

Megan Kathol Bersett

megankatholbersett.com

Education

2010-13 Master of Fine Arts degree, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

1996-01 Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO (cum laude)

2006-10 Santa Fe Community College (Alternative Teaching Licensure classes)

2003-04 Intercultura, Heredia, Costa Rica (Spanish language classes, *High Advanced* Level)

2000 Institute for American Universities/Marchutz School of Art, Aix-en-Provence, France

Selected Solo and Two Person Exhibitions

2019 *Traverse*, with Tyler Lotz, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL

between, Illinois Central College, Peoria, IL

2018 *sift/shift*, Ramp-Arts Gallery, Bloomington, IL

2016 *SOLID*, Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, IL

2015 *tug*, McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL

2013 *Unsettled*, MFA Graduate Thesis Exhibition, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL (catalog)

Student Annual Exhibition, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

'Solo show' inside exhibition as part of Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award

2012 *Conglomerates*, Rachel Cooper Gallery, Illinois State University, Normal, IL (catalog)

2010 *Megan Kathol Bersett*, Hand Artes Gallery, Truchas, NM

2008 *Megan Kathol Bersett*, Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM

2005 *Megan Kathol*, Rio Grande Sun, Espanola, NM

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 *Summer Art Faculty Exhibition*, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL

2024 *Alumni Spectacular*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

2022 *Art in Place*, Terrain Exhibitions and CNL Projects, Normal, IL

- 2021 *Boundaries*, Merwin and Wakeley Galleries, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
- 2020 *Simultaneous Contrast*, Spillway Collective Swipe Show, Instagram
- 2019 *Abstraction*, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
Alumni Invitational, Prairie Center of the Arts, Peoria, IL
TWOgether, Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- 2018 *Prairie Center of the Arts Alumni Invitational*, Warehouse Gallery One, Peoria, IL
From the Studios, Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI
Faculty Biennial, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Annual Faculty Show, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- 2017 *Community College Art Faculty Invitational*, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL
Faculty Show, Merwin & Wakeley Galleries, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
MCAC Board Members & Staff Art Exhibition, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
Annual Faculty Show, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- 2016 *Art for a Change*, Bloomington-Normal Arts Collective, 110 Center for Visual Arts, Normal, IL
Faculty Biennial, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Annual Faculty Show, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- 2015 *Alumni Spectacular*, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Annual Faculty Show, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- 2014 *Everyday Abstraction: Contemporary Painting*, Anderson Gallery, Drake University,
Des Moines, IA (catalog)
Spookeh, Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, IL
Faculty Biennial, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Annual Faculty Show, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- 2013 *Prime*, Heavy Brow Gallery, Bloomington, IL
MFA Painters, Ebersmoore Gallery, Chicago, IL
Emerging Illinois Artists, McLean County Art Center, Bloomington, IL
Blurring the Lines, Swell Gallery, West Dundee, IL
MFA Biennial, University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

- 2012 *In Your Neighborhood*, McLean County Art Center, Bloomington, IL
The Eye that Sees the Possible, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL
Hurricane Sandy Artist Benefit Show, University Galleries, Normal, IL
- 2011 *Four More Than Two*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
MFA Biennial, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Transitional Spaces, Subspace Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- 2010 *Inside Eight*, Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2009 *Instructor Exhibit*, Fine Arts for Children and Teens, Giacobbe-Fritz Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM
Ending Racism in New Mexico, One Kind Artplace, Albuquerque, NM
- 2008 *Instructor Exhibit*, Fine Arts for Children and Teens, Winterowd Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2004 *Megan Kathol and Herbert Ouche*, Escazu Cultural House, San Jose, Costa Rica
- 2002 *Invitational*, Period Gallery, Omaha, NE
- 2001 *Abstraction IV*, Period Gallery, Omaha, NE
BFA Thesis Exhibition, Mossa Center Gallery, St. Louis, MO

Awards/Grants/Residencies

- 2018 Faculty Honoree, Project Rise, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
student-nominated award: "Student Support Services program, dedicated to increasing retention and graduation rates of low income first generation students, and students with disabilities"
<https://www.heartland.edu/projectRISE/>
- 2017 Residency, Prairie Center of the Arts, Peoria, IL
- 2013 Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award (Exceptional Merit), Illinois State University, Normal, IL
academic and monetary award and solo exhibit within the Student Annual Exhibition
- 2013 Grant, Illinois State University Friends of the Arts, Normal, IL
monetary award to fund Master of Fine Arts Thesis Show, *Unsettled*, and catalog
- 2010-13 Graduate Assistantship and Full Tuition Waiver, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2012 Grant, Illinois State University Friends of the Arts, Normal, IL
monetary award for a *plein air* drawing project in southeastern Utah, culminating in an exhibition of the works titled *Conglomerates*, and a catalog
- 2011 Robert Small Art History Writing Award, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
academic and monetary award for my paper titled *Examining Painting and Perception Through the Installation Art of Sarah Sze*

