

## **TOBY SISSON**

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### **EDUCATION**

2009 MFA, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
2003 BFA, Magna Cum Laude, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

### **SPECIALIZATIONS**

Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Collage, Collaborative Public Art, Community-Based Service Learning, Curatorial Projects

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

#### **2025**

*Bearing Witness*, The Higgins Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Clark University

#### **2019**

*Deconstructed American*, Howard Yezerksi Gallery, Boston, MA (curator: Howard Yezerksi, Gallery Director)

*Nacirema*, List Art Center, Brown University, Providence, RI (curator: Jo-Ann Conklin, Gallery Director)

#### **2017**

*The Soul of All Color, E.M.* Bannister Gallery, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI (curators: James Montford and Juan Jose Barboza-Gubo, Gallery Directors)

#### **2015**

*...and other poems*, Yellow Peril Gallery, Providence, RI (curator: Robert Stack, Gallery Director)

#### **2014**

*Then & Now*, Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery, SUNY Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY (curator: Pamela Blum, Professor of Art, SUNY DCC)

#### **2012**

*Into the Black: New Work by Toby Sisson*, Air Sweet Air Gallery, St. Paul, MN (curator: Cherlyn Wilgren Clyne, Gallery Director)

#### **2007**

*Visceral Response*, Boynton Health Center, University of Minnesota

*Organic Matters*, Harry M. Drake Gallery, St. Paul Academy, St. Paul, MN

#### **2006**

*Indigenous Immigrant*, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN (curator: Stephanie Hunder, Gallery Director)

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

#### **2026**

*Borderlands: Soft Margins, Hard Truths*, Cummings Gallery, Connecticut College, New London, CT (curator: Nico Okoro, Independent Curator)

#### **2025**

*Community & Connection*, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University, Providence, RI (curator: Stéphanie Larrieux, Associate Director, CSREA)

*Works in Progress*, Vermont Studio Center Gallery, Johnson, VT

*Thicket*, Overlap Gallery, Newport, RI, (curator: Kirstin Lamb, Independent Curator)

*Faculty Show*, CMACD Gallery, Clark University (curatorial team: Becker School of Design & Technology)

#### **2024**

*Catch the Fire*, Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA, (curator: Deborah Hall, Independent Curator)

*A Name. A Voice. A Life. The Black Newporters of the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI, (curators: Kaela Bleho, Collections Manager and Zoe Hume, Visiting Curator)

*Catch the Fire*, Krikorian Gallery, Worcester, MA, (curator: Deborah Hall, Independent Curator)

## 2023

*19 on Paper – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition*, Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI, (curator: Paul M. Murray, Independent Curator)

*Undercurrents*, Gallery A3 – Amherst Art Alliance, Amherst, MA, (curator: Amanda Herman, Artist and Visual Arts Education Curator at the University Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass Amherst)

*Book as Muse: Language & Image* Jamestown Art Center, Jamestown, RI, (curator: Danielle Ogden and Jeff Foye, Independent Curators)

## 2022

*A World of Difference*, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA, (curator: Black Student Union)

*Cultural Signs*, Sidney and Rosalie Rose Gallery, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA (curator: Nancy K. Burns, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs)

## 2021

*Celebrating Visual Arts at Clark*, Schiltkamp Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA (curator: Elli Crocker, Gallery Director)

## 2020

*Transcendent Futures*, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Brown University, Providence, RI (curator: Stephanie Larrieux, Associate Director)

*Bodies*, Schiltkamp Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA (curator: Elli Crocker, Gallery Director)

*Signs of the Times*, Ceres Gallery, New York, New York (curator: Joanne Mattera, Artist, New York, NY and Salem, MA)

*Case Rising*, Jamestown Art Center, Jamestown, RI (curators: Karen Conway, Exhibition Director and Bob Dilworth, Prof. of Art, University of Rhode Island)

*Big Paintings*, Fine Arts Center, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI (curator: James Montford, Artist, Boston, MA and Providence, RI)

## 2019

*Divine 2019: In Alliance with International Women's Day*, Skye Gallery, Providence, RI, (curator: Jonny Skye, Gallery Director)

*Patterns*, Krikorian Gallery, Worcester, MA (curators: Lisa Barthelson and Carrie Crane, Artists, Worcester, MA)

## 2018

*American | nacrimA*, Central Massachusetts Artists Initiative, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA (curator: Nancy K. Burns, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs)

*Connections*, Grimshaw Gudewicz Gallery, Fall River, MA (curator: Kathleen Hancock, Gallery Director)

*Organic to Geometric: Part 2*, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, MA (curator: Carol Pelletier, Chair of Fine Arts, Endicott College) (catalogue)

## 2017

*The Space Between Shadow and Light*, Gallery X, Truro Center for the Arts, Truro, MA (curator: Debra Claffey, Artist, New Boston, NH) (catalogue)

*Depth Perception*, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA (curators: Cherie Mittenenthal, Director, Truro Center for the Arts and Joanne Mattera, Artist, New York, NY and Salem, MA) (catalogue)

*Contemporary Directions: Niger to Afro Futurism*, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA (curator: Faith Lund, Gallery Director, Arno Maris Gallery) (catalogue)

## 2016

*Remnants of Time*, Kobalt Gallery, Provincetown, MA (curator: Francine D'Olimpio, Gallery Director, Kobalt Gallery)

