

# Art Department Shares Recent Works in Faculty Gallery Show

Liz Torrey, Jan 14 2016

On Friday, January 9, the Warner Gallery opened its first exhibit of the new year: a St. Andrew's Arts Faculty Show. Photos, ceramics, and paintings created by the School's fine arts faculty were on display in the gallery, while in Engelhard Hall, music, film, and dance teachers performed and shared works in their areas of expertise.

"We want to share with our community what we do in our professional lives," said Art Department Co-Chair [John McGiff](#), "which are about being artists and performers as much as they are about teaching. We model our arts programs on a master-apprentice system, so we thought it would be a good idea to show what it is we're working to master, whether that be music, painting, photography, ceramics, dance."

Director of Instrumental Music [Fred Geiersbach](#) performed two pieces on the traverso (Baroque flute), accompanied by on the harpsichord by Academic Dean and Choral Scholars Director [Nathan Costa](#). Film studies teacher [Peter Hoopes](#) (also the School's Director of Technology) shared one of his short films with students, as well as the trailer for a feature-length film he's currently editing. "It was a great opportunity to show the students and faculty the kind of film work that I've been doing," Hoopes said.

[Avi Gold](#), who helms St. Andrew's dance program, brought some of his students onstage and led an interactive performance, in which the audience helped Gold to "live-choreograph" a short dance. Gold asked the audience to select music, theme, and shapes, and then demonstrated the choices and processes that go into the work of choreography. Arts Department Co-Chair and Theatre Department Director [Ann Taylor](#) was to give a vocal performance with library faculty Quinn Kerrane (who directs St. Andrew's acapella group, the Noxontones) but both women had to bow out due to unforeseen circumstances—much to students' dismay.

After the performances, students and visitors moved across the hall to the gallery, where fine arts faculty spoke briefly about their works on display. Ceramics teacher [Elizabeth McGiff](#) explained that many of her recent works—vessels created on the wheel in a myriad of layered colors—are the outcomes of experiments she's been working through in glazing, inspired by the variegated tones she's seen while traveling through the Hudson Valley. She noted that glazing is considered by many ceramicists to be the most difficult aspect of their medium. "So, I'm teaching myself to fall in love with its science," she concluded.

Photography teacher [Joshua Meier](#) showed recent works, including a series of nearly-abstract photos of tangled string that evoke the changeability of memory. Meier [recently received a prestigious Established Professional Artist Fellowship](#) from the Delaware Division of the Arts; you can view some of the works currently on display in the Warner Gallery [on his website](#).

McGiff, who teaches painting, drawing, and art history, spoke about the personal and impersonal journeys and themes—the global refugee crisis, the death of his father in 2013, the universal need for individual human connection in a digital age—woven through his recent paintings. His paintings on display included still-lives, landscapes, small watercolor sketches, and two large, almost floor-to-ceiling figurative works that he has been working on for more than four years. (You can view some of these pieces on [McGiff's website](#).)

Speaking of the St. Andrew's arts program, McGiff concluded, "The ultimate goal is for students to develop not necessarily into performers and artists, but for them to have a direct first-hand experience of what it means to be creative."