

# ASHLEY EDGERTON OATES

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I am an enthusiastic, highly organized visual arts educator with 25 years of teaching experience who seeks new opportunities within an arts organization or non-profit. Being an artist and working with visiting artists within an educational setting, I love to make creative connections between art, culture, and people through hands-on projects and collaboration. With grant-writing experience and program building from the ground up, I am well positioned to work with various constituencies to create new and exciting opportunities for a community.

## EDUCATION

**Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking and Book Arts**, Memphis College of Art, Memphis, TN

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Honors**, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA

graduated **Phi Beta Kappa** – National Honor Society in the Liberal Arts and Sciences

and **Phi Sigma Alpha**, National Honor Society in Political Science | Hollins Scholar - Academic Scholarship

## EDUCATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**John Burroughs School St. Louis, MO | Visual Arts Educator – Full-time Faculty | 2017 – Present**

- Responsible for implementing and often revising visual art curricula for high school classes: Printmaking, Photography II, Drawing and Painting II and middle school 2-dimensional Design
- Work with visiting artists to facilitate collaboration with our students on projects and art analysis
- Founder and faculty sponsor of *Art Empowerment* at The Women's Safe House
- Faculty sponsor of the student group Gender Equity Organization
- Faculty sponsor for the St. Louis Young Women's Leadership conference scheduled for April 4, 2024
- Member of the Fine Arts Advisory Committee which oversees the school's extensive art collection and yearly exhibition roster
- Academic Advisor for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Collaborate with Aim High leaders on a yearly visual arts project created by Aim High students
- Assist students in applying to local, regional, and national juried art contests and exhibitions

**Isidore Newman School New Orleans, LA | Visual Arts Educator – Full-time Faculty | 2015 – 2017**

- Implemented visual arts curricula for high school classes: Introduction to the Studio Arts, Drawing, Printmaking, Beginning Photography, and Advanced Photography
- Collaborated with the non-profit Breakthrough New Orleans *Arts Building Community* program by coordinating artists' workshops for students resulting in spring exhibitions at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art
- Worked with visiting artists exhibiting in the school gallery to help facilitate collaboration with high school students
- Assisted students in applying to local, regional, and national juried art contests and exhibitions

**Dexter Southfield School Brookline, MA | Visual Arts Educator – Full-time Faculty | 2010 – 2015**

- Revised and implemented visual arts curricula for studio arts classes including grades 1, 2, 3, 6 and high school digital photography
- Faculty sponsor for the weekly MSPCA Animal Shelter volunteer program 2012 - 2015
- Photographic advisor to the yearbook 2013 – 2015

**Needham High School Needham, MA | Long-Term substitute Educator High School Visual Art | 2009 – 2010**

- Taught Photo I (digital and analogue), Art I (2-D and 3-D), Drawing and Painting
- Massachusetts Department of Education Preliminary License in Visual Art (K-8 / 5-12) Certificate # 439705

### **The University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL | Instructor | 2003 – 2008**

- **Department of Art:** revised curriculum for **2-D Design, Drawing I and II, Photography I – IV**, and created an entirely new course for a 100-student art survey **Introduction to the Visual Arts**
- **Honors College:** developed an honors-seminar **Art, Politics, and Propaganda**
- **Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Senior Fellow:** designed a photographic theory seminar course **The Ubiquitous Photograph** and taught the **Freshman Foundations** course incorporating philosophy, political theory, and literature

### **CERTIFICATIONS, COLLABORATIVE WORK, and GRANT FUNDING**

#### **The Women's Safe House | Founder of Art Empowerment, St. Louis, MO | 2021 – Present**

Through my involvement with community outreach at John Burroughs School, I developed a collaborative visual arts program for women and children recovering from domestic abuse in the St. Louis region. Through bi-monthly art nights, high school students from John Burroughs School engage with children ages 5 - 16 to encourage creativity and healing through trauma-informed art making. I also facilitate a separate trauma-informed art project with the women at TWSH running concurrently with the art night for kids.

#### **Arts and Healing Initiative Grant through the Arts and Education Council, St. Louis, MO**

Conceived and helped prepare the written grant application to support the *Art Empowerment* program I created for women and children who are fleeing domestic violence and residing at The Women's Safe House (TWSH) in St. Louis. Co-wrote the Arts and Healing Initiative Grant with TWSH receiving \$12,000 from the Arts and Education Council to fund this program in 2022 – 2023 and recently received another year of full funding for 2023 – 2024. Art projects, field trips, and a summer arts camp for children made possible with this grant.

#### **A Window Between Worlds | Facilitator Certification for Trauma-Informed Art, Los Angeles, CA | March 2023**

This live-webinar training is integral to the work I do at The Women's Safe House and with my students at John Burroughs School because it teaches facilitators how to provide a safe environment for participants "to express themselves and tell their stories, build resilience, identify and name emotions, self-regulate, gain a stronger sense of self-worth."

