

# New art exhibitions turn heads

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

Bradbury Art Museum opened “Memento-Mori”, a sculpture collection by an Arkansan artist, and “Sweet Dreams”, a curated collection of surreal artwork by many different artists. “Memento-Mori”, the collection by Little Rock sculptor Michael Warrick, deals with themes of mentorship and alter ego. The collection devotes a

full room to large hanging heads, with a blue crow with keys dangling from its mouth serving as the centerpiece. “Crows are really curious and they’re a symbol for transformation. Teachers are too and that’s what we kind of have in common. We’re really curious about people. That’s part of the reason why we’re teachers,” Warrick said. The artist said the crow serves as his alter ego. He said the keys in the crow’s mouth represent the way a mentor can find and unlock

the passions of a student. Warrick made the heads from a lightweight plaster-like material called Hydrocal so they could be hung from the ceiling. In addition, Warrick embedded artifacts in each head such as knives, buttons and doilies. “There’s no pedestals. Nothing other than just people. It’s all about the people in the shadows,” Warrick said. In addition to the floating heads, Warrick filled another room with statues depicting narratives, some from his own life. “I am a storyteller and I like bringing narratives and stories to sculpture,” he said. The collection’s title, “Memento-Mori”, translates to “remember death” in Latin. “It’s about realizing that in life we only have so much time and part of what you can do in your life is help creating memories for other people,” the artist said. Alongside “Memento-Mori”, “Sweet Dreams” focuses on the theme of dreaming. The collection features eight artists and one duo from places all over the country including New York, Chicago and Cambridge.

Madeline McMahan, museum educator and curator at Bradbury Art Museum, said “Sweet Dreams” features fantasy, surrealism and whimsy. “Not only are the materials really interesting to look at, but there’s just a lot of fun stuff that you wouldn’t necessarily expect from an art museum,” McMahan said. One Seattle-based artist, Lana Stephens, contributed 12 pieces to the collection. Her paintings depict abstract cloudscapes in “candy colors.” “They’re meant to be sort of uncomfortable because they’re a bit unsettling as far as the color palette. The imagery is storm clouds, but yet they’re in candy colors because I wanted them to elicit a different emotional response,” Stephens said. She arranged nine of her paintings in a grid to make one large piece called “Eternal, Ephemeral.” “A passing sky may create a memory that will conjure a feeling or some kind of nostalgic moment that feels like it goes on and on and on, even though it’s just fleeting beauty,” she said. Both collections opened Sept. 14 and will close Nov. 15.



Photo by Rebecca Worthington | Photo Editor

Artist Lana Stephens with her piece “Eternal, Ephemeral.”

McMahan said the two exhibitions complement each other. “They really have a good relationship with each other,” she said, “because one is dealing with these ideas about dreaming and one of them is dealing with life and death in such a way that it’s portraits of people who appear that they’re sleeping. They have a fun interaction with each other.”



Photo by Rebecca Worthington | Photo Editor

Michael Warrick’s hanging head statue entitled “Crow.”

## THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

ANNA COX | COPY EDITOR

### “THE LAND IS INHOSPITABLE AND SO ARE WE” BY MITSKI



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENIUS

Mitski comes back into the spotlight with a new studio album entitled, “The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We.” This album gives off an earthy feeling, with poetic lyrics and breathy vocals that shroud the listeners in Mitski’s feelings. This album itself sounds more whimsical than her previous album, “Laurel Hell.” Her production has gotten better and the listener can hear it in her detailed and thought out instrumentals delicately planned out in her songs; because of this, it has become my favorite album from Mitski. Her songs seem to be more focused on a healing, softer approach to life, allowing the singer to experience emotions unapologetically. Since I cannot simply pick a singular favorite out of this packed album, I will rank my top three songs:

#### 3. “Heaven”

This song just sounds wonderful. The beginning instrumental sounds so much like what a folk song would have behind it. With imagery of willow trees, babbling brooks and storms, the song invites one to listen to themes of peace that reflect the serenity of the relationship the singer is in.

My absolute favorite part of this song is the instrumental break that she includes near the end. It sounds like a slow dance scene, like something two people in a movie would fall in love to. It adds movement as well as continuing the emotion of love throughout the song.

#### 2. “When Memories Snow”

There is something almost haunting about the vocals that accompany Mitski in this song. The instrumental in this song is so perfectly constructed that as it builds up, you don’t expect the sudden clash of instruments all together. After the initial explosion of noise, you can hear the layered instruments, with the leading instrument being a trumpet.