*Harmony*, Tianjin Art Museum, Tianjin, China (curators: Liyu Zhang, Deputy Dean, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts and Meng Tang, Lecturer, University of Minnesota)

## 2015

*19 on Paper at the Spaulding Aldrich Heritage Gallery*, Whitinsville, MA

*Beyond Boundaries*, Teda Contemporary Art Museum, Tianjin, China (curators: Liyu Zhang, Deputy Dean, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts and Meng Tang, Lecturer, University of Minnesota) (catalogue)

*Minimal/Maximal*, Truro Center for the Arts, Truro, MA (Juror: Michael Carroll, Director, Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA)

*Organic to Geometric: Investigations in Structure and Surface*, Heftler Gallery, Endicott College, Beverly, MA (curator: Carol Pelletier, Chair of Fine Arts, Endicott College) (catalogue)

## 2014

*12<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Arts Exhibition*, Rhode Island Council of the Arts, Atrium Gallery, Providence, RI (curator: Monique Rolle Johnson, Artist, Cranston, RI)

*19 on Paper at The Hive*, Rodman Mill, North Kingstown, RI

*Swept Away: Translucence, Transparence, Transcendence in Contemporary Encaustic*, Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton, NJ (curator: Michael Giaquinto, Director, Cape Cod Museum of Art) (catalogue)

## 2013

*The Elephant in the Room*, Laconia Gallery, Boston, MA (curators: Linda Cordner and James Hull, Members, Laconia Gallery) (catalogue)

*Encaustic Conference Presenters Exhibition*, Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA

*Swept Away: Translucence, Transparence, Transcendence in Contemporary Encaustic*, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA (curator: Michael Giaquinto, Director, Cape Cod Museum of Art) (catalogue)

*1st Exposure Symposium*, Digital Exhibition, John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

*Form+Content+Context: 2013 Studio Art Faculty Exhibition*, Schiltkamp Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA

*Josephine Lutz Rollins Fellowship Exhibition*, Quarter Gallery, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

## 2012

*Encaustic Works '12 Biennial*, R&F Gallery, Kingston NY (curator: Laura Moriarty, Artist, Rosendale, NY) (catalogue)

*Pollination: Beyond the Garden*, Art Current Gallery, Provincetown, MA (curator: Gregory Wright, Artist, Lowell, MA) (catalogue)

*Merge: Encaustic and Contemporary Prints Invitational*, Truro Center for the Arts, Truro, MA (curator: Cherie Mittenthal, Director, Truro Center for the Arts)

*Encaustic Conference Presenters Exhibition*, Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA

*Monotype: On and Off the Wall*, Glassell Gallery, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (curator: Kathleen Lemoine, Artist, Baton Rouge, LA)

## 2011

*Pollination: Beyond the Garden*, Brush Gallery, Lowell, MA (curator: Gregory Wright, Artist, Lowell, MA)

*Shifting*, Hampden Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA (curator: Sue Katz, Artist, Amherst, MA)

*In Context: Art of Here and Now*, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA (juror: Annette Lemieux, Senior Lecturer, Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA)

*Off The Wall*, Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA (juror: Susan Stoops, Curator of Contemporary Art, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA)

*Wax in Motion*, Bowersock Gallery, Provincetown, MA (jurors: Kim Bernard, Artist, North Berwick, ME, and Steve Bowersock, Director, Bowersock Gallery)

*Sixth Annual Encaustic Invitational*, Conrad Wilde Gallery, Tucson, AZ (curator: Miles Conrad, Director, Conrad Wilde Gallery) (catalogue)

## 2010

*All the Time in the World*, Clark University, Worcester, MA (two-person exhibition with Cheryl Wilgren Clyne)

*Best Foot Forward*, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MN

*NEW*, Fairfield Arts Council Gallery, Fairfield, CT

## 2009

*Open Door 5*, Rosalux Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (juror: Colleen Sheehy, Director of Education, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN)

*Thesis*: Katherine Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota (MFA Thesis Exhibition) (catalogue)

## 2008

*Fresh Works*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

*Women's Work*, Homewood Studio's Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (curator: Chrys Laramy, Artist, Minneapolis, MN)

*Alumni Exhibition*, College of Visual Arts Gallery, St. Paul, MN

*Scholarship Exhibition*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

*Soul on Ice*, Soap Factory Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (curator: Pat Phillips, Artist, Minneapolis, MN)

**2007**

*MFA Open Studio Exhibition*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

*Drawing and Painting*, Larson Art Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

*Fresh Works*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

**2006**

*MFA Open Studio Exhibition*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

*Fresh Works*, Regis Center for Art, University of Minnesota

*Drawings and Encaustic Paintings*, 526 Gallery, St. Paul, MN

*Conversations: about roots*, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN (juror: Susan Brandeis, Artist, Minneapolis MN)

*St. Paul Art Crawl*, Open Studio Tour, St. Paul, MN

**2005**

*Sense of Place*, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN (juror: Claire Selkurt, University of St. Thomas)

*Beyond Borders*, Offbeat Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

*St. Paul Art Crawl*, Open Studio Tour, St. Paul, MN

*Northern Lights*, Century College, White Bear Lake, MN

**2004**

*Discovering Common Ground*, The Minneapolis Foundation, Minneapolis, MN

*St. Paul Art Crawl*, Open Studio Tour, St. Paul, MN

*Box Fresh*, Soap Factory Gallery — Mid-America CAA Conference, Minneapolis, MN

*Juried Printmaking Exhibition*, College of Visual Arts Gallery, St. Paul, MN

**2003**

*UP*, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN (BFA Thesis Exhibition)

