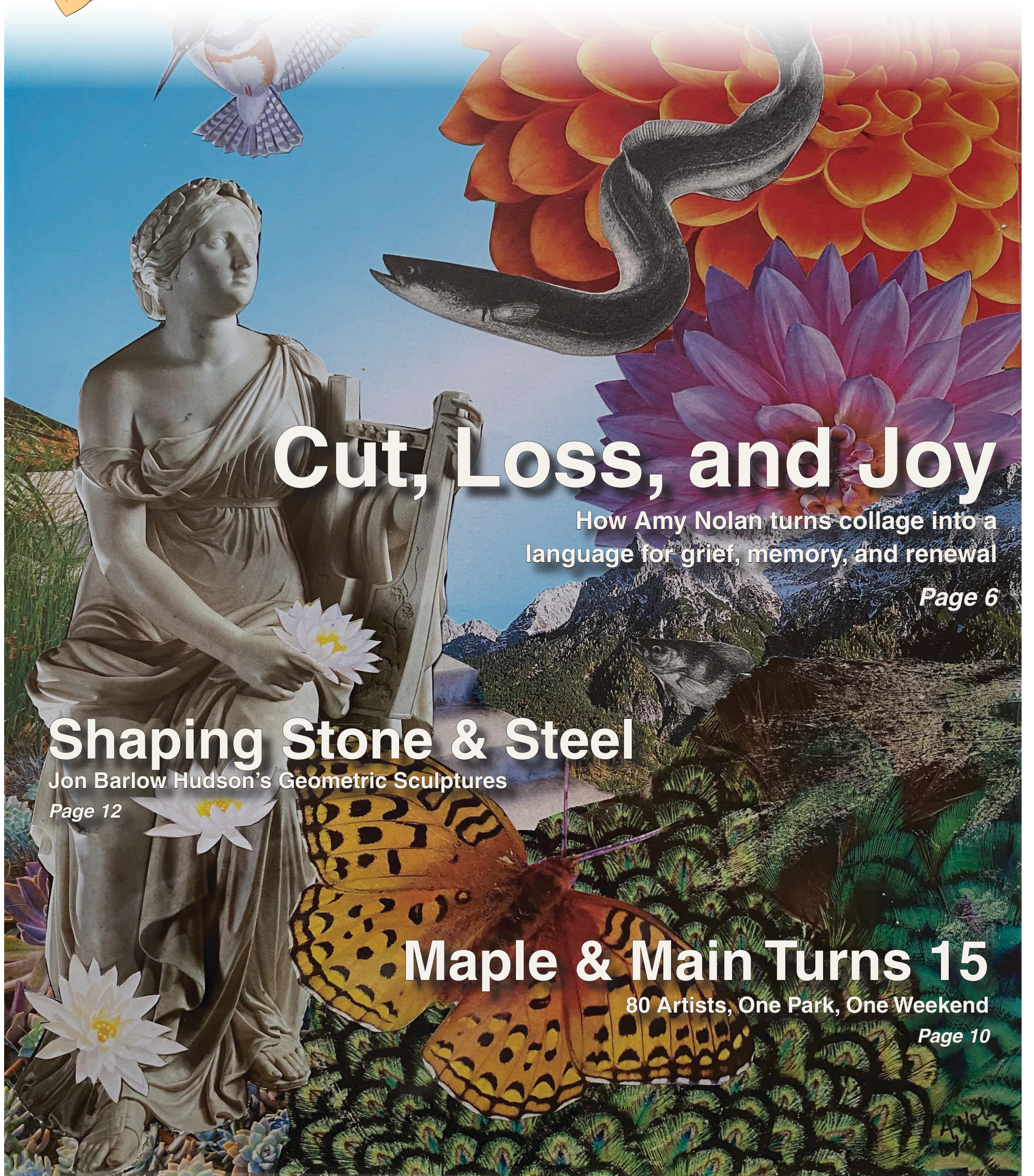




# THE SCRIBE



## Cut, Loss, and Joy

How Amy Nolan turns collage into a language for grief, memory, and renewal

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80 Artists, One Park, One Weekend

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# THE SCRIBE

## Letter From the Editor

First, I wanted to thank everyone who showed up to our Spring Mixer. The food and company were truly excellent. I am always dedicated to serving the arts of Ohio, and look to provide for this in any way I can through Apollo Press and *The Scribe*. I look forward to hosting future Mixers and other interactive events.

