

CSU 2025 Art Throwdown Invitational Workshops

Art Workshops

Wheel Throwing Workshop (1 student per team)

Join us for a hands-on ceramics workshop focused on wheel-throwing techniques! We'll begin with a 30-minute introduction and demonstration covering the basics of working with clay and the process of creating a functional piece. You'll learn essential skills like kneading, centering, and shaping on the wheel. Throughout the workshop, two instructors will be available to provide guidance and support as you create your own ceramic piece. At the end of the workshop day winners will be selected based on aesthetics!

Pushing Printmaking Practice: Collagraphy, Pressure, Gelli Plate, and More! (1 Student per team)

Students will use a variety of print making methods to create a contemporary piece of art. To begin, they will use mat board or recycled milk cartons to create the main focal image of their print. This will be a pressure printing method where the image is cut out and carved precisely to be a low relief stamp. Once finished, they will apply a varnish such as Modge Podge to seal their stamp. While this dries, they will use Gelli plates and various textured items with acrylic paint to create dynamic and unique backgrounds. An alternative method to create either the background or focal image would be a collagraph print matrix created from cardboard and textured found objects which can be printed onto damp paper. Once the various methods are demonstrated and explained, there will be much room for freedom of choice and expression within the students' processes and techniques.

Chiaroscuro Drawing with Charcoal (1student per team)

Chiaroscuro drawing with charcoal from an illuminated still life. We'll be using additive and reductive methods to create a rich, deep and dimensional spatial illusion.

The Moving Still Life (1 student per team)

The student will be introduced to abstraction techniques used by Picasso and DuChamp, and then will be required to generate a piece over the course of the workshop using these techniques.

Intro to Metalworking (1 student per team)

This workshop is an introduction to the useful and versatile skills needed to begin working with steel. You will learn an introduction to MIG welding, plasma cutting, metal bending, drilling, and finishing techniques as well as the proper safety precautions. Students will be divided into competitive teams. Teams will collaborate to see which group makes the best sculpture.

Graphic Design (1 student per team)

You will create a logo for next year's Art Throwdown

Art History Pub Quiz (2 students per team)**Rapid Comics/Narrative Corpse (1 student per team)**

This workshop will involve a group brainstorming exercise that will yield a sketched comic strip. Each individual will draw a resolved version of the strip that they end up with. Participants should bring a few pencils, pens and erasers that they prefer to draw with.

Moving Collage (2 students per team)

In this fast-paced workshop, students in teams of 2 will design and animate their own short stop-motion video using cut-out collage materials and a smartphone. Working with paper, printed images, and simple props, participants will create a 30-second experimental animation that explores movement, transformation, and visual storytelling. This hands-on project introduces the fundamentals of stop-motion techniques and shows how mixed media can be brought to life through simple, accessible tools.

Alla Prima Oil Painting (1 student per team)

In this workshop, high school students will explore the expressive and spontaneous technique of alla prima oil painting—creating a finished piece in a single session while the paint is still wet. Students will explore essential skills such as color mixing, brushwork, composition, and working directly from life.

Creative Writing Workshops**Movie Pitch Throwdown (3 students per team)**

Students get a brief primer on how to pitch an idea for a movie and what elements are included (basic plot line, basic intro to main characters, overview of themes or tonal references, and the big 'why now?'). They see an example of a pitch deck - a slide show that covers these areas but includes some visual references too. Then, they get prompts for their own new movie idea (they have the option to work alone or in pairs). I like to pull these from a fun game called "Pitchstorm." They have about 30 minutes to create their own 3-minute pitch of their movie idea. Then, each group will pitch to their peers. At the end, everyone ranks the top 3 movies they'd want to buy. The number one ranked film is the winner of the Pitch Throwdown!

Flash Fiction or Flash Memoir (3 students per team)

Students will be asked/challenged to write flash pieces in fiction or memoir.

Who's Telling This Story, Anyway? Your Character, Their Point of View. (2 students per team)

This creative writing workshop will focus on characters and point of view. Based on the claim by many authors that their characters took over the story, students will create two detailed characters and introduce them to a loosely structured story to see how they react.