

ELISSA ARMSTRONG

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

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 LEADERSHIP

2023-2027 & 2014-2020

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARTS ADMINISTRATORS (NCAA), national non-profit organization, **Board Member**, (two membership elected four year terms 2023-2027 & 2014-2020), **Past-President** (2018-2020), **President**, organization of arts deans and chairs affiliated with College Art Association, 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

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

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATES & TRAINING

2015-2019

Department Chair Leadership Development Series, Office of Faculty Affairs and Provost Office, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

- Faculty Annual Reviews: Providing Positive Feedback and “Radical Candor” When Needed
- Supporting Mid-Career Faculty Members
- The Department Chair’s Role in the VCU Course Redesign Initiative
- On the Rise: Addressing Student/Faculty/Staff Mental Health Issues
- Academic Leadership at VCU, Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention
- Performance Evaluations, Effective Leadership: potential impact of unconscious bias
- Mentoring Teaching and Research Faculty
- Support and Report: Understanding Title IX and Your Responsibilities
- Affirmative Action Planning
- Special Ops in Higher Education: understanding and utilizing your threat assessment team

2018

Safety and Protection of Minors Policy Administrator Certificate, Youth Programs, VCU

2011

Department Chair Certification Program, The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute, VCU

**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**

- 2024 **Rendered Fusion: Clay, Connection, Attention**, invited feature artist, 2024 NCECA Annual Exhibition, **National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts** (NCECA) 58th Annual Conference, Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond, Richmond VA, January 31-May 4 2024, co-curators: Elizabeth Schlatter, Independent Curator & Laurant Lee, Historian and Educator (invitational, national) (upcoming)
- 2024 **Extracurricular**, VCUarts faculty exhibition, **National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts** (NCECA) 58th Annual *Coalescence* Conference exhibitions, Murry N. DePillars Building Lobby, Richmond, VA March, 2024 (juried, national) (upcoming)
- 2023 **SECAC Juried Exhibition**, Try-Me Gallery, Richmond, VA, October 2023, juror: Alexis Assam, Regina A. Perry Assistant Curator of Global Contemporary Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine

- Arts (VMFA) (juried, national)
- 2023 **13th Annual Workhouse Clay International**, international juried ceramic exhibition, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA, August 5-October 22, 2023, juror: George Rodriguez, ceramic artist (juried, international)
- 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 (juried, national)
- 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 juror: Anna Walker, Assistant Curator, Decorative Arts, Craft and Design at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston TX (juried, national)
- 2019 **The Great Divide**, Morean Center for Clay, St. Petersburg, FL juror: Bruce Dehnert, Artist and Head of Ceramics, Peters Valley Craft Center (juried, national)
- 2019 **International Ceramics Juried Exhibition**, The Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster, NJ juror: Garth Johnson, Ceramics Curator, Emerson Museum of Art (juried, national)
- 2019 **Current Art Fair**, Shockoe Artspace Gallery Booth, Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center, Richmond, VA (invitational, regional)
- 2019 **SECAC Juried Exhibition**, Stove Works, Chattanooga, TN juror: Amelia Briggs, David Lusk Gallery Director, Nashville, TN (juried, national)
- 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 (juried, international)
- 2019 **The Emotional Animal**, Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY juror: Crystal Morey, Ceramic Sculptor (juried, national)
- 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 curator: Stephanie Rogers, Anderson Center Director (invited, national)
- 2018 **Craft Forms 2018**, 24th International Exhibition of Contemporary Craft, Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA juror: Perry Price, Executive Director of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston, TX (juried, national)
- 2018 **A.I.R. Vallauris Resident Artist Exhibition**, Galerie Aqui Siam Ben, Vallauris, France curator: Dale Dorosh, Galerie Aqui Siam Ben Director (invited, international)
- 2018 **Flora and Fauna**, The Clay Center of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA juror: Shoko Teruyama, Artist (juried, national)
- 2015 **Folktales and Legends**, John Michael Kohler Center, Sheboygan, WI jurors: Dennis McNett and Joseph Velasquez, Artists (juried, national)
- 2015 **Tallahassee International**, Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL jurors: Allys Palladino-Craig, Museum Director & Carolyn Henne, College of Fine Arts

Associate Dean and Art Department Chair (juried, national)

2011 **Fresh Figurines: a new look at a historic art form**, Fuller Museum, MA curator: Gail M. Brown, Professional Independent Contemporary Craft Curator (invitational, national)

2009 **Margins**, The Ice House, National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts Invitational, Phoenix, AZ curators: Nate Betschart & Brian Gillis, Ceramic Artists (invitational, national)

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 29, 2023 (peer reviewed, international)

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

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

**CURRICULUM
CONSULTATION &
ACADEMIC REVIEWS**

- 2014 **Artist Lecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Champaign, IL
- 2019 **Committee Chair & Academic Reviewer**, Art Foundation, **Tyler School of Art, Temple University**, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 **Curriculum Consultant**, Art Foundation, **Alberta College of Art and Design**, Calgary, Canada
- 2018 **Academic Reviewer**, Art Foundation, **Maine College of Art**, Portland, ME
- 2017 **Art Department Academic Review Chair & Committee Member**, College of Liberal Arts, **University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 **Curriculum Consultant**, Art Foundation, **Shanghai Institute of Visual Art**, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
- 2016 **Curriculum Consultant**, Art Foundation, **The University of Indiana**, Bloomington, IN
- 2016 **Curriculum Discussant**, VCUarts Curriculum Development Retreat, **VCU Richmond & VCU Qatar**, Art Foundation, Design Departments and Dean's office leadership, Rabat, Morocco
- 2015 **Curriculum Consultant**, Art Foundation and Transfer Curriculum, **Virginia Community College System**, VA
- 2010 **Curriculum Discussant**, VCUarts Curriculum Development Retreat, **VCU Richmond & VCU Qatar**, Design Departments and Dean's office leadership, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 **Curriculum Discussant**, VCU and the University of the West of England administration and faculty, **The University of the West of England**, Bristol, England