ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Student Artist Commentary: Sophia Sagerer

Commentary by Sophia Sagerer
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My artwork is a reflection of my conversations with friends and day-to-day experiences. These conversations guide my work on subjects such as homophobia, transphobia, poverty, and the AIDS crisis. I'm currently exploring the topic of the "male gaze" as it has presented itself in art history and how it relates to my own lived experience.

I find particular inspiration in films such as "Paris is Burning" and the depiction of individual struggles with identity and cultural norms.

I want to highlight these voices in my work and combat the previous erasure that folx like these have faced in history.

In my recent body of work, "America is Burning," I wanted to share queer individuals' stories and memories through art. For example, I depicted a blooming flower next to a cigarette, representing healing from the struggles.

I believe art is a way to inscribe these stories in permanent history so their voices won't be forgotten.

Ediors Note:
The Promethean wants to feature student artists on campus. Sophia Sagerer submitted her own original art and commentary/artist statment.
The Promethean wants to keep featruing original student art online and in print.
If you are interested please email us at promethean@uwsuper.edu

"America is Burning" Acrylic Painting with Photography and Dried Flowers
Peice contributed by Sophia Sagerer

"Faith" Acrylic Painting
Piece contributed by Sophia Sagerer

"Self Portrait" Acrylic Painting
Peice contributed by Sophia Sagerer

"11:11" Acrylic Painting
Peice contributed by Sophia Sagerer

"Good Looking" Acrylic Painting
Peice contributed by Sophia Sagerer

Sterling Rathsack Gallery

Cheyanne Warner
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Can war be illustrated with beauty, poignancy and humor? This question penetrates the open mind as one experiences the art shared by veteran Sterling Rathsack.

Here in the University of Wisconsin-Superior's (UWS) KRUK gallery on display from Nov. 20, 2025 to Feb. 17, 2026 is Rathsack's "In Siam" collection.

The collection showcases Rathsack's experiences during his two and a half years in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War that reflects on the disruptive nature of war and the collateral damage incurred by all parties.

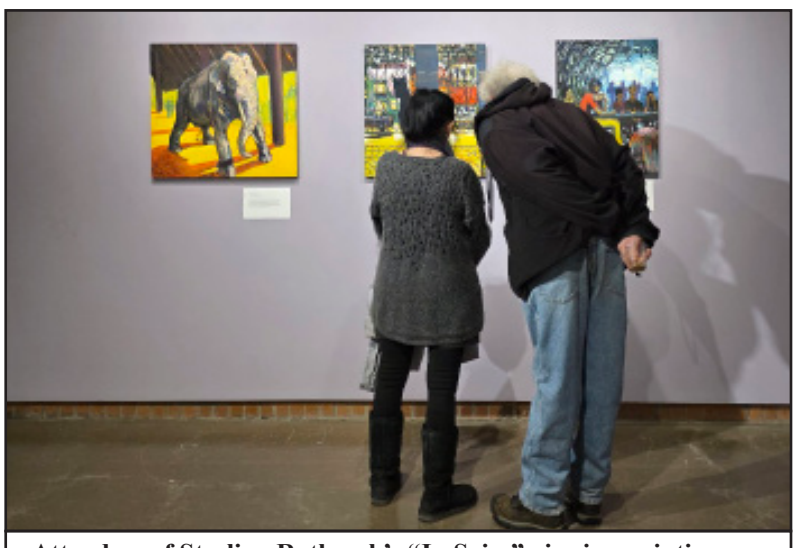
"America's war in Southeast Asia was fought on many fronts... Our airbases made a substantial impact on the lives of the Thai people. Their agrarian economy was changed forever by the commerce of war. Our presence continues to be felt in many ways," Rathsack said. ""In Saim" is a visual narrative based on my own observations of that time and place and is intended to serve as a reminder of the far reaching and lasting effects of war."

Rathsack created "In Siam" in the 1990 recognizing the end of the war.

The collection was originally in at the Richard I. Bong Historical Center in storage but UWS partnered with them to bring Rathsack's collection to campus for students and the community to appreciate in recognition of the 50-year anniversary of the end of the war.

On Thursday Jan. 29, 2026 the KRUK had a gallery celebration where Rathsack and his collection were honored. Rathsack attended and chatted with people about his pieces and time in Southeast Asia. He had both light-hearted memories and heavy memories from his time in Asia.

Sterling Rathsack at his exhibit in the Kruk Gallery in Holden Fine and Applied Arts Center on Jan. 29.
Photo by Cheyanne Warner | Promethean



Attendees of Sterling Rathsack's "In Saim" viewing paintings on Jan. 29.
Photo by Cheyanne Warner | Promethean

Theatre and Music

Feb. 16 - Mar. 15

One Acts:
Feb. 19 @ 7 pm
Feb. 20 @ 7 pm
Feb. 21 @ 2 pm

Andy Hill directing "Actors Nightmare" by Christopher Durang

Megan Peterson directing "Dentity Crisis" by Christopher Durang

Cheyanne Warner directing "Here We Are" by Dorothy Parker

Music Schedule:
Feb. 17 @ 7:30 pm - University Recital Series: Erin Aldridge Violin
Mar. 3 @ 7:30 pm - Symphonic Band Concert

Superior Strings Day brings Superior together

Emily Tews
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Superior Middle School, Superior High School, and University of Wisconsin-Superior Chamber Strings on stage after the Superior Srring Day Concert on Feb. 5.
Photo by Emily Tews | Promethean

Superior Strings Day was Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m. The concert showed off the Superior Middle School eighth grade orchestra directed by Jenna Mattson, Superior High School's regular and advanced concert orchestra directed by Amy Eichers, along with UW-Superior's Chamber Strings Ensemble directed by Dr. Erin Aldridge.

One day a year, they combine their efforts to put on Superior Strings Day. A combined performance of Superior Middle School, Superior High School, and the University of Wisconsin Superior (UW-Superior) string students.

They played separate showings of different skill levels and musical achievements before showing audiences a combined orchestra with all participants playing together, this year being one of their biggest years with about 95 total students in the combined orchestra.

A viola player in the UW-Superior Chamber Strings Ensemble, Maggie Johnson said, "Our conductor Dr. Aldridge is a really great musician, and she has taught us a ton and how to work together and how to collaborate and just to be all around good musicians."

Aldridge spoke about how the day is truly something special, also taking space to thank the audience and participants. "I do also want to thank all of you, because you are supporting them in their lessons and in the preparation for concerts, which takes extra time and commitment," she said.

The three directors of Superior's local strings programs after the Superior Strings Day Concert on Feb. 5. (Left to Right) Jenna Mattson, Amy Eichers and Dr. Erin Aldridge bowing together.
Photo by Emily Tews | Promethean