

RACHEL TRUSTY

EDUCATION

Present **MA/PhD Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Kansas**
Dissertation: “Embodiment and Agency within the Artistic Genre of Queer Abstraction”
Defended July 26, 2022. Advisor: Dr. Alesha Doan

2011 **MFA Studio Art, Lesley College**
Thesis: “Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice”
Advisor: Laurel Sparks

2006 **BA Sculpture and Art Education, University of Central Arkansas**

Areas of Specialization: Feminist and LGBT+ Art and History (1965 – Present), Gender in US History (1900- Present), Queer, Feminist, and Affect Theories.

Teaching Certification: Arkansas Department of Education, Social Studies 7- 12, Art PK - 12

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-Present **Lecturer, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.**

Mounted a successful multi-year research project that utilized a mixed-method approach to provide a historical and theoretical framework for the contemporary artistic genre of queer abstraction. Coordinated with museum sites including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to collect data including interviews and participant observation on objects in their collection.

Taught and served as instructor of record in three courses: Feminist and LGBT+ Art History (1965 – Present), Sex, Gender, and New Media, and Introduction to Gender Studies. Created and executed innovative, rigorous curriculum which included developing weekly lectures, discussions, and formative assessments such as quizzes and tests. Graded all coursework. Courses developed: Sex, Gender, and New Media and Feminist and LGBT+ Art History.

2016 – Present **Lecturer, Art and Art History, General Education Department, University of Arkansas, Morrilton, AR.**

Taught and served as instructor of record in five courses: Art History (Prehistory – Renaissance), Art History (Renaissance – Modern), Art Appreciation, Drawing I, and Watercolor I. Created and executed unique curriculum which included developing weekly lectures, discussions, and formative assessments such as quizzes, tests, and studio projects. Graded all coursework.

2020 **Curriculum Developer, Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, KS.**

Coordinated with the Watkins Museum of History education and curatorial teams to develop a comprehensive 7-12 curriculum guide for the exhibition *The 15th Amendment at 150*. Researched primary documents including texts, advertisements, political cartoons, and fine artworks related to the 15th Amendment. Organized a detailed lesson plan set that included sources, activities, and assessments based on the primary sources and the objects the Watkins exhibition. Paired all curriculum with Kansas State Education Frameworks.

2015 – 2017 **Gallery Coordinator and Educator, William F. Laman Library System, North Little Rock, AR.**

Organized, mounted, and de-installed monthly and bi-monthly exhibitions for two gallery spaces. Sought out and coordinated with artists and artist groups for exhibitions. Created all exhibition texts including signage, catalogs,

labels, and press releases. Created original educational programming for students in K-12 to coordinate with select exhibitions.

2016 Open Palace Programme Museum Internship, London and Various Sites, England, UK.

Worked as part of an internship team at various museum sites in southern England including the Stowe House, Windsor Castle, the Brighton Pavilion, and the Tower of London. Participated in hands-on training in curatorial, education, and preservation efforts at each location.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2014-2015 Mayflower High School, Art Teacher, Mayflower, AR.
- 2013-2014 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Lecturer, Little Rock, AR.
- 2012-2014 Pulaski Academy Upper School, AP and Honors US History Teacher, Little Rock, AR.
- 2011 University of Central Arkansas, Lecturer, Conway, AR.
- 2010/11 University of Arkansas at Morrilton, Lecturer, Morrilton, AR.
- 2008-2011 Perryville High School, Art Teacher, Perryville, AR.
- 2006-2008 Alma Middle School, Art Teacher, Alma, AR.

AWARDS, GRANTS, & RESIDENCIES

Awards/Fellowships

- 2021 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate Scholarly Development Award, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
Spencer Museum of Art, Brousseau Award, *Reclaiming and Redefining the Body* Exhibition, Lawrence, KS.
- 2020 Graduate Teaching Award: Best Teacher and Teaching Mentor, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- 2019/20 National Museum of Women in the Arts, Arkansas Committee, Featured Artist, Juror: Courtney Taylor. Little Rock, AR.
- 2018-19 Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- 2017 Polly Wood Crews Award, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Arkansas Committee.
- 2016 Arkansas Arts Council, Purchase Award, Small Works on Paper Exhibition, Little Rock, AR.
- 2015 Mayflower School District, Distinguished Faculty Award, Mayflower, AR.
- 2013 Arkansas Arts Council, Purchase Award, Small Works on Paper Exhibition, Little Rock, AR.

Grants

- 2020 Department of Graduate Studies, Scholarly Presentation Travel Grant, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- 2019 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, Travel Grant, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.
- 2016 Arkansas Arts Council, Sally A. Williams Fund Artist Grant, Little Rock, AR.

Residencies

- 2020 Shelter-in-Place Artist Residency, Conducted Virtually.
- 2019 Arts, Letters, & Numbers Artist Residency, Albany, NY.

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- 2018 Rachel Trusty, "Feminine Gestures: Challenging Objecthood through White and Black Feminist Performance Art," *The International Journal of Social, Political, and Community Agendas in the Arts* 13, no 4 (2018): 29-40. Print and Online.

Exhibition Reviews

- 2019 Rachel Trusty, "Queer Abstraction," *ARTMargins Online*, MIT Press, Sept. 17, 2019. Online.

Editorials

- 2020 Rachel Trusty, "What Will Become of Interactive Art When Museums Reopen?," *Alliance Blog*, American Alliance of Museums, May 8, 2020. Online.
- Rachel Trusty, "The New Gallery offers a Contemporary Art Experience," *The Daily Record*, Sept. 2, 2019. Print and Online.