*Artology*, AND Gallery, St. Paul, MN

**1999**

*Flesh*, College of Visual Arts Gallery, St. Paul, MN

*Annual Studio Show*, Brown & Nystrom Studios, Minneapolis, MN

**COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS**

**2020-22**

*Us Them We | Race Ethnicity Identity*, Worcester MA. A curatorial collaboration with Worcester Art Museum Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs, Nancy K. Burns, and studio art students at Clark University (on view at the Worcester Art Museum 2/19 – 6/19/2022)

**2017**

*Black Tears Community Drawing*, Worcester MA. A campus drawing event in collaboration with the Racial Justice Teach-In commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Clark University

**2015**

*Playing with Rules: Drawing on the Spirit of Sol LeWitt*, Worcester, MA. A wall drawing for The Higgins School of Humanities Spring Dialogue Symposium, “The Work of Play” in collaboration with studio art students at Clark University

**2009-10**

*The Friendly House Inc. Mural*, Worcester, MA. A public service project created in collaboration with The Friendly House Inc. (an affiliate of the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance) and studio art students at Clark University

**2007-08**

*The East St. Paul Gateway Rain Garden*, St. Paul, MN. An environmental and public art project collaborative with the Lower Phalen Creek Project, East Side Community Design Center, Conservation Youth Corps, City of St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation and the University of Minnesota Department of Art (Christine Baeumler, Laura Corcoran, Jamie Winter-Dawson, Anna Metcalfe)

*The Cedar-Riverside Arts Quarter Collaborative*, Minneapolis, MN. A community outreach pilot program with The Minneapolis Children’s Home Society & Family Services Youth Program and the University of Minnesota Department of Art (Laura Corcoran, Jamie Winter-Dawson, Anna Metcalfe)

## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

### **2025-26**

Faculty Development Grant, Clark University

### **2024-25**

Individual Research Grant, Higgins Institute for Arts and Humanities, Clark University

### **2020-21**

Individual Research Grant, Higgins School of the Humanities, Clark University

### **2020**

Nominated for Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Clark University students

### **2019**

Nominated for Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Clark University students

### **2018**

Higgins Interdisciplinary Activity Mini Grant with Asst. Prof. Asha Best (Geography), Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

### **2016-17**

Individual Research Grant, Higgins School of the Humanities, Clark University

### **2014**

Nominated for the International Encaustic Artists' (IEA) La Vendéenne Award in Artistry

Nominated for Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award by Clark University students

### **2012-13**

Individual Research Grant, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

### **2011-12**

Individual Research Grant, Higgins School of the Humanities, Clark University

### **2010-11**

Edward Hodgkins Junior Faculty Award, Clark University

### **2009-10**

Faculty Development Grant for Creative Endeavors, Clark University

Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

Individual Research Mini-Grant, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

### **2008-09**

MFA Travel Support for CAA Conference Attendance, Department of Art, University of Minnesota – Los Angeles, CA

Pioneer Scholarship Award, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

MFA Travel Support for Independent Research, Department of Art, University of Minnesota – New York, NY

### **2006-07**

Jacob Lawrence & Gwendolyn Knight Scholarship Award, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Josephine Lutz Rollins Scholarship Award, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

### **2006**

First Place Award of Merit, 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Northern Lights Exhibition, White Bear Lake, MN

### **2003**

Co-Valedictorian, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

### **2002-03**

First Place Award, Outstanding Artistic Achievement, Lowell Bobleter Scholarship, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

## **FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES**

### **2026**

Research Residency for Artists, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum, Providence, RI

### **2025**

Residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT

### **2023**

Practitioner Fellowship, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Brown University, Providence, RI

Residency, JX Farms, Cleveland, MS

**2018**

Higgins Fellowship, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

**2015-16**

Oliver and Dorothy Hayden Junior Faculty Fellowship, Clark University

**2012-13**

Alice and Milton Higgins Faculty Fellow, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

**2008-09**

Zelda and Max Berman Graduate Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

**2006-07**

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Nominated for Diversity of Views and Experience (DOVE Fellowship) by University of Minnesota faculty,  
Minneapolis, MN

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**2015-Present**

Associate Professor of Studio Art with Tenure, Department of Visual & Performing Arts, Clark University

**2015-2024**

Director, Studio Art Program, Visual & Performing Arts Department, Clark University

**2009-2015**

Assistant Professor of Studio Art, Visual & Performing Arts Department, Clark University

**2008-09**

Graduate Student Instructor of Record: Beginning Painting, Art Department, University of Minnesota

**2007-08**

Graduate Student Instructor of Record: Beginning Drawing, Art Department, University of Minnesota

**2006-08**

Teaching Assistant for Art Department Introductory Course: Concepts in Contemporary Visual Art, Art Department,  
University of Minnesota

### **CLARK UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT**

*Drawing: Eye, Mind, Hand* (ARTS102)

*Painting: Self-Made Worlds* (ARTS132)

*Painting: Beyond the Surface* (ARTS133)

*Painting: States of Being* (ARTS133)

*Special Topics in Art: Collage Aesthetics: Bits and Pieces Make a Whole* (ARTS 150)

*Special Topics in Art: Art & Activism* (ARTS 150)

*Studio Topics* (ARTS234, Capstone)

*Contemporary Directions* (ARTS274, first D&I course in the studio art major + Problems of Practice course)

