

ELISSA ARMSTRONG

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www.elissaarmstrong.com

EDUCATION

2002

MASTER OF FINE ARTS, Ceramics, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, Alfred, NY

2000

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, Ceramics, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, NS & Sheridan College of Crafts and Design, Oakville, ON, Canada

1996

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION, English Literature/Visual Arts, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada

1995

BACHELOR OF ARTS, Honors, Art History/English Literature, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada

**ACADEMIC
APPOINTMENTS**

2021-present

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Craft/Material Studies, VCUarts, Virginia Commonwealth University

2006-2020

DIRECTOR (2009-2020), **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** (2006-2009) Assistant Professor, Art Foundation Program, VCUarts, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

2002-2006

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR / CO-HEAD, Ceramics, Design Department, School of Art and Design, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

2023-2027 & 2014-2020

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARTS ADMINISTRATORS (NCAA), national non-profit organization, **Board Member**, (membership elected four year term 2023-2027 & 2014-2020), **Conference Committee Co-Chair** and **CAA Affiliate Liaison** (2023-2027), **Past-President** (2018-2020), **President** (2015-2018), organization of arts deans and chairs affiliated with College Art Association (CAA), www.ncaaarts.org

2019-2021

COLLEGE ART ASSOCIATION (CAA), national arts organization, **Council of Readers**, three year appointment, a council of academic experts in their individual fields, selected to review annual conference session proposals and shape annual CAA conference programming, www.collegeart.org

2011-2018

1708 GALLERY, non-profit contemporary gallery, Richmond, VA, **2nd Term Board Member** (membership elected term), the gallery features new and experimental work by emerging artists, www.1708gallery.org

**SELECTED
SPECIAL HONORS**

2019

Vermont Studio Center Artist Grant, juried artistic merit grant for 2020 residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson VT

2019

VCU Office of the Provost Faculty Development Grant, academic writing support grant, The National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD) Faculty Success Program

2019

National FATE Leadership Award Finalist, peer nominated in 2018 by Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE), awarded every other year by the national art & design Foundational studies educators' organization, **Foundations in Art: Theory and Education**,

an affiliate of College Art Association (CAA)

2018 **Canada Arts Council Grant**, juried arts abroad award issued by the Canadian equivalent to The National Endowment for the Arts

2018 **Banff Center of Art B.A.I.R. Residency Financial Award**, Banff AB Canada (unable to attend and accept)

2017 **National FATE Educator Award Finalist**, peer nominated by Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE) membership during the 2015 national biennial conference, awarded every other year by the national art & design foundational studies educators' organization, **Foundations in Art: Theory and Education**, an affiliate of College Art Association (CAA)

2012 **Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Achievement in Service**, peer nominated, annual faculty award, VCUarts, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

**SELECTED
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**

2020 **Vermont Studio Center**, Sculpture Studio Residency, Johnson, VT January 5-18

2019 **Medalta Residency**, Shaw International Centre for Contemporary Ceramics, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, May 31-June 28

2019 **Zentrum Fur Keramik Berlin**, Residency, Berlin, Germany, (accepted, unable to attend)

2018 **Banff Centre of Art**, B.A.I.R Independent Residency, Banff, Alberta, Canada, November 5-December 18 (accepted, unable to attend)

2018 **A.I.R. Vallauris**, Residency, Vallauris, France, **National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts** (NCECA) residency partner, July 10-August 10

2018 **Penland School of Crafts**, Winter Residency, Penland, NC, February 4-17

**SELECTED
EXHIBITIONS**

2025 **Garden Reverie**, national juried exhibition, **Baltimore Clayworks**, Baltimore, MD, January 11-March 8, 2025

2024 **Coalescence**, invited feature artist, Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond, **National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts** (NCECA), Richmond, VA

2024 **Extracurricular**, NCECA juried exhibition with VCU clay faculty, Murry Depillars Building, VCU, **National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts** (NCECA), Richmond, VA

2024 **Groundwork**, NCECA/VCU Craft/Material Studies Alumni/Faculty Exhibition, National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA), Greater Richmond Conference Center, Richmond, VA (invited and juried, national)

2023 **SECAC Juried Exhibition**, Try-Me Gallery, Richmond, VA

2023 **13th Annual Workhouse Clay International**, international juried ceramic exhibition, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA

