



January 23 - March 11, 2025

Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki Gallery and Lounge

Benedicta Arts Center

July of 2024 marked the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the Benedicta Arts Center. Through these decades, in the halls, classrooms, stages, and studios of this groundbreaking center, countless students have been impacted by the culture of the arts on our two campuses. Over 700 Art majors, along with countless Music and Theater majors and minors, have shared their talents with the broader community, learning from incredible faculty, staff and visiting artists.

A celebration of an arts education at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, *Art Through the Decades* highlights Art majors from the past six decades. Beginning with the first documented CSB Art majors studying at the BAC in the 1960's and going through time to those majors unable to show their works because of the pandemic. This show highlights a curated selection of their works. Showcasing a wide variety of styles and mediums, along with how the CSB+SJU experience has impacted their lives and steered their career trajectories. This exhibition highlights the dedication and vision of the monastic members who built this revolutionary space, the alums and students who live out the mission of this place every day, and the energy and drive of of the educators and artists who have made this place a home of the arts in our community.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/visual-arts/>
- <https://sainjohnsabbey.org/rule>
- <https://www.csbsju.edu/academic-affairs/oae/learning-goals-and-outcomes/institutional-learning-goals/>
- <https://www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute/>

ENGAGE & CONNECT

The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University are guided by the Benedictine values, distilled from the Rule of Saint Benedict. These values give practices for a life modeled on Jesus. They provide insight and support in building a strong and caring family, civic, and church communities.

- How have you seen the Benedictine Values present throughout campus and campus life?
- What is the importance of having a community of people with shared passions?
- In what ways do the rules provide us guidance, build us up and make us flourish?

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict's vision to build a comprehensive arts center in rural central Minnesota 60+ years ago demonstrated courage, sense of place and a commitment to creativity in our community. This exhibition showcases just a small fraction of CSB+SJU Art majors from those six decades.

- How is connection to place, people and ideas presented in this exhibition?
- What is the important of storytelling and how does it add to the show?
- Who anchors the creative arts in your home community? How is that work made possible?

CSB+SJU are both liberal arts institutions. Part of the learning curriculum includes five Institutional Learning Goals that ensure students from both institutions graduate with an understanding of the world and to set them on a successful career trajectory. These goals are: Think Deeply, Embrace Difference, Engage Globally, Serve Graciously, and Live Courageously.

- In what ways does having a liberal arts education influence the artists' work?
- Reading through some of the artists statements, how have artists transformed their undergraduate degrees to create careers that are unique?
- Much can be gained from being able to network and forge bonds, particularly in the art world. How do the learning goals push students to think outside of their majors and friend groups?