

KURT A. FONDRIEST

MIXED-MEDIA ARTIST | ASSEMBLAGE, SCULPTURE, AND WORKS ON PAPER
REGISTERED EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPIST (REAT)

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Chicago-based mixed-media artist with more than four decades of studio practice. Working with paint, torn paper, sand, found wood, bark, altered vessels, and everyday objects, Fondriest explores memory, identity, chronic pain, spirituality, resilience, and transformation.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** *Art + Therapy = Empowerment: The Equation*, solo retrospective, Greenleaf Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2025** *TV in My Head*, solo exhibition, Center on Halsted, Chicago, Illinois

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** *Abstract Expressions*, Vibrant Cast Gallery, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, Illinois, January-March 2026
- 2026-2027** *Songs of the 4 Communities*, Life Force Shamanic Arts & Healing, Chicago, Illinois
- 2017-Present** *Spring and Fall Group Exhibitions* (two exhibitions annually), Greenleaf Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2024-2025** *The Soul of the Land: From Sentience to Sovereignty*, Life Force Shamanic Arts & Healing, Chicago, Illinois
- 2024** *Transformations*, VibrantCast Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 2023-2024** *Conscious Body, Living Soul: From Sentience to Sovereignty*, Life Force Shamanic Arts & Healing, Chicago, Illinois
- 2022** *Sweet Home Chicago*, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, Illinois, June-July 2022
- 2021-2023** *The Soul's Home*, Life Force Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2020-2021** *The Soul's Essence*, Life Force Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018-2019** *Love & Wisdom: The Skills of Maturity*, Life Force Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018** *Passion & Vision: The Skills of Youth*, Life Force Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2017-2018** *Art: The Language of Community*, Life Force Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois

SELECTED EARLIER EXHIBITIONS

- 2000** *The Adam and Eve Artist's Ball*, Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1993-1994** *Seeing with the Inner Eye: A Spiritual Approach to Artistic Creation*, juried Midwest regional exhibition sponsored by the Chicago Women's Caucus for Art; Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Near Northwest Arts Council, and Chicago State University, Chicago, Illinois
- 1993-1994** *Movie Monster Theme Show*, World Tattoo Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1990** *Five: New Work*, five-person exhibition, Near Northwest Arts Council, Chicago, Illinois
- 1990** *Día de los Muertos*, Near Northwest Arts Council, Chicago, Illinois

SELECTED MUSEUM AND BENEFIT EXHIBITIONS

- 2015-2019** *The Artist in All*, annual Misericordia benefit exhibition and auction, Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Contributing artist; donated original works reviewed for inclusion by the Art Institute of Chicago; also mentored participating Misericordia resident artists
- 2005-2014** *The Artist in All*, Misericordia fundraiser, Northern Trust Bank, Chicago, Illinois. Artistic mentorship and exhibition preparation for participating Misericordia resident artists
- 2002-2004** *The Artist in All*, Misericordia fundraiser, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois. Artistic mentorship and exhibition preparation for participating Misericordia resident artists
- 2012-2016** Participated in two group exhibitions of art therapists' personal work, de Young Museum, San Francisco, California
- 2010-2015** Group exhibitions, Young Art Museum, San Francisco, California

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Private** Daley family collection, Chicago, Illinois. Collection also includes work by Marc Chagall

SELECTED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2019** *Illinois Art Therapy Conference*
- 2010** *Illinois Art Therapy Conference*
- 2009** *Buckeye Art Therapy Association*
- 2009** *National Expressive Arts Therapy Conference*
- 2006** Panelist representing Misericordia, inaugural *Bodies of Work: The Chicago Festival of Disability Arts and Culture*, Chicago, Illinois

EDUCATION

- 1988** Master of Fine Arts, Fine Arts / Art Therapy, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 1985** Bachelor of Fine Arts, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio

SELECTED GRANTS, HONORS, AND RECOGNITION

- 2026** Chicago Arts Working Grant
- 2011** Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Humanity, Claymont High School, Uhrichsville, Ohio
- 2009** Visiting Artist, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND FEATURES

- 2026** *IEATA Member Spotlight*, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association, August 2026
- 2025** *Kurt Fondriest: Each Piece I Create Is a Narrative*, UPWARD Gallery artist interview, February 11, 2025
- 2022** *Little Tree*, National Fibromyalgia Association
- 2021** *Misericordia: A Century of Compassion*, featured artist and art-program contributor
- 2020** *What If Miss Liberty Had a Disability?*, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association newsletter; also recognized in School of the Art Institute of Chicago Class Notes
- 2016** *Goodbye My Dear Bedroom*, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association publication, Spring issue
- 2015** Artwork featured in Pain Pathways magazine
- 2009** "Erasing the Pain," *Healing with Art and Soul: Engaging Oneself through Art Modalities*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing
- 2005** Artwork and writing featured in Fibromyalgia AWARE magazine
- 2004** *Word Pictures*, selected publication

2003 *Stretching a Painting's Truth*, Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MISERICORDIA HOME, Chicago, Illinois | Expressive Art Therapist and Art Educator, 1991 - 2019

- Developed and led adaptive visual-arts and expressive-arts programming for adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.
- Designed individualized studio processes that expanded access to painting, mixed media, sculpture, storytelling, performance, and collaborative artmaking.
- Mentored resident artists and prepared artwork for public presentation, including the annual The Artist in All benefit exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Created campus-wide continuing-education experiences integrating art history, visual storytelling, performance, and studio practice.
- Conceived and facilitated major collaborative installations and public-facing projects while preserving each resident artist's individual authorship and voice.

SELECTED COLLABORATIVE AND PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2016** Goodbye My Dear Bedroom, collaborative Van Gogh-inspired installation and one-act performance project, presented through The Artist in All at the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2015** Mentored a Misericordia resident artist in creating a portrait of Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews, presented to Toews
- Ongoing** Supported Misericordia resident artists in creating works acquired by the Daley family and presented to President Barack Obama, Pope Francis, the President of Ireland, and other community and philanthropic leaders
- 2006** Collaborative stained-glass windows for Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, Misericordia campus, Chicago
- 2005** *McAuley Residence Neighborhood Murals*, Misericordia Home, Chicago, Illinois. Designer; murals reinforced the person-centered naming of residential areas as "neighborhoods" rather than wards or floors
- 2002-2014** Artistic mentorship and exhibition preparation for Misericordia's The Artist in All benefit exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center (2002-2004) and Northern Trust Bank (2005-2014), Chicago, Illinois
- 1996** Community Mural Project, Misericordia Home, Chicago, Illinois. Lead Art Instructor; led the collaborative mural project, partially funded by actor Chris O'Donnell

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

- Current** Studio Artist, Greenleaf Art Center, Chicago
- Current** Exhibiting Artist, Life Force Shamanic Arts & Healing, Chicago
- Current** Review Committee Member, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association, Registered Expressive Arts Therapist applications

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Registered Expressive Arts Therapist | Registered Art Therapist | Certified Pastoral Counselor | Ordained Nondenominational Minister