For this edition of *The Scribe*, we'll be taking a look into Copper Moon Studios, collage artist Amy Nolan, Sylvania Arts (Annual Maple & Main Festival), Sculptor Jon Barlow Hudson, and Toledo Opera's 'Round Town performance schedule.

We're also looking for freelancers once more, so if you love writing about the arts, please inquire!

**Jeffrey Darah**  
President and Editor



## The Scribe's Spring Arts Spotlight Mixer



Thanks to everyone who showed up and supported the artists. The Assembly was full, and it made for a great night of art and conversation!

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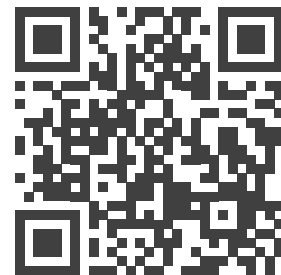
## Freelance Writers Wanted!

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- LITERARY
- GRANT

## 2026 Artist Projects Grant, Round 2

Greater Columbus Arts Council

**DUE: August 24, 2026**

- Up to \$10,000 per artist; filmmakers up to \$25,000
- Approx. 75 artists will receive awards
- Supports original, artist-led projects in all disciplines
- Community-based review process
- Contact: [grants@gcac.org](mailto:grants@gcac.org) or (614) 224-2606

## 27th Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival

Tremont West Development Corp., Cleveland

**DUE: June 11, 2026 (via ZAPP)**

- Saturday, September 19, Lincoln Park, Cleveland
- 15 media categories accepted
- \$25 application fee, 5 images required
- NE Ohio artists encouraged to apply
- Apply at [zapplication.org](http://zapplication.org)

## "Ohio at the Crossroads" Exhibition

Centerville Arts Commission, Centerville

**DUE: May 3, 2026**

- America 250 commemoration exhibition
- Open to all backgrounds and experience levels
- Up to 3 works per artist
- On display throughout July 2026
- Reception and awards ceremony July 3

## Call for Solo & Group Exhibitions

Summit Artspace, Akron

**DUE: June 15, 2026**

- No fee to apply
- Must live in Summit County or adjacent counties
- 70/30 artist-to-org sales split
- Exhibitions scheduled for 2027-2028 season
- Open to visual art, craft, and installation

## McDonough Museum Emerging Artist

McDonough Museum, Youngstown

**DUE: Rolling Submissions**

- No application fee
- Must live within 250 miles of Youngstown
- 8-10 images of work
- Emerging visual and performing artists
- Exhibition space provided at no cost

## Funds for Artists

Greater Columbus Arts Council

**OPENS: June 1, 2026 (closes Oct 1)**

- \$1,200 non-competitive grants
- New art, skills, marketing, or art business
- Rolling basis; reviewed within 60 days
- Columbus-area artists
- Must be 18+ and reside in Franklin County

## Akron Poetry Prize

University of Akron Press

**DUE: June 15, 2026 (opened April 15)**

- \$1,500 prize + publication in Akron Series in Poetry
- Full manuscript, 60-95 pages
- \$25 entry fee
- Open to all poets writing in English

## Hollis Summers Poetry Prize

Ohio University Press

**DUE: Dec 31, 2026 (now accepting)**

- \$1,000 prize + publication by OU Press
- Full manuscript, 60-95 pages
- \$30 entry fee
- General editor: Sarah Green
- Named for the Ohio-born poet (1916-1987)

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# Copper Moon Studio: Where You Make the Art

## Walk In, Make Something, Come Back for It

Copper Moon Studio Gallery & Gifts sits on Airport Highway in Holland, Ohio, just outside Toledo. It's the kind of place where people walk in, sit down with some glass and tools, and leave with something they made themselves.

The idea behind the studio is simple: anyone can make art. Copper Moon runs fused glass projects every day it's open, with no reservation or experience needed for most options. It also sells handmade work by area artists, hosts group events from birthday parties to school field trips, and supplies fellow glass artists with materials and kiln time.