#### **Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MOCADSV) | December 2022**

Received certification through MOCADSV's 48-hour **Advocates Academy Training** required by all people working with victims of domestic and/or sexual abuse.

#### **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards | Healing Through Creativity Workshop | October 2021**

Attended the educator's live-webinar workshop presented by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. This workshop focused on resiliency, protective factors, and empowerment that visual art provides - especially for those who have experienced trauma.

#### **Witnessing Whiteness | Group Sessions at the YMCA, St. Louis | August - December 2019**

This five-month class uses the book *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It* by Shelly Tochluk to explore systemic racism in our country and to help people who identify as white to be active in dismantling racist practices and to encourage strategies for a more equitable world.

#### **Cultural Competency Training | John Burroughs School | 2018 – 2019**

Worked one-on-one with a cultural competency coach for an entire academic year in order to learn more about unconscious biases and how to create an inclusive classroom environment.

### **HONORS, RESIDENCIES, and WORKSHOPS**

**The Women's Safe House**, Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for Art Empowerment, St. Louis, MO 2023

**Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts**, Gatlinburg, TN | Charcoal Drawing 2018 and 2023

**Craft Alliance**, Saint Louis, MO | Lost Wax Casting 2023

## **HONORS, RESIDENCIES, and WORKSHOPS continued**

**Penland School of Crafts**, Penland, NC | 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2016 | Papermaking, Photography, Lithography, and Metalsmithing

**School of Visual Arts**, Photography Residency, New York, NY 2007

**Vermont Studio Center**, Artist Grant and Residency in Sculpture, 2006

**Memphis Arts Council**, Emerging Artist Award, Memphis, TN 1998

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS 2013 to 2024** For more information go to <http://ashleyedgerton.com>

### **2023**

*Likeness: International Portrait Photography Exhibition*, Midwest Center for Photography, Wichita, KS

### **2022**

*Biennial Faculty Exhibition*, Bonsack Gallery at John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO

### **2020**

*Consciousness of Abstraction, Beyond Literal Appearance*, Juror: David Reif, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL

*2020 EMERGE*, Midwest Center for Photography, Wichita, KS

### **2018**

*Anti-Nostalgia: A group show of manipulated found photographs*, Curated by Olivia Huntley and Elin O'Hara Slavick  
The Carrack, Durham, NC

*Biennial Faculty Exhibition*, Bonsack Gallery at John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO

### **2017**

*37th Annual National Print Exhibition*, Juror: Patrick Flaherty, Artlink Contemporary Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN

### **2015**

*Neo-Pre-Proto-Anti-Para-Ultra-Contra-Post-Photography*, Spectre Arts, Durham, NC

*Graduate Cameras*, The Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill, NC

*Isidore Newman Faculty Biennial*, Reynolds Ryan Gallery, New Orleans, LA

### **2014**

*Your Work Here 2.0*, Photographic Resource Center at Boston University, Boston, MA

### **2013**

*Alumni Show Sharon Lee Hart and Ashley Oates*, Allcott Gallery, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Faculty Biennial*, Dexter Southfield Art Gallery, Brookline, MA

## **VISITING ARTIST LECTURES, GALLERY TALKS, and PANELS**

**Bonsack Gallery**, John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO 2017

**Space 301** at the Saenger Theatre, Mobile, AL 2008

**The University of Alabama**, Blount Undergraduate Initiative Convocation, Tuscaloosa, AL 2007

**The University of Alabama**, Department of Women's Studies, Tuscaloosa, AL 2006

**The University of the South**, Sewanee, TN 2003

**Art Museum** at The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 2003

**Elon University**, Elon, NC 2001

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*philoSOPHIA: A Journal of Transcontinental Feminism* editor Dr. Alyson Cole | Cover Art (Vol 10.2: 2020)

*The Daily Tar Heel* | Gabriella Cirelli "Alumni work looks at plight of animals" January 2013

*Art Papers* | Dorothy Joiner "The Red Clay Survey 2005 at the Huntsville Museum of Art" Nov / Dec 2005

*New Antigone: Journal of Women's Writing, Arts and Research* featured artist (Vol 1: October 2005)

*Number: An Independent Journal of the Arts* | Paul Behnke "Fifth Anniversary Show" Summer 2004

*Art Museum University of Memphis* | Johanna Edwards "A Summons to Memphis: Art & Remembrance" 2003

*Daily Helmsman* University of Memphis Ashley Brazzel | "Artist finds way..." February 2003

*Independent Weekly* | Elin O'Hara Slavick "Photographic Requiems: The Empathy of Ashley Oates" January 2002