Matthew Wesley Mahoney

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Education

2024 — **Bachelor of Arts in Art History (Honors; Cum Laude)**, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon
Graduated May 2024. Thesis: "Remedios Varo as Liberated Mythmaker: Journey from Woman Surrealist to Heroic Magician-Scientist." Advisors: Dr. Ricardo de Mambro Santos and Dr. Abigail Susik.

2020 — **High school diploma**, Uplift Luna Preparatory, Dallas, Texas
Completed a two-year International Baccalaureate visual arts course, including a comparative study of Salvador Dalí and Gustav Klimt.

Research Interests

Art history, neurodiversity, and museum studies
Twentieth-century modernism and Surrealism; Remedios Varo and women Surrealists; art historiography and movement theory; automythography, mythology, psychology, and the subconscious in art; disability and neurodiversity studies, including outsider and self-taught art; museum studies and accessible interpretation.

Research and Curatorial Experience

Jan. - Apr. 2025 — **History Research Intern**, Bush House Museum, Salem, Oregon
Reframed the Salem Remembers timeline by consolidating events and strengthening interpretive flow. Integrated marginalized perspectives, primary sources, biographies, and regional geography into an inclusive, accessible public-history narrative.

Jan. 2023 - Aug. 2024 — **Curatorial & Collections Assistant**, Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University
Internship and subsequent collections employment. Researched and wrote interpretive labels for three exhibitions; curated Dalí's Dialogues and Internal/External Nature and contributed to Singular Visions. Catalogued, photographed, and documented artworks in PastPerfect, including five Salvador Dalí portfolios. Installed and deinstalled artworks, supported acquisitions, and delivered a public talk on Amy Turner.

2023 - 2024 — **Presidential Scholarship Research and Curatorial Project**, Willamette University
Produced and edited a podcast episode on Surrealism and modern art historiography and delivered two guest lectures. Produced five public Salvador Dalí portfolio catalogues and developed and curated Dalí's Dialogues.

Aug. 2021 - May 2024 — **Research Assistant, Art History Department**, Willamette University
Compiled annotated bibliographies and organized scholarly literature for Dr. Abigail Susik. Digitized more than one hundred theses and numerous book chapters for teaching and research; participated in a faculty-publications discussion panel.

2022 - 2024 — **Carson Undergraduate Research Grant Project**, Willamette University
Researched, wrote, and produced four substantive podcast episodes on art historiography, modern art, Autism and neurodiversity, and labyrinths, with a separate introductory episode. Integrated interdisciplinary research, creative writing, and performance. Prepared English translations of two chapters of Gustav René Hocke's World as a Labyrinth from Spanish through personal work, translation software, and assistance from another person.

2021	**College Colloquium Research Grant Project**, Willamette University Conducted first-hand object- and site-based research on Salvador Dalí and Remedios Varo in Mexico City, Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris. Wrote a research paper introducing "psychodynamic discourses" and "personal mythologies" as alternative frameworks for interpreting Dalí, Varo, and Surrealism.

Teaching and Curriculum Development

July 2026 - present	**Special Education Teacher (K-7th Grades)**, Museum School of East Dallas, Dallas, Texas Teach For America corps placement. Designs individualized, accessible instruction and IEP, grade, and accommodation tracking systems in a museum-based, inquiry-driven environment. Develops cross-subject curriculum and RISE lessons integrating research, museum resources, art, history, culture, and experiential learning. Created Greek-mythology-themed visual supports and completed summer launch work.
2026 - present	**Independent Tutor**, Dallas, Texas Provides individualized elementary literacy and mathematics instruction.
July 2026	**TFA Texas Summer Fellow**, Uplift Education, Road to College & Career Researched Texas standards, Uplift pacing and instructional guidance, IB MYP guidance, and research-backed resources to revise the Principles of Education & Training CTE curriculum. Revised unit plans, slide decks, student materials, assessments, rubrics, and extension activities. Supported educator-pathway interviews, nursing-camp activities, microinternship programming, and records reconciliation.
July 2025 - July 2026	**Special Education Teacher (1st-6th Grades)**, Bowie Elementary, Richardson ISD, Texas Teach For America corps placement. Taught core subjects and social-emotional learning in a self-contained STAR Autism classroom. Collected and analyzed IEP, Discrete Trial, Pivotal Response Therapy, behavioral, and academic data and implemented structured, trauma-informed supports. Completed certification coursework and fieldwork and earned Texas intern certification in Core Subjects EC-6 with STR, Special Education, and ESL.
2025 - present	**Corps Member, Dallas-Fort Worth**, Teach For America Member of the 2025-2027 corps; special education teaching and ongoing professional development.
Summer 2025	**Summer Institute Teacher**, Teach For America / Duncanville ISD, Texas Completed pre-service training and taught summer school.
Aug. 2023 - May 2024	**Teacher's Aide, Instructor, & Guest Lecturer**, Art History Department, Willamette University Taught a weekly orientation course and guest lessons in modern and contemporary art history, visual culture, and film studies. Taught visual literacy, iconology, form, semiotics, and art-historical analysis; curated materials and assessed student work. Tutored students and prepared accessible course materials for disabled students. Roles included Fall 2023 Colloquium Associate and Spring 2024 teaching assistant for the Fellini film course.

