

R. MERTENS

Staunton VA, 24401//540.430.4433//weavingroom@gmail.com//robertmertensartist.com

EDUCATION

M.F.A. The University of Oregon, Eugene, OR.
B.F.A. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
Certificate NWTC, Audio Engineering. Green Bay, WI.
Apulaya Center for Andean Culture, Weaving. Calca, Peru.
Study Abroad Burren College of Art, Newton Castle, Ireland.

SOLO/ TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2026 Planned* McClean Projects for the Arts, McClean, VA
2025 Ciders from Mars, Karst Soundscape, Staunton, VA
2024 Bureau of Queer Art, Ephemeral Threads, Artsy.net
2023 Hangaram Museum of Design, International Fiber Art Festival, Seoul, South Korea
2021 Hunter Gallery, Archeology of the Body, Staunton, VA
2018 Smith House Gallery; Mealymouth Dexterity, Harrisonburg, VA
2016 Arlington Arts Center; Spring Solos, Arlington, VA
2015 Margaret Martin Gehman Gallery; Mediations and Premonitions, Harrisonburg, VA
Truman State University; Nothing from Something, Kirksville, MO;
Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia, R. Mertens New Works, Charlottesville, VA
2013 Wave Gallery; A Tale of Conductance, Eugene, OR
Woodpeckers Muse Gallery; Masks and Masking, Eugene, OR
2010 Le Toilettés Gallery; Whirlpool, Eugene, OR
Washburn Gallery, Post-Apocalyptic Sacra, Eugene, OR
2008 G2, Tethered #2, Chicago, IL
2007 Siragusa Gallery, Tethered #1, Chicago, IL

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Columbia Museum of Art, Body Matters, Columbia, SC
Willam Scofield Gallery, Black and White, Vancouver, WA
Vestibule Gallery, Decay, Seattle, WA
Virginia Quilt Museum, No Boundaries, Dayton, VA
Arts Council of the Valley, Likeness, Harrisonburg, VA
2025 Atlantic Gallery, Lust for Rust, New York, NY
LA Artcore, Crafting Tomorrow, Los Angeles, CA
Duke Hall Gallery of Art, Faculty Exhibition, Harrisonburg, VA
Greenville Museum of Art, Archiving Place, Greenville, NC
Core Art Space, Fiber Art; Embracing the Craft, Denver, CO
2024 Staunton Augusta Art Center, Emerging Artists, Staunton, VA
Exhibitzone, Existence: Birth/Life/Death, Online Exhibition
Gallerium Art, Gallerium Art Price 2024, Online Exhibition
Wilson Arts, 2024 National Juried Exhibition, Wilson, NC
2023 Arts Council Fayetteville, Material World, Fayetteville, NC
Darrin-McHone Gallery; In Conversation, Harrisonburg, VA

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- Ridderhof Martin Gallery, Collective Efforts; Fredricksburg, VA
- 2022 Trawick Award; Gallery B, 2nd Place Award; Bethesda, MD
- 2020 Praxis Gallery; Digital Garden, Cleveland, OH
- 2019 Traveling SEFEA Exhibition; In Flux, East Tennessee State University, Karlota Gallery, TN
Marshall University, WV; Berea College KY; JMU, VA; Elon University, NC
Artspace; Collective Efforts, Richmond, VA
- 2018 Praxis Fiber Workshop; By Way of the Matrix, Cleveland, OH
Crooked Tree Arts Center; Hand in Hand: Craft and New Technologies, Traverse City, MI Cleo
Driver Miller Art Gallery; In the Round 4, Bridgewater, VA
New Image Gallery; Project Cullowhee; Harrisonburg, VA
- 2017 Wyche Gallery; New Conversations, Whiteville, NC
Sadie A. Hartzler Library; In the Round 3, Harrisonburg, VA
Harry Wood Gallery; Mechanization, Material & the Matrix, Tempe, AR
SEAD Gallery; Intersections, Houston, TX
- 2016 Museum of Contemporary Craft; CARPA, Portland, OR
Dennos Museum Center; Extreme Fibers, Traverse City, MI
Darrin-McHone Gallery; IN the Round 2, Harrisonburg, VA
Museum of Contemporary Art; New Waves, Virginia Beach, VA
SNAG Conference; Exhibition in Motion, Asheville, NC
- 2015 Duke Hall Gallery; JMU Faculty Exhibition, Harrisonburg, VA
The Little Gallery Underground; Music Without Sound, Harrisonburg, VA
Ann Arbor Art Center; Tech+Art, *First Prize Winner*, Ann Arbor, MI
Muskegon Art Museum; Extreme Fibers, Muskegon, MI
Darrin-McHone Gallery; IN the Round, Harrisonburg, VA
Open Grounds; Inertia TBA (TimeBasedArts), Charlottesville, VA
- 2014 Scythia Arts Center; Fibremen Four, Kherson, Ukraine
Northwestern Technical College, Digital Media Festival, Green Bay, WI
- 2012 Bellevue Art Museum, High Fiber Diet, Bellevue, WA
Disjecta Gallery, Self-Calibration, Portland, OR
Blackfish Gallery, 17th Annual Graduates Exhibition, Portland, OR
- 2011 Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Forest of Repair, Eugene, OR
Winnipeg Folk Festival, Outdoor Exhibition, Winnipeg, Canada
Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Undercurrents, Hamilton, OH
Redoux Parlour, Collaborative Projects, Eugene, OR
Art Center Gallery, 2011 Coastal Fiber Arts Exhibit, Astoria, OR
Opus VII, Designing Sound, Eugene, OR
Laverne Krause Galler, Materiality, Eugene, OR
- 2010 Beal Hall, Audio Visual Performance, Eugene, OR
- 2009 Freeark Gallery, Needles & Pins, Riverside, IL
Winnipeg Folk Festival, Outdoor Exhibition, Winnipeg, Canada
Orleans Street Gallery, (Inter) Action, St. Charles, IL
Neville Public Museum, Studio 210 Artists of 08, Green Bay, WI
- 2008 Flat Iron Building, SmART Show, Chicago, IL
CTA Orange Line, Art on Track, Chicago, IL
Neville Public Museum, Art and the Animal, Green Bay, WI

