

Hilary Irons

hilaryirons.com

hilaryirons@gmail.com

603-953-3356

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

Selected Teaching Experience 2009-present

2021-2022, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Bowdoin College. Syllabi written for: Advanced Studio Practices (studio/professional practices hybrid); Painting II

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). In development for AY 22/23: Figure Painting; Mimesis Across Cultures & Time (Research & Inquiry)

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

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

UNE's gallery system provides a unique approach to the visual arts in Maine through recognizing a wide range of academic and scientific interests in juxtaposition with contemporary art. We promote a broad, diverse, inclusive, and thought-provoking range of perspectives within the specific context of each exhibition. Exhibits are chosen

to highlight the institutional strengths and interests of UNE with an emphasis on earth, environmental, and social sciences; medicine; education; arts; and humanities.

Our mission is to promote intellectual curiosity in order to work toward a healthier community and planet, in conversation with strong, relevant contemporary art across disciplines. We maintain two gallery locations; on UNE's Biddeford and Portland campuses. Each gallery mounts approximately three exhibitions each academic year in a variety of media and focusing on a range of themes.

In my role at UNE, I am responsible for:

- organizing, curating, and promoting an ongoing series of exhibitions at two architecturally distinctive campus galleries;
- intensive program development (focusing on academic crossover, interdisciplinarity, and diversity, equity, and inclusion);
- directly communicating with artists, curators, and other institutions, as well as reviewing all exhibition proposals;
- 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 & outside videographers/photographers;
- collaborating with faculty across the university to promote academic engagement between classrooms/departments and the galleries;
- outreach in the wider community to provide access and opportunities for diverse groups, to utilize the exhibitions in a variety of ways;
- orchestrating remote outreach;
- teaching and interpretation within the context of the exhibitions;
- leading two Exhibitions Committees to strengthen educational crossover and the role of the galleries within the university, as well as serving on other committees;
- acting as liaison to the Department of Fine Arts;
- communication with the press;
- supervising collections maintenance and documentation, in storage and in installations (temporary and permanent) university-wide;
- supervising gallery attendants, preparators, student workers, and volunteers;
- managing and organizing events such as receptions and group visits; leading tours;
- working with Institutional Advancement to secure sponsorships, as well as other forms of support and outreach opportunities;
- grant writing;

- handling invoicing, contractors, and budgeting;
- engaging with prospective donors of artwork and financial/other resources

Gallery co-founder and curator, 2016-2019

Able Baker Contemporary, 29 Forest Ave, Portland ME

Able Baker Contemporary is an artist-run gallery with an open curatorial structure, focusing on the contemporary art of the region in conversation with work being made around the country and internationally. The *Artists Context Series* is an ongoing series of group exhibitions, in which artists are invited to assemble thematically or formally precise group shows that include their own work. This advances the mission of giving artists agency in the curatorial process, thereby engaging with the arts community from the perspective of those who are committed to an active and thoughtful studio practice.

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.

Other Professional Experience

Ongoing Summer Artist-in-Residence Coordinator, Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH; Monthly Visual Arts Columnist, Maine Magazine

2022 Maine nominator, Art New England "Emerging Artists 2022" issue

2021 Visiting critic and artist lecture, Ellis-Beauregard residency program, Rockland, ME; juror, NH Charitable Foundation Artist Advancement Grant; organizer, "New Morning New Day" online exhibition, Maine Magazine

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

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 Salomé 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

Art Writing

Maine Magazine *A New Art Installation Illustrates a Changing Gulf of Maine*, January 2022; *Abstract Exhibitions at the CMCA Make Rockland a Holiday Season Destination*, December 2021; *Maine Artist and Activist Natasha Mayers Finally Gets Her Moment*, November 2021; *Inside the Eighteenth-Century Home of Two Belfast Artists*, October 2021; *Art Becomes Familiar at a Gallery within a Restaurant in Belfast*, September, 2021;

The Durham Artist with a Penchant for Fairy Tales, August 2021; *Portland's Newest Artist Studio Embraces Industry*, July 2021; *Blank Canvas: The ever-changing Buoy Gallery in Kittery Puts Art and Community First*, June, 2021; *Generating Energy Through the Arts: Biddefords' Engine*, April/May, 2021; *An Emerging Portland Artist Weaves Activism into Her Practice: Ashley Page*, March 2021; *Art For an Anxious Time: The 2020/2021 CMCA Biennial*; Jan/Feb 2021

Maine Arts Journal *Home Fires: Freedom and Captivity*, Fall 2021

The Chart *A Detective in the Anthropocene: In the Studio with Asata Radcliffe*, Vol. 5, Number 4: Fall 2020; *The Empaths*, Vol. 5, Number 2: Spring 2020; *Floating Through Silence and Noise: Anna Hepler and Jon Calame's "Trespases"*, Vol 4, Number 1: Fall 2018

Selected Curatorial Projects

2022 *Camera Lucida: The Work of Rose Marasco*, UNE Art Gallery, Portland (co-curated with the Maine Women Writers Collection and Stephen Halpert); *The Lives of the Jewelers*, UNE Art Gallery, Portland (co-curated with The Metals Collective); *Bright Horizon: UNE North and North Atlantic Region Artists*, UNE Art Gallery, Biddeford;

2021 *Home Fires: Freedom and Captivity*, UNE Art Gallery, Portland; *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; *Witchgrass*, Speedwell Projects, Portland, ME (with Juliet Karelsen)

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-Yuridin 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)

Studio Practice

Selected Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

2021 *Orb Weaver*, (solo), Dowling Walsh, Rockland, ME

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 *Witch Grass*, Speedwell Projects, Portland, ME; *Season Repression*, Field Projects, New York, NY

2020 *FREE FALL*, Sistered, Portland, ME (curated by Josh Reiman); *In Union: Remotely*, Shaker Museum Mount Lebanon, NY (online); *Print/Synth*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, curated by Ron Harrity and Carrie Scanga (postponed);

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

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

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

Volunteer Service/Other

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 Abudllah);
Intermediate French at the Language Exchange