The instrumental creates a goosebumps effect that goes perfectly with the following lyrics of, “And if I break/ Could I go on break?” The song captures what it feels like to revisit memories, both negative and positive, while pushing the listener to try to heal from the negative ones.

#### 1. “My Love Mine All Mine”

This song has to rank at the top just because of how tender and terribly sad it sounds. The lyrics don’t reflect this utter sadness that is heard through the instrumental and the way Mitski lets her lyrics land.

It sounds like someone who has realized their worth, how their love is theirs and how they own it. This is literally said in the lyrics that are repeated throughout the song, “Nothing in this world belongs to me/ But my love mine, all mine” It adds to the element of healing that is felt throughout the whole album. It is such a soft, loving song that it just attracts me at every note.

## Does the world really need a Taylor Swift reporter?

COLUMN BY CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

USA Today’s parent company, Gannett, posted a job listing last week for a Taylor Swift beat reporter. The position called for a journalist who would cover exclusively Taylor Swift news including her music, her tour and her influence.

As a journalist and a major Swiftie, I feel an obligation to say: it should have been me.

Unfortunately, Johnny Oleksinski beat me to the punch. He left his job as an entertainment critic at The New York Post to take this job at The Tennessean, which Gannett owns.

There is always something going on with Taylor Swift. Between the Eras World Tour, the highly anticipated “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” and an upcoming original feature film, she is always doing something newsworthy.

For those who do not understand the singer’s mass appeal, allow me to explain.

Taylor Swift began writing music at a very young age and released her debut album, “Taylor Swift”, at 16-years-old. Her first few albums were country and it wasn’t until she released “Red” in 2012 that she began crossing over to pop. Since then, she has dabbled in many genres, most notably alternative, with “Folklore” and “Evermore” being fan-favorites.

She writes prolifically, but also accessibly. Her lyrics contain poetic verses but



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Taylor Swift performing at the Eras Tour.

focus on themes her audience can relate to. She has songs for crying, dancing and frolicking through the woods.

Taylor Swift is a storyteller. She has gained such a large following because people connect to her words. That’s where the obsessions begin.

Who is she dating? Where does she live? Is she engaged? Pregnant? What’s her next move?

I find many of these questions to be invasive. I’m guilty of dissecting her songs to figure out which ex-boyfriend it’s about and mapping out their entire relationship. I find myself wanting to know her every step and each little detail of her fascinating life.

However, these are the things I don’t want to see in a newspaper. I don’t want a reporter stalking her and releasing her private information. I don’t want to read about who she went to dinner with last night or what recording studio she’s been going to in The Tennessean.

Fame is complex (check out her song: “The Lucky One”) and as much as I would love to devote my career to writing about Taylor Swift, I don’t know if the world needs a Taylor Swift reporter. She is a fascinating person and many people are interested in what she is up to, but I am not feeling confident about the reporter position. Oleksinski wrote a column for The New York Post detailing what his job entails. I’m not sure how seriously he actually takes the job, but this piece described his work in a sarcastic way and condescended his Swiftie audience.

“Most readers don’t even know what the United Nations is, but they are desperate to hear about Tay’s girls’ night out with Blake Lively,” he said in the column. I love Taylor Swift. I find her work compelling and her life exciting. However, if the Taylor Swift reporter is going to invade her privacy and talk down to the millions of people who love her as much as I do: I don’t want it.

# Life

## Club Spotlight: Red Wolves for Red Wolves

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

Arkansas State University's mascot, the Red Wolves, face critical endangerment in the wild. Red Wolves for Red Wolves is trying to change that.

The club, which consists of 83 student members, focuses on conservation of the American red wolf through outreach and education. Not all members are currently active.

Alex Parette, a senior biological sciences major from Woodlawn, Arkansas, serves as an active member of the club.

"With our club, our biggest goal is outreach about red wolves because people don't know anything about them or people don't even know they exist," Parette said.

Chris Thigpen, adviser for the club and instructor of biology, said many people on campus don't know the A-State mascot is based on a real wolf.

"They think it's just our mascot," Thigpen said. "They're a real animal."

Parette said many people do not know about red wolves since there are so few of them. According to Champions for

Wildlife, the American red wolf is the most endangered wild animal in the United States. It is also the most endangered wolf worldwide.

"There are more Red Wolves on the A-State football team than there are living in the wild," Thigpen wrote on the club's Instagram page last week.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an estimated 23-25 red wolves exist in the wild and 269 live in captivity.

Thigpen said many people assume red wolves are vicious predators. However, they tend to be harmless and helpful to the ecosystem.

