

John Hairston, Jr

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – John Hairston Jr. is a new assistant professor of illustration and multimedia for Winthrop University's Department of Design within the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Hairston brings a successful teaching and exhibition record, as well as a proven track record of commercial art and illustration commissions. He earned his MFA in illustration from the University of Hartford and his BFA from the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Upon hire, Hairston enthusiastically wrote back, "Let's work!"

Hairston's work mixes street art and expressionist sensibilities, with lively colors that result in a unique aesthetic. Clients include but are not limited to: ACC Network, Raycom Sports, the NBA, the NFL, the NCAA, The Wu-Tang, Del The Funky Homosapien, Earthgang, and the Grammy award nominated children's album "The Perfect Quirk" by Secret Agent 23 Skidoo. He won the *Charlotte Shout! Poster Contest* in 2018 and the *Midsouth Regional Emmy* in 2015.

Professor Jason Tselentis, chairperson of the Department of Design, is eager for Hairston to join the team. "We have somebody who can hit the ground running, teaching all levels of illustration," Tselentis said, "and because he has a firm grip of visual culture, popular culture, and design history, Hairston brings an added level of expertise to the team." Hairston, excited to be a part of Winthrop said he's "stoked to get it going!!" So are we, John. Welcome to the Winthrop team!

Winthrop University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) is the academic home to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in dance, design, studio arts, music, and theatre. Winthrop is one of the few universities in the United States—and the *only* public or private institution in South Carolina—with all five of its undergraduate and graduate arts programs nationally accredited (NASAD, NAST, NASD, NASM, CIDA). In addition, Winthrop's arts education programs in art, music, theatre, and dance are accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

For more information about the College of Visual and Performing Arts, contact Lauren Grad, director of communications and community engagement for #artswinthrop, 803/323-2399 or gradl@winthrop.edu.