

# EVAC

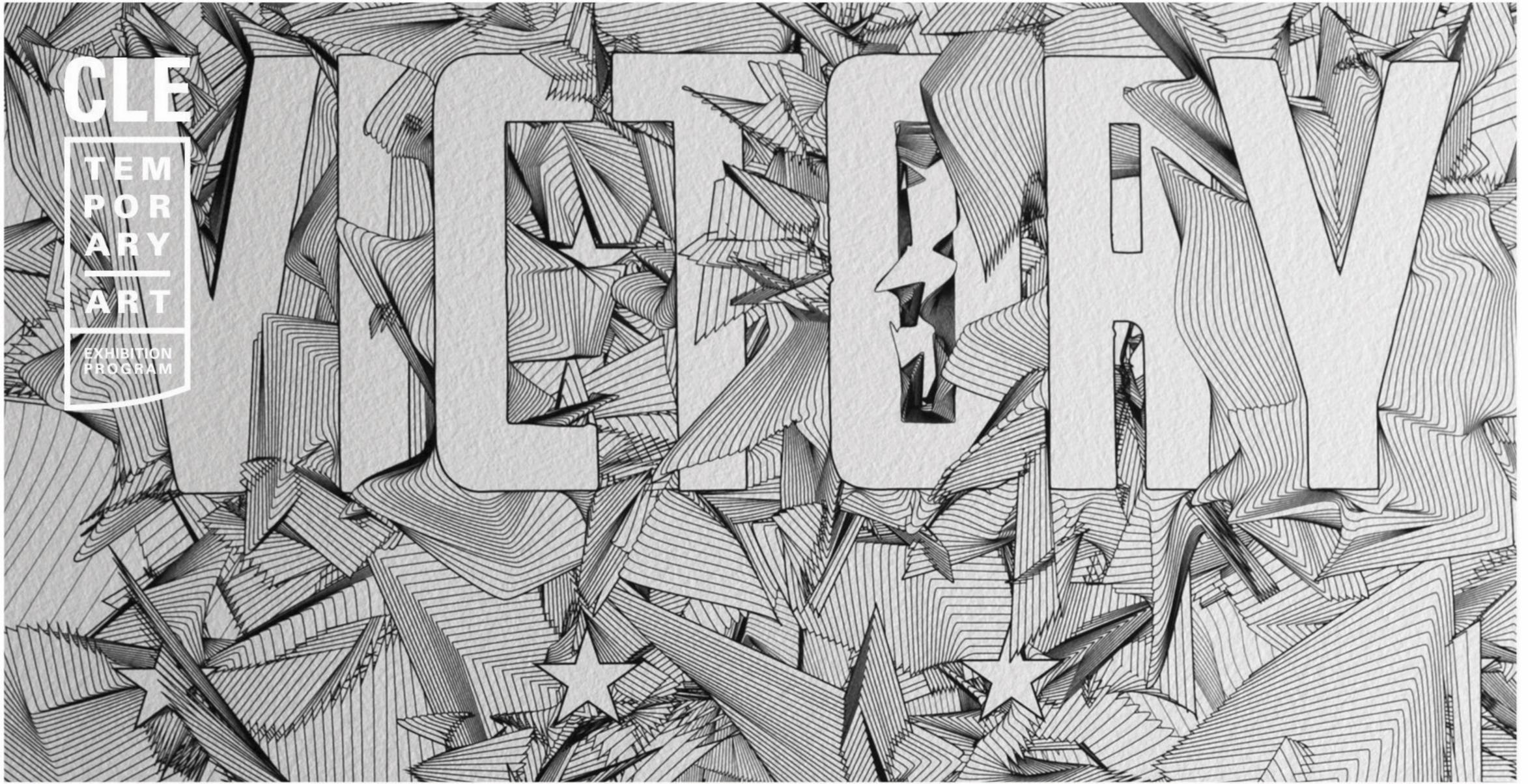
EXPERIENCING VETERANS & ARTISTS COLLABORATION

NOVEMBER 1, 2017 - JANUARY 31, 2018

THE FEATURED ARTISTS SERIES

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ART GALLERY





## CLE TEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION PROGRAM

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CLE Temporary Art Exhibition Program was created to showcase the diversity of arts and culture of Northeast Ohio. Museums, cultural institutions, art organizations as well as individual artists are afforded opportunities to exhibit their collections of original artwork and photography in the airport.