"They're generally about the size of a German Shepherd. So, they're not coyotes and they're not gray wolves. A lot of people think since they're wolves, they're all big and bad. They're really not. They're super skittish, like, they see a person, they smell a person, they take off," Thigpen said.

Red wolves also prove to be beneficial to their environment.

Lilliana Newton, a senior animal science major from Little Rock, serves as president of the club.

"They do a lot for the ecosystem. Wolves in general



Photo by Caroline Averitt | Photo Editor

The first Red Wolves for Red Wolves club meeting of the year. The meeting served as an introduction to the club, as well as an opportunity to discuss fundraising ideas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

An American red wolf.

keep the deer population down, and keeping the deer population down keeps weeds from growing everywhere," Newton said. "Everything's connected."

The club not only focuses on education, but also conservation on the American red wolf.

"I've always been interested in conservation and endangered species especially.

It kind of feels really good to be a big part, or just a small part, of what's helping to bring back this population," Parette said.

Thigpen said students should care about this cause since the red wolf is A-State's mascot.

"It'd be a shame for us to pick this mascot and work with the Fish and Wildlife to curate these specimens and take care of them and conserve them

and then really just do the bare minimum and then see that species go extinct. Which, it could happen," Thigpen said.

The club plans to have fundraising efforts for American red wolf conservation over the course of this academic year.

"This is our mascot," Thigpen said, "We should want to take care of it."

## September is Suicide Prevention Month



Graphic by Rebecca Robinson | News Editor

In observance of National Suicide Awareness month, the Wilson Counseling Center hosted a presentation titled "Take 5 to Save Lives: Suicide Prevention Awareness."

Pat Glascock, associate director and counselor at the Wilson Counseling Center, gave the presentation, in which she discussed recognizing the signs of a potential suicide and what to do if someone is considering suicide.

"First we want to learn the warning signs, because if we don't know what we're looking for then how can we be proactive to help our friends, our family, and ourselves," Glascock said.

The warning signs include increased risk-taking, losing interest and isolation. These signs have no typical way of presenting themselves; however, if someone you know is having a change of behavior, reach out to them.

If someone is experiencing suicidal thoughts, do not debate with them and do not promise to stay silent. Instead, stay with them, try to remove all harmful objects and call for help.

Mental health should not be kept hidden, do not be afraid to reach out to resources when they are needed.

"Most of the people who are having thoughts of death really just want to be out of pain," Glascock said.

Contributed to by Savannah Munkel | Staff Writer

**LIVE ON THE RightFiber STAGE**  
BY RITTER COMMUNICATIONS

**JAMESON RODGERS**  
**SHANE PROFITT**  
**PRISCILLA BLOCK**

**SEPTEMBER 29TH - 30TH** **DOWNTOWN JONESBORO**

**RightFiber STAGE LINEUP**

**FRIDAY**  
6:00 - 7:00 West Finch Blues Band  
7:30 - 8:30 JB Strauss  
9:00 Priscilla Block

**SATURDAY**  
3:00 - 4:00 Native Strangers  
4:00 - 4:30 BBQ Awards  
4:30 - 5:30 Aaron Headley  
6:00 - 7:00 Big Boy Changes  
7:30 - 8:30 Shane Profitt  
9:00 Jameson Rodgers

**MOLSON COORS STAGE LINEUP**

**SATURDAY**  
2:00 - 3:00 Ian Law  
3:30 - 4:30 Zach Childers  
5:00 - 6:00 Akeem Kemp Band  
6:30 - 7:30 Greasy Tree  
8:00 - 9:00 Tristan Tritt

**THANK YOU, SPONSORS!**

JONESBORO A&F | 1ST First National Bank | Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield | FIRST COMMUNITY BANK | St. Bernards HEALTHCARE | COMPASS ROSE REALTY | K8 | MOR MEDIA | Jonesboro OCCASIONS | Jonesboro Radio Group | SUNBELT RESTAURANTS | AU UNLIMITED | HOT TUBS OF JONESBORO | JOE'S R.I.P. | BARTELS FAMILY DENTISTRY | The Sun

**HOLIDAY LIQUOR ■ BARTONS ■ YESDOG ■ HYTROL CONVEYOR**  
**UNCLE TACO ■ GLENN SAIN ■ MACON ENTERPRISES ■ FNBC ■ SKINNY J'S ■ AR CARE**  
**NEW HORIZON REALTY ■ GREASY TREE MANAGEMENT ■ HALSEY THRASHER HARPOLE**