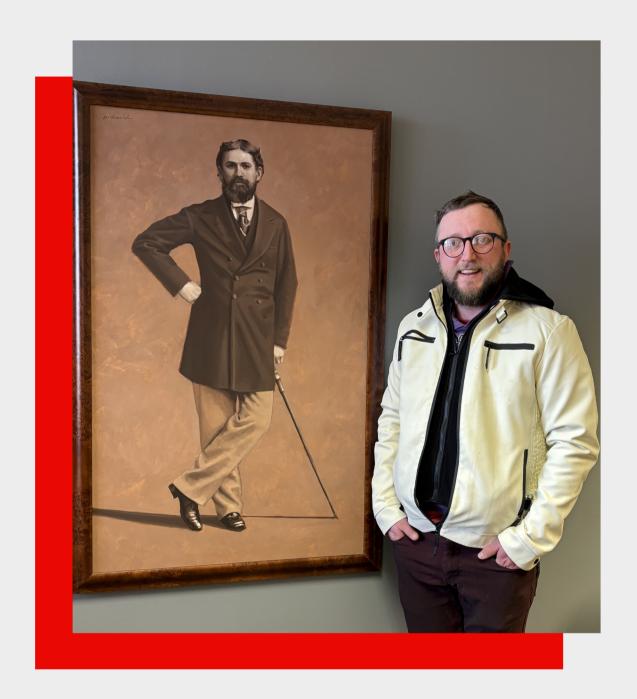# Charles S. Peirce Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship 2025

Nathanial J. Gilchrist

J. T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts, PhD in Fine and Performing Art

"Creation of 'virtual space' is common in all works of plastic art; but that is only the making of the universe in which the symbolic form exists."
Susanne K. Langer

The Institute for Studies in Pragmaticism is pleased to announce Nathanial J. Gilchrist as the recipient of the Charles S. Peirce Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship for 2025.

In our digital age, where algorithmic communication prevails, art plays a vital role in fostering public discourse and enhancing awareness of the human experience. It serves as a means for connection and a way to navigate life's complexities. Nathanial's research project, titled "The Cyborg's Swiss Army Knife: A Practice-Based Inquiry of Space and Objects in the Age of Digital Fabrication," employs four innovative methods of object creation, leveraging digital fabrication technologies to question the conventional divides between physical and virtual realms.

By integrating AI-generated models, found objects, 3D scanning techniques, and Blender modeling, Nathanial explores how these technologies transform the processes of creation, alter time investment, and reshape the artist's relationship with both materials and instruments during artistic practice.

His creative inquiry delves into the synergy between digital and analog media, examining how artists' awareness may evolve while navigating this spectrum. This research is crucial for understanding how new artistic practices can cultivate novel interpretations of reality and self-awareness in an era increasingly defined by AI. Nathanial's advancements in augmented and virtual reality hold significant promise, especially for enhancing educational opportunities for students in areas lacking access to visual arts resources, such as museums and galleries.

In addition to his pedagogical contributions, Nathanial's work thoughtfully addresses the socio-cultural ramifications of technology. His research scrutinizes how the advent of digital fabrication tools has transformed art-making practices and societal interactions. Through an interdisciplinary lens that combines media studies with psychological, sociological, and pedagogical theories, Nathanial investigates how technological progress reshapes social dynamics, power relations, and cultural production within the art community.