***“You just start, piece by piece, and see where it goes.”***

Most projects take around an hour. A popular option called Lil' Chips keeps things simple, offering smaller pieces that are easy to complete in one visit. The process is consistent enough that people know what to expect, but open-ended enough that no two pieces come out the same.

That drop-in format allows visitors to begin a project during open hours without advance planning. Families, couples, and groups can take part using the same process, regardless of experience. You don't need a plan when you walk in. You just start, piece by piece, and see where it goes.

## From a Small Studio to a Local Fixture

Copper Moon was opened in 2006 by owner and artist Stacy Owen. The goal was to create a space where people could work with their hands without worrying about whether the result would be perfect.

In 2026, Copper Moon reaches its 20th year. Over that time, it has become a regular stop for families, school groups, and visitors from around Northwest Ohio. Some people come back for specific projects, while others return because they already know how the experience works and want to repeat it.

The focus remains on giving people a place to try something without a long commitment or a steep learning curve. Staff are there to guide the process when needed, but most of the work is done by the visitors themselves, piece by piece.

## More Than a Studio: Groups, Gifts, and Everyday Use

In addition to walk-in projects, Copper Moon regularly hosts group events. Birthday parties, school field trips, team-building sessions, and private gatherings are all part of the schedule. The structure doesn't change much for groups, but the scale does. Staff guide participants through the process, helping them move from selecting materials to finishing a piece that can be fired and picked up later.

For schools and organizations, the format offers something different from a typical outing. Instead of watching or listening, everyone is working on something at the same time.

Beyond the worktables, the studio includes a retail gallery stocked with handmade pieces by regional artists. The selection includes fused glass, jewelry, metalwork, and other small-scale items that can be taken home the same day. Some visitors come in specifically to look for gifts or decorative pieces, especially when they want something that isn't mass-produced.

Custom work is also part of what the studio offers. Customers can request pieces made for specific occasions, from commemorative items to home décor. The metalwork is produced in an on-site metal shop equipped with a plasma cutter that lets the studio fabricate in copper, steel, and other metals.



Taken together, the studio and gallery function as both a place to make work and a place to find it. Some visitors stay for an hour, others come back repeatedly, and some stop in only to browse.

### Open to Everyone

Copper Moon doesn't sort people by skill level. Kids, adults, beginners, and experienced crafters all work in the same room. Staff focus on helping people enjoy what they're making rather than pushing for a polished result.

The studio also serves working glass artists. Outside artists can purchase fusing supplies and rent time on the studio's kilns, which makes Copper Moon part of the regional infrastructure for glass artists who don't have their own equipment at home. The building is handicapped accessible and has on-site parking. In recent years, the studio has been recognized as a Best of Toledo 2025 winner and a Family Favorites 2024 winner.

### Visit the Studio

Copper Moon Studio is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. It's at 8007 Airport Highway in Holland, Ohio.

For more on classes, events, and daily projects, visit [www.coppermoonstudio.com](http://www.coppermoonstudio.com), call 419-867-0683, or find Copper Moon Studio on social media.





## Amy Nolan: Finding Joy in the Cut



### From the AuSable to the Classroom

Amy Nolan grew up in northern Michigan, where the AuSable River shaped her sense of the world long before she had the words for it. *"The natural world has served as a deeply healing place that inspired me before I had the language to express it,"* she says. That river, and the forests and swamps around it, remain at the center of her imagination even now that she lives in Sagamore Hills, Ohio, on the edge of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Amy is a collage artist. She works with cut-outs from magazines and books, sometimes photographs, assembling them with glue, razor blades, a mat knife, and scissors, along with whatever else the piece calls for: pastels, pencils, markers, Q-Tips, a rag for smudging. Her collages have been described as dynamic, bold, vibrant, and playful. Nature is always present, she says, but *"comes across in surprising ways."*

Before picking up scissors and glue, Amy spent decades in the classroom and on the page. She earned her Ph.D. in English from Michigan State University in 2005, writing a dissertation on Stanley Kubrick, Paul Auster, Christopher Nolan, and Kathy Acker. After that, she taught creative writing and film studies at Wartburg College, a small liberal arts school in Waverly, Iowa, for seventeen years.

