



Vermont College of Fine Arts

WINTER 2025  
COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025  
Valencia, CA

about vcfa

Welcome to our Winter 2025 Commencement.

We are a global community of artists continuously redefining what it means to be an arts college. We measure success by our ability to foster the excellence of emerging and established practitioners.

We believe that the arts are central to the human experience and have the ability not only to reflect reality but also to create it.

At VCFA, we are committed to working in partnership with all members of our college and the external community to build and sustain a welcoming and inclusive environment.

We recognize, honor, and support diversity and equity in every context. As an institution, we actively focus our resources on outreach, expansion, and inclusion. As a community, we are fully committed to fostering the artistic, intellectual, individual, and social identities, contributions, and development of every one of our members.



2025  
COMMENCEMENT

order of events

**Processional**

*Gonfalonieres: Members of the VCFA Community*

**Land Acknowledgement**

*Katie Rasmussen, Dean of Students*

**Welcome Remarks**

*Andrew Ramsammy, President, VCFA*

**Conferring of the Graduate Degrees**

*Andrew Ramsammy*

*Mary-Kim Arnold, Dean of the Faculty & Academic Affairs*

**Closing Remarks**

*Mary-Kim Arnold*

**Recessional**



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**MFA IN FILM**

Erica Nichol Jacobs-Ware  
Jeremy Carmen Rayburn  
Daniela "Ellori" Mae Smith  
Alexander Turner

Natalie Leta McKay  
Nicole Lauren Mills  
Victoria Halley Osland  
Todd E. Poremba  
Timothy Ryan Provenzano  
Jayda Elizabeth Harrison Skidmore  
Susan B. Squires  
Catherine Witzling

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**MFA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Jewell Melisa Traifalgar Morton  
Andru Lance Poole  
Jeremy Neal Rosen

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**MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN  
& YOUNG ADULTS**

Elizabeth M Achten  
Saragail Benjamin  
Nina Elizabeth Brigman  
Erika Carlson  
Victoria Chester  
Maya Bonafede Chhabra  
Melanie Gail Demiral  
Aimee DiPasqua  
Amanda Catherine Ebner  
Daniel Fliederbaum  
Tracy Lynn Hill  
Lisa Hock  
Mark Holtzen  
Emily Holyoak  
Alexis Marie Keeler  
Tricia Levenseller  
Marielle Martin  
Rieko Okawa Mendez  
Stuart Neal  
Crystal Schreck  
Jill Stuck

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**MFA IN MUSIC COMPOSITION**

Joshua D. Alexander  
Jennifer St. Clair Smith  
Ethan Sudan

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**MFA IN VISUAL ART**

Marian I. S. Lyndgaard  
Susan Mowery Snipes

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**MFA IN WRITING**

Jesse Albatrosova  
Sasha Ann Bailyn  
Elizabeth Drewry Beck  
Kwame Sound Daniels  
Degan Davis  
Fallon Goodman  
Brié Goumaz  
Marc Merrill Gumbin  
Melissa Rene' Hazlitt  
Jamie Li  
Lynette Sifiso Maposa  
Lise Claiborne Matthews

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## MFA IN FILM

Marya Cohn, *chair*

Damon Davis  
Annie J. Howell  
Daphne McWilliams  
Emilie Upczak

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## MFA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

James Chae, *chair*

Tasheka Arceneaux-Sutton  
Amy Fortunato  
Lorena Howard-Sheridan  
Natalia Ilyin  
Yoon Soo Lee  
Matthew Monk  
Ziddi Msangi  
Silas Munro  
Dave Peacock  
Sereina Rothenberger  
David Schatz  
Ramón Tejada  
Heather Snyder Quinn  
David Jon Walker  
Anne West

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## MFA IN MUSIC COMPOSITION

Carla Kihlstedt, *co-chair*  
Roger Zahab, *co-chair*

Rick Baitz  
Trudy Chan  
Don DiNicola  
Mike Early  
Rob Frankensberry  
Andy Jaffe  
Ravi Krishnaswami  
John Mallia

Lisa Mezzacappa  
Frank J. Oteri  
John Fitz Rogers

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## MFA IN VISUAL ART

Eshrat Erfanian, *co-chair*  
Mario Ontiveros, *co-chair*

Michael Minelli  
Humberto Ramirez  
Marie Shurkus

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## MFA IN WRITING

Adam McOmber, *co-chair*  
Sue William Silverman, *co-chair*

Michael Croley  
Caleb Curtiss  
Tarfia Faizullah  
Melissa Faliveno  
Harrison Candelaria Fletcher  
Fernando A. Flores  
Connie May Fowler  
Miciah Bay Gault  
Chachi Hauser  
Barbara Hurd  
Richard Jackson  
T. Geronimo Johnson  
Negesti Kaudo  
Samuel Kóláwolé  
Ellen Lesser  
Brian Leung  
Bret Lott  
Robin MacArthur  
Patrick Madden  
Clint McCown  
Philip Metres  
Tomás Q. Morín  
Wanjikū Wa Ngūgī  
Elena Passarello  
Natasha Sajé  
Betsy Sholl

Hasanthika Sirisena  
Clifford Thompson  
Leslie Ullman  
Nance Van Winckel  
David Wojahn

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## MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Linda Urban, *chair*

Will Alexander  
An Na  
Kathi Appelt  
Tom Birdseye  
Sheela Chari  
Melanie Crowder  
Evan Griffith  
Louise Hawes  
Corey Ann Haydu  
Veera Hiranandani  
K.A. Holt  
Varian Johnson  
Jane Kurtz  
Martine Leavitt  
Kekla Magoon  
Cory McCarthy  
Anna-Marie McLemore  
Emily X.R. Pan  
Erica Perl  
Matt Phelan  
Mary Quattlebaum  
Anica Mrose Rissi  
Sara Ryan  
Alex Sanchez  
Liz Garton Scanlon  
Laura Shovan  
Cynthia Leitich Smith  
Jasmine Warga  
Jennifer Ziegler

## ADMINISTRATION

Andrew Ramsammy, *President*

Mary-Kim Arnold (W '16), *Dean of the Faculty & Academic Affairs*

J. Scott Price (W'19), *Chief of Staff*

Katie Rasmussen, *Dean of Students*

Katrine Trantham, *Executive Director of Enrollment Management*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michael Goldstein, *Chair*

Chebon Marshall, *Vice Chair*

Melissa Cobb

Paul Cronson

Joan Grubin

Steven Holley

Kate Hosford

Barry Johnson

Alexandra Moore

Tina Perry

Ravi Rajan

Mark Swicegood

Heidi Mohlman Tringe

Jeff Wiggins

*We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the staff of VCFA whose contributions to the programs are immeasurable.*

**VC  
FA**