2020 **What We Hold** (canceled due to Covid), three person show with Blair Clemo and Trey Hill, Shockoe Artspace, **National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts** 2020 conference affiliate exhibition(NCECA), Richmond, VA

- 2020 ***The Burdens of History***, annual juried/invitation national exhibition, The Visual Arts Center of Richmond and Glave Kocen Gallery, **National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts** (NCECA), Richmond, VA
- 2019 ***The Great Divide***, Morean Center for Clay, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2019 ***International Ceramics Juried Exhibition***, The Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ
- 2019 ***Current Art Fair***, Shockoe Artspace Gallery Booth, Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center, Richmond, VA
- 2019 ***SECAC Juried Exhibition***, Stove Works, Chattanooga, TN
- 2019 ***Making***, digital exhibition, **World Congress of the International Society for Education through Art** (InSEA), partner of The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Vancouver BC Canada
- 2019 ***The Emotional Animal***, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY
- 2019 ***In Place: residency as artistic utopia***, Anderson Center of Interdisciplinary Studies, **National Council of the Education for the Ceramic Arts** 2019 conference affiliate exhibition (NCECA), Red Wing, MN
- 2018 ***Craft Forms 2018***, 24th International Exhibition of Contemporary Craft, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA
- 2018 ***A.I.R. Vallauris Resident Artist Exhibition***, Galerie Aquil Siam Ben, Vallauris, France
- 2018 ***Flora and Fauna***, The Clay Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 ***Folktales and Legends***, John Michael Kohler Center, Sheboygan, WI
- 2015 ***Tallahassee International***, Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
- 2011 ***Fresh Figurines: a new look at a historic art form***, Fuller Museum, MA
- 2009 ***Margins***, The Ice House, **National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts** Invitational, Phoenix, AZ

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATION

- 2023 Armstrong, Elissa & Doren, Mariah. **“Let’s Talk About Critique: Reimagining The Art and Design Education: .”** Bristol, UK: Intellect Books & Chicago, USA: The University of Chicago Press, publication date: August, 2023
- 2021 *Open Hours: Elissa Armstrong: Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts*, e-flux, Art & Education, August 2021, <https://www.artandeducation.net/schoolwatch/413522/office-hours-elissa-armstrong-virginia-a-commonwealth-university-school-of-the-arts> (invited, national)
- 2020 Armstrong, Elissa. **“The Smartphone and Generation Z: Student Traits, Studio Dynamics, And Faculty Strategies in Foundations Studies.”** *FATE in Review* vol. 37 (2020).

SELECTED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- 2025 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Exploring Critique: what it’s been and what it can be*, co-presented with Mariah Doren, session: Critiquing the Critique in Art, Design, Art Education and Art History

- Classrooms, Next/Now Biannual FATE Conference, **Foundations Art: Theory and Education (FATE)**, hosted by George Mason University, DC Metro Area
- 2025 **Keynote Speaker**, *Critique in the Contemporary Classroom*, co-presented with Mariah Doren, Art Embodied 13th Annual Conference, **North Carolina Communication College System (NCCCS) Associate in Fine Arts (FAA) Association**, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC
- 2025 **Workshop**, *Critique & Gen Z*, co-presented with Mariah Doren, Fine Arts faculty, **Wake Tech Community College**, Raleigh, NC
- 2025 **Workshop**, *Coil-Built Vessels & Low Fire Surfaces*, live and recorded online ceramic workshop, **Pocosin Arts School of Craft**
- 2025 **Lecture & Workshop**, co-presented with Mariah Doren, Fine Arts faculty and deans, **Alfred University**, Alfred, NY
- 2024 **Lecture & Workshop**, *Let's Talk About Critique*, co-presented with Mariah Doren, **National Council of Arts Administrators (NCAA)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Annual Conference, Interlochen Center of the Arts, Traverse City, MI
- 2023 **Session Co-Chair**, *Critique: past, present and future* **Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Richmond, VA
- 2021 **Case Study Presentation**, National Council of Arts Administrators (NCAA) Annual Conference, Ringling College of Art, Sarasota FL
- 2019 **Lecture**, *Educating the "Safe" Generation: iGen Pitfalls and Challenges in College and the Studio Classroom*, session: Limits on Content: How Far Can Students Go in the Studio Art Classroom? **SECAC Conference**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization Chattanooga, TN
- 2019 **Lecture**, *Taking Chances: risks and rewards in the first year tertiary art classroom*, **World Congress of the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA)**, partner of The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Vancouver BC, Canada
- 2019 **Panelist/Roundtable**, *A Good Four Letter Word: the lasting value of the soft skill*, **17th Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Biennial Conference (FATE)**, Columbus, OH
- 2018 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Support Structures: shoring up student and faculty success in art Foundation*, **Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE)** affiliate session: A Sense of Support, **Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC)**, Birmingham AL
- 2018 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Two Worlds Colliding: Technology and the Hand*, Session: To Hands Free: Technology & Student Engagement, **Mid-American College Art Association Conference (MACAA)**, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Omaha, NE
- 2018 **Lecture/Panelist/Round Table & Podcast Participant**, *Holding Up the Mirror: inclusion in our classrooms*, Session: Let's Dance, But Don't Call Me Baby: Dialogue, Empathy, and Inclusion in the Classroom and Beyond, **College Art Association (CAA)**, **Foundations in Art: Theory and Education affiliate panel (FATE)**, Los Angeles, CA