To browse current and past exhibitions or for more information, please visit [clevelandairport.com/art](http://clevelandairport.com/art)



## ABOUT EVAC

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EVAC brings together 22 veterans and 23 artists. Veterans from all branches of the military with service during WWII through Iraq/Afghanistan, were interviewed about their experiences. Artists then visually interpreted their stories. Excerpts from the interviews are displayed with the art. Full interviews may be read at [www.evacproject.com](http://www.evacproject.com)

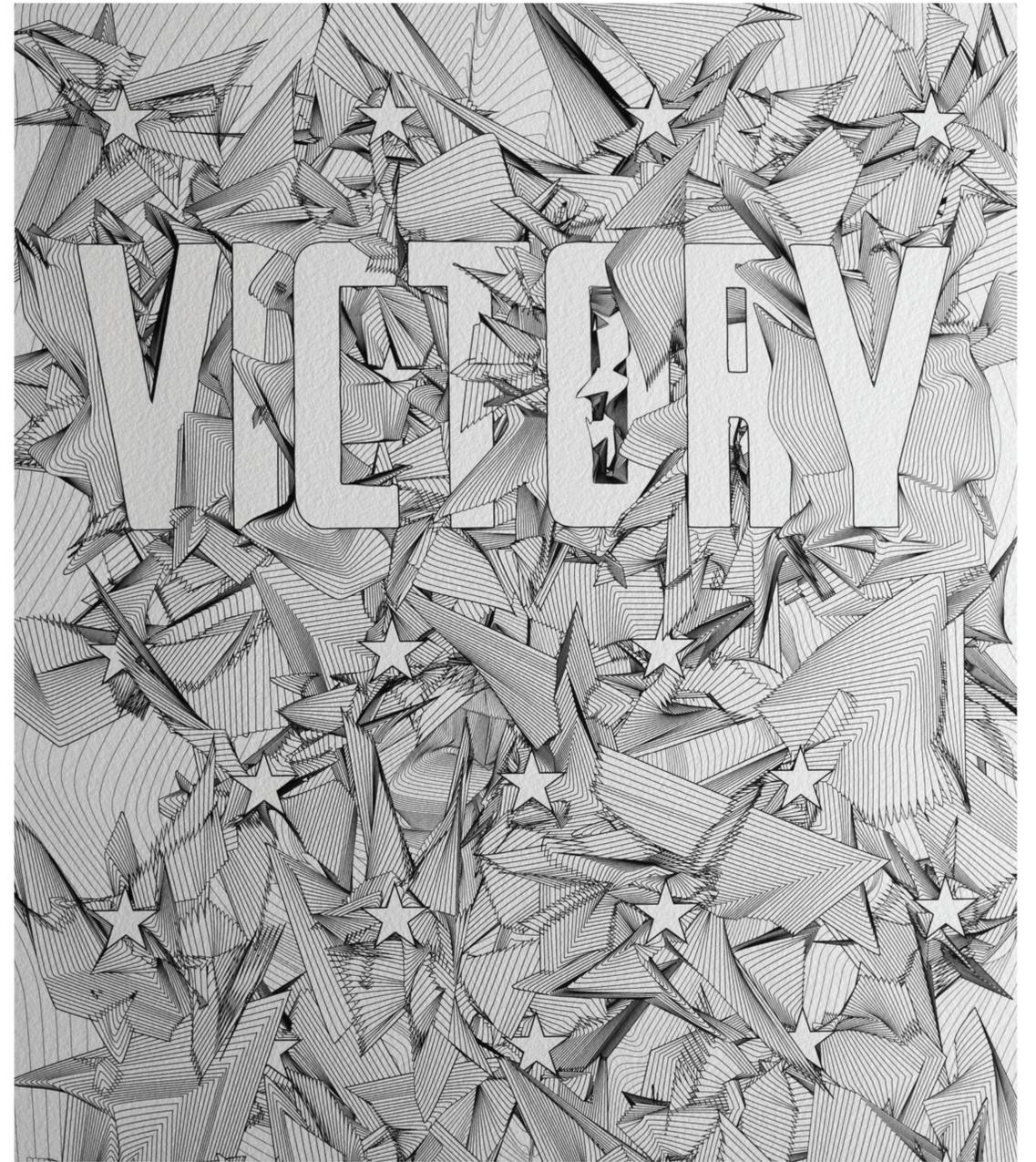
Through this process of interpretation, EVAC works to combat the isolation common to veterans and bridge the gap between the military and civilian life. Mental health providers are losing the battle with helping veterans because veterans are feel isolated and don't want to ask for help. Veterans are committing suicide at a rate of 20 per day. The Iraq and Afghanistan veteran suicide rate is the second highest since WWI. Studies show veterans sharing their stories are critical to PTSD recovery. With EVAC, veterans have an opportunity to share their stories one time, and have that story impact many more people.