- 2002 Honorable Mention, Period Gallery, Omaha, NE
- 2001 Award of Excellence and Juror's Choice Award, Period Gallery, Omaha, NE
artistic and monetary award
- 2001 Outstanding BFA Studio Award, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO

Professional/Teaching Experience

- 2022- Adjunct Professor, Tier 3, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
 Painting I (ART 106), Fall 2026
 Painting II (ART 206), Fall 2026
 Drawing I (ART 104) Spring/Fall 2022, Spring/Fall 2026
 Understanding Art (ART 150) Spring 2023, 2025, 2026
 Illustration (ART 160) Fall 2023, 2024, 2025
- 2019-20 Interim Director of Operations, Illinois Art Station, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, 1 year
 IAS is a non-profit that provides diverse youth with transformative learning through art-making.
- 2019 Instructor, Illinois Art Station, Weeklong Youth Art Summer Camp, Illinois State University,
 Normal, IL
- 2014-19 Adjunct Professor, Tiers 1 & 2, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
 Drawing I (ART 104) Fall 2014, Spring/Fall 2015, 2016, 2017, Spring 2018, 2019
 Understanding Art (ART 150) Fall 2016, 2018
 Painting I (ART 106) Spring 2014
 Painting II (ART 206) Spring 2014
- 2017-18 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
 Painting I (ART 130) Fall 2017, Spring 2018
 Painting II (ART 230) Spring 2018 (stacked course)
 Drawing I (ART 113) Spring 2018
 Drawing II (ART 213) Spring 2018 (stacked course)
- 2013-17 Instructional Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
 Arts & Society: Abstract Painting (ART 176) Spring/Fall 2015, 2016, 2017
 Life Drawing I (ART 213) Fall 2014

Drawing Fundamentals (ART 104) Fall 2013, Spring 2014

Color Theory (ART 363) Fall 2013

2013-14 Adjunct Professor, Lincoln College-Normal, Normal, IL

Art Appreciation (ART 111) Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Art Appreciation (ART 111) Accelerated Bridge to Education Hybrid Program, Spring 2014

Understanding the Arts (Art Theory) (ART 301) Spring 2014

2010-13 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Teaching Assistant, Painting I (ART 261), Spring 2013

(assisted Associate Professor Michael Wille in all daily activities of the course)

Lab instructor, Visual Thinking: 2-D Fundamentals (ART 103), Fall 2010-Spring 2013

Instructor of Record, Life Drawing I (ART 213), Fall 2012

Instructor of Record, Visual Thinking: Drawing Fundamentals (ART 104), Spring 2012

Life Model Coordinator, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

2005-10 Senior Instructor, Fine Art for Children & Teens, Santa Fe, NM

FACT was one of twelve recipients of the 2010 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards (*Coming Up Taller Award*) presented by Michelle Obama on behalf of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/national-arts-humanities-youth-program-awardees/). I was among 6-10 teachers on staff and taught teenage workshops, in-school/afterschool programs (ArtREACH and ArtCLUB), summer public library and intensive ArtBarn workshops, and professional workshops for public school teachers. I also taught art classes in Spanish for *Adelante*, a homeless families program funded through Santa Fe public schools. Classes consisted of brainstorming, art historical references and visual aides, demonstrations, hands-on art-making, critiques, and exhibitions. On the Curriculum Task Force I designed art curricula/lessons/activities/motivations based on New Mexico state education grade level standards. On Space Task Force I developed documents to assess needs for current and future space/location. I also interfaced regularly with teachers, parents, and administration.

2010 Instructor, Art workshops, Poeh Center, Pojoaque Pueblo, Pojoaque, NM

I initiated, planned and conducted five workshops for children ages two to thirteen.

2006 Instructor, Art workshops, Pojoaque Public Library, Pojoaque, NM

I initiated, planned and conducted five workshops for children ages two to thirteen.

2004 Bilingual Art Instructor, Beginning Drawing Class, Intercultura, Heredia, Costa Rica

Initiated, planned, and conducted an all-ages beginning drawing class in spanish and english

- 2003-04 English Teacher, Intercultura, Heredia, Costa Rica
I taught a variety of English classes from beginning to advanced, including adult, teen, and children's group classes, and private conversation classes. I held this job for one and a half years. I also gained proficiency in Spanish, which I have used at two other jobs.
- 2003 Editor, Museo de Arte y Diseno Contemporaneo (Contemporary Art and Design Museum), San Jose, Costa Rica
Edited translated articles for Contemporary Art Museum translator
- 2001-2 English Teacher, Caledonian School, Prague, Czech Republic
After earning my TEFL certificate in November 2001, I taught private and group business and conversation classes and a group college test preparation class over the course of a year.
- 1997-00 Gallery Assistant, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Set up and strike of exhibitions, customer service, security, publicity
- 1999-00 Art director and office assistant, Wooden Nickel Restaurant, Kirksville, MO
Coordinated local art exhibitions and managed files for the restaurant.

