

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DOWNTOWN, DURING ARTPRIZE

The Art and Science of Psychology

An Evening with GVSU Psychology

This free, casual event brings together GVSU Psychology alumni and members of the surrounding community to explore how psychology shapes our experiences of art and meaning. Watch Leon Lou create live portraits, step up to sit for one, and enjoy short talks, student and faculty research posters, refreshments, and conversation. Come reconnect with GVSU Psychology or discover it for the first time.

WHEN

Friday, September 25, 2026
 6–9 p.m.

WHERE

Hager-Lubbers Exhibition Hall
 Talks in Loosemore Auditorium
 Richard M. DeVos Center
 401 West Fulton Street, Grand Rapids

ADMISSION

Free
 Registration required



Scan to register
 or email psydept@gvsu.edu
 Space is limited

THE EVENING

- 6 p.m. Reception** — refreshments and conversation with faculty, students, alumni, and guests. Posters and live portraits begin.
- 7 p.m. Three short talks** in the Loosemore — fifteen minutes each, with questions.
- 8 p.m. Posters, portraits, conversation** — coffee and cookies, time to explore the research, and live portraits taking shape.

TALKS



Christopher Kurby

Your Brain on Movies

How does our brain process and understand movies? This talk explores how movies grab your attention, affect your thinking, create shared experiences with others, form new memories, and reveal how we organize and make sense of experience.



Jennifer Gross

Why Good Design Feels Right

Why do some objects and spaces feel right while others feel awkward? Using examples from architecture, typography, products, and interfaces, this talk explores how perception, attention, memory, and the ease with which we process information shape what feels like good design.



Brian Bowdle

Living with Robots

Long imagined by science fiction, AI companions are now becoming a reality. This talk explores how sociable robots could change the human condition – and how we might manage these new relationships with foresight and wisdom.

LIVE PORTRAITS

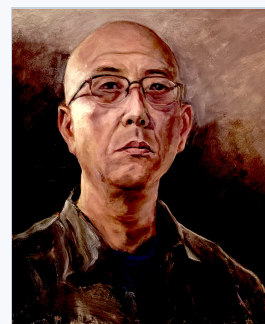
LIVE PORTRAITS · 6–9 P.M.

Leon Lou

Watch Leon Lou create live portraits, or sit for your own. Each free pencil-and-watercolor portrait on paper takes about 15 minutes. Portraits are first come, first served, and yours to keep.

Leon taught psychology at GVSU for 24 years, where his scientific research examined how artists see. He later became a full-time painter. His work is held by the GVSU Art Museum, and he has created more than 800 ArtPrize portraits.

[@leonlouart](https://twitter.com/leonlouart)
leonlouart.weebly.com



Self-portrait by Leon Lou.

ALSO OPEN

George and Barbara Gordon Gallery — open for viewing throughout the evening.

RESEARCH POSTERS · FACULTY AND STUDENT WORK

Making Intergenerational Connections Through Co-mentoring

Jing Chen and SAGE students

The Unexpected Ways People Find Social Connection

Kristy Dean

A CURE for Equitable Access to Mentored Research in Neuroscience

Elizabeth Flandreau

Unpacking White Fragility: Moderating Effects of System-Justifying Beliefs

Ashley M. Bennett, Jendayi B. Dillard-Cooke, Renae Steers, Allison Zengilowski, and Germaine H. Awad

Reading Aloud in Your Head: Making Prosody Visible

Jennifer Gross and Heather Hill

Do Men Show Off More Than Women in Rock Climbing?

Jacob Maring and Robert Deaneer

Helping K-12 Students Thrive: Inside GVSU's School Psychology Graduate Program

Kristen Schrauben, Ashley Koveleski, and Jamie Owen-DeSchryver

A Little Help From Your Friends: Bereavement, Peer Support, and Belongingness Among College Students

Jacob Sawyer, Walker Ratajczak, Rachel Kamps, and Iris Newton

Language Experience and Musical Pitch Perception: Longitudinal Evidence from Mandarin Immersion Education

Ying Wang, Tessa Jordan, and Benjamin Swets

Are We Aware of Changes to Ourselves?

Michael Wolfe and Todd Williams

Department of Psychology

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Park in the Seward Flat Lot or Seward ramp, 505 Fulton Street West.
 Bring your entry ticket to the registration desk for validation.
 ArtPrize runs September 18 – October 3