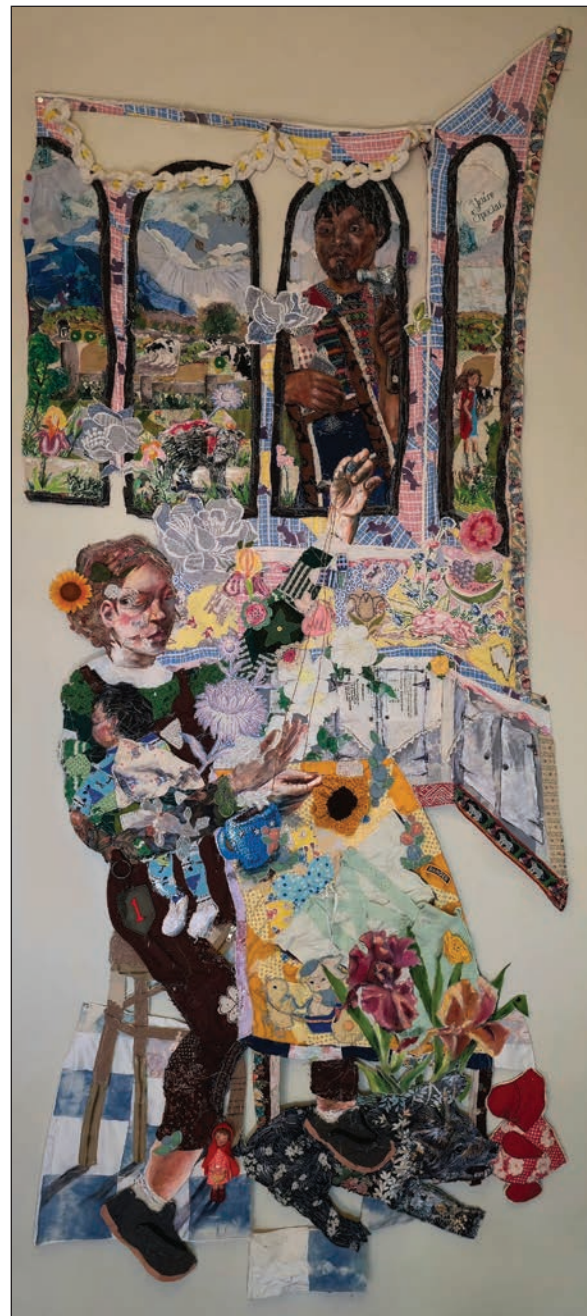
24 x 24 inches

Eden Quispe

Newton, KS

Sent Into the Wilderness to Roam

2026 stitched, printed, painted and collaged textiles including quilt, children's clothing, embroideries, doilies, potholders, flannograph pieces, baby blanket, military patches, painted doll
93 x 36 inches



Doyle Sadler

Colby, KS

Study of a Chain

toned silver print

17 ½ x 13 ½ inches



Leon Staab

Hays, KS

Black Hand Series Print #4

1997 photograph

40 x 28 inches



Shannon Trevethan

Russell, KS

Bramblebeard

2026 oil on canvas

19 ½ inch diameter



Diana Unrein

Hays, KS

The Water Keeps Her

2026 oil on canvas

48 x 60 inches



Beckie Vega
Lindsborg, KS

Holding Pattern
2026 oil on canvas
16 x 13 ¼ inches



Ye Wang
Topeka, KS

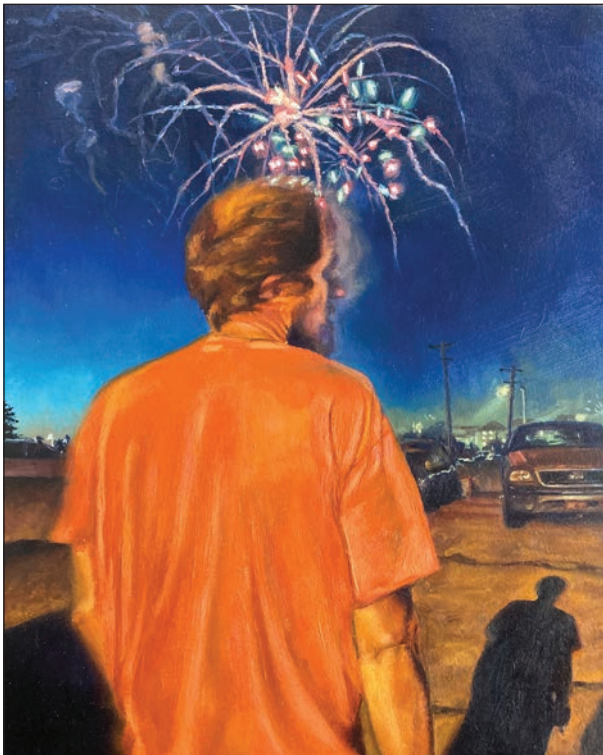
Linda
2020 oil on canvas
14 x 11 inches

Amy Warfield
Victoria, KS

Blowing Smoke
2025 oil on panel
8 x 10 inches

Rodney Wood
Hoisington, KS

Faith
2012 oil on panel
30 x 38 inches



Participating Artists:



Figure sketch by Margaret Sandzén Greenough (1909-1993), circa 1940, graphite on paper, 20 x 16 inches, Greenough Collection, Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery

Lee Becker
Aaron Morgan Brown
Shin-hee Chin
Rachel Curtis
Patrick Duegaw
Toby Flores
Linda Ganstrom
Michaela Valli Groeblacher
Devlin Goldworm
Mike Hartung
Marco Hernandez
Jee Hyun Hwang
Brian Hutchinson
Michael Florian Jilg
Michael Kent Knutson
Kris Kuksi
Carol Long
Michael McCaffrey
Matthew Miller
James Munce
Barbara Waterman Peters
Eden Quispe
Doyle Saddler
Leon Staab
Shannon Trevethan
Diana Unrein
Beckie Vega
Ye Wang
Amy Warfield
Rodney Wood

On the cover: detail of *Summer* by John Bashor (1926-2013), 1966, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 48 inches, Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery permanent collection



Birger Sandzén
MEMORIAL GALLERY

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