CURATED EXHIBITIONS

May 2022 *Mining the Gap Exhibition, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, KS.*

Exhibition of works from the permanent collection of the Spencer Museum of Art that demonstrate both Feminist and Queer approaches. Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

2015 – 2020 *Delta des Refusés Annual Exhibition. Various sites in Little Rock and North Little Rock, AR.*

This annual exhibition was organized in tandem with the *Delta Exhibition* at the Arkansas Arts Center. The *Refusés* acted as a counter-show where artists who were rejected from the *Delta* could participate.

Jan. 2018 *One Year Down Exhibition, New Deal Gallery, Little Rock, AR.*

Co-Curated with John Hardy and Lee Weber. This exhibition included works that commented on events in and themes of the first year of the Trump Administration

2016 – 2018 *Arkansas Fiber Arts Annual Exhibition. Laman Library Gallery System, North Little Rock, AR.*

This annual exhibition features contemporary artists from Arkansas who bring innovative approaches to fiber arts including quilting, embroidery, soft sculpture, and basketry.

NEW MEDIA PROJECTS

- 2019 African American Quilt Museum, Website Consultant, Lawrence, KS.

- 2018 Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Social Media and Branding Consultant, Little Rock, AR

Spencer Research Library Digitization Project: Transcription and Programming for Elizabeth Dyke's *Book of Recaits* (1668), Transcription Team Member and K-12 Curriculum Developer, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

- 2016/17 KABF 88.3 FM, Host, "Art Talk" Radio Program and Podcast, Little Rock, AR.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- 2022 Dismantling the Body: Possibilities and Limitations in Art Making Symposium, Paper Presentation: "Understanding Embodiment within the Artistic Genre of Queer Abstraction," University of Washington, Seattle, WA. March 16, 2022.
- 2021 *LGBTQ Research Symposium*, Paper Presentation: "The Queer, Affective Potential in Prem Sahib's 'Sweat Panels.'" University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. June 4, 2021.
- 2020 College Art Association Conference, Paper Presentation: "Audience Understanding of *Untitled(Placebo-Landscape-for-Roni)* by Felix Gonzalez-Torres," Chicago, Chicago, IL. February 15, 2020.
- 2017 Midwest Popular Culture Assoc./American Culture Assoc. Conference. Paper Presentation: "The Lavender Menace Makes: Lesbian Art in the Feminist Movement," Hyatt Regency, St. Louis, MO. October 18-22, 2017.
- Twelfth International Conference on Arts in Society, Paper Presentation: "Feminine Gestures: Challenging Objecthood with White and Black Performance Art," American University of Paris, Paris, France. June 15th, 2017.
- Seventh Annual Gender and Communication Conference, Lecture: "Ways of Seeing: Representations of the LGBTQ Communities in Contemporary Art," Western Kentucky University. Bowling Green, KY. April 8, 2017.

Invited Talks

- 2022 Kansas Women's Leadership Institute Lecture: "Gender Studies Today," University of Kansas, July 7th, 2022.
- Hall Center for the Humanities, Gender Seminar Series, Paper Presentation: "Performative Objects/ Performative Bodies: Queer Abstraction as an Intervention into Subjecthood and Resistance." University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. Feb. 3, 2022.
- 2021 Kansas Women's Leadership Institute Lecture: "An Introduction to Sex and Gender," Online. July 15th, 2021.
- Southwestern College Visual Arts Department, Lecture: "Interventions into Portraiture," Chula Vista, CA. April 27, 2021.
- 2020 Coalition of Masters Scholars on Material Culture, Lecture: "Assessing Queer Failure in the artistic genre of Queer Abstraction," Online. November 21, 2020.
- Craft Conscious Website, Lecture: "Gender and Craft." August 25, 2020.
<https://www.craftconsciusedu.com/gender-1>.

Artist Talks

- 2021 Regional Art Museum, Artist Talk: Current Work, Fort Smith, AR. Online. Oct. 14th, 2021.
- No Man's Land* Artists Roundtable, Windgate Museum of Art, Hendrix College, Conway, AR. April 21, 2021.
- Star Children* Exhibition Artists Roundtable, Bradbury Museum of Art, Jonesboro, AR. March 15, 2021.
- 2019 Lawrence Arts Center, Artist Talk for *Summer Crush Exhibition*, Lawrence, KS. July 1, 2019.
- 2017 *Small Town, Big Minds* Radio Program, Panelist: "Art in the Current Political Climate." KXRJ 91.9 FM. Russellville, AR. March 13, 2017. Radio.
- 2016 University of Arkansas Monticello, Artist Talk, September 29, 2016. Monticello, AR.
- 2011 Lesley College, Artist Talk, June 10, 2011. Boston, MA.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/SERVICE

- 2018 – Present Member of the Queer & Trans Caucus for Art, College Art Association
- 2021-22 Student Member of the Curriculum Committee, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Kansas.
- 2020-21 Member of the Diversity and Inclusion in Curriculum Committee, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Kansas.
- 2018/20 MFA Mentor, Lesley College.
- 2016-18 Member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton.
- 2014-15 President and Board Member of the Arkansas League of Artists.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Art Association: General and Queer and Trans Caucus of Art Member

Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Art

Arkansas Women's History Institute

COURSES TAUGHT

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| Lecture: Feminist and LGBT+ Art (1965-Present) | Art Appreciation |
| Art Criticism and Aesthetics | Elementary Art Education |
| Art History: Ancient – Renaissance | Sex, Gender, and New Media |
| Art History: Renaissance – Modern | Introduction to Gender Studies |
| Studio: Drawing I | |
| Watercolor | |
| 2D Design | |