

Hilary Irons

44 Fuller Street, Portland, ME 04103

hilaryirons@gmail.com 603-953-3356

hilaryironsprojects.com

Education

2008 Yale School of Art, New Haven CT MFA Painting (Al Held Prize)

2002 Parsons School of Design, New York, NY BFA Fine Arts (Academic and Departmental Honors)

2001 Parsons Paris, Paris, France (semester abroad)

Arts Administrative and Gallery Experience

Gallery and Exhibitions Director, 2019-present

University of New England, 716 Stevens Ave, Portland, ME and 11 Hills Beach Road, Biddeford, ME

In my role at UNE, I am responsible for:

- intensive program development (focusing on academic crossover, interdisciplinarity, and inclusion);
- organizing, curating, and promoting an ongoing series of exhibitions at two architecturally distinctive campus galleries;
- directly communicating with artists, curators, and other institutions, as well as reviewing all exhibition proposals;
- collaborating with faculty across the university to promote academic engagement between classrooms/departments and the galleries;

- leading two Exhibitions Committees to cooperate with stakeholders, and strengthen educational crossover and the role of the galleries within the university, as well as serving on other UNE committees;
- outreach in the community to provide access, visibility, and opportunities for diverse groups, to utilize the exhibitions in a variety of ways;
- teaching and interpretation within the context of the exhibitions;
- acting as liaison to the Department of Fine Arts;
- supervising collections maintenance and documentation, in storage and in installations (temporary and permanent) university-wide;
- supervising gallery attendants, preparators, student workers, and volunteers;
- managing the gallery budget and organizing events such as receptions;
- working with Institutional Advancement to secure sponsorships, as well as other forms of fundraising, support, and outreach opportunities;
- engaging with prospective donors of artwork and financial/other resources;
- writing and/or editing all gallery communications and text, within and outside of the university; social media promotion; supervising website content; coordinating with the Department of Communications

Artist-in-Residence Coordinator & Fundraising Assistantship, 2020

Canterbury Shaker Village, 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury NH. 603-783-9511

At Canterbury Shaker Village, I am:

- coordinating all Artists-in-Residence for the Summer 2020 season by identifying individuals for invitation, reviewing requests, and organizing dates of attendance
- interacting and cooperating with the board members involved with the program
- securing grants for artists where possible
- ensuring COVID-19 compliance in the residential and studio areas
- physically preparing the space for use, in coordination with CSV facilities management
- writing all text, including invitations, artist agreements, release forms, and other information pertaining to this program
- writing a master plan for the Artist-in-Residence program moving forward, including plans for an application-based process
- posting to social media and creating content
- writing other supporting documents such as monthly newsletters and press releases for CSV

Gallery co-founder and curator, 2016-2019

Able Baker Contemporary, 29 Forest Ave, Portland ME

In my role at Able Baker, I:

- curated exhibitions and calls to artists/curators;
- organized collaborative opportunities with local schools, students, and other groups;
- helped install and deinstall exhibitions;
- communicated with artists and curators;
- coordinated and trained interns, helpers, and volunteers;
- copy-edited all curatorial statements;
- managed social media (Instagram);
- managed website;
- compiled files pertaining to all participating artists;
- researched and interviewed potential artists and curators;
- operated opening receptions;
- managed all invitations and e-mail outreach.

Much of the curatorial/operational work was done alongside my partner, but the written, computer, and communication work was under my direct supervision. I was responsible for working with local colleges to support student and faculty opportunities—visits, internships, events, etc.

Curatorial work

2021 *Afrofuturism, Speculative Histories, and Material Culture* (Asata Radcliffe and the mask collection of Oscar Mokeme), UNE Art Gallery, Portland; *Persephone in the Late Anthropocene* (organized by Megan Grumbling and Jenna Crowder), UNE Ketchum Library Gallery, Biddeford; *String Revolution: Textiles and Visual Artifact* (co-curated with Dr. Elizabeth de Wolfe, featuring Duncan Hewitt, Isabelle O'Donnell, and Hannah Adams), UNE Ketchum Library Gallery, Biddeford

2020 *The House of the Soul* (group show juxtaposing medical illustration with experimental figuration), UNE Art Gallery, Portland; *Alphabet City* (Kifah Abdulla and Jamra Patel), UNE Ketchum Library Gallery, Biddeford; *River to the Sea* (Faculty Exhibition co-curated with Diana Furukawa), UNE Art Gallery, Portland; *Cut with the*

Kitchen Knife (Devon Kelley-Yurdin and Cecilia Ackerman), UNE Ketchum Library Gallery, Biddeford

2019 *O Horizon*, Waterfall Arts, Belfast, ME: thematic 2-person show with myself and Jarid Del Deo; *Magic Mirror*, Perimeter Gallery, Belfast, ME; Breehan James and Alexae Levin; *Perfection*; group show, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME

2018 *Circle Time*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (with Stephen Benenson)

2017 *Right Side Out*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (with Stephen Benenson); *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (with Stephen Benenson)