*Advanced Studio: The Expanded Mark: New Strategies in Drawing* (ARTS280)

*Advanced Studio: The Spectrum of Abstraction* (ARTS280)

*Advanced Studio: Encaustic* (ARTS280)

*Senior Thesis* (ARTS289)

*Individual Directed Studies* (ARTS299: various topics in the arts)

*Mindful Choices Seminar* (HS012, Higgins School of Humanities Course)

### **CLARK UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**2025-Present**

Member, Undergraduate Academic Board (UAB), 3-year term

**2024-Present**

Associated Faculty, Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts, School of Professional Studies (SPS)

**2015-Present**

Steering Committee Member and Affiliate Faculty, Media, Culture & the Arts Program (MCA)

**2025**

Faculty Advisor, Bickman Music & Arts Summer Internship  
Chair, Studio Art Program Faculty Reappointment Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Participant, Best-In-Class Support for LGBTQIA+ Students, CETAL Office  
Participant, Admissions Open House: Destination Clark

**2024**

Participant, Admissions Open House  
Critique Reviewer, Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts, School of Professional Studies (SPS)  
Member, Screen Studies Program Tenure and Promotion Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Coordinator, Annual Review of V&PA Department Chair  
Site Visit Guide, CETAL Community Engaged Learning Summit at Worcester Art Museum  
Participant, External Review, Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Participant, Major Exploration Fair  
Member, Music Program Faculty Promotion Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts

**2023-24**

Internal to Department Mentor for pre-tenure faculty member James Maurelle (V&PA)

**2023**

Preparator, Studio Art Program Self-Study for External Review, Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Participant, Admissions Open House  
Interview Moderator with filmmaker Isabel Miranda, International Conference of Hispanic Women Filmmakers  
Panel Participant, CETL Community Engaged Learning Across Disciplines Workshop

**2022-23**

Member, Studio Art Program Faculty Search Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts

**2022**

Member, Studio Art Program Tenure and Promotion Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
Participant, Identity, Student Engagement, and Access (ISEA) Connections Event  
Co-Chair, *Clark Projections*, Strategic Framework Team  
Faculty Advisor, Bickman Music & Arts Summer Internship  
Featured Speaker, *A Celebration of Race & Identity in the Arts*, Clark Black Alumni Association  
Participant, Major Exploration Fair  
Exhibition Guide, Clark Administration Tour of *Us Them We / Race Ethnicity Identity*, Worcester Art Museum

**2019-22**

Member, Committee on Personnel (COP) 3-year term

**2021**

Participant, Admissions Open House

**2020**

Speaker, Major Spotlight Video for the Studio Art Program, Admissions Office  
Webinar Discussant, *Why Make Art in an Unjust World?*, Clark Together Summer Series

**2019-20**

Chair, Studio Art Program Faculty Search Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts

**2019**

Member, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Planning Committee  
Facilitator, Public Conversation with Tressie McMillan Cottom, Higgins School of Humanities

**2018-19**

External to Department Mentor for pre-tenure faculty member Florencia Sangermano (Geography Dept.)

**2011-19**

Member, Advisory Committee, African American Intellectual Culture Series

**2018**

Faculty Fellow, Evidence Symposium, Higgins School of Humanities

**2017-18**

Member, Dean of the Faculty Search Committee (Diversity Advocate)

**2017**

Member, Art History Program Faculty Promotion Committee, Department of Visual & Performing Arts

**2016**

Member, Screen Studies Program Faculty Search Committee (Diversity Advocate), Department of Visual & Performing Arts  
ACE Program Presenter — ALANA Student Orientation

Committee Member and Dialogue Panel Facilitator, "Race: A Campus Dialogue" Higgins School of Humanities

Dialogue Forum Participant, Climate Change Teach-In, "Black Lives Matter on Earth", Higgins School of Humanities

Panel Participant, New Faculty Orientation

**2012-2016**

Member, Difficult Dialogues Executive Committee, Higgins School of Humanities

**2015**

Faculty Discussant, New Student Orientation Academic Program

**2011-2015**

Director, Schiltkamp Gallery, Department of Visual & Performing Arts

Curator, *Awkward Other Party*, two-person exhibition on cross-cultural relationships by Rita Elizalde Crocker and Leejin Kim (2015)

Curator, *MINE*, solo exhibition of new work on the African slave trade by Torkwase Dyson (2014)

Co-curator, *damaged. truncated. incomplete. continue?*, solo exhibition of glitch aesthetic prints by Hugh Manon, (2014)

Curator, *Art After Clark: Studio Art Alumni Exhibition*, (2014)

Co-curator with Pamela Farrell, *CONstruct/conSTRUCT: The Organizing Principle*, group exhibition of collage and assemblage work (2013)

Co-curator with Sara Raffo, *Love Letters: The Intersection of Art and Design*, group exhibition of typographic artwork (2012)

Curator, *Voice to Vision*, visual narratives by holocaust and genocide survivors (2012)

Curator, *Kindred Spirits*, group exhibition of encaustic artwork (2011)

**2013**

Member, Planning Committee for HS012 Mindful Choices, Higgins School of Humanities

**2012**

Event Organizer, "Voice to Vision" exhibitions, lectures and workshop in collaboration with Prof. David Feinberg, University of Minnesota, sponsored by Higgins School of Humanities and the Strassler Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies

**2011-12**

Member, Advisory Group for the Mellon Foundation Humanities Initiative Grant, Higgins School of Humanities