During those years, she published personal and scholarly essays in journals like *Prairie Schooner*, *Cultural Critique*, and the *Bellevue Literary Review*. Her subjects ranged widely, from Kathy Acker's graphic vision to the psychological architecture of Kubrick's *The Shining*, from eco-feminist readings of Margaret



### QUICK SCROLL

Ohio collage artist builds work from magazine cuttings, drawing on personal loss and ecological grief.



Atwood to her own experiences living with bipolar disorder. In 2014, her essay “My Mother’s Hips” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize after winning the VanderMey Nonfiction Prize from Ruminant Magazine. Her writing life spans twenty-five years and counting.

**“Creating art, she says, is like learning a new language.”**

### A New Language in Collage

When Amy moved to Ohio in 2024, she was already exploring what she calls “nonlinear, intuitive modes of expression.” Creating art, she says, is like learning a new language. That same year, three of her collages were accepted into the exhibition “Art that Matters to the Planet: Clarity” at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. The experience pushed her to keep going.

Her influences as a visual artist trace back through her life in film and literature: Claude Cahun, Hannah Hoch, Romare Bearden, Kathy Acker, and the electronic music duo Boards of Canada. She is motivated by emotional experiences, dreams, observations, and reflections. Her study of visual art, she says, is rooted in film composition and theory, reading, and practice. A passion for storytelling and a love for animals run through both her visual and written work, whose subjects circle ecology, mental health, and horror studies.

In 2024, when Amy’s brother Tim died by suicide, she stopped making art for close to a year. The loss compounded a grief she already carried about the slow destruction of the places she grew up in. Michigan, like many states, is dealing with the fallout of decades of PFAS pollution. High cancer rates now pervade the area where Amy was raised. Stretches of the AuSable have

been designated no-fishing zones, including a nine-mile section where the river empties into Lake Huron near the town of Oscoda. The fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds that once filled its waters and banks are disappearing.

Amy turns to writing to try to express that grief. She turns to art for something else: joy and hope. When a friend lost his cat to cancer, she made a collage in the animal’s honor. That piece, “Andy’s Dream,” came together almost exactly a year after her brother’s death, and it surprised her with its lightness. “I realized that this is the message that I hope to convey in my art,” she says. “I want to address anguish and devastation with a call to wonder, in noticing the small but profound richness all around us.” It is now one of her favorite collages.

### Showing Across the Country

Amy’s work has appeared in group exhibitions across the country, from the Sasse Museum of Art in Pomona, California, to the San Fernando Valley Arts and Cultural Center in Encino, to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in New York. Several of these were juried shows. In November 2025, her work was part of “Wild Harmony” at Palm Art Gallery in Studio City, and earlier that year she showed at Red Bluff Art Gallery in a benefit exhibition for the Accidental Animal Rescue Center.

Right now, her mini collage “Rapt” is on display at the KBM Art Gallery in Riverside, California, as part of the “Artistic Animals” exhibition, running from March 28 through May 8, 2026.

Amy is a member of the National Collage Society. Her most recent published essay, “Cultivating Complexity in an Age of Digital Dominance and Binary Oppositional Thinking,” appeared in the journal *Humanities* in February 2025.



# Seshat's Calendar

Art Events for May 2026

[View our online calendar at the-scribe.org/calendar](https://the-scribe.org/calendar)

Want your event highlighted here and online? Get featured for only \$75! ★ = Sponsored Events