2016 *Mapping Extremes*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME; *American Optimism*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (with Stephen Benenson)

Publications

"The Empaths", *The Chart*, Vol. 5, No. 2: Spring 2020

"Floating Through Silence and Noise: Anna Hepler & Jon Calame's 'Trespasses' ", *The Chart*, Vol. 4, No. 1: Fall 2018

Other Professional Experience

2020 Juror and visiting critic, Ellis-Beauregard residency program; Juror, Stephen Pace House residency program; Visiting artist at Colby College, Bowdoin College, and Maine College of Art; MFA Thesis Defense panel member, Maine College of Art

2019 University Products Curatorial Fellowship, New England Museum Association Conference, Burlington, VT; Juror, Hewnoaks residency program; Cover illustration, *The Aesthetic of Labor: Cinema and the Process Genre*, by Salome Aguilera Skvirsky, forthcoming from Duke University Press 2019; guest lecture, Bowdoin College Museum of Art (for Joachim Homann's *Art Purposes: Object Lessons for the Liberal Arts*)

2018 Cover Illustration, Portland Maine Bicycle Map, published by cartographer Christian MilNeil

2017 Juror, Monhegan Artists Residency; Juror, SPACE Gallery Artist-In-Residence Program; "Drawing", Maine Arts Journal UMVA Quarterly, Winter 2017, essay in arts journal discussing the work of Sigmund Abeles

Selected Teaching Experience 2009-present

2019-2020, Visiting Artist, Boston University Department of Creative Art, Boston, MA. Regular studio visits and critiques with fourth-year painting majors in Richard Ryan's studio seminar.

2011-2019, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Maine College of Art, Portland Maine. BFA and MFA programs. Foundation, Painting, and Illustration courses as well as various critiques, workshops, and independent studies. Faculty mentor for all levels.

Syllabi written for: Figure Drawing; Into the Wild: Landscape Drawing (new course proposal); Contemporary Drawing Practices; Watercolors; Introduction to the Discipline of Painting; Surrealism, Chance, and Accident; Introduction to the Discipline of Illustration; Portland Arcades, Green Spaces, and Ghosts (Freshman-Year Intensive); Vacationland (Freshman-Year Intensive)

Syllabi modified for: Drawing 1 (including honors sections); Techniques in Illustration; Basic Concepts in Illustration; Independent Projects in Painting; 2-D Design; Professional Practices Seminar; Advanced Drawing (Independent Study)

Workshops developed: Drawing and Painting the Urban Landscape; Drawing and Painting the Figure in Context; The Story Collage; Water Media for Health and Environment

2009-2019, Adjunct Instructor, Southern Maine Community College. Basic and intermediate courses in drawing, painting, and watercolors. Syllabi written for: Painting 1; Painting 2; Drawing 2; Watercolors. Syllabus modified for: Drawing 1

2019, Summer Workshop, Boston University BFA program: Water Media for Health and Our Environment

2016-17, Visiting Artist: Bowdoin College Department of Art (syllabi written for: Drawing 2, Art and Time), Brunswick, ME; Boston University MFA & BFA programs (critique), Boston, MA

2009-2010, Adjunct Instructor, University of New England, Portland, ME; syllabus written for: Painting 1

2008, Visiting Artist, critique: Bates College Department of Art, Lewiston, ME

2007, Teaching assistant to Barbara Grossman, Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT

Volunteer Service

Created dedicated prayer/meditation space for Muslim students and others, SMCC;

Reconstructed coursework for Muslim students as needed, SMCC;

Volunteer work with student veterans at SMCC, transforming Joint Services Transcript credits into course credits (through the Dean's Office);

Studied Modern Standard Arabic (beginning level; instructor Kifah Abudlla)

Other experience 2007-2009

2008 Crew Chief, Office of Admissions, Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT.

Responsibilities included scheduling work-study students on the Painting Department admissions crew, leading tours of the department, responding to e-mail queries regarding the school, assisting with applicant slide reviews, interviews, and student work evaluations for the 07-08 admissions season. Focus on attention to applicants' needs during interviews, phone and e-mail application support, tours. Supervisor: Pat De Chiara

2007-2009 Office Assistant, Yale School of Art departments of Painting and Admissions. In this role, I helped manage paperwork and e-mails coming into the offices, as well as physical material like deliveries and shipments. I communicated with a number of offices at Yale University in order to properly coordinate services. Supervisor: Patsy Mastrangelo

2007 Special Projects Coordinator, Artspace Gallery, New Haven, CT Summer of 2007. Curated a call to artists submitting work in video. Assisted with the introduction of a nation-wide call to artists in conjunction with a local theatre. Contacted local businesses

and churches in conjunction with a yearly open-studios event. Assisted in the production of a large opening reception. Gallery-sitting and public-relations responsibilities.