**2011**

Participant, "Telling Her Story", Dialogue with Clark Students, Office of Intercultural Affairs

Participant, Admissions Open House for Admitted Students

Panel Participant, "Educating for What?" Difficult Dialogues Symposium, Higgins School of Humanities

**2010-11**

Member, College Board on Academic Integrity

**2010**

Event Organizer, "Day of Slowing" Visual Art Event in University Center, Higgins School of Humanities Symposium: Slowing in a Wired World

Participant, Admissions Preview Day

Participant, Admitted Student Academic Fair

Participant, ACE Summer Institute Pre-Orientation Event

**CLARK UNIVERSITY INVITED SPEAKERS**

**2024**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, Becci Davis, Lecturer at Brown University Department of Visual Art, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, "*We Are Rivers: Water as a Technology for Ancestral Connection and Memory-Keeping*." March 14

**2023**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, Alexis Callender, Professor of Painting and Drawing at Smith College, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, "*Imaginative Geographies and Radical Annotation*". October 23



**2022**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, Nancy K. Burns, The Stoddard Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Worcester Art Museum, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, *"Thinking Visually: Contemporary Curatorial Practice."* March 3

**2018**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, Keith Morris Washington, Professor of Studio Foundation at Massachusetts College of Art & Design, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, *"Within Our Gates: Site and Memory in the American Landscape."* October 17

**2017**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, William Chambers, Visual Arts Chair at the Bancroft School, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, *"Making Objects Do More: Social Practice and Destroying the Genius Myth."* October 18

**2016**

Studio Art Program Visiting Artist, Milisa Galazzi, Independent Artist, for a talk co-sponsored by The Higgins School of Humanities, *"Looking Forward><Looking Back: Observations on Artistic Growth."* February 1

**2013**

Higgins School of Humanities Symposium Topic: *What's the Difference? Thoughts on Diversity and Inclusion*, Wing Young Huie, Independent Artist, for the talk, *"Identity and the American Landscape: How do photographs form us"*, March 21

**2012**

Exhibiting Artists, David Feinberg, Professor of Painting in the Department of Art, University of Minnesota, and Fred Amram, Professor Emeritus of Creativity and Communication, University of Minnesota and Holocaust survivor, for a series of talks co-sponsored by the Schiltkamp Gallery, Strassler School of Holocaust & Genocide Studies and the Higgins School of Humanities, *"Voice to Vision: Visual Narratives by Holocaust and Genocide Survivors."* February 16, 22, and 23

**2010**

Higgins School of Humanities Symposium Topic: *Slowing in a Wired World*, Elaine Scarry, Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value at Harvard University, for the talk *"The Floor of the World."* November 18

Higgins School of Humanities Symposium Topic: *Slowing in a Wired World*, Cheryl Wilgren Clyne, Independent Artist, for a Difficult Dialogues Conversation, *"All the Time in the World."* November 2

**NON-UNIVERSITY / ARTS COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2017-Present**

Member, The Dark Room, an Independent Race and Visual Studies Collaborative Research Cluster, Cambridge, MA

**2026**

Juror, *I Declare*, Exhibition Selection Committee, New England Black Arts Collective, Worcester, MA

**2025**

Moderator, Dialogue with Present Tense Prize-winner Virginia Mahoney for the exhibition *Holding Thoughts*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Juror, *Present Tense Exhibition*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Juror, *Art in the Heart of Main South*, Sculpture Selection Committee, Worcester, MA

Panelist, *What You Need To Know About Exhibition Proposals*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Participant, Educator Focus Group for the reinstallation and reinterpretation of the American galleries, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

**2024**

Juror, *Rock, Paper, Scissors* Exhibition, Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI

Juror, *Art in the Heart of Main South* Sculpture Selection Committee, Worcester, MA

Panelist, *What You Need To Know About Exhibition Proposals*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

**2022-23**

Juror, Mechanics Hall Portraiture Artists Selection Committee, Worcester, MA

**2017-23**

Board Member, ArtsWorcester (Professional Development; Exhibition; and Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Committees), Worcester, MA

**2022**

Workshop Facilitator, *The Artist Statement: Writing with Clarity, Authenticity and Purpose*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA  
(also in 2016, '17, '18, '19, '20)

External Reviewer, Tenure and Promotion of Department of Art Faculty Member, Smith College, Northampton, MA

Juror, *Present Tense Exhibition*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Moderator, *Us Them We* Artist Panel Talk, Worcester Art Museum at Tuckerman Hall, Worcester, MA

Juror, John Paul Reardon Award, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Panelist, *What You Need To Know About Exhibition Proposals*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Juror, *Materials Needs Exhibition Grant*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

**2017-22**

Member, Collections Executive Committee, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

**2020**

Juror, *Present Tense Exhibition*, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

**2010-2020**

Corporator, Worcester Art Museum, (2010-2015 and 2015-2020 terms), Worcester, MA

**2018**

Juror, Drawing & Printmaking Fellowship Panel, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Providence, RI

**2016**

Juror, WCUW Mural, City of Worcester Public Art Working Group, Worcester, MA

**2013**

Juror, *Works on Paper/Works of Paper*, Aurora Gallery, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

**2012**

MFA Mentor: Fine Arts Work Center Summer Program, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA

**2011**

Docent Trainer, Art in The Park, Worcester Arts Council, Worcester, MA

**2010**

Juror, John Paul Reardon Award, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

