

# Robin DeSantis (she/her)

## Work Experience

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**Smithsonian Institution** – Washington, DC, USA Nov 2023 – Present  
*Instructional Designer (Detail Assignment, Office of the Under Secretary for Education)*

- Selected to join a cross-unit community of practice to build a centralized professional development function for Smithsonian-wide educators.
- Co-created a theory of change for the Smithsonian Education Community of over 300 staff.
- Develop onboarding and learning materials for new hires and facilitate monthly workshops on topics relevant to educators, such as visitor accessibility and program evaluation.

**Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)** – Washington, DC, USA May 2022 – Present  
*Education Specialist (Distance Learning)*

- Design and deliver videoconference lessons, professional development courses, and asynchronous educational resources for K-12 students and teachers within Department of Defense schools, integrating SAAM's collection of American art with the curriculum of classrooms on military installations across the Americas, Europe, and Pacific regions.

**Europass Teacher Academy** – Florence, Italy Sep 2020 – Dec 2021  
*Head Teacher Trainer for Arts*

- Designed and instructed professional development courses (face-to-face and online) for teachers from across Europe, in affiliation with the Erasmus+ mobility program and with an emphasis on inclusive curriculum design and arts integration.
- Led tours of Florence city center and local museums (Uffizi Galleries, Opera del Duomo) focused on Renaissance art history.

**International Studies Institute (ISI) Florence** – Florence, Italy Jan 2020 – May 2020  
*Assistant Professor of Studio Art*

- Taught fundamentals of drawing, color theory, and oil painting technique to students pursuing liberal arts degrees from affiliate American colleges and universities.

**Associazione Culturale L'Immaginario** – Florence, Italy Sep 2018 – Feb 2020  
*Museum Educator (English/Italian)*

- Led museum tours and art activities for youth ages 6-16 in Florence's Museo Horne and Museo Marino Marini and in local primary and secondary schools.
- Facilitated art-making activities for people with dementia and their care partners, as part of Museums, Art & Alzheimer's (MA&A) project with support from the European Commission.

**Big Sister Association of Greater Boston** – Boston, MA, USA Jan 2015 – June 2017  
*Senior Match Support Specialist, Spanish-Speaking*

- Provided risk management and support to a caseload of 150 girls and mentors, ensuring child safety and promoting relationship development and youth outcomes.
- Conducted in-home and remote assessments of program participants, producing documentation related to individual and community needs.

**Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** – Boston, MA, USA Aug 2016 – May 2017  
*Artful Healing Program Coordinator*

- Managed and operated Artful Healing program, offering art-making activities to patients and their care partners (~1,000 annually) in Boston-area hospitals and healthcare centers.

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## Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (cont.)

*Museum Educator*

Oct 2014 – May 2017

- Designed and facilitated hands-on art workshops for patients and their care partners in Boston hospitals, customized gallery tours for Museum visitors, and after-school art classes for students ages 5-11 in Cambridge Public Schools.

## United States Peace Corps

*Community Economic Development Advisor* – Samaná, Dominican Republic Nov 2012 – Apr 2014

- Created and facilitated course on small-scale income generation, product design, and marketing with a cooperative of female artisans in a marginalized rural community.
- Co-authored curriculum and designed graphics for Peace Corps manual on female entrepreneurship and gender equity.

*Youth Development Promoter* – San Cristóbal, Dominican Republic

Aug 2010 – Oct 2012

- Responsible for development and management of community programs for over 200 youth ages 4-18 in a marginalized urban community. Taught literacy, family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, visual arts, and yoga.
- Secured over \$5,000 of grant financing for community programs including a course on sexual health, information technology training, and the painting of community murals by local youth.
- Facilitated documentation workshop to secure Dominican citizenship of 15 previously undocumented community members.
- Chosen as exemplary Youth Development Volunteer and invited to present community diagnostic research and creative arts curriculum to Peace Corps Trainees.
- Designed and painted mural as commissioned artist in Peace Corps Dominican Republic National Headquarters, commemorating 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Service in D.R.

## Education

**Studio Arts College International (SACI)** – Florence, Italy

Graduated April 2019

*Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (Social Practice)*

**Boston College, College of Arts and Sciences** – Chestnut Hill, MA, USA

Graduated May 2010

*Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies, Philosophy, and Studio Art (Painting)*

## Selected Conference Presentations

**American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting**

May 6-9, 2025

*Los Angeles, CA, USA*

Co-facilitated roundtable session, “From Principles to Practice: Building an Ecosystem for Professional Learning,” highlighting my work with Smithsonian’s Community Activation Team.

**Smithsonian National Education Summit**

July 16-18, 2024

*Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA*

Presented on the role of art in mirroring historical events, social movements, and cultural shifts.

Modeled object- and inquiry-based teaching strategies for educators.

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## Exhibitions & Performances

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<b>Artists at Work</b> <i>Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA</i>	March 2024 – March 2025
<b>Life, Death, Love</b> <i>art-collide.com</i>	October 2023
<b>In Kontakt</b> <i>Universität der Künste Berlin, Germany</i>	Oct 26-30, 2019
<b>Time + Skin</b> <i>Maidoff Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Apr 15, 2019
<b>Un Punto d'Incontro (Common Ground)</b> <i>Frittelli Arte Contemporanea, Florence, Italy</i>	Apr 12-18, 2019
<b>Altrove (Elsewhere) solo exhibition</b> <i>Maidoff Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Feb 21-24, 2019
<b>A casa (At home) solo exhibition</b> <i>OnArt Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Dec 2, 2018
<b>Open House</b> <i>Accaventiquattro Gallery, Prato, Italy</i>	Nov 2, 2018
<b>A pranzo (At lunchtime) solo exhibition</b> <i>OnArt Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Apr 14, 2018
<b>ReMemory</b> <i>OnArt Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Apr 10-12, 2018
<b>No Thought Control</b> <i>Maidoff Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Mar 28 – Apr 8, 2018
<b>The Stories of Others</b> <i>Cartavetra Gallery, Florence, Italy</i>	Dec 3, 2017

## Artist Residencies

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<b>Scuola sul Gesto e il Paesaggio</b> <i>Centro Nazionale di Produzione Virgilio Sieni, Florence, Italy</i>	Jun 18-23, 2019
<b>Counter-Production, Palermo Summer School of Art</b> <i>Caffè Internazionale, Palermo, Italy</i>	Jul 16-28, 2018