



**INTERNATIONAL VISUAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION**

*Bringing together visual literacy educators, creators,  
thinkers and innovators since 1969*

## **International Visual Literacy Association Announces 2025 Award Recipients**

Aguascalientes, Mexico  
November 2025

The International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA) proudly announces the recipients of its 2025 Annual Awards, recognizing outstanding scholarship, creativity, and service in the advancement of visual literacy. These distinguished honorees were celebrated during the 57th Annual IVLA Conference, “The Power of Images in Sacred and Festive Spaces,” hosted by the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, Mexico.

### **Emerging Researcher Award**

Dr. Pınar Nuhoğlu Kibar

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology,  
Hacettepe University, Turkey

Established in 2022, this award honors members actively building a scholarly record and advancing research in visual literacy.

Dr. Pınar Nuhoğlu Kibar exemplifies the spirit of this recognition through her rigorous scholarship, international collaboration, and innovative approaches to visual literacy pedagogy. Since completing her Ph.D. in 2016 on a design model for infographics as a learning strategy, Dr. Kibar has made significant contributions to understanding the role of infographics, visualization, and multimedia in education. Her highly cited publications in the *Journal of Visual Literacy* and other international journals have shaped contemporary conversations around visual complexity and learning design.

As guest editor of *JVL* (Volume 43, Issue 2, 2024), she curated the special issue “Infographic Creation for Generation Alpha,” demonstrating visionary leadership and scholarly precision. Her research, supported by Erasmus+ and IVLA grants, continues to explore emerging intersections between generative AI and visual communication.

## **Distinguished Researcher Award**

Dr. Dana S. Thompson  
Assistant Dean of Libraries, Murray State University, USA  
MFA, MA, MLIS

This award recognizes members whose sustained scholarly contributions have significantly shaped the field of visual literacy.

Dr. Dana S. Thompson's prolific research, editorial work, and professional leadership have redefined how visual literacy is taught and understood across disciplines. Her recent publications, including *A Slow Approach to Visual Literacy in Higher Education* (ALA Editions, 2024) and *Unframing the Visual* (ACRL, 2024), advance human-centered, reflective pedagogies that emphasize care and critical observation.

The current IVLA President, Dr. Thompson has expanded the association's global reach through exhibitions, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and editorial innovation. Her integrative scholarship continues to inspire both theoretical advancement and practical application in higher education worldwide.

## **Creative Achievement Award**

Iryna Z. Molodecky  
IZM Visuals, Sheridan College, Pilon School of Business, Canada

The Creative Achievement Award honors ongoing creative work that advances visual literacy through design excellence, innovation, and conceptual insight.

With more than 25 years of experience in design, illustration, and creative facilitation, Iryna Molodecky has transformed visual pedagogy through her development of accessible, visually driven learning tools. Her *Visual Toolkit for Teaching and Learning Business* and *Visual Thinking Strategies for Creative Problem-Solving* card deck (launched at IVLA's 55th Annual Conference) empower educators to integrate drawing and visualization into teaching and problem-solving.

Her creative leadership, spanning design education, authorship, and conference contributions, embodies the spirit of visual literacy as a catalyst for creativity and connection.

## **James G. Sucky Distinguished Service Award**

Michelle Wendt  
Stockton University, USA

This honor celebrates exceptional dedication to IVLA through extraordinary service and leadership that advances the mission of the Association.

Since joining the IVLA Board in 2017, Past President, Michelle Wendt has provided steadfast leadership and community-building through her work with the Conference Planning Committee and beyond. Her initiatives have strengthened IVLA's role as a hub for interdisciplinary dialogue, connecting educators, artists, and researchers worldwide.

At Stockton University, her integration of design thinking, technology, and visual literacy has empowered students and educators to engage deeply with visual communication. Her inclusive, collaborative approach exemplifies the legacy of James G. Sucey and the ethos of service through scholarship.

### **About the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA)**

Founded in 1968, IVLA is a global network of scholars, educators, designers, and artists dedicated to the study and advancement of visual literacy—the ability to interpret and create meaning from images in a visually driven world. Through its conferences, publications, and community initiatives, IVLA fosters interdisciplinary research and creative practice across education, art, media, and technology.

Learn more at [www.ivla.org](http://www.ivla.org) or contact [info@ivla.org](mailto:info@ivla.org) for media inquiries.