**2007**

Admissions Review Panelist, Perpich High School for the Arts, Golden Valley, MN

**2003**

Admissions Representative, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

**2000-01**

Gallery Committee Representative, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

**LECTURES / PRESENTATIONS / ARTIST TALKS**

**2026**

(upcoming) Artist Talk, Institute for Black Intellectual and Cultural Life, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

**2025**

*Bearing Witness* Gallery Conversation with Prof. Asha Best, Director of the Center for Gender, Race, and Area Studies,  
Higgins Institute for Arts and Humanities, Clark University

Artist Talk, Upward Bound Summer Program, Clark University

Roundtable Discussant, *How Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Programs Can Thrive Despite the 2024 Election*,  
Solidarity and Speculative Futures Lunch Series, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

**2024**

Keynote Address, Practitioner Fellowship Capstone, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA),  
Brown University, Providence, RI

Panelist Speaker, *Art and Creative Expression in Challenging Times*, Race, Social Justice, and Democracy Plenary, Center  
for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Guest Lecture, *Artist as Truth Seeker*, Social Psychology course, PSYC 246: Black Feminism as Praxis, Psychology  
Department, Clark University

Artist Talk, Group Exhibition, *Catch the Fire*, Krikorian Gallery, Worcester, MA

**2023**

Conference Panel, *The Way Forward Post Pandemic*, 16<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

## 2022

Conference Speaker, *Meeting the Moment: The Power of Abstraction to Address Social Change*, 15<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

Artist Panel Talk, *Black Art and the Contours of Grief*, The Program in African American Studies, Dept. of Art History, Dept. of English and Creative Writing, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Keynote Address, Practitioner Fellowship Capstone, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), Brown University, Providence, RI

## 2021

Roundtable Discussant, *The Future of Art and Artists in a Post-Covid World*, RISD Museum of Art on behalf of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Providence Gallery Night, online public programming, Providence, RI

Panel Moderator, *Black Art: Collecting and Being Collected*, Speakers Series Webinar, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Roundtable Discussant, *Black Elegies in Sight & Sound*, CARE Syllabus: A Research and Praxis Initiative of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in collaboration with MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA

Dialogue Moderator, *Artist to Artist: Past is Prologue*, Speakers Series Webinar, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

## 2020

Panel Moderator, *What Black Art Means To Me*, Speakers Series Webinar, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA

Visiting Artist Lecture, *Diversity, Inclusion & Equity in Exhibition Culture*, Visual Art Senior Seminar, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Panel Speaker, Group Exhibition: *Case Rising*, Jamestown Art Association, Jamestown, RI

Artist Talk, *Evolving Perspective*, Worcester Art Museum, Central Massachusetts Artist Initiative, online video presentation, Worcester, MA

Artist Talk, Group Exhibition: *Big Paintings*, Fine Art Center, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

## 2019

Interview Facilitator: *An Evening with Tressie McMillan Cottom*, Clark University, Worcester, MA

Artist Talk, Group Exhibition: *Patterns*, Krikorian Gallery, Worcester, MA

## 2018

Artist Talk, Group Exhibition: *Connections*, Grimshaw Gudewicz Gallery, Fall River, MA

Panel Speaker: *The Soul of All Color*, Sonic Scenes Symposium, The Dark Room: Race and Visual Culture Collaborative Research Cluster, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

## 2017

Visiting Artist, Solo Exhibition: *The Soul of All Color*, E.M. Bannister Gallery, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Panel Speaker: *Saturday Afternoon Think Tank on Creative Teaching and Learning*, 11<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

Panel Speaker: *Color in Black Visual Art and Culture*, In conjunction with the exhibition *Contemporary Directions: Niger to Afro Futurism*, Arno Maris Gallery, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA

## 2016

Panel Speaker: *Standards and Practices in Teaching Encaustic: Demystifying Curriculum, Pedagogy and Critique*, 10<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

## 2015

Panel Speaker: *Raising the Bar: Standards and Practices in Teaching Encaustic*, 9<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

Visiting Artist Talk: *Contemporary Encaustic: Tradition meets Innovation*, in conjunction with the exhibition *Organic to Geometric: Investigations in Structure and Surface*, Endicott College, Beverly, MA

## 2014

Artist Talk with Wing Young Huie for his Exhibition, *What do you see?*, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

Panel Speaker: *Raising the Bar: Standards and Practices in Teaching Encaustic*, 8<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

Artist Talk, Group Exhibition: *Swept Away: Translucence, Transparency, Transcendence*, Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton, NJ

Visiting Artist, Solo Exhibition: *Then & Now*, SUNY Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY

Artists' Talk with Hugh Manon for his Exhibition, *damaged. truncated. incomplete. continue?* Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

**2013**

Panel Speaker: *Raising the Bar: Standards and Practices in Teaching Encaustic*, 7<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

**2012**

Panel Speaker: *Creativity in Our Practice*, 6<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

**2011**

Invited Lecture: *The Art of Critique*, 5<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

**2010**

Artists' Talk, Two-person Exhibition with Cheryl Wilgren Clyne: *All the Time in The World*, Higgins School of Humanities, Clark University

**2008**

Guest Lecture, Seminar Course: Women's Images & Images of Women, Department of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

**2007**

Guest Lecture, Upper Division Studio Art Seminar, St. Paul Academy, St. Paul, MN

**2006**

Guest Lecture, Studio Course: Intermediate Painting, Department of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Visiting Artist, Solo Exhibition: Indigenous Immigrant, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