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CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2025 Freshwater Hymns, Indira Allegra, Duke Hall Gallery of Art, Curator; Harrisonburg, VA
- 2019 In Flux, Traveling SEFEA Exhibition, Co-Curator, East Tennessee State University, Karlota Gallery, TN Marshall University, WV; Berea College KY; James Madison University, VA
- 2016 Harmonic Laboratory, Duke Hall Gallery; Curator, Harrisonburg, VA
Fiber Art, Duke Hall Gallery; Curator, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2015 Modular Projects Space, Residency/Gallery Director, Harrisonburg, VA
KinAesthetic Exhibition, Curator, Spitzer House, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2011 Le Toilettes Gallery, Gallery Director, Eugene, OR
- 2007 Siragusa Gallery, Gallery Director, Chicago, IL

RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Atelier Artist in Residence; Westcove, Ireland
Cill Rialaig Arts Centre Residency, Ballinskelligs, Ireland
- 2024 Staunton Augusta Art Center; Staunton, VA
- 2019 The Digital Jacquard Center; Hendersonville, NC
- 2018 Western Carolina University Department of Art AIR program; Cullowhee, NC
The Utah Museum of Contemporary Art AIR program; Salt Lake City, UT
The Digital Jacquard Center; Hendersonville, NC
- 2016 Amano Pre-Columbian Textile Museum; Lima, Peru
- 2013 Camp CARPA, Joshua Tree, CA
Eugene Contemporary Arts, Public Process Residency; Eugene, OR
Apulaya Center for Andean Culture; Calca, Peru.
Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco; Cusco, Peru
- 2011 543 Artist Residency; Eugene, OR
- 2008 Neville Public Museum, Studio 210 Working Regional Artist, Green Bay, WI

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 "Friends of Fibers" Surface Design Journal
"First Person" Surface Design Journal
"Crafting Tomorrow" Surface Design Journal
- 2024 "Ephemeral Threads" Bureau of Queer Art: Queer and Allied Arts, Vol. 5
"Robert Mertens" Marquis Who's Who
- 2018 "Cosmology in Repeat" Surface Design Journal
"Scanning the Field" Surface Design Journal Blog
- 2016 "So to Speak" Online Feminist Magazine
- 2015 "First Person" Surface Design Journal
- 2013 "Camp CARPA: Craftivism in the Desert" Surface Design Journal "Gallery At a Glance" Eugene Magazine
- 2012 "Function" Composite Magazine

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PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Visiting Lecturer, American University, DC
- 2025 Textile Talks, Studio Art Quilts Association, Online
- 2024 Bureau of Queer Art, Efimero, Season 5, Online
- 2023 School of the Museum of Fine Art, Tufts, Guest Artist lecture, Boston, MA
- 2018 Institute for Visual Studies; Colloquium Presenter, Harrisonburg, VA
Midwestern Fiber Arts Education Network, Presenter, Green Bay, W
- 2017 Southeastern Fiber Arts Educations Association, Presenter, Penland, NC
- 2015 National Women's Studies Association Conference; Panelist, Milwaukee, WI
- 2012 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Guest Artist lecture, Chicago, IL
- 2011 University of Oregon; Art History Association Symposium, Eugene, OR
University of Oregon, Graduate Student Research Forum, Eugene, OR

GRANTS / AWARDS

- 2025 James Madison University Summer Research Grant
- 2024 James Madison University Faculty Educational Leave
- 2023 James Madison University Faculty Research Award
James Madison University, Outstanding Student Mentor Award
- 2022 Virginia Museum of Fine Art Fellowship
Trawick Prize (2nd Place)
- 2021 James Madison University Summer Research Grant
- 2018 James Madison University, "Make Your Next Move" Award
- 2016 James Madison University, Summer Research/Creative Activity Grant
James Madison University, Office of International Affairs Study Abroad Grant
- 2013 Emergency Grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Art

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

- Current Professor of Art, Fibers Area Head
- 2020–2026 Associate Professor of Art, Fibers Area Head
- 2015–2020 Assistant Professor of Art, Fibers Area Head
- 2014–2015 Visiting Professor of Art, Fibers Area Head

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

- 2012–2013 Adjunct Professor

International Teaching

- 2023-24-26 CGE Study Abroad Director, Burren College of Art, Ireland
- 2017 CGE Study Abroad Director, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica