

Visual Documentation & Learning Evidence

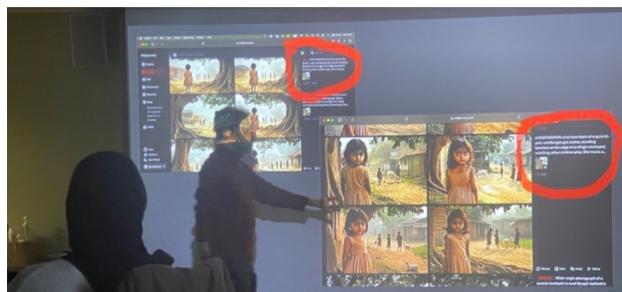


The inaugural cohort of *Generative AI for Visual Communication* (Spring 2025) brings together undergraduate, MA, MFA, and PhD students from a wide range of cultural and disciplinary backgrounds, including learners from Japan, Ghana, Nigeria, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Egypt, and Guyana. The course emphasizes collaborative inquiry, peer learning, and ethical engagement with generative technologies. This diversity is not incidental but foundational to the course design, creating a learning environment in which multiple perspectives inform creative and critical inquiry. Students engage in shared exploration and peer-to-peer exchange, allowing advanced theoretical perspectives to circulate alongside exploratory and practice-driven approaches. The classroom functions as a studio-lab in which dialogue, critique, and collaboration replace traditional hierarchies, fostering a culture of mutual learning and intellectual exchange.

Comparative Tool Analysis and Critical Evaluation

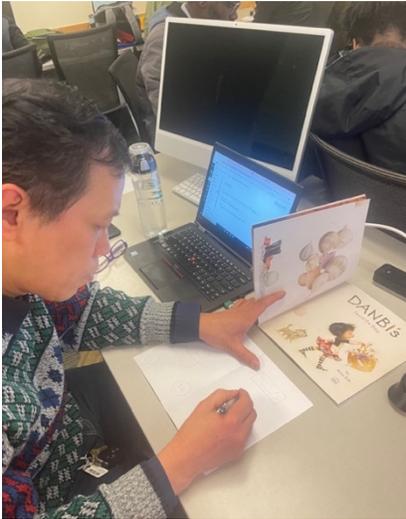


Early in the semester, students participate in structured group presentations that examine categories of generative AI tools. For example, one group compared text-generation platforms, while others evaluated text-to-image and automation-based tools. These activities establish a shared vocabulary around AI capabilities, limitations, and ethical considerations while modeling comparative and critical analysis.



MA student Sankha Kar leads a discussion on image prompting, addressing challenges such as hallucination, compositional control, and cultural sensitivity. These discussions encourage students to interrogate not only what AI systems produce, but also how and why those outputs emerge. Through hands-on experimentation, students build both technical fluency and ethical awareness.

From Concept Development & Prototyping to Critique & Professional Feedback



Students explore visual storytelling through a sequence of workshops that move from ideation and sketching to prototyping and refinement. These sessions prioritize process over polish, encouraging experimentation, critique, and iteration as core design practices rather than final outcomes alone.

BELOW: Guest critics are integrated into the course to model professional critique and disciplinary dialogue. VisCom Director Tim Goheen and Professor Emerita Julie Elman provide feedback to MFA student Raymond Ayivor on his picture book project. Ayivor's work later received special recognition in an international AI design competition, reflecting the professional caliber of student outcomes and the rigor of the course's evaluative framework.



VisCom (OU) Alumni and Friends
Ken Klein · December 13, 2025 at 10:38AM

Ohio University MFA student Raymond Ayivor honored by AI Design Awards (with shoutout for VisCom faculty member Adonis Durado)

Dear Raymond Ayivor,
We're so excited to share that your work has been awarded Special Recognition in the AI Design Awards! 🌟
Your creativity really stood out at the jury, and we're genuinely thrilled to be celebrating this moment with you.