**PRESS INTERVIEWS / REVIEWS**

**2024**

"A Name, A Voice, A Life: A new database and exhibit at the Newport Historical Society explore local Black history from The 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries", Helena Touhey for Newport Life Magazine, P 56-61, May/June, Newport, RI

"Artists 'Catch the Fire' at Black History Month exhibit at Worcester Crafts Center", Richard Duckett for Worcester Magazine Arts Section, Telegram & Gazette, *telegram.com*, January 25, 2024, Worcester, MA

**2023**

"The Shape of Language", Eleanor Rowe-Stefanik for Newport Life Magazine, exhibition review of *Book as Muse* exhibition at the Jamestown Art Center, *newportlifemagazine.com*, August 31, 2023, Newport, RI

"Painting history: Mechanics Hall readies new portraits of four 19<sup>th</sup> century Black leaders" Nancy Sheehan for Worcester Magazine, Arts Section, *worcestermag.com*, June 28, 2023, updated July 3, 2023, Worcester, MA

**2022**

"Toby Sisson: The Political Potency of Graffiti" Michelle May for Juniper Rag Magazine, Vol. 3, P 66-67, *juniperrag.com*, June 2022, Paxton and Newton, MA

"Many Layers to Uncover: WAM Invites Us to Explore the Plurality of Identity" Claudia Fiks for ArtScope Magazine, *artscopemagazine.com*, 3 March, Boston, MA

"Asking the urgent questions in 'Us Them We' at Worcester Art Museum" Cate McQuaid for The Boston Globe, *bostonglobe.com*, 23 February, Boston, MA

"New exhibition at Worcester Art Museum highlights art and identity" Meghan Parsons for Spectrum News 1, *spectrumnews1.com*, 18 February, Worcester, MA

"Contemporary artists explore identity in Worcester Art Museum's 'Us Them We'" Richard Duckett of Worcester Magazine, *worcestermag.com*, 16 February, Worcester, MA

"Worcester museum's 'Us Them We' surveys political landscape" Auction Central News, *liveauctioneers.com*, 1 February, New York, NY

**2021**

"Collaboration explores identity through the lens of visual strategy" Exhibition Preview in Access Magazine, Fall/Winter 2021, P10, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

"Rhody Maker" Interview with Amy Martin, Rhode Island Monthly, *rimonthly.com*, 16 June, Providence, RI

**2020**

"People & Places" R&F Handmade Paints Art Blog, 24 August, Kingston, NY

**2019**

"inquiry" W/CN Radio Broadcast, Interview with host Mark Lynch, October 27, Worcester, MA

"The Ticket: What's Happening in the Local Art World" feature by Cate McQuaid, *bostonglobe.com*, Boston Globe News Online, 20 October, Boston, MA

## 2018

"Making a Connection at BCC's Gallery" review by Linda Murphy, *heraldnews.com*, Fall River Herald News online, 29 August, Fall River, MA

## 2017

"The Soul of All Color" essay by Kimberly Juanita Brown, *ric.edu*, Rhode Island College, Bannister Gallery webpage, 9 November 2017, Providence, RI

"An Aggregate of Forces: 60 Women Artists Over 60" Joanne Mattera Art Blog, 2 August, New York, NY

"Exploring The Gray Area" article by Nathan Frontiero, *TheTakeMagazine.com*, 24 April, Northampton, MA

"Art/Community/Education: The Art of Teaching", article by Milisa Galazzi, *ProWaxJournal.com*, issue 16: April-June

"Artists to Watch in 2017", article by John Arvanitis, *TheTakeMagazine.com*, 6 February, Northampton, MA

## 2015

"Toby Sisson: ...and other poems", Joanne Mattera Art Blog, 24 May, New York, NY

## 2014

"The Beauty and Ambiguity of Toby Sisson's Black-and-White Art", essay by Lynn Woods, Poughkeepsie, NY

"What Inspires Me", *Poughkeepsie Journal*, Feature Article, 21 February, p5E, Poughkeepsie, NY

"Then & Now", *Daily Freeman.com*, Art Beat Preview, 20 February, Kingston, NY

## 2012

"Into The Black", Exhibition Review by Susannah Schouweiler, *KnightArts.Org*, 30 July, St. Paul, MN

"Into The Black", *City Pages*, "A" List Preview, 12-18 July, p29+31, Mpls./St. Paul, MN

"Invited Artist Interview", *Lynette Haggard Art Blog*, 29 January, Framingham, MA

## 2011

"Shifting", Exhibition Review by Tony Maroulis, *Artscope Magazine*, November-December, p34-35, Boston, MA

"Pollination: Beyond the Garden", Exhibition Review by James Dymont, *Artscope Magazine*, November-December, p32, Boston, MA

"Layers of Luminosity", *Worcester Magazine*, 13-19 Oct., p24. Worcester, MA

"Waxing Poetic", Exhibition Announcement, *Preview Massachusetts*, October, p11-13. Northampton, MA

"Notes From Land's End", *Provincetown.com*, 6 June, Featured Artist/Speaker from the 5<sup>th</sup> International Encaustic Conference, Provincetown, MA

"Alumni Profile", Featured 2003 Graduate of College of Visual Arts, *CVA.edu* St. Paul MN

"January Artist of the Month", Interview with Laura Moriarty, R&F Online Gallery, Kingston NY

## 2009

"Inquiry", Interview with Mark Lynch, *WICN* Radio Broadcast, Worcester, MA, Sept.

