

Amber Zora

(formerly Amber Hoy)

ambermariezora@gmail.com | www.amberzora.com

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Photography + Integrated Media, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 2015.

Bachelor of Arts, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, 2011.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

[Surviving the Long Wars](#), Veteran Art Summit and Triennial, Chicago, IL, March 2023.

- [Residues and Rebellions](#), Newberry Library.
- [Unlikely Entanglements](#), Hyde Park Art Center.
- [Reckon and Reimagine](#), Chicago Cultural Center.

[Travel Distance](#), Blue Star Contemporary Gallery, San Antonio, TX, June 2022.

[Pop Smoke](#), Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, CA, Aug 2022.

[Open/Closed](#), National Veteran Art Museum, Chicago, IL, 2019.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2024 The Arctic Circle Alumni Residency. Svalbard, Norway.

2024 Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA.

2023 Monson Arts, Monson, Maine.

2023 Frontline Arts, Branchburg, New Jersey.

2023 North Dakota Museum of Art, McCanna House Residency Program, McCanna, North Dakota.

2023 The Arctic Circle – Artist & Scientist Residency Program, Svalbard, Norway.

2022 South Dakota Arts Council Artist-In-Schools and Communities Residency Program

2022 ArtOrg, Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

2017 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Amherst, Virginia.

2015 University of California-Berkeley, Berkeley, California.

2015 Combat Paper, Haystack School of Mountain Craft, Deer Isle, Maine.

2015 Old Furnace Artist Residency, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

2014 Social Justice Retreat, Blue Mountain Center, Blue Mountain Lake, New York.

AWARDS & GRANTS

Bush Fellowship, 2024.

Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grant, South Dakota Arts Council, 2024.

Armed Services Arts Partnership's Scholarship Fund, 2021 and 2022.

Artist Career Development Grant, South Dakota Arts Council, 2020.

National Veteran Art Museum Curatorial Fellow, funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities, Chicago, IL, 2018-2019.

California Arts Leaders Investments Grant, Center for Cultural Innovation, San Francisco, 2017.

Professional Activity Grant, College of Fine Arts, Ohio University, 2015.

Graduate Student Travel Award, College of Fine Arts, Ohio University, 2015.

Graduate Assistantship, Ohio University, 2012-2015.

Graduate Tuition Waiver, Ohio University, 2012-2015.

Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, Ohio University, 2014.
Graduate Student Senate Original Works Research Grant, Ohio University, 2013.
Professional Activity Grant, Ohio University, 2013.
Honorable Mention, Jasper Community Arts Center's 20th Annual Juried Exhibit, Krempp Gallery, Jasper, Indiana, 2013.
Recruitment Award, Ohio University, 2012.
Dorothy & Maynard Weber Scholarship, Winona State University. Winona, MN 2008
Art Scholarship, Northern State University. Aberdeen, South Dakota 2004

EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Wayfinder*, the Dahl Art Center, Rapid City, SD.
Bad Sleeper, Frontline Arts, Branchburg, NJ.
2025 Spring Exhibit, Art House, Hot Springs, SD.
Uncertain Histories, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL. (*forthcoming*)
- 2024 *Women Artists of The Black Hills*, Art House, Hot Springs, SD.
50th Anniversary Art Exhibition, the Dahl Art Center, Rapid City, SD.
- 2023 *28th Annual Celebration of Light Exhibition*, the Dahl Art Center, Rapid City, SD.
tl;dr, Midwestnice Art, Juried by Dana Smessaert, virtual exhibition.
- 2022 *Conflict to Creativity*, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- 2021 *47th Annual Members Exhibition*, Frontline Arts, Branchburg, NJ.
Guided Tour at The War Museum, The Marquette Hotel, Madison, WI.
- 2020 *Unite Us* (Traveling Exhibition 2020 - 2021)
Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park, MD.
Dulles International Airport, Washington D.C.
Military Women's Memorial, Arlington County, VA.
Community Forklift, Edmonston, MD.
Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, Washington, DC.
- 2019 *Making Meaning*, Chicago Rooms, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL.
Artists Who Served, Coachella Valley Art Center, Indio, CA.
Framing the Discussion with VetArt + Latham and Watkins LLP, Washington D.C.
- 2018 *Turning Tales*, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA.
A Different 1%, Cypress College, Cypress, CA.
Taking Place, Cal Poly University Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA. (Traveling Exhibit)
Gallery One Ellensburg, WA.
The Edgewood College Gallery, Madison, WI.
Kala Artist Annual Exhibition, Kala Art Institute Gallery, Berkeley, CA.