LINKEDIN.COM
OHIO U grad student wins recognition for artificial intelligence design
Ohio University Master of Fine Arts (MFA) student Raymond Ayivor won special recognition fro...

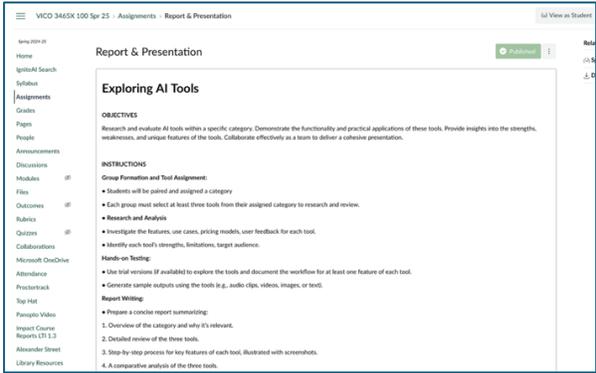


Students from VICO 3456/5456 pose with their completed picture books alongside instructor Adonis Durado, marking the culmination of a major course milestone.

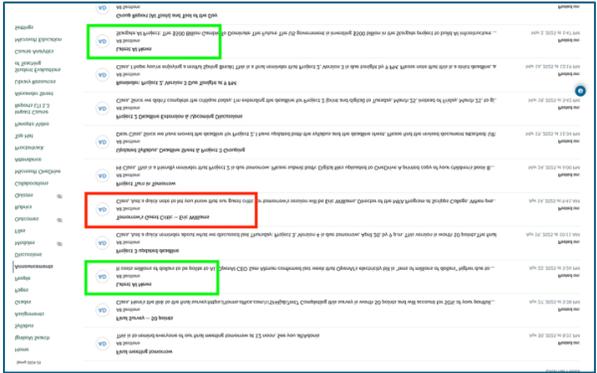


Selected projects received the *Titsworth Prize*, named in honor of Dean Scott Titsworth, recognizing excellence in generative AI-assisted storytelling.

Structured Learning, Resource Curation, & Guided Exploration



Screenshots from the course learning management system illustrate how structured prompts guide students through tool analysis, documentation, and reflective practice. These scaffolds encourage critical engagement rather than passive consumption of AI-generated content. One of the course's most popular features, *Tool of the Day*, introduces students to emerging AI tools through concise demonstrations and guided discussion. Supplementary readings, including Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*, support visual literacy and narrative development alongside technical exploration, helping students connect conceptual thinking with creative practice.



Course announcements highlight guest critics, project milestones, and emerging developments in AI. By integrating timely industry updates, the course reinforces real-world relevance and encourages students to remain actively engaged with ongoing ethical, cultural, and technological conversations. Supplementary course materials support independent exploration and conceptual grounding, providing curated readings, tool guides, and references that enable iterative experimentation and informed design decision-making across disciplines, contexts, and evolving professional creative environments.

Student Creative Works: Picture Books and AI-Driven Visual Narratives

The following projects showcase student explorations of generative AI as a creative partner in storytelling. Through picture books and AI-assisted video works, students combine human authorship with computational tools to craft narratives grounded in intention, ethics, and visual expression. These works reflect thoughtful engagement with emerging technologies while maintaining artistic agency and conceptual clarity.

Picture Book:

The Midnight Mischief of Dixie and Bug:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/aghj/>

The Inventive Mind: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/wrmj/>

Twinkle's Night: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/pelm/>

Adventures of Wizzle: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/izcah/uosr/>

AI Video Projects

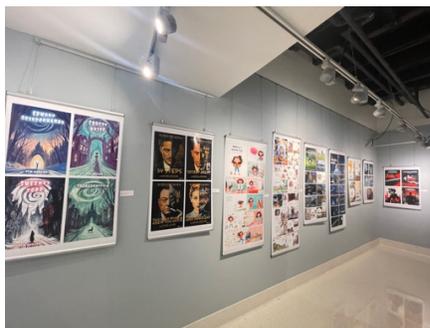
Music Video: <https://youtu.be/kGdTcguKRrQ>