"From Barroom to Classroom", Interview with Danielle M. Williamson, *Telegram & Gazette*, 20 Sept. :B1. Worcester, MA

"Visual Thesis", Interview for MFA Exhibition Opening with Matt Peiken, Producer, *3-Minute Egg Art Videos*, Minneapolis, MN

## 2006

"Artistic Mixology", *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, 20 Apr. :G8. St. Paul, MN

## 2005

"Beneath the Surface", *The Aquin*, Vol.LXXXX.2., Sept. p6. University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN

"The Relationship Between Grief and Celebration", illustration, *Reflections: Artists and Writers Journal*, Vol. 1, p3, Hibbing, MN

## 2004

"Solstice River VIII", Sound Collage, *KBEM* Radio Broadcast, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

## EXHIBITION CATALOGUES / PUBLICATIONS / ILLUSTRATIONS

### 2025

*Black Elegies*, Kimberly Juanita Brown, in-text illustration and description, p27-30 + 44 – "Black Tears", 2015, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA

### 2023

*Hindsight*, Online Journal of Art, Culture & Ideas, February 17 Stories section, Providence Arts & Letters published by Providence College Galleries, Providence, RI

**2022**

*Creating Us Them We | Race Ethnicity Identity*, exhibition booklet, co-curators' interview, p2-7, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

*The Understanding of All Things*, Kate Soper featuring Sam Pluta, album cover illustration – "River Stories", 2007, New Focus Recordings, Northampton, MA

**2021**

*In Search of the Reclining Buddha*, Sarah Buie, poetry collection, cover illustration– "The Darkest Hour", 2014, small edition press, Worthington, MA

**2020**

"*American/naciremA 1*", Illustration, *Access Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2020, p5, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Signs of the Times: Ceres National Juried Exhibition, Exhibition Catalogue, p15, Ceres Gallery, New York, NY

**2017**

The Space Between Shadow and Light, Exhibition Catalogue, p24-29, Gallery X, Truro Center for the Arts, Truro, MA

Depth Perception, Exhibition Catalogue, p15, 48-49, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis MA

Contemporary Directions: Niger to Afro Futurism, Exhibition Catalogue, p10-27, Arno Maris Gallery, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA

**2016**

Encaustic Art in the Twenty-First Century, Anne Lee & Ashley Rooney, P6, 58-59, 298, Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA  
Harmony, Exhibition Catalogue, p109-111, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts and Tianjin Art Museum, Tianjin, China

**2015**

Beyond Boundaries, Exhibition Catalogue, p68-71, Teda Contemporary Art Museum, Tianjin, China

Organic to Geometric: Investigations in Structure and Surface, Exhibition Catalogue, p52, with "Constructions and Contradictions" essay by Joanne Mattera, Endicott College, Beverly, MA

"Fluidity" Featured Artwork, *ProWaxJournal.com*, Issue 8: January-March

**2014**

Swept Away: Translucence, Transparence, Transcendence in Contemporary Encaustic, Exhibition Catalogue, p36, with "Extravagant Light" essay by Joanne Mattera, Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton, NJ

"Structure" Featured Artwork, *ProWaxJournal.com*, Issue 4: March/April

**2013**

*Studio Visit Magazine*, A juried selection of international visual artists, Volume 23, p173, Boston, MA, Juror: Barbara O'Brien, Executive Director, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

Swept Away: Translucence, Transparence, Transcendence in Contemporary Encaustic, Exhibition Catalogue, p24, with "Extravagant Light" essay by Joanne Mattera, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA

The Elephant in the Room, Exhibition Catalogue, p36-37, Laconia Gallery, Boston MA

**2012**

Encaustic Works '12, A Biennial Exhibition in Print, R&F Gallery, p74-75, Kingston NY

**2011**

Off the Wall, Digital Exhibition Catalogue, p44, Danforth Museum of Art, Framingham, MA

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Encaustic Invitational, Exhibition Catalogue, p40-41, Conrad Wilde Gallery, Tucson AZ

**2009**

MFA Thesis Exhibition Catalogue, spring 2009, p38-39. University of Minnesota, Department of Art

**COLLECTIONS / PERMANENT INSTALLATIONS**

Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI

Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD, Providence, RI

Brown University, Providence, RI

Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN

East St. Paul Gateway Park, St. Paul, MN (collaborative project)

Progroup: Diversity Consulting, Minneapolis, MN

Regions Hospital Medical Library, St. Paul, MN

St. Paul Academy, St. Paul, MN

University of St. Thomas, Department of Professional Psychology, St. Paul, MN

Numerous private collections

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / AFFILIATIONS**

New England Black Arts Collective (Member, 2025-present)

American Association of University Professors (AAUP) (Member, 2024-present)

Kappa Pi Honors Society (Faculty Member, 2023 – present)

The Dark Room: Race and Visual Culture Collaborative Research Cluster (Member, 2017-present)

ArtsWorcester (Member, 2009-present, Board Member, 2017-2023, Advisory Committee Member, 2023-present)

Worcester Art Museum, (Member, 2009-present, Collections Committee Member, 2017-2022)

College Art Association (Member, 2008-present)

19 on Paper (Member, an organization of New England artists working on or with paper, 2014-2016)

New England Wax (Member, an organization of New England artists working in encaustic, 2010-2012)

Updated: January 2026