## Toledo

### **Cursed! The Power of Magic in the Ancient World**

Mar 21 – Jul 5  
@Toledo Museum of Art

### **Olga Kern: Brahms & Beethoven Piano Concertos**

May 1–2  
@Toledo Symphony / Peristyle

### **Toledo Opera: America 250 Week**

May 2–9  
@Various Locations

### **Opera 'Round Town**

May 6 & 13, 6PM  
@Wildwood Preserve, Manor House Lawn

### **KeyBank Pops: Tribute to Led Zeppelin**

May 9, 8PM  
@The Peristyle

### **Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass & Other Delights**

May 16  
@TMA Peristyle Theater

### **Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway**

May 29, 8PM  
@Valentine Theatre

### **Opulent Echoes: Art of the 16th & 17th Centuries**

Through Sep 7  
@Toledo Museum of Art

## Columbus

### **Columbus Symphony: Orff – Triumph of Aphrodite**

May 1, 7:30PM  
@Ohio Theatre

### **Short North Gallery Hop**

May 2, 4–8PM  
@Short North Arts District

### **Menopause The Musical 2: Cruising Through 'The Change'**

May 8–10  
@Lincoln Theatre / CAPA

### **Hops on High (Open Streets Festival)**

May 9, All Day  
@Short North Arts District

### **BalletMet: La bohème**

May 13–17  
@Davidson Theatre

### **Hadestown (Broadway Series)**

May 15–17  
@Ohio Theatre / CAPA

### **ProMusica: Copland & Shostakovich**

May 16–17, 7PM  
@Southern Theatre

### **Greater Columbus: 2026 Visual Arts Fellowship Exhibition**

Apr 15 – Sep 20  
@Columbus Museum of Art

### **Wexner Center Exhibitions**

Through May 24  
@Wexner Center for the Arts

## Cleveland

### **MIX: Year of the Horse**

May 1, 6–10PM  
@Cleveland Museum of Art

### **David Byrne**

May 7, 8PM  
@KeyBank State Theatre, Playhouse Sq.

### **Adorning Ritual: Jewish Ceremonial Art**

Through May 10  
@Cleveland Museum of Art

### **The Outsiders (Broadway Musical)**

Apr 28 – May 17  
@Connor Palace, Playhouse Sq.

### **Great Lakes Theater: Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson**

Apr 24 – May 17  
@Hanna Theatre, Playhouse Sq.

### **Cleveland Orchestra: Beethoven's Fidelio**

May 16, 21 & 24  
@Severance Music Center

### **Cleveland Orchestra: Welser-Möst, Josefowicz & Struble**

May 22, 7:30PM  
@Severance Music Center

### **A Myriad of Flowers and Birds in Chinese Art**

Through May 24  
@Cleveland Museum of Art

# THE BRIEF

Recent Arts News from Across Ohio

Updated Daily

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## EXHIBITIONS

CLEVELAND

### Cleveland Museum of Art Presents First-Ever "Manet & Morisot" Exhibition

On view March 29 through July 5, this is the first major show on the artistic exchange between Édouard Manet and Berthe Morisot, featuring 36 paintings and six works on paper from collections across the U.S. and Europe.

## EXHIBITIONS

AKRON

### Akron Art Museum Hosts Only Midwest Stop for Kent Monkman Exhibition

"History Is Painted by the Victors," featuring over 40 paintings by Cree artist Kent Monkman, is on view April 11 through August 16 as the exhibition's only Midwest venue. The show challenges colonial narratives through reimagined history painting.

## EXHIBITIONS

CLEVELAND

### CMA Opens Most Comprehensive Martin Puryear Survey in Two Decades

"Martin Puryear: Nexus," co-organized with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, assembles some 50 works in wood, leather, glass, marble, and metal spanning Puryear's career. On view April 12 through August 9 at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

## EXHIBITIONS

CLEVELAND

### moCa Cleveland's "Ohio Now: State of Nature" Runs Through May

A collaboration between moCa Cleveland and Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Center, this exhibition brings together 15 Ohio artists exploring sustainability, food justice, and natural ecologies through painting, sculpture, and installation. On view through May 31.

## NEWS

TOLEDO

### Live Arts Toledo Announces 2026–2027 Season of "Momentum"

Spanning 200+ performances across the Toledo Symphony, Ballet, and Jazz Orchestra, the new season features violinist Joshua Bell performing Beethoven in March 2027 and continues traditions including The Nutcracker and Messiah. Subscriptions on sale now.

## NEWS

COLUMBUS

### New "She Moves in Color" Mural Installed in the Short North

Artist Mandi Caskey (Miss Birdy) has completed "She Moves in Color," a public art mural reimagining the iconic Mona Lisa in the Short North Arts District. The piece anchors the district's May exhibitions and Hops on High festival on May 9.

## EXHIBITIONS

COLUMBUS

### Columbus Museum of Art Opens Visual Arts Fellowship Exhibition

On view April 15 through September 20, this exhibition highlights six fellowship recipients—Malcolm Cochran, Yusef Ferguson, Dana Lynn Harper, Marcus Jackson, Michelle Stitzlein, and Bradley Weyandt—working across sculpture, textiles, video, and installation.

