

25 HEIGHTS ARTS

Spotlight: Josh Chefitz

January 16 - March 15, 2026

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
EXHIBITION COMMUNITY TEAM

Team leader: Greg Donley
Team Members: Rita Betts, Boni
Gelfand, Stephanie Murray, Evelyn
Marinelli, Amia Frazier, Heather
Patterson, Kate Snow, Grace Robin



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2175 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio



Biography

Josh Chefitz (b. 1977) is a multimedia artist based in Cleveland, Ohio, who also works as the Director of Student Care at Ruffing Montessori School. In the fall of 2023, Chefitz found himself in the art room during a Children's House art class. He put pen to paper and recalled doodles he made in middle school: x and y coordinates, quadrants, and ordered pairs that filled his notebooks. He showed this doodle to his friend, artist Will Wilson, who encouraged him to make more.

Chefitz is an award-winning, self-taught artist whose work explores memory and reconstruction. He often begins with ink, gel, and paint pen drawings on handmade paper from the Morgan Conservatory, which he cuts apart and reassembles into layered compositions. His process reflects the way memory works—fragmented and full of rediscovery.

In addition to his studio work, Chefitz is the creator of ActLoCLE.org, a web-based art hub that promotes local artists' events and creates community and visibility for makers in Northeast Ohio.

To date, Chefitz has shown his work across the region, Columbus, and Brooklyn, New York.

Artist Statement

I've come to realize that my work is all about memory. It's inspired by my childhood doodles: quadrants, ordered pairs, and skulls that filled my middle school notebooks. But maybe it's just how I remember those doodles and it's not really like them at all...

So I explore memory as both a personal and collective process of reconstruction. I reframe these early designs as a commentary on how we reshape memories to move forward from pain. What I create is not a direct reflection of past experiences but a reimagining—an exploration of how we craft new narratives to heal and grow. Through layers of ink, paint, and mixed media, I invite viewers to uncover the complexity of memory, authenticity, and transformation.

List of works:

Where We've Been We've Been Before, 2025, 36" x 24" Mixed Media, \$2,200

Tecmo Joel, 2024, 23.75" x 18", Mixed Media, \$950

Pixel Town, 2025, 11" x 14", Mixed Media, \$850

Mother Mayhem, 2025, 12" x 12", Mixed Media, \$1,150

Junkyard, 2025, 6" x 6", Mixed Media, \$165

Squawk Station, 2025, 6" x 6", Mixed Media, \$165

Heated Rivalry, 2025, 6" x 6", Mixed Media, \$165

Lifetime Channel, 2024, 26" x 40" Mixed Media, \$1,225

A Sunshade in Space Saves the Earth, 2023, 11" x 6.5", Mixed Media, NFS

Instafilm 3000, 2024, 15" x 12", Mixed Media, NFS

COMING SOON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 | 6:00 P.M.

Close Encounters Open Rehearsals: From East to West

A rare opportunity for students and adults to observe the Taplin Quartet as they prepare for their Close Encounters performance on February 8th.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 3:00 P.M.

Close Encounters: From East to West

Dunham Tavern Witness the debut of the Taplin Quartet as they bring listeners on a journey from East To West with a varied program including familiar favorites like Clair de Lune alongside Debussy's masterful String Quartet in G Minor, Lei Liang's dramatic piece, Gobi Gloria, inspired by Mongolian music, and more.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | 7:00 P.M.

ARTbar: Burning River Swing

Burning River Swing is a swinging and singing jazz group from the Cleveland/Akron area. The band honors French jazz, hot jazz and swing music by musicians like Django Reinhardt, Stefan Grappelli, and Ella Fitzgerald, bringing this music back to life in the modern day.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 7:00 P.M.

No Exit: METROPOLIS Reimagined

event featuring the remarkable talents of internationally renowned pianist Jenny Lin and electronic artist Drake Andersen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 | 7:00 P.M.

Ekphrastacy: Artists Talk and Poets Respond

Poets Jennifer Hallaman, Jeweled Justice, and Sujata Lakhe join Heights Poet Laureate Michelle R. Smith to perform original works inspired by the exhibitions on view: Consider Fires and Spotlight: Josh Chefitz. Artists also discuss their work.

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