Commercial Ad: <https://youtu.be/9BPD8jOcoys>

Commercial Ad: <https://youtu.be/lyRFbopg7Uo>

Narrative Commercial: <https://youtu.be/zpf1xST9f5Q>

Experimental Narrative: https://youtu.be/W0Jq1_6pUIQ



Supplementary Materials

Syllabus & Assignment Sheets

VICO 3454/5454
Generative AI for Visual Communication
 SPRING 2024-2025 | VICO 3454 & 5454
 TTh 3:30 - 4:50 AM | RTV 403

INSTRUCTOR: Admin Dardo (adard@ohio.edu)
 OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 OHIO UNIVERSITY | School of Visual Communication

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
 This course introduces students to the visual creation of Generative AI, focusing on its applications in creating engaging visual content. Through lectures, hands-on workshops, and projects, students will explore how text-to-image generation, AI-generated video, and AI-powered storytelling are transforming the fields of design and visual communication. By the end of the course, students will have developed a comprehensive understanding of Generative AI tools and how to apply them creatively in their projects.

As you work through this course, aim to achieve the following:

- Students will be able to understand the principles and ethics of Generative AI in the context of visual communication.
- Students will be able to apply text-to-image AI technologies to generate visual content and editing tools.
- Students will be able to utilize AI for storytelling and narrative development in visual projects.
- Students will be able to interpret and critique Generative AI projects with a focus on design and communication objectives.

GRADING

Attendance	10
Reflections + Presentations	30
Projects	40
Portfolio	20
TOTAL	100%

NOTE: All grades are calculated on a 100-point scale. The final grade is determined by the average of all grades earned on all assignments.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxhxtt8j>

Generative Sparks Exhibit

Generative Sparks
 2025 STUDENT SHOWCASE

Opens Sep. 11, 2025
 VisiCom Focus Gallery
 Schooner Center
 Ohio University

Generative Sparks is a curated exhibition of the most compelling student work from 2024-2025. It is a celebration of the creative possibilities of Generative AI, showcasing the work of students who have pushed the boundaries of what is possible with these tools. The exhibition is a testament to the power of AI as a creative partner, and it is a testament to the creativity and ingenuity of the students who have used it to create such remarkable work. The exhibition is a must-see for anyone interested in the future of art and design, and it is a testament to the power of AI as a creative partner.

<https://tinyurl.com/38p2ywap>

Research Paper

**Human-AI Collaboration in Children's Book Creation:
 An Empirical Study of Visual Storytelling, Process, and Pedagogy**
 Admin Dardo (Ohio University)

ABSTRACT

The integration of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools into children's book creation offers unprecedented opportunities to democratize visual storytelling and refine creative education. This study investigates how undergraduate and graduate students navigated AI-assisted storytelling in a university-level visual communication course. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach that includes instructor evaluations, structured process briefs, and post-project surveys, the research identifies patterns in creative workflows, challenges encountered, and the development of hybrid creative literacies.

Findings reveal that while AI platforms such as Midjourney and Adobe Firefly accelerated ideation and made visual creation accessible to non-illustrators, human critical judgment remained indispensable. Students who demonstrated strong emotional storytelling, visual consistency, and strategic refinement of AI outputs produced the most successful projects. The study introduces the "Living Loop Model of Human-AI Collaborative Creation," emphasizing iterative cycles of ideation, prototyping, editing, and reflection.

Pedagogical insights underscore the importance of structured critique, prompt literacy development, manual editing skills, and emotional narrative planning. While AI expanded creative possibilities, students' ability to maintain narrative coherence and emotional resonance ultimately defined project success. The research concludes with recommendations for integrating

<https://tinyurl.com/2zmjtdfm>

MORE MATERIALS AND IMAGES HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/yp6ehx2j>