- 2017 *Veteran Voices*, Triton Museum, Santa Clara, CA.
- 2016 *Aftermath*, Santa Ana College Arts Gallery, Santa Ana, CA.
Dirty Canteen Exhibition, College of the Redwoods, Eureka, CA.
Not Alone, San Francisco Art Commission Galleries, San Francisco, CA.
Kala Artist Annual Exhibition, Kala Art Institute Gallery, Berkeley, CA.
- 2015 MFA Thesis: *Entrenched*, Trisolini Gallery, Athens, Ohio.
Action/Reaction, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL
Combat Papers, Haystack Center for Community Programs, Deer Isle, ME.
Back Azimuth, Worth Ryder Art Gallery, UC Berkeley Campus. Berkeley, California.
Tactical Formations, National Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois.
Kala Artist Annual Exhibition, Kala Art Gallery, Berkeley, CA.
- 2014 *Honoring the 1%*, Del Rio Council for the Arts, Del Rio, Texas.
Combat Papers, Washington School of Photography Gallery, Rockville, Maryland.
Trigger Experience, Morris Arts, Morristown, New Jersey.
- 2013 *24th Annual Juried Show*, Las Vegas Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas, Nevada. Juror:
Erin Cosgrove.
A Long Story Short, Ohio University Art Gallery, Athens, OH.
Jasper Community Arts Center's 20th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Krempp Gallery, Jasper,
Indiana. Juror: Fran Lattanzio.
Map: String with pins, Trisolini Gallery, Athens, Ohio.
6x6x2013. Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, New York.
- 2012 *THUNDERDOME*, Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.
adogfromhell, Beta Pictoris: maus contemporary gallery, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 2011 *a falsis principiis proficisci*, David Arts, Birmingham, Alabama.
The 36th UAB Annual Juried Student Exhibition, UAB Visual Arts Gallery, Birmingham, Alabama.
Juror: Willie Cole.
- 2010 *The 35th UAB Annual Juried Student Exhibition*, UAB Visual Arts Gallery, Birmingham, Alabama.
Juror: Lauren Garber Lake.
Propaganda, Spring Street Firehouse, Birmingham, Alabama.
Recycled Art 2, Bare Hands Gallery, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 2009 *ArtMuse: Student Juried Exhibition*, Paul Watkins Gallery, Winona, Minnesota. Juror: Kris Douglas.
Art Club 3000, Holzger, Winona, Minnesota.

PRESS/BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Butler, Wendy; Artwaves: *KHSU Public Radio*, aired 25 Oct. 2016.

- Cherone, Heather; "Exhibit at National Veterans Art Museum Applies Military Strategies to Art." [dnainfo](#), 27 July 2015.
- Frame, Carson; "New art exhibition at Blue Star Contemporary explores the veteran experience." [Texas Public Radio](#), 6 June 2023.
- Gopinath, Gabrielle; "The Dirty Canteen." [North Coast Journal](#), 3 Nov. 2016.
- Hindmon, Jade; "Oceanside Museum of Art displays veteran artwork in Pop Smoke." [KPBS](#), 11 Nov 2022.
- Owen Driggs, Janet and Lyons, "Terence, A Different 1%, KCET Media Group." [KCET](#). 23 May 2016.
- Richardson, Whitney; "Review: Tactical Formations/National Veterans Art Museum." [Newcity Art](#), 2015.
- Peterson, Karla; "Column: At the Oceanside Museum of Art, a pop art exhibit by military veterans defies stereotypes." [The San Diego Union Tribune](#), 13 Aug 2022.
- Purcell, Barbara; "*Objects of Deployment: Blue Star Contemporary Presents The Veterans Book Project and Travel Distance*." [Glass Tire](#), 21 July 2022.
- Rosato, Joe Jr.; "San Francisco Art Show Highlights Veteran." [NBC Bay Area](#). Published 11 Nov. 2016.
- Stern, Melissa; *Peace and Grief in the Art of US Veterans*, [Hyperallergic](#). February 13, 2017.
- Virtusio, Jessi; "Prairie State displays works by artists who've seen military conflict." [Chicago Tribune](#), 4 Nov. 2015.
- Whiting, Sam; "Art show looks at war's impact on those who wait at home." [SF Gate](#). Published 9 Nov. 2016

