



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2026



ANNUAL MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION RETURNS TO THE MSU BROAD ART MUSEUM THIS MONTH

The 2026 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition is the culmination of a three-year program in which artists explore their creative practice with the support of their faculty committee.

East Lansing, MI – The annual Master of Fine Arts exhibition returns to the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) on March 14, 2026. The *2026 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition* is the culmination of the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design's three-year program in which artists explore their creative practice with the support of their faculty committee. This year the creative research of MFA degree candidates Yeroham Ashagre, Hailey Becker, Niloufar Fallahfar, Vadu Rodrigues, and Alex Vlasov will be celebrated.

The MFA candidate at MSU is characterized by a desire to push beyond the boundaries of existing art and design paradigms, whether focused within or across disciplines. Each person is encouraged to explore the parameters of their creative journey considering material

investigation and conceptual questions. Each artist's process of discovery is unique based on their own integrative media-focused or multidisciplinary inquiry. Under the guidance of a faculty committee selected by the candidate, they develop a rigorous studio practice that is informed by their curiosity of the world around them. While developing their thesis exhibitions, the MFA candidates work with their committees to refine their artistic goals and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to be a contemporary practicing artist.

This year the annual Master of Fine Arts Prize will be awarded by guest juror Donna Honarpišeh, Ph.D., associate curator of art and research at the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami in Miami, Florida.

RELATED EVENTS:

2026 MFA EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, Mar. 28, 6–8pm

Celebrate the creative and scholarly research of MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design Master of Fine Arts degree candidates Yeroham Ashagre, Hailey Becker, Niloufar Fallahfar, Vadu Rodrigues, and Alex Vlasov.

At 6:30pm, a short awards program will take place to announce the Selma and Stanley Hollander Fellowship for Graduate Study and the annual John and Susan Berding Family Foundation endowed Master of Fine Arts Prize.

FAMILY DAY: PLAY

Saturday, Apr. 4, 11am–3pm

Why do artists play with ideas? Let's find out as we celebrate the young artists in the Saturday Morning Art (SmART) pop-up exhibition, in collaboration with the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design.

ARTIST TALKS: 2026 MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

Wednesday, Apr. 15, 6–8pm

Join the MFA degree candidates as they discuss their work. Questions and answers with the artists to follow, moderated by assistant curator Rachel Winter, Ph.D.

The MSU Broad Art Museum is open Wednesday–Sunday from 10am–6pm. Admission is always free. Learn more at broadmuseum.msu.edu.

The *2026 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition* (March 14–May 17, 2026) is organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University in partnership with the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design and curated by Rachel Winter, Ph.D., assistant curator, with support from Nat Swartz, curatorial research assistant. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Graduate School at MSU and the John and Susan Berding Family Endowment.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (MSU Broad Art Museum) connects people with art through experiences that inspire curiosity and inquiry. Presenting exhibitions and programs that engage diverse communities around issues of local relevance and global significance, the MSU Broad Art Museum advances the university values of quality, inclusion, and connectivity. Opened on November 10, 2012, the museum was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift for its creation.

Michigan State University has been advancing the common good with uncommon will for 170 years. One of the world's leading public research universities, MSU pushes the boundaries of discovery to make a better, safer, healthier world for all while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 400 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

Images: Alex Nichols

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MSU Broad Art Museum representatives are available for interview.

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