Contributors





Jorge Cocco Santángelo

Jorge is a self-taught artist who works with painting, sculpture, lithograph, etching, and ceramics. Painting is his preferred medium. He is also skilled in washi zokey, art created with handmade paper. He paints in a new artistic style called "sacrocubism," which portrays sacred events with several features of the post-cubist art movement. He was born in Concepción del Uruguay, in Entre Ríos, Argentina. As a boy, he would sleep with a pencil in his hand and by morning his blankets and sheets would be covered in pencil markings. He won his first art award at the age of nine. In his early twenties he had garnered national-level prizes and recognition. Cocco continued his art and career in Buenos Aires and in 1976 he moved to Spain. From there he traveled through Europe where he would spend countless hours observing the masterpieces at the most important museums. In 1983 he moved to Mexico where he was able to learn more about, and be in close contact with the cultures of Ancient America, which experiences have played an influential role in his art. Currently, Cocco maintains studios in Argentina and the United States. He has had over 30 one-man shows in North and South America as well as in Europe and Asia and has shown his work in countless group shows worldwide.

Madelyn Christensen

Madelyn is a redheaded part-Puerto Rican from Phoenix, Arizona. Her mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to Mexico made her fall in love with the Spanish language and graduated with a degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies. She loves people, and plans to use her Spanish to help and lift others.

Niels Christensen

Niels is a Spanish MA student at BYU studying Latin American literature and film. He is interested in postmodernism, indigenous studies, critical theory, and philosophy. In his free time, Niels likes to ride his bike, listen to music, read, cook, and geek out about such things with his friends.

Perla Escobar

Perla graduated with a bachelors in Spanish translation and will begin her masters in Hispanic linguistics this upcoming fall. She grew up by the Mexican-U.S. border and she is passionate about long-distance running, cooking, and Hispanic culture.

Zachary Glassett

Zachary is a second-year PhD student at the University of Kansas. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 2018 with an MA in Hispanic Literatures and his BA in Spanish from Southern Utah University in 2016. His current research focuses on revolutionary movements in Latin America and Spain in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Nathan J. Gordon

Nathan is an assistant professor of Spanish at Adrian College and he obtained his Ph.D. in Medieval and Early Modern Hispanic literatures from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Prior to his time at BYU as visiting faculty, he obtained a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Latin American literatures from the University of Colorado as well. He also earned an Associate of Arts in Humanities from Mt. San Jacinto College. His research focuses on colonial Latin American literature, with a special emphasis on pre-Columbian history and mythology, and his most recent research centers on Ophir de España (1644) by Fernando de Montesinos. In addition to his robust interests in Early Modern studies, he is well-versed in post-Colonial studies, particularly the presence of Catholic practices and imagery in Latin American literature. His personal enthusiasm for Venezuela is derived from his service work in various parts of The nation from 2002-2004.

Nathan Hogan

Nathan is an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University completing a double major in political science and Portuguese. He grew up in Salt Lake City and first learned Portuguese as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Brazil. After graduation in April 2018, he will be interning at the U.S. embassy in Maputo, Mozambique and plans to start law school in 2019.

Miranda Jessop

Miranda is an aspiring historian who loves learning. She studied German for six years before serving in the Illinois Chicago West Mission, Spanish-speaking, for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Miranda currently studies both languages and is part of the BYU Honors Program. She enjoys participating in BYU Folk Dance and spending time with her four brothers.

Clinton McCardell

Clinton was born and raised in San Diego, California. He is an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University studying Computer Science and minoring in Spanish. Clinton fell in love with the Spanish language and latino culture while serving his mission in Rosario, Argentina, for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He enjoys playing soccer, watching movies, and spending time with friends.

Kimberly Nissinen

Kimberly graduated from Brigham Young University in December 2018, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Art Education with minors in Spanish and Design. She is interested in portraying diversity in art in hopes to help others find the beauty behind understanding other cultures. She travels about once a year to see her father's side of the family in Mexico City, Mexico. She aspires to manage an art studio that will give art-making opportunities to children of diverse backgrounds. Her family—including her husband Jacob and their daughter Hazel—inspires her and drives her success in art and teaching.

Amber Jimena Ogden

Amber was born in Chile and now calls Orem, UT her home. She is currently serving a mission in Rome, Italy for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Amber was accepted into the BYU animation program, and continues to write novels, compose music, and pursue all things artistic. She looks forward to the day she'll get to visit Chile again.

Anthony Pearce

Anthony is a PhD student in the Hispanic Studies program at the University of British Columbia. His research interests include contemporary Andean narrative and visual culture.

Sara Pulsipher

Sara graduated with a BA in Russian this past spring and is currently in the Master's of Social Work research emphasis here at BYU. She had the opportunity to attend the Mexico City Study Abroad this past spring where she enjoyed diving deeper into the the heart and language of Hispanic culture. She and her husband celebrated their second anniversary this year, and she loves learning languages, spending time with family, and traveling the world.

Luis Fernando Puente

Luis was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. At the age of nine he immigrated to the United States with the rest of his family. He currently studies filmmaking at Brigham Young University with an emphasis on directing and screenwriting.

Scott Raines

Scott is from Lehi, Utah. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.A. in Spanish (minors in Portuguese and Global Business/Literacy) in 2017 and an M.A. in Hispanic Literatures in 2019. He wrote his thesis on Don Quixote under the direction of Dr. John R. Rosenberg. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Kansas.

Carrie Sandholtz

Carrie is currently working on a Masters degree in Spanish pedagogy at Brigham Young University. She grew up in Boston and Provo, but considers Spain her segunda patria. Her thesis studies the effects of peer tutoring from native-speaking students on Spanish language acquisition and intercultural exchange in secondary schools.

Elizabeth Smith

Elizabeth recently graduated from Brigham Young University with her Bachelor's degree in English and minors in Portuguese and Editing. Immediately after graduation, she packed up her bags and left her home state, moving to Victoria, British Columbia, where she and her husband have started their family together. Elizabeth is currently working a freelance editor and writer.

Jonny Stallings

Jonny is a performer-composer whose compositions have been premiered in Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Salamanca, and Amsterdam. He received his Bachelors of Music at Snow College and his Masters of Music in Composition at the BYU School of Music. Jonny's music embraces the sounds of experimental classical and avant-garde jazz as they intersect with his interests in Colombian culture, critical theory, Spanish literature, and film noir. Such intersections have culminated in his Masters thesis, Los Enemigos (2018), a full-length opera based on Jorge Luis Borges' "El milagro secreto," as well as his paper, "Open Instrumentation and Nonhierarchical Forms of Social Organization: Christian Wolff's Exercises 1-14 (1973-74)," which was recently selected for publication in Perspectives of New Music. Jonny begins his doctoral studies in Music Composition at the University of California San Diego in the fall of 2019.

Hunter Tolbert

Hunter is a senior in political science at BYU and an avid photographer. Raised in Heber City, Utah, he grew up loving the mountains and the outdoors. After picking up the basics of photography from his older sister at a young age, his interest in photography only grew from there. This coupled with his love of the outdoors created the perfect pairing. Since then, taking photos has led him to amazing places and more importantly to incredible people.

Calvin Westfall

Calvin is a senior finishing a double major in Spanish Translation and European Studies, a member of Sigma Delta Pi, and the President of BYU's Translation & Localization Club. A Southern California native, he loves the connections that can be found across cultures, especially through food and sports. At any given moment, Cal is probably daydreaming about backpacking through northern Spain on El Camino de Santiago or eating tacos al pastor at Don Joaquin's.

Rex Richard Wilkins

Rex is currently a second year PhD student at the University of Arizona in Hispanic Literature. He is a Foreign Language Area Studies fellow with the U of A in Portuguese. He received his Masters in Spanish from Brigham Young University in 2018 and his Bachelors from the same institution in 2016. His areas of scholarly interest include border studies with an emphasis on technological interventions, Mexican-American cultural production in popular music, and science fiction. He currently resides in Tucson, Arizona with his wife Aylea.