- 2017 **Session Chair/Lecture**, *Expanding the Classroom & Constructing Cross-Curricular Communities*, **12th International Conference on the Arts in Society**, affiliated with the Cumulus International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design & Media, Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, France
- 2017 **Session Chair**, *Essentials: what they need, but don't know they want (yet)*, To the Core and Beyond: **16th Biennial Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE) conference**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO
- 2017 **Session Co-Chair/Workshop**, *Thinking about the Fundamentals*, co-presented with Sarah Mizer, **11th International Conference on Design Principles & Practices**, affiliated with the Cumulus International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design & Media, Institute Without Boundaries at George Brown College, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2016 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Do Over: somewhere beyond the deadline*, The Draft: Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE) panel at **Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organizations, Roanoke, VA
- 2015 **Lecture/Discussant**, *Designing Failure (in a standardized world)*, **Design Educators Conference**, Association of Registered Graphic Designers (RGD), George Brown College, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2015 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Fail Harder and Other High Standards*, Rethinking Foundations: risks, creativity, entrepreneurship and 21st century job skills, **Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015 **Lecture/Panelist**, *Lo-Fi Hi-Fi: a pedagogical time-based approach*, 4D Foundations: new media in an old media classroom, **14th Biennial Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Conference (FATE)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Indianapolis, IN
- 2015 **Presentation/Poster**, *In the Toolkit: the pencil and laser*, Material Culture in Action: practices of making, collecting and reenacting art and design, **The Glasgow School of Art and Centre for Contemporary Arts**, Glasgow, Scotland, UK (Accepted, Unable to Attend)
- 2014 **Session Co-Chair**, *Foundation: the original interdisciplinary program*, **Mid-American College Art Association Conference (MACAA)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, San Antonio, TX
- 2014 **Lecture**, *Yes & Know: when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em*, **National Council of Arts Administrators Conference (NCAA)**, College Art Association (CAA) affiliate organization, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2014 **Lecture**, *Art & Design Foundation: one leading art school's approach*, **34th World Congress of the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA)**, Congress of the International Society for Education through Art, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Melbourne, Australia
- 2014 **Lecture/Panelist**, *From the Pencil to the Laser Engraver*, panel: A Hybrid Practice: getting rid of digital media courses, **Foundations in Art: Theory & Education (FATE) panel at College Art Association Annual Conference (CAA)**, Chicago, IL

- 2014 **Artist Lecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Champaign, IL
- 2013 **Lecture, *The First Year***, co-presented with Karen Videtic, **5th Asian Conference on Education, International Academic Forum**, Osaka, Japan
- 2013 **Lecture, *Art School Confidential***, **69th Annual Conference for the National Association for College Admission Counseling**, Toronto, Canada
- 2013 **Lecture/Discussant, *Foundation Programs: design versus art or art and design***, **8th International Arts in Society Conference**, Budapest, Hungary
- 2013 **Poster Session/Lecture, *The First Year: changes in identity and perceptions***, **7th International Design Conference**, Chiba University, Chiba, Japan
- 2011 **Lecture/Panelist, *Outside the Box, Looking In: Innovative Approaches to Foundation Programs***, **On Stream: 13th Biennial Foundations in Art: Theory & Education (FATE) & Mid-American College Art Association (MACCA) joint conference**, St. Louis, MO
- 2010 **Workshop Faculty, Tasmeem International Design Conference and workshops**, VCUQatar, Doha, Qatar