Other Professional Experience

- 2020 Book Cover Imagery, *Distraction: Girls, Schools, and Sexuality*, Erin Mikulec and Dawn Beichner (editors), Published by DIO Press Inc.
Juror, Image of Research Competition, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Juror, Heart of Illinois, High School Art Competition, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2018 Awards Judge, Spring Bloom Fine Arts Festival, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
- 2014 Panelist, "Ineffability," *Painting as a Form of Wordless Communication*, The Comparison Project, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, November 7
in conjunction with the group show *Everyday Abstraction* and the larger interdisciplinary *Comparison Project*
Visiting Artist, Undergraduate Critiques, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, November
in conjunction with the group show *Everyday Abstraction*
- 2009 Assistant, Installation preparation for artist Nicola Lopez, Santa Fe, NM
Embrace! installation at Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

Bibliography

- 2018 McLean County Arts Center, "Megan Kathol Bersett: Traverse." Studio Interview. Normal, IL
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=He0eXno-2Fg> .

- 2017 Studio Visit Magazine, Volume thirty-seven, <http://studiovisitmagazine.com/volume-thirty-seven-participants>, Summer 2017 edition.
- 2016 Kennedy, Laura. "GLT Datebook: Fine Arts Faculty on Display." *GLT News & Ideas: Here & Now*. WGLT Radio, NPR from Illinois State University, Normal, IL. June 25, 2016.
<http://wglrt.org/post/glt-datebook-fine-arts-faculty-display#stream/0>.
- "Lori Waxman – 60 wrd/min art critic" *GLT News & Ideas: Here & Now*. WGLT Radio, NPR from Illinois State University, Normal, IL. March 2016.
<http://wglrt.org/topic/lori-waxman-60-wrdmin-art-critic#stream/0>.
- 2015 Linneweh, David. "Megan Kathol Bersett." Podcast interview, Episode 149. Studio Break. September 3, 2015. <http://studiobreak.com/2015/09/>.
- 2014 Rutherford, Michael. "Everyday Abstraction at Drake University." *Painter's Bread: Visual Sustenance*. November 22 2014. http://www.paintersbread.com/2014_11_01_archive.html
- Duncan, Jim. "Abstraction isn't what it used to be." *City View (Des Moines, IA)*. November 19, 2014. <http://www.dmcityview.com/art-pimp/2014/11/19/abstraction-isnt-what-it-used-to-be/#>
- 2013 Bersett, Kevin. "Q-and-A with Megan Kathol Bersett: Abstract painter creates unsettling experiences." *Illinois State University News*, May 17, 2013.
<http://stories.illinoisstate.edu/2013/05/colleges/college-of-fine-arts/friends-of-the-arts/q-and-a-with-megan-kathol-bersett-abstract-painter-provides-unsettling-experiences/>.
- "2013 Student Annual." College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University, Normal, IL. Accessed 2013. <http://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/galleries/current-exhibitions/2013/student-annual-13/index.shtml>.
- 2010 Eckert, Bob, "Megan Bersett at Hand Artes in Truchas." *Rio Grande Sun Arts Section* [Española, NM] 28, Jan, 2010: 1-5.
- 2005 Eckert, Bob. "Megan Kathol Explores Relationships and Change in an Exhibition at the Rio Grande Sun." *Rio Grande Sun Arts Section* [Española, NM] 20, Oct, 2005: 1-3.

Selected Collections

- 2018 McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
- 2015 McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL
- 2012 The City of Normal, Uptown Station Transportation Center, Normal, IL

Tartan Realty Group, The Flats on Main Street, Normal, IL

University Galleries, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

2003-04 Six mural commissions, Intercultura, Heredia, Costa Rica

Service

2022-26 Troop Leader, Girl Scout Troop 1018

2019-21 Volunteer, Girl Scout Troop 1018

2019 Heartland McCauley Gallery Advisory Team, Heartland Community College, Normal, IL

2013-16 Board Member, McLean County Art Center, Bloomington, IL

served the board on a three-year term, actively participating on the Education and Exhibition committees, and volunteering for events

2012-13 Student Representative, College Council, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Served a year-long term as voting student member on the Council. I was also a member of the By-laws Committee, which met regularly throughout the year to revise document that outlines Council's membership and responsibilities

2005-07 Board Member, Espanola Valley Arts Festival, Espanola, NM

Organized artist booths, took minutes for the meetings, designed the website, wrote grant to receive money from the local Lodger's Tax, did promotional distribution, helped manage the festival during set up and opening hours, acted as Secretary for two of the three years of my membership

2004-05 Spanish Intake interviewer, JFON (Justice for our neighbors), Omaha, NE

Interviewed clients in Spanish regarding immigration history and status to prepare for legal counsel.