

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

- 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; Mealy-mouth 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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 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
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

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- 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, 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

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2025 Indira Allegra, Duke Hall Gallery; Harrisonburg, VA
- 2019 In Flux, Traveling SEFEA Exhibition, East Tennessee State University, Karlota Gallery, TN
Marshall University, WV; Berea College KY; James Madison University, VA
- 2016 Harmonic Laboratory, Duke Hall Gallery; Harrisonburg, VA
Fiber Art, Duke Hall Gallery; Harrisonburg, VA
- 2015 Modular Projects Space, Harrisonburg, VA
KinAesthetic Exhibition, Spitzer House, Harrisonburg, VA
- 2011 Le Toilettes Gallery, Eugene, OR

RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Upcoming Atelier Artist in Residence; Westcove, 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

- 2024 “Ephemeral Threads” Bureau of Queer Art: Queer and Allied Arts, Vol. 5
“Robert Mertens” Marquis Who’s Who

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- 2018 “Cosmology in Repeat” Surface Design Journal 2018 “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

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Textile Talks, Studio Art Quilts Association
- 2024 Bureau of Queer Art, Efimero, Season 5
- 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

- 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

International Teaching Experience

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

Fiber Art Department Head/Coordinator/Technician

- 2020-Current *Associate Professor of Art*, James Madison University; Harrisonburg, VA
 - 2015-20 *Assistant Professor of Art*, James Madison University; Harrisonburg, VA
 - 2014-15 *Visiting Professor of Art*, James Madison University; Harrisonburg, VA
- Courses designed and taught:
Introduction to Fiber Arts: Surfaces

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Introduction to Fiber Arts: Structures
Intermediate Fiber Arts
Advanced Fiber Arts
Digital Processes in Fiber Arts
Collaboration in Fiber Arts
Woven Structures
Iterative Structures
Graduate Studio Practice
Graduate Integrative Seminar
Graduate Thesis
Graduate Directed Study
Art in General Culture
Three-Dimensional Design Foundations
Undergraduate Thesis Capstone
Professional Practices
Issues and Practices in Fiber Arts
Study Abroad: Art & Design in Costa Rica
Study Abroad: Art & Design in Ireland

2012-13 *Adjunct Professor, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR*
Courses taught:
Introduction to Fiber Arts
Woven Structures
Sewn Construction
Visiting Artist Seminar

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023-24 JMU School of Art, Design and Art History (SADAH) *Curriculum Task Force*
JMU SADAH *Tenure-Track Ceramics Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Art Studio Program Assessment Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*

2022-23 JMU College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) *Research Support Committee*
JMU School of Art, Design and Art History (SADAH) *Curriculum Task Force*
JMU SADAH *Technology Specialist Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Art Studio Program Assessment Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*

2021-22 JMU SADAH *Personnel Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Academic Unit Head Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Art Studio Program Assessment Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*

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- 2020-21 JMU SADAH *Personnel Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Art Studio Area Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Curriculum and Instruction Committee*
JMU SADAH *Leadership Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2019-20 JMU SADAH *Art Studio Area Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Curriculum and Instruction Committee*
JMU SADAH *Leadership Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Assistant Professor of Painting Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2018-19 JMU SADAH *Art Studio Area Coordinator*
JMU SADAH *Curriculum and Instruction Committee*
JMU SADAH *Leadership Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Gallery Director Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Recruitment Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2017-18 JMU CVPA *Dean's Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Visiting Professor in Foundations Search Committee (Chair)*
JMU SADAH *Recruitment Committee (Chair)*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2016-17 JMU CVPA *Dean's Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Recruitment Committee (Chair)*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2015-16 JMU CVPA *Dean's Advisory Committee*
JMU CVPA *Grand Opening Research and Scholarship Event Committee*
JMU SADAH *Recruitment Committee (Chair)*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Assistant Professor of Industrial Design Search Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Advisory Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*
- 2014-15 JMU SADAH *Recruitment Committee*
JMU SADAH *Graduate Committee*
JMU SADAH *Fiber Art and Weaving Area Head*

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Southeastern Fiber Arts Educators Association

Midwestern Fiber Arts Educators Network

Surface Design Journal Association

National Women's Studies Association