

The background of the entire image is a collage. The top left features a stylized blue and white wave pattern. Below this, there is a colorful, abstract artwork depicting several figures in vertical stripes of various colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple). The right side of the image shows a textured, golden-brown surface, possibly a wall or a piece of art. The bottom half of the image shows a group of children sitting at a table, engaged in an art activity. They are using markers and other art supplies. The overall theme is art and education.

**SORDONI
ART GALLERY**
WILKES UNIVERSITY

VISITING THE SORDONI ART GALLERY

K-12 PROGRAM

WHAT TO EXPECT

Educational programming at the Sordoni Art Gallery is made in collaboration with Pennsylvania State Certified teachers. Programming integrates state standards from major content areas including ELA, Writing, Math, History, and Science. Programs are designed to be accessible to students of any age and ability including special needs classes. Tours with related age-appropriate activities are created to target students' learning at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Related standards and key terms are listed with each show to make it easy for teachers to see how each show relates to their level and content areas.



TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

INTRODUCTION TO THE SORDONI ART GALLERY AND STAFF - 10 min

Get to know the Sordoni Art Gallery and the Sordoni Art Gallery staff. Learn about attending the exhibitions and programs the gallery offers.

GUIDED TOUR - 30 min

The expert staff at the Sordoni Art Gallery will guide your group through the exhibition. Tours will provide important information regarding the historical and cultural background of the works as well as discuss the various tools, techniques, and philosophies used by featured artists. Connections are made to Common Core Standards and related content.

INDEPENDENT VIEWING/ Q&A - 20 min

Take some time to explore the exhibition on your own to develop questions and answers about the work on display. Then, we'll come back together to chat about what we have uncovered.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOP - 45 min

Ready to take art into your own hands? We will take time to apply what we have learned in a workshop where we will create art using the technique and themes seen throughout the exhibition.



HELEN ZUGHAIB: MIGRATIONS

Oct 28, 2025 - Feb 27, 2026

ABOUT THE SHOW

Inspired by Jacob Lawrence’s 1941 seminal *Migration Series*, Zughaib’s Syrian Migration Series allows for an exploration of the contemporary consequences of the post WWI peace through the lens of the current Syrian conflict and the mass migration it has triggered. The Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I resulted in the creation of modern borders in the Middle East that have lasting effects on today’s geopolitics. Zughaib’s *Syrian Migration Series* seeks to refocus attention on the modern Syrian crisis and give voice to those affected, particularly the experience of women and children migrants and refugees. The series depicts the mass movement of African Americans from the Southern United States to points north and west. Known as The Great Migration, this defining period in American history was ignited during President Wilson’s first term by the start of WWI and the demand for labor in urban centers and amplified by the political, social, and economic repression of African Americans in the South. The intersectionality of the Great Migration and the present-day Syrian migration reframes these domestic movements within a global context.



ARTIST HIGHLIGHTS

- Helen Zughaib was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and holds a BFA from Syracuse University. Her work has been exhibited widely in the US, Europe, and Lebanon. Her paintings are included in many private and public collections, including the White House, World Bank, Library of Congress, US Consulate General, Vancouver, Canada, American Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, the Arab American National Museum in Michigan, and the DC Art Bank collection. Zughaib’s paintings have been gifted to heads of state by President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. She currently lives in Washington, DC, and works fulltime as an artist.

TERMS TO KNOW

ELEMENTARY

- MIGRATION • GOUACHE • EMPATHY
- LEBANON • IMMIGRANT • PATTERN
- DEMOCRACY

MIDDLE

- NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP • RESILIENCE
- DIPLOMAT • REFUGEES • CIVIL WAR
- PROTEST

HIGH

- ARAB SPRING • POLITICAL SCIENCE
- AUTHORITARIANISM
- THE GREAT MIGRATION • MIGRANTS



FORMAL/ INFORMAL: INNOVATIONS IN PORTRAITURE

Mar 24 - May 17, 2026

ABOUT THE SHOW

Formal/ Informal explores the definition of portraiture, comparing that formal term to the compositions created by photographers.

During the 19th century, formal studio or posed portraits flourished as a way to capture a vision of a person, whether known or unknown to the photographer. The artist, in turn utilized their craft to tell the story of the sitter. Images from the 20th and 21st century evolved into both formal and informal views of people, as their environs began to play as much of a role in their portrait as their face did. The result is a collection of portraits that could be serious, playful, have social or political ramifications, or whose purpose is to celebrate the people, famous or infamous, ultimately telling the story of our society as a whole.



DANA STIRLING: WHY AM I SAD

ABOUT THE SHOW

Dana Stirling: Why Am I Sad explores mental health and depression through still life photography. It's estimated that almost 280 million people worldwide live with depression. Among this staggering number, this book unveils the personal narrative of just one of them—me. As a child of immigrants, I found myself living in a duality that often left me feeling like an outsider in both worlds. I was a cultural chameleon, navigating the ever-shifting boundaries of identity. Amidst the cacophony of conflicting cultures, there was a profound sense of isolation, a feeling of not quite belonging to either place. Photography emerged as my sanctuary, a medium through which I could articulate the unspoken turmoil within. However, even as my lens captured moments of beauty, the weight of sadness lingered, a constant companion hovering at the edge of every frame. *Why Am I Sad* is a personal exploration through the shadows of melancholy, unfolded in vivid still life photography that celebrates and challenges the notion of beauty and sadness. I extend an invitation to delve into this narrative—a narrative woven with threads of family legacy of mental health, cultural identity, and the relentless pursuit of self-understanding. Each photograph serves as a mirror reflecting the complexities of human emotion—a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Behind each photograph lies a story, a silent echo of my mother's struggle with clinical depression—a battle fought in the shadows, unseen yet deeply felt. Her pain became intertwined with my own, shaping the contours of my journey through sadness. Through the lens of my camera, I invite you to join me on this introspective odyssey, where every image is a step closer to understanding the enigma of sadness.

ARTIST HIGHLIGHTS

- Berenice Abbott (1898–1991) was an American photographer best known for her black-and-white portraits and images of New York City architecture. She began her career in Paris, where she worked as an assistant to Man Ray and became influenced by avant-garde photography. Abbott returned to the U.S. in the late 1920s and dedicated herself to documenting the changing cityscape of New York, resulting in her landmark project *Changing New York* (1939). She was also a passionate advocate for photography as a science, producing images that illustrated complex physical principles. Abbott's work helped establish photography as both an art form and a documentary tool.
- Dana Stirling is a fine art photographer and the Co-Founder & Editor In-Chief of *Float Photo Magazine* since 2014. Originally from Jerusalem Israel, Dana is now based in Queens New York. She received her MFA from The School Of Visual Arts in Photography, Video, and Related Media in 2016 and her BA from Hadassah College Jerusalem in Photographic Communications in 2013.



TERMS TO KNOW

ELEMENTARY

- PHOTOGRAPH
- CAMERA
- COMPOSITION
- PORTRAITURE
- SUBJECT
- SELF-PORTRAIT

MIDDLE

- BALANCE
- DEPTH OF FIELD
- CANDID
- MOVEMENT
- STREET PHOTOGRAPHY
- POSED

HIGH

- ASPECT RATIO
- RULE OF THIRDS
- SEQUENCING
- ENVIRONMENTAL PORTRAIT
- DOCUMENTARY-STYLE PHOTOGRAPH

BENEFITS OF VISITING AN ART GALLERY

Visiting an art gallery has a postive impact on your students. Some of the benefits include:

- Visual arts help students build literacy skills
- Students get a firsthand look at historical objects and documents, including but not limited to: newspapers and magazines from the early 20th century, original art from around the world, photographs documenting major events in American history
- The arts help students develop intercultural awareness, understanding, and communication skills
- Art galleries provide students with the opportunity to access history, other cultures, and the natural world while building critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Art galleries target social emotional skills like empathy and compassion
- Students have access to hands-on, authentic learning experiences



PA STATE STANDARDS

**WAYNE BRUNGARD:
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
THE BACK OF A SHADOW**

ELEMENTARY

- Standard – 9.1.3.A
- Standard – 9.1.3.C
- Standard – 9.1.3.E
- Standard – 9.2.3.A
- Standard – 9.2.3.C
- Standard – 9.2.3.H
- Standard – 9.3.3.A
- Standard – 9.3.3.B
- Standard – 9.3.3.E
- Standard – 5.1.3.C
- Standard – 7.3.3.A
- Standard – 8.3.3.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3.C

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.8.A
- Standard – 9.1.8.C
- Standard – 9.1.8.E
- Standard – 9.2.8.A
- Standard – 9.2.8.C
- Standard – 9.2.8.D
- Standard – 9.2.8.H
- Standard – 9.3.8.A
- Standard – 9.3.8.E
- Standard – 5.1.6.C
- Standard – 7.3.6.A
- Standard – 8.3.6.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.8.C
- Standard – CC.1.5.8.D

HIGH SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.12.A
- Standard – 9.1.12.C
- Standard – 9.1.12.F
- Standard – 9.2.12.A
- Standard – 9.2.12.C
- Standard – 9.2.12.D
- Standard – 9.3.12.A
- Standard – 9.3.12.B
- Standard – 5.2.12.A
- Standard – 7.3.12.A
- Standard – 8.3.12.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.12.C
- Standard – CC.1.5.12.D