## LITERARY

YELLOW SPRINGS

### Fifth Sun and Moon Poetry Festival Returns to Glen Helen

The fifth biannual Sun and Moon Poetry Festival takes place May 15–17 in Glen Helen nature preserve. The weekend features writing workshops, readings, nature walks, and performances centered on the relationship between poetry and the natural world.

## NEWS

STATEWIDE

### Ohio Arts Council Receives Record \$53.49M Budget Appropriation

The state budget provides a record General Revenue Fund appropriation of \$53.49M for FY26–27, helping accommodate 193 newly eligible organizations in the sustainability grant program at an additional cost of \$3M per fiscal year.

## The Scribe

Ohio's Nonprofit Arts Newspaper

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# Maple & Main: Art and Music on the Trails

**Date**  
May 30-31, 2026

**Address**  
Olander Park  
6930 W Sylvania Ave  
Sylvania, OH 43560

**Hours**  
Sat: 11 AM-7 PM (music until 9:30 PM)  
Sun: 10 AM-4:30 PM



## Artists Along the Trails

Olander Park will host the Maple & Main Art & Music Festival on May 30-31, 2026. Organized by Sylvania Arts, the event is in its fifteenth year. Admission is free.

More than 80 artists will exhibit over the weekend after a juried review. Exhibitors come from Ohio, Michigan, and other states, with work in photography, painting, jewelry, fiber, glass, ceramics, and wood. Awards totaling \$2,500 will be distributed across selected entries.

Booths are arranged along the park's walking trails rather than in a single central area. As you would expect, all work is available for sale.

The festival debuted in 2011 on Main Street in downtown Sylvania and ran there for more than a decade before relocating to Olander Park in 2025 during downtown construction. The park, donated to the city by the Olander family in 1972, covers 60 acres around a 28-acre spring-fed lake. A 1.1-mile paved loop trail circles the lake, and the artist booths follow the trail through the park's oak canopy. Pets are not permitted on the grounds.



**VISIT NOW!**  
Get more info on Maple & Main:  
[the-scribe.org/maplemain](http://the-scribe.org/maplemain)





### Music Throughout the Weekend

Live music runs both days on a main stage near the beach at Olander Park. The lineup features local and regional musicians.

Saturday opens at 10:30 a.m. with Jon Roth and Mike Gramza, whose set pulls from Americana, bluegrass, and Motown-influenced arrangements. Snyder & Caswell follow with folk rock and country blues built on guitar work, vocal harmonies, and traditional song structures.

*“a high-energy mix of classic rock and pop”*

The Folk Yeahs take the stage next with a rock set built around covers. Whiskey Charmers follow with alternative country and indie pop. Chloe and the Steel Strings play psychedelic folk rock into the evening, mixing acoustic and electric instrumentation. Saturday closes with Arctic Clam, a Toledo band performing classic rock and pop.

Sunday begins at 11:00 a.m. with Hector Mendoza, a classical guitarist performing solo. Live Roots follow with a reggae set. Polka Floyd, who combine rock and polka, close the weekend.

### Sylvania Arts and the Festival

Sylvania Arts organizes the Maple & Main Art & Music Festival. The organization began in 1980 as the Sylvania Community Arts Commission and incorporated as a nonprofit in 2004. It operates with a volunteer board and an executive director.

Sylvania Arts produces public art projects in the area, including murals, utility box wraps, and street banners. It also runs arts education programs. The Sylvania Youth Theater program serves students in grades 3 through 12

through classes, workshops, and productions. It includes a summer camp, spring workshops, and a fall musical, with each session ending in a stage performance.

Sylvania Arts also runs the Tree City Film Festival, which includes a 50 Hour Film Challenge and public screenings. The festival has supported the creation of more than 100 films and includes Shorties U, a workshop for students in grades 5 through 8.

The organization has also worked on the Red Bird Arts District in downtown Sylvania, where Friday Art Walks are held with the Sylvania Downtown Association.

Buskers perform throughout the park outside the scheduled lineup. The festival also includes a food court with local vendors and a children’s art activity area near the playground. The beer garden has been expanded for 2026 to cover the festival area.

Parking is available at Tam-O-Shanter Ice Rink.