Curatorial Projects

April - June 2024	**Dalí's Dialogues**, Hallie Ford Museum of Art Curator. Selected prints from Dalí's portfolios and paired his reinterpretations with original Goya prints; wrote interpretive labels.

January - April 2024	**Singular Visions: Self-Taught Artists from the Permanent Collection**, Hallie Ford Museum of Art Curatorial contributor / co-curator. Researched artists, wrote interpretive and biographical labels and a curatorial statement, and worked with Living Studios artists.
April - May 2023	**Internal/External Nature: Recent Acquisitions at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art**, Hallie Ford Museum of Art Curator. Organized a display examining relationships between humanity and nature through recent acquisitions.

Lectures and Presentations

2025	**Dwelling in the Labyrinth: Surrealism's Answer to What Art Is About**, Willamette University Guest lecture, ARTH 199.
April 2024	**Remedios Varo as Liberated Mythmaker**, Willamette University, Student Scholarship Recognition Day Senior thesis presentation.
April 2024	**Salvador Dalí at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art: A Critical Appraisal**, Willamette University, Student Scholarship Recognition Day Presidential Scholarship presentation on the portfolios and exhibition.
March 2024	**Artist introduction and public remarks**, Corvallis Museum, Oregon Public talk on Amy Turner, outsider art, and neurodivergent expression.
January 2024	**Remedios Varo's Journey from Woman Surrealist to Female Alchemist and Liberated Mythmaker**, Willamette University Preliminary thesis presentation.
December 2023	**Remedios Varo's Modern Myth of the Scientists: An Analysis of Revelation and Harmony**, Willamette University
November 2023	**The Surrealist Spectrum: Its Origins, Salvador Dalí, and Remedios Varo**, Willamette University
October 2023	**An Introduction to German Expressionist Art and Film**, Willamette University
September 2023	**Abigail Susik book launch and discussion panel**, Willamette University Panel participation.
April 2023	**The Autistic Psyche as a Labyrinth**, Institute for Continued Learning, Willamette University Phil Hanni student-scholar presentation.
2023	**Carson Undergraduate Research Grant presentation**, Willamette University
April 2023	**Pomponio Gaurico's On Sculpture**, Willamette University
November 2022	**Neurodiverse Museum Project**, Willamette University
2021	**The Moralization of the Apple: Knowledge as a Developing Hermeneutic from Hans Baldung Grien to the Apple Company**, Willamette University
November 2021	**Expanding Accessibility & Inclusivity for Neurodivergent Students**, Willamette University Faculty and staff training attended by more than 70 participants.
November 2021	**Accessibility, Disability, and Neurodiversity Conversation**, Willamette University

August 2021	**Inclusivity of Neurodivergent Students**, Willamette University, Starting the Conversation First-year orientation presentation.
2021	**Student panel**, Oregon Association of Higher Education and Disability conference
March 2021	**From Naturalism to Abstraction: Languages of Realism**, Willamette University
March 2021	**Introducing the Neurodivergent Student Union; Portrayal of Autism in Netflix's Atypical**, Willamette University Two presentations.
November 2020	**The Vessel Paradigm in Renaissance Mythological Painting**, Willamette University

Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2026	**TFA Texas Summer Fellowship**, Teach For America Selected as one of 25 fellows from 175 applicants.
2024	**Erwin Panofsky Research Award**, Willamette University, Art History Awarded for senior thesis research on Remedios Varo.
2024	**Roger P. Hull Art Museum Award**, Willamette University Recognition for contributions to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art.
2023	**Pegasus Research Travel Grant**, Art History Department, Willamette University $600; funded in-person senior-thesis research at the Art Institute of Chicago.
2023	**Phil Hanni Scholarship**, Institute for Continued Learning, Willamette University $500; supported the one-hour public presentation "The Autistic Psyche as a Labyrinth."
2023	**Presidential Scholarship**, Willamette University $10,000 award; one of two recipients. Supported five Dalí portfolio catalogues, exhibition research, and related public scholarship.
2022	**Carson Undergraduate Student Research Grant**, Willamette University $3,000; supported art-history and neurodiversity research for the Matthew Mythology podcast.
2022	**Mary Stuart Rogers Scholarship**, Willamette University $10,000.
2022	**Esther Wright Huffman Scholarship**, Willamette University, Art History
2022	**Seeds of Change Award**, Willamette University, Student Affairs Recognition for community building and advocacy for neurodivergent students.
2021	**College Colloquium Student Research Grant**, Willamette University $3,500; supported research on Surrealism, Dalí, and Varo in Mexico City, Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris.
2021	**Shannon P. Hogue Scholarship**, Willamette University, Civic Communication and Media $3,000.
2020	**Robert Matejek Scholarship; Schmidt Scholarship**, Undergraduate scholarship awards Robert Matejek: $10,000; Schmidt: $30,000.
January 2020	**Eagle Scout**, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 381 Service project: a Little Free Library in Wills Point, Texas.

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Writing, Publications, and Media

2024 — **Catalogue of the Salvador Dalí Print Portfolios at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art**, Five digital portfolio catalogues
Research, photography, transcription, and design for Le Tricorne, Alchemy of the Philosophers, Les Caprices, Don Quixote, and Selected Poems of Mao-Tse Tsoung. Prepared translations through personal work, translation software, and assistance from another person.

2024 — **Matthew Mythology: Stories by an Autistic Art Historian**, Creator, writer & host
Five published audio essays and written scripts. Developed through research and recording during 2022-2024.

2024 — **An Autistic Activist's Guide to Contemplation and Action**, Independent zine
Created for the Inner Life of Activism course.

2023 - 2024 — **Exhibition labels and curatorial writing**, Hallie Ford Museum of Art
Interpretive writing for Internal/External Nature, Singular Visions, and Dalí's Dialogues.

2022 — **The Divergent: A Zine about Autism and Neurodiversity**, Independent zine

2020 - 2021 — **Campus reporting**, Willamette Collegian
Articles on the Bistro, Residence Hall Association funding and restructuring, and a dean-candidate open forum.

2020 — **The Pythian Paper: The Colored Knights of Pythias Temple and a City's Hidden History of Racism**, Independent historical research
6,000-word study developed during 2019-2020, concerning Black history, urban planning, and public memory in Dallas.

February 2020 — **Deep Ellum People**, Deep Ellum Foundation
Interview subject.

Institutional and Community Service

Jan. - May 2025 — **Art & Architecture Committee Member**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, Oregon
Advised on accession, deaccession, preservation, storage, and art handling using museum standards. Reorganized archival storage, digitized records, and reduced a ten-page accession form to four pages.

Aug. 2021 - May 2024 — **Department Coordinator & Office Assistant**, Art History Department, Willamette University
Designed seven events, created materials for majors, and organized shared research resources. Improved workroom organization and visual communication while supporting faculty. Included Ford Hall office support and departmental liaison work.

2024 — **Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society**, Willamette University
Member.

2023 - 2024 — **Neurodiversity Resources & Cultural Center proposal**, Willamette University
Developed a proposal for a campus resource and cultural center; advocacy and planning project.

2020 - 2022 — **Founding President & Co-founder, Neurodivergent Student Union**, Willamette University
Student advocacy from August 2020; founded and led the Neurodivergent Student Union, building an eighteen-member organization. Delivered faculty training for more than seventy participants and represented neurodivergent students on four committees.

