# MP A NEWS

Visual, Media, and Performing Arts at Rutgers University-Camden

September – October 2025

### A contemporary, updated Seagull opens Rutgers-Camden Theater



Designed by Ari Lopez

Anya Reiss gives *The Seagull* a contemporary spin in her version of Anton Chekhov's classic play, which opens the Rutgers–Camden Theater season on October 30. The fascinating, enigmatic characters are played by Rutgers students.

This play tells the tale of a celebrated actress, a famous writer, a young playwright, and his muse coming together at a country estate where they grapple with their passions, jealousies, desires, and regrets in this serious comedy of human contradictions.

According to the play's director, Damon Bonetti, "The Seagull is my favorite of Chekhov's plays and this adaptation by a young contemporary English playwright makes it fresher than ever." He explains, "An isolated, crumbling estate away from the city becomes a breeding ground for failed romances. More than any other playwright with the exception of Shakespeare, Chekhov gets to the heart of what it means to be human. Our imperfections, jealousies and obsessions are on full display in The Seagull, a play that seems to be about competing ideas of art, but is really about love and desire. We hope with this production to really center these passions to draw on the humor and heartbreak in this play. Projections and video by Dr. Robert Emmons and music from modern bands will be sure to make this a Chekhov like you've never seen before."

October 30 – November 9, 2025 Thursdays – Saturdays at 7:30 pm Sundays at 2:00 pm Friday, November 7 at 10:00 am Walter K. Gordon Theater



### Stedman Gallery exhibit showcases a superstar of southern art



The Documentary, 2025, gouache on paper, Reynier Llanes (Pinar del Río, 1985)

Paintings by the distinguished artist Reynier Llanes, whom Oxford America recognized as one of "the new superstars of southern art," will be exhibited at the Stedman Gallery, located off the lobby of the Gordon Theater, starting September 18. The exhibition, titled *Pursuit of Grace*, features existing work as well as new paintings created for this show.

Reynier Llanes' paintings of imagined landscapes explore personal, cultural, environmental, and social themes through visual metaphors, raising philosophical questions about time and human experience. He believes discomfort is vital for a hopeful future. His work is represented by the Harmon Meek Gallery and included in collections like the Denver Art Museum, as he continues to explore human nature through various projects and mediums.

**Exhibition:** September 18, 2025 – December 13, 2025

**Coffee + Culture:** Sept 18, 12:45 – 1:45 pm **Opening Reception:** Sept 25, 5:00 – 8:00 pm **Artist Workshop:** Sept 27, 10:30 – 12:30 pm

**Artist Talk:** Oct 23, 6:00 – 7:00 pm **Art Workshop:** Dec 2, 12:45 – 1:45 pm

### RU-C Graphic Design student receives 2025 AIGA scholarship



Graphic Design major, Melissa Vilain '25, won the prestigious 2025 AIGA Alina Wheeler Memorial Scholarship. The AIGA Philadelphia Scholarship is an annual opportunity that supports local Graphic Design students through the award of financial assistance to pursue their education. Congratulations, Melissa!

### Visiting Artists Program explores text in art with acclaimed artists

The Visiting Artist Program brings nationally and internationally acclaimed visual artists and art collectives to the Rutgers–Camden campus to discuss their work and professional practices. The theme of this fall's series is *Text* and features two artists who incorporate text into their work.

All lectures are free and open to the public, and will be held from 12:45 pm to 1:45 pm in the Fine Arts Building, Room 110.



Artwork by Mark Thomas Gibson

#### Thursday, October 9 - Mark Thomas Gibson

Gibson received his BFA from The Cooper Union in 2002 and his MFA from Yale School of Art in 2013. He is represented by M+B in Los Angeles and Loyal in Stockholm. In 2025, his first monograph will be published by JRP Editions alongside his exhibition, *Overture*, at the Berman Museum, Ursinus College. Gibson has been awarded residencies at Yaddo and the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency, and has been a MacDowell fellow twice. He received a Pew Fellowship, a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, a 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Grant.



Artwork by Samuel Jablon

#### Thursday, November 6 – Samuel Jablon

Jablon is an artist and poet with an MFA from Brooklyn College/CUNY (2013) and a BA from Naropa University (2009). His work has been exhibited at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, The Queens Museum, and Hauser & Wirth, and has been reviewed in outlets like The New York Times and ARTnews. Jablon's work is part of public collections at ICA Miami, JPMorgan Chase, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

### Lunchtime classical music series delights with free concerts

The fall Mallery Concert Series kicks off on September 24. Under the direction of Prof. Joseph C. Schiavo, the series brings professional musicians to campus for free concerts each Wednesday during free period, 11:20 am – 12:20 pm in the Mallery Room on the second floor of the Fine Arts Building.

Joe Magnarelli Jazz Quartet

September 24

Alighieri Duo

October 1

**James Fernando Trio** 

October 8

Gabriel Schaff, violin Melody Fader, piano

October 15

**Daedalus Quartet** 

October 22

**Kairos Trio** October 29

# ZoomOnArt lectures delve into object-oriented ontologies

The Rutgers–Camden Department of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts becomes a central hub for interactive, online conversations with nationally and internationally renowned artists during its ZoomOnArt program. All lectures are scheduled during free period on Zoom between 11:30 am and 12:20 pm.

This fall semester we have embraced the topic of Object-Oriented Ontologies: what can we learn from the "objects" in our present moment?

**Raul Romero** 

**Tatiana Parcero** 

**Stass Shpanin** 

September 15

October 15

October 27

For more information about upcoming lectures and the link to join the discussions, please visit our website at vmpa.rutgers.edu.

### Rutgers-Camden students invited to Symphony in C concert

Symphony in C, the Mid-Atlantic region's young professionals' orchestra, will feature Ravel's masterful version of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition at their debut concert of the season at the Gordon Theater on September 20 at 7:30 pm. Rutgers—Camden students receive free tickets at the box office, so take advantage of this great opportunity to hear glorious classical music with a full symphony orchestra!

## Music legend Arturo Sandoval to play Gordon Theater concert

Some free tickets are still available for the Arturo Sandoval concert, scheduled for September 27 at 7:00 pm in the Gordon Theater, as part of the Year of the Arts, but you must reserve them here: camden.rutgers.edu/arturo-sandoval