Selected Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2020 *The Spiral Staircase*, (solo) Unity College Center for the Arts, Unity, ME

2019 *O Horizon* (with Jarid del Deo), Waterfall Arts, Belfast, ME

2017 *Night of the Hunter* (with Adam Eddy), Lens Gallery, Boston MA

2016 *Petrouchka*, (solo) Mayo Street Arts Center, Portland ME

2014 *Green Window*, (solo) Folk, Kittery, ME

2008 *Light on Earth*, (solo) Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, ME *West of the Moon: Hilary Irons and Asa Irons*, (two-person with Asa Irons) Little Cakes, New York, NY

2007 *Hilary Irons/Sascha Braunig*, Guertin's Graphics, Chicago, IL **2006** *Sheetrock Mountain*, (solo) Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, ME

2005 *The Ladies' Paradise*, (solo) Stella Maris Gallery, University of New England, Biddeford, ME *Apropos of the Wet Snow*, (solo) Boxheart Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

2004 *Tituba Taught Me*, (solo) Highland Artworks, Portland, ME

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *Fantastic Kingdom/Group Show (title tbd)*, curated by Juliet Karelsen, Speedwell Gallery, Portland, ME

2020 *Print/Synth*, curated by Ron Harrity and Carrie Scanga, San Juan, Puerto Rico (postponed)

2019 *Pool Party*, C24 Gallery, New York, NY; *Folkland*, Lewis Gallery, Portland ME, curated by Rachel Weyland and Andy Rosen

2018-19 *CMCA Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME (curated by Kate Green and Robin K. Williams)

2018 *Influx*, Pepperell Mill, Biddeford, ME (organized by AUTUS and funded by the Kindling Fund); *Looking Forward, Looking Back*, Flinn Gallery, Greenwich, CT (curated by Leslee Asch); *Circle Time*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland ME (collaboration with Tessa Irons)

2017 *New England Art Book Fair*, SPACE Gallery, Portland Maine; print edition of 50 risographs by Wing Club Press

2016 *Bounty*, ICA at Maine College of Art, Portland ME (juried by Sage Lewis); *Outside & Inside Landscape*, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, ME (curated by Breehan James)

2015 *Wake Up, Alice!*, Portland Public Library, Portland, ME; *Hewnoaks*, Charlotte Hobbs Memorial Library, Lovell, ME; *Knock Knock*, Mayo Street Arts Center, Portland, ME; *Into the Wild*, Artists-at-Work, MECA, Portland, ME

2014 *Idea of the North*, River Bend Smelt Camp, Bowdoinham, ME, curated by Daniel Fuller

2013 *2013 Faculty Exhibition*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME; *Everyday Life*, Artplatz, Minsk, Belarus; *The New Landscape*, Rose Contemporary, Portland, ME; *Your Face is a Landscape*, Field Projects, New York, NY

2012 *Gallery Artists*, Rose Contemporary, Portland, ME; *Portes*, Mytilene, Greece and Space Annex, Portland, ME

2011 *Space Invaders*, Rose Contemporary, Portland, ME

2010 *Dump Art / Deponiekunst*, Harzerstrasse 95, Berlin, Germany; *Summer Salon*, Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, ME (artist talk); *Faculty Exhibition*, University of New England Art Gallery, Portland, ME

2009 *Across the Border*, Peter Buckland Gallery, St. John, NB, Canada; *The Business of Art*, University of New England Gallery, Portland, ME; *Summer Salon*, Aucocisco Gallery, Portland, ME; *Faculty Exhibition*, University of New England, Biddeford, ME; *Cabaret Initiative*, Experimental Exhibition Space, Brooklyn, NY

2008 *Something and Something Else*, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, the Netherlands; *Yale MFA Thesis Exhibit: Painting 2*, Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT; *An Other World*, Curated by Britta Konau; Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME; *Treading Lightly*, Waterfall Arts Center, Belfast, ME

2007 *Forever Home*, HaNNA, Tokyo, Japan; *Forever Home*, Little Cakes, New York, NY; *Biennial 2007*, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester, NH

2006 *2006 Biennial Exhibition*, The Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME; *Skowhegan at 60: Maine Participants 1996-2005*, The Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME

2005 *The Altered Film Project*, Strange Maine, Portland, ME; *Bird Night* (collaborative installation with Angela Hennessy), L.C. Bates Museum, Hinkley, ME; *Three Rivers Arts Festival*, Pittsburgh, PA

Awards, Residencies, Workshop

2021 Hewnoaks, Kezar Lake, Lovell, ME (postponed from 2020)

2020 Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH

2018 Hewnoaks, Kezar Lake, Lovell, ME (Sustainable Arts Foundation Grantee)

2017 Hewnoaks, Kezar Lake, Lovell, ME; Stephen Pace House, Stonington, ME

2015 Hewnoaks, Kezar Lake, Lovell, ME

2014 Hewnoaks, Kezar Lake, Lovell, ME; Stephen Pace House, Stonington, ME

2008 MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH; Leon Levy Foundation Grant to attend MacDowell Colony; Al Held Prize to attend the American Academy in Rome

2005 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME; Skowhegan Grant

2004-05 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation Residency, Bethany, CT; 2004 Icon-Writing Workshop, St. Anthony's Franciscan Monastery, Kennebunkport, ME