2020 - 2024	**Student advocacy and committee service**, Willamette University Represented neurodivergent students and residents through accessibility, student-life, and community conversations. Earlier service included the Disability Advocacy Club and Residence Hall Association.
Aug. 2020 - May 2021	**Hall Representative, Residence Hall Association**, Willamette University Participated in governance and outreach meetings and a regional residence-life conference. Co-authored a proposal and design plan for improved residence-hall cleaning equipment.
2019 - 2020	**Teen Council Leader**, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas Helped organize Teen Nights and facilitated discussion of works in the permanent collection.
2019 - 2020	**Owl Ambassador**, Uplift Luna Preparatory Led school tours and represented student perspectives.
2017 - 2020	**Student Board Member**, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas Participated in youth programming, artist conversations, and art-making workshops.
2019	**Student Volunteer Coordinator and market-booth coordinator**, Deep Ellum Arts Festival / Deep Ellum Outdoor Market Organized student participation in community arts activities.
2019	**Eagle Scout Service Project Coordinator**, Wills Point, Texas Designed and installed a Little Free Library at Russell Memorial Methodist Church; coordinated painting and woodworking with younger scouts.
2017 - 2019	**Founder & President, Luna Ambassadors**, Uplift Luna Preparatory Built community relationships and organized student arts and service opportunities in Deep Ellum.
2017 - 2019	**Muralist & Mural Coordinator**, Deep Ellum Urban Garden, Dallas, Texas Collaborated with students on a public mural and community cleanup.
2014 - 2020	**Scout and peer mentor**, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 381 Supported younger scouts and taught skills related to fitness, disability awareness, crime prevention, and cyber safety.

Additional Professional Experience

May 2024 - May 2025	**Direct Support Professional, Artist-in-Residence, and Art Instructor**, Living Studios, Salem, Oregon Organized creative workspaces and guided collaborative projects for neurodivergent artists. Managed the Salem studio launch, artist-support records, and gallery curatorial contributions.
Nov. 2024 - May 2025	**Personal Stylist**, Gap, Woodburn, Oregon Assisted customers with wardrobe selection and provided retail customer service.
Feb. - June 2023	**Asset Protection Customer Host / Greeter**, Walmart Provided customer-facing asset-protection and greeting support.
Aug. 2021 - July 2022	**Resident Advisor & Summer Housing Assistant**, Willamette University Built community for eleven residents through accessible programs and responsive support. Created a campus-resource guide and served on the RA Advisory Council.
2020 - 2021	**Writer, Artist & Photographer**, Willamette Collegian Reported on campus organizations and events, conducted interviews, and contributed photography and artwork.

2019 — **Art Guard**, The Warehouse, Dallas, Texas
Provided gallery interpretation and artwork-safety guidance for visitors during March and August engagements.

Professional Development

2025 - 2026 — **Alternative Certification Program coursework**, University of Texas at Arlington
Preparation in EC-6 Core Subjects, Special Education, and ESL. Coursework is listed separately from awarded certification.

July 2025 — **STAR Autism Support training**, Professional development

2023 — **Colloquium Associate training**, Willamette University
Belonging, leadership, empathy, academic support, and conflict resolution.

2021 — **Resident Advisor training**, Willamette University
35 hours of preparation in student support, community safety, and conflict response.

Creative and Independent Projects

Ongoing — **Independent artist and designer**, Matthew Mythology
Drawing, printmaking, collage, symbolic objects, zines, and journal-cover design. The online portfolio brings together 189 artworks and designs.

In progress — **Psychocentrism, Surrealism, and neurodiversity**, Independent scholarship
Developing a framework for reading Dalí, Varo, and outsider art through psyche, personal mythology, and neurodiversity.

In progress — **The Kidsvania Chronicle**, Independent creative writing
Novel project continuing an invented world developed through maps, stories, and visual work.

2026 — **Horarium**, Personal software project
Built a personal schedules-and-routines app for iPhone, iPad, and Mac, with routine tracking, reminders, alarms, timers, and optional synchronization through Google Drive.

Research Skills and Languages

Languages
English.

Research
Archival, object-based, and primary-source research; visual analysis; art-historical writing; bibliography development; accessible interpretation.

Museums
PastPerfect; cataloguing; collections documentation; art handling; exhibition development; label writing; digitization; archival organization.

Education and Media
Curriculum research and development; standards-aligned and modified curriculum; accessible instruction; assessments and rubrics; IEP-progress systems; podcast production; photography; public presentations.