# Jon Barlow Hudson: A Life Shaped in Stone and Steel

## Early Life and Influences

Jon Barlow Hudson was born in Montana and spent his first five years in Casper, Wyoming. His father was a writer, violinist, professional magician, hydro-geologist, and builder. His mother was a weaver, writer, teacher, and activist who served as the first woman mayor of Yellow Springs, Ohio. Beginning in 1951, the family spent three years in Saudi Arabia, and Hudson's childhood travels brought him to Baalbek, Petra, the Acropolis, Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, and Chartres. He has said those encounters with ancient stone structures gave him a desire to create works that "speak with people down through time."

## Education and Training

Hudson studied sculpture at the Dayton Art Institute, then spent several months working with welded steel at the Stuttgart State Art Academy in Germany. He assisted sculptor Charles Ginnever in Vermont and New York before earning both his Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts at the California Institute of the Arts, where he was among the school's earliest cohort. There he studied sculpture with Lloyd Hamrol, happenings with Allan Kaprow, and art history with Paul Brach. He also began studying Yang style T'ai Chi Chuan with Marshall Ho'o. The practice shifted his work away from linear forms and toward centred compositions built on balance, symmetry, and the dynamics of movement.



### QUICK SCROLL

Public sculptor with over ninety large-scale commissions in 27 countries, working in steel, stone, and bronze.

 [hudsonsculpture.art](http://hudsonsculpture.art)





### Before the Studio

Hudson did not go straight into sculpture. He spent two years as a supervisor and equipment fabricator at the Royal Drift gold mine in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and before that had worked as a field supervisor in Dakar, Senegal, for a USAID-affiliated engineering firm. Both jobs put him in direct contact with heavy construction and large-scale fabrication.

### Public Commissions

Hudson's first professional sculpture commission came in 1976 in Columbia, Missouri. His first percent-for-art project, POLARIS, followed in 1979 for the Metro/Dade Public Library in Homestead, Florida. Since then he has completed more than ninety major commissions in 27 countries, including the United States, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, and several countries in Europe and the Middle East. Twenty-four of those projects are in China.

### Materials and Artistic Philosophy

Hudson works in stainless steel, painted steel, brass, copper, cast bronze, glass, water, fiber optic light, marble, and various granites. His sculptures are mostly abstract and geometric, and they tend to reference a center, whether physical or spatial. They deal in balance, in the contrast between space and form, light and darkness, interior and exterior, the natural and the man-made. He draws on Fibonacci sequences, tetrahedral geometry, and movement concepts like the vortex, the last of these coming out of his long practice of T'ai Chi.

### Recognition and Teaching

Hudson has participated in more than forty international sculpture symposia, from Brazil and Lithuania to Kazakhstan and New Zealand. His awards include a First Prize at the International Sculpture Exhibit in Taizhou, China, the Zhuhai Shizimen Global Sculpture Award in Guangdong, and prizes from competitions in France, South Korea, and Zheng Zhou. He has held teaching positions at Antioch University, Wright State University, Stephens College, and the California Institute of the Arts, and served as a visiting sculptor at The Carving Studio in Vermont.



TOLEDO OPERA

# Opera 'Round Town Returns with Outdoor Spring Performances

## Schedule

Apr 19 — 3 PM  
Findlay (Winebrenner)

Apr 22, 29 • May 6, 13,  
20 — 6 PM  
Wildwood Preserve

May 11 — 6 PM  
Oak Openings BR

May 17 — 4 PM  
Findlay (Riverside  
Bandshell)

### Toledo Opera Takes the Stage Outdoors

Opera 'Round Town returns this April and May with a series of outdoor performances centered at Wildwood Preserve Metropark, along with additional appearances in Findlay and Oak Openings. The weekly performances at Wildwood take place on the front lawn of the Manor House, where audiences are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets and settle in for an evening performance.

In addition to Wildwood, performances will be held at Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Oak Openings Metropark, and the Riverside Park Bandshell in Findlay. In the event of inclement weather, Wildwood performances will move indoors to the Manor House.

Rather than a traditional theater setting, the series places opera in open, public spaces where audiences can experience it more casually. Performances unfold in park settings, with visitors arriving, sitting down, and staying for as much or as little of the program as they choose. The format shifts the experience from a formal event to a shared public gathering.