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Oakland Vet Center and Gallery

LECTURES, PRESENTATION, WORKSHOPS

University of St. Andrews Presentation, Creative Military Studies, May 2023.
Ink Painting, Online Workshop-Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Jan 2022.
Beginning Ink Painting, Online Workshop- Frontline Paper, Oct. 2021.
Virtual Watercolor Workshop, Online - Warrior Writers, Nov. 2021.
Virtual Watercolor Workshop, Online - Warrior Writers, May. 2021.
Kala Art Institute Artist Talk, Berkeley, CA; 2018.
Cypress College Artist Talk, Cypress, CA; 2018.
Crisscrossing Borders, San Francisco Arts Commission Galleries, San Francisco, CA; 2018.
Joint Committee on Arts, State Capital, Sacramento, CA; 2018.
Cal Poly University Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA; 2018.
Society of Photographic Education, West Conference; 2017.
Northern California Women's Caucus for the Art, Berkeley, CA, 2017.
SF Camerawork, San Francisco, CA; 2016.
University Press, Berkeley, CA; 2015.
Berkeley Public Library, Berkeley, CA; 2016.
Open Engagement Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, April; 2015.
ADP ([American Diversity Photographic](#)) Workshop, Ohio University, Athens, OH; 2015.

“Spilt Milk” Seminar Presentation, Seeing and Knowing Visual Art; 2015.

“Zachary” Seminar Presentation, Seeing and Knowing Visual Art; 2013.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Independent curator, consultant + program manager

Nov 2020 - Present

- Working with national arts organizations and nonprofits to build capacity, create communication content, curate exhibitions and build out programming. I’ve had the pleasure to work with Contemporary at Blue Star (San Antonio, TX), South Dakota Gives (Rapid City, SD), the DEMIL Art Fund (Chicago, IL) and more.

Program Manager of Fellowships

Sept 2018 – Nov 2020

First Peoples Fund, Rapid City, South Dakota.

- Promotes and supports Indigenous artists through the Community Spirit Award, Fellowship and Our Nations Spaces programs.
- Manages artist applications, contracts and works on special projects throughout the year to include the Fellowship Convening. This convening brings our 20-25 Fellows together for professional development training and networking.
- Maintains open communication with present and former fellows to provide technical assistance and support navigating their career.

Artist Residency and Programs Manager

Oct 2015 – September 2018

Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA

- Oversees daily program operations of our seven artist residency and fellowship programs with over 75 artist-in-residence actively using the communal printmaking and digital studio.
- Directs, plans and coordinates community engagement and special initiatives, including artist talks, workshops and panel discussions.
- Works alongside the Development Director to build program timelines, budgets and implementation strategies.
- Manages artist applications, contracts, database and invoicing of studio fees.

Instructor of Record

May 2014 – Jun 2015

Ohio University, Athens, OH

- Instructed diverse classes of 20 to 25 college students in Digital Photography, Traditional Black and White Photography, and Basic Photoshop.
- Developed and implemented interesting and interactive learning methods to increase student understanding of course material.
- Consistently received high teacher evaluation marks for instructional techniques and student learning success.
- Used a variety of teaching techniques to encourage student critical thinking and discussion and writing for critiquing peer images and historical or current photographs.

Darkroom and Photo Equipment Manager

Aug 2012 – May 2015

Ohio University, Athens, OH

- Managed training requirements for 25 student workers in four communal B&W darkrooms, five color darkrooms, and two large lighting studios.
- Implemented chemical solution and photographic knowledge to darkroom staff and students.
- Performed maintenance on photographic equipment on over 50 enlargers and one Hope color processing machine.
- Worked alongside University Hazardous Waste to dispose of exhausted chemistry and with University Facilities to maintain spaces, water temperature, and lighting.
- Renovated one large lighting studio to bring up to code and working order.
- Ordered and maintained photographic chemistry and conducted inspections of darkroom use.