## YURI HIRATSUKA, "GSW," ETCHING

*Mitch, Army, Vietnam*

I had one of the guys go over and take a sample - scoop up all the maggots he could find. He brought the maggots back and I put them on my arms and legs. And they started eating dead tissue, which stopped the bleeding. That lasted until the evacuation helicopters came and got us - everybody that was wounded. They got put in the chopper and the medic looked at me and seen the maggots and thought I was already dead.



## ANDREW POLK, "PARIS - WHEN THE WAR ENDED," DIGITAL PRINT

*Joe, Army, WWII*

We were going to build an airfield in a little town. We took over a tremendous cabbage patch. There was cabbage as far as the eye could see. Our job was to strip that and make runways out of it.

## MAGGIE DENK-LEIGH, "EVAC: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD", RELIEF

*Dan, Marine, Desert Storm*

I have stories to tell my kids and my grandkids, you know? There are some stories I'll never tell them, just 'cause there's only three people that need to know about them - and that's the enemy, me, and my God.

## CURATORS

**Lee Fearnside** Associate Professor of Art, is also the Director of the Diane Kidd Gallery at Tiffin University. As Gallery Director, she has curated group exhibitions around themes of sustainability, diversity, food systems and art from Ohio prisons, funded in part by grants from the Ohio Arts Council and the Ohio Humanities Council. Her photographic work has been exhibited in galleries in New England, the Midwest and in national juried shows. Fearnside earned an M.F.A in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design, and a M.S. in Arts Administration from Drexel University.

**Joseph Van Kerkhove** is an Assistant Professor of Art at Tiffin University in Tiffin, OH. He holds an M.F.A. in Printmaking from Indiana University and a B.F.A. from The Columbus College of Art and Design. Joseph's work incorporates various printmaking techniques, both traditional and experimental, that express his personal experiences. He manipulates familiar images into complex compositions that allow the viewer to reflect and relate the images to their memories and personal experiences. Joseph's artworks have been exhibited in a variety of venues nationally and internationally. He is represented by Harris-Stanton Gallery in Cleveland and Akron.

**Dr. John Schupp** is Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Tiffin University. He has twenty-five years experience in the synthetic crystal industry, from 1980 to 2005, and he received four patents in 2002. Dr. Schupp started a student veteran program at Cleveland State in Fall 2006, and since 2009, he has spoken to over 1,000 campuses nationwide regarding veteran education. He helped write, pass and fund legislation for FIPSE grants in 2010 and 2014, which provided \$20M in grants to over twenty campuses nationwide for veteran education. Dr. Schupp is the winner of the Zachary Fisher Humanitarian of the Year award from the Department of Defense, and his name is on a plaque in the Pentagon for this honor.



TIFFIN  
UNIVERSITY



Acknowledgements: CLE Temporary Art Exhibition Program thanks the curators, Lee Fearnside, Director of the Diane Kidd Gallery, Joseph Van Kerkhove, Assistant Professor of Art and John Schupp, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Tiffin University, Lauren R. Pacini, West Shore Frames and all participating artists and veterans.

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