### The Performers and the Program

The spring 2026 series features Toledo Opera's Resident Artists, selected from an international pool of applicants for a one-year residency in Toledo. This season's cohort includes soprano Sarah Rachel Bacani, mezzo-soprano Danielle Casós, tenor Brady DelVecchio, baritone Rick Hale, and pianist Yura Jang.

Each performer brings a different training background and performance history, with experience spanning conservatory programs, competitions, and prior stage roles. According to Toledo Opera's program materials, the Resident Artist program is designed to support early-career performers as they transition from formal training into professional production environments. In practice, that means the artists take on a range of responsibilities, from mainstage roles to touring and outreach performances across the region.

Across the series, the group performs a mix of opera selections, musical theatre, and American standards. The program is structured around shorter pieces rather than full-length productions, allowing performances to shift



between styles while remaining adaptable to outdoor settings. This format also makes it possible for audiences to engage with the material without needing familiarity with a single opera.

The same artists also perform in Toledo Opera's mainstage productions at the Valentine Theatre, the company's primary indoor venue in downtown Toledo. According to Toledo Opera, this dual structure allows the Resident Artists to move between formal productions and community-based performances, using the same training and repertoire across both settings.

Rather than presenting a single fixed program, the series is built to accommodate multiple dates across April and May. Performances maintain a consistent group of performers, but the structure allows for variation in selections, giving returning audiences a slightly different experience across the season.

### A Regional Program, Not a Single Event

Opera 'Round Town is structured as a multi-location series rather than a single event, with performances taking place across Toledo, Findlay, and surrounding Northwest Ohio communities. The series is free and open to the public, removing the need for tickets or advance planning.

At its core, the program is presented in partnership with regional organizations. According to Toledo Opera, the series is produced in collaboration with Metroparks Toledo and ProMedica, alongside presenting sponsor iHeart Media. Additional support for the Findlay performances is provided by the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, extending the program beyond its central Toledo locations.

The outdoor performances at Wildwood Preserve Metropark serve as the primary setting for the series. According to Metroparks Toledo, the park system includes more than 19 parks and over 12,000 acres across the region. Using these spaces allows performances to take place in environments that are already part of daily public use, rather than requiring audiences to travel to a dedicated venue.



***“The same performance moves between parks, schools, and theaters”***

### Beyond the Stage: A Broader Program Structure

Opera 'Round Town operates within Toledo Opera's broader programming structure. According to the organization, its Opera on Wheels initiative reaches approximately 20,000 students each year across Northwest Ohio and into Michigan through school-based performances. The same Resident Artists who appear in the outdoor series also participate in these programs, creating continuity across different types of audiences.

Programs like Opera 'Round Town reflect a broader shift among performing arts organizations toward presenting work outside traditional theaters. Rather than changing the performers or material entirely, the series adapts existing work to new environments, allowing it to function across both formal and informal settings. The same performance moves between parks, schools, and theaters.

Founded in 1959, Toledo Opera reaches approximately 30,000 people annually through its performances, educational programs, and community outreach, according to the organization. Its programming includes both fully staged productions and a range of educational initiatives that extend beyond traditional theater settings.

The company's mainstage productions are held at the Valentine Theatre in downtown Toledo, a 900-seat venue where operas, operettas, and musical works are presented in partnership with the Toledo Symphony, along with participation from the Toledo Opera Chorus and Children's Chorus as needed,



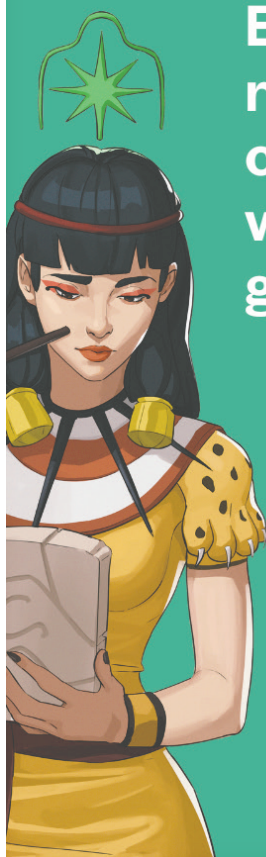
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