**HELEN ZUGHAIB:
MIGRATIONS**

ELEMENTARY

- Standard – 9.1.3.A
- Standard – 9.1.3.B
- Standard – 9.1.3.C
- Standard – 9.1.3.E
- Standard – 9.1.3.H
- Standard – 9.2.3.A
- Standard – 9.2.3.C
- Standard – 9.2.3.D
- Standard – 5.1.3.C
- Standard – 5.2.3.D
- Standard – 7.3.3.A
- Standard – 8.1.3.B
- Standard – 8.3.3.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3-5.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3-5.C

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.6.A
- Standard – 9.1.6.B
- Standard – 9.1.6.C
- Standard – 9.1.6.E
- Standard – 9.1.6.H
- Standard – 9.2.6.A
- Standard – 9.2.6.C
- Standard – 9.2.6.D
- Standard – 5.1.6.C
- Standard – 5.2.6.D
- Standard – 7.3.6.A
- Standard – 8.1.6.B
- Standard – 8.4.6.B
- Standard – CC.1.5.6-8.D
- Standard – CC.1.5.6-8.C

HIGH SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.12.A
- Standard – 9.1.12.C
- Standard – 9.1.12.E
- Standard – 9.1.12.H
- Standard – 9.2.12.A
- Standard – 9.2.12.C
- Standard – 9.2.12.D
- Standard – 5.1.12.C
- Standard – 5.2.12.D
- Standard – 7.3.12.A
- Standard – 8.1.12.B
- Standard – 8.3.12.A
- Standard – 8.4.12.B
- Standard – CC.1.5.12.D
- Standard – CC.1.5.12.C

**FORMAL/INFORMAL:
INNOVATIONS IN
PORTRAITURE | DANA
STIRLING: WHY AM I SAD**

ELEMENTARY

- Standard – 9.1.3.A
- Standard – 9.1.3.B
- Standard – 9.1.3.C
- Standard – 9.1.3.E
- Standard – 9.1.3.H
- Standard – 9.2.3.A
- Standard – 9.2.3.C
- Standard – 9.2.3.D
- Standard – 9.3.3.A
- Standard – 9.3.3.B
- Standard – 9.3.3.E
- Standard – 8.3.3.A
- Standard – 5.1.3.C
- Standard – 5.2.3.D
- Standard – 7.3.3.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3-5.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.3-5.C

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.8.A
- Standard – 9.1.8.C
- Standard – 9.1.8.E
- Standard – 9.2.8.A
- Standard – 9.2.8.C
- Standard – 9.2.8.D
- Standard – 9.2.8.H
- Standard – 9.3.8.A
- Standard – 9.3.8.E
- Standard – 8.3.6.A
- Standard – 8.4.6.B
- Standard – 5.2.6.A
- Standard – 7.3.6.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.6-8.C–D

HIGH SCHOOL

- Standard – 9.1.12.A
- Standard – 9.1.12.C
- Standard – 9.1.12.F
- Standard – 9.2.12.A
- Standard – 9.2.12.C
- Standard – 9.2.12.D
- Standard – 9.3.12.A
- Standard – 9.3.12.B
- Standard – 8.3.12.A
- Standard – 8.4.12.B
- Standard – 5.1.12.C
- Standard – 5.2.12.A
- Standard – 7.3.12.A
- Standard – CC.1.5.9-12.D
- Standard – CC.1.5.9-12.C

ABOUT THE SORDONI ART GALLERY

The Sordoni Art Gallery is a visual art exhibition space located at Wilkes University. Originally founded as a source of community hope after the Agnes Flood of 1972, the Sordoni Art Gallery brings diverse artists of regional, national, and international reputation to the Northeast PA region.

The mission of the Sordoni Art Gallery is to encourage an appreciation of the arts and an understanding of its role in society through direct engagement with art. Our main focus is to present high-quality exhibitions, related programming, and publications in a wide range of media, topics, cultures, and time periods. We have designed an experience aligned with the Visual Art Curriculum Framework and the Standards Aligned System (SAS) developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Our vision is to be a recognized and respected center for the creation of innovative learning environments and programs for the appreciation and study of visual art that benefit the academic and cultural community of Wilkes University and the surrounding region.

The Sordoni Art Gallery is a free-admission gallery. All Sordoni exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. Our state-of-the-art facilities are located at 141 S. Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Please visit www.wilkes.edu/arts/sordoniartgallery/ for more information.

Please contact Melissa Carestia, Assistant Director to
book your visit with us today!
melissa.carestia@wilkes.edu

SORDONI
ART GALLERY
WILKES UNIVERSITY

Located at
141 S. Main Street
in downtown
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Visitor Parking available

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday – Friday: 10 AM – 5 PM
Saturday and Sunday: 12 - 5 PM
Closed on Mondays
and University Holidays

Call: 570-408-4325
Look: wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery
Follow:
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