

## Education

MFA, Painting & Drawing, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2010

MS, Art Education, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2008

BS, Art Education, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2004

BFA, Painting & Drawing, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 2004

## Skills

Traditional & Contemporary studio practices

Digital Photography, Photoshop, iMovie, Final Cut Pro, Logic Express, Audacity

Making Modern & Contemporary Art accessible and relevant

## Achievements

High School JV & Varsity Soccer Captain, 1996 & 1998

Exhibited in galleries in Columbus, OH, and State College, PA

Honorarium Lecture, Kenyon College, 2010

Artist Talk, ImageOHIO 11 Show, 2011

Awarded store-wide Outstanding Customer Service, Whole Foods Wexford, 2014

## Contact

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# Danielle K Thomas

I am an enthusiastic and thoughtful educator who discovered a love and knack for teaching when I began coaching soccer in high school. I have taught art in public schools, universities, and at a contemporary art museum. I believe that visual art is for everyone, and I aim to foster a lifelong appreciation for creativity and aesthetics in students' everyday lives.

## Professional Experience

**Mattress Factory Museum, 2013-present**

*Museum Educator*

Lead school and drop-in tours of current exhibitions. Trained to lead tours for those with limited vision. Promote and introduce the museum at outreach events at eclectic sites. Facilitate artist-led projects and installation of portable, interactive artworks at schools. Assist with interactive stations and practical concerns at family day events at the museum. Contacted outside educators about upcoming events and opportunities at the museum. Attended staff meetings to better understand the inner-workings of the museum, and build stronger relationships my co-workers.

**The Ohio State University, 2008-2012**

*Lecturer & Graduate Teaching Associate*

Designed and taught dynamic student-centered curriculum to undergraduate art majors. Instructed studio courses introducing drawing, 2-D design, and video & sound production. Incorporated rigorous reading and written reflection assignments that fed into student-led class discussions connecting course concepts and vocabulary to studio projects. Regularly assessed students' individual progress and growth through one-on-one conversations, written reflections and proposals, participation in group critiques and class conversations, and execution of proposed studio projects. Assisted in installation of student work in undergraduate exhibitions. Wrote letters of recommendation for students applying for grants, scholarships, and graduate programs.

**The Pennsylvania State University, 2006-2008**

*Graduate Teaching Associate*

Designed and taught progressive student-centered curriculum to undergraduate non-art majors. Independently taught courses introducing drawing and painting. Collaboratively taught an innovative, interactive mixed-media lecture and studio course exploring contemporary art practices. Facilitated large class discussions and studio production with students from diverse majors, backgrounds, and experiences

with contemporary art. Translated specialized knowledge, making it accessible and engaging.

**Pittsburgh Public Schools, Fall 2004**

***Student Teacher***

Assisted cooperating teachers in setting up classroom and introducing students to classroom rules and procedures. Scaffolded to design and implement daily lessons aligning with state and national standards for students in grades 10-12 and K-5. Adapted lessons for students with mild disabilities. Designed and utilized IEP goals and objectives. Designed a public art unit for my high school students that incorporated contemporary public art from their neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, and asked students to create their own plans for a public work. Introduced class discussions and written reflections into the art classrooms. Assisted and mentored International Bachelorette students with their senior thesis portfolios. Met with parents during open house to discuss student progress. Attended and participated in district-wide art in-service days.

**Lake Erie & Erie United Soccer Clubs, 1996-2004**

***Coach & Counselor***

Coached competitive middle school girls traveling soccer teams. Counseled at co-ed competitive soccer camps for children aged 5-14.

## **Related Experience**

**Pittsburgh Cultural Trust: Children's Theater Festival, May 2015**

***Guest Artist,***

Created and facilitated an all-ages, interactive art activity at SPACE Gallery. Children and families experimented with Dashed Line tools and I documented their results. Documentation is viewable on Instagram at [dashed\\_lines\\_project](#).

**Whole Foods Market, 2009-present**

***Specialty Department Team Member***

Responsible for having deep knowledge of 500+ specialty products. Help customers feel at ease and have confidence engaging with our unique products. Expected to be a level-headed and quick problem-solver in fast-paced, fluctuating environment. Maintain compassionate, patient, and interested demeanor with all customers in all circumstances. Instruct classes for customers introducing specialty products according to season or theme. Act as trainer and peer mediator for my department.

**Penn State Summer Education Abroad, 2008**

***Todi, Italy***

Travelled through northern and central Italy exploring Medieval and Renaissance art and architecture. Took Art History and studio classes in Todi, Italy. Collaborated on drawing & photography project with non-art major classmates.