

AMY GILLES

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ART
NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

2013

Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art

University of Illinois, Champaign - Urbana, IL

Thesis Title: *"Walking and Naming: 100 Walks in 100 Days"*

My M.F.A. thesis show explored the experience of walking and the way we come to know or feel connected to a place by moving through it. All of my artwork was inspired by the routes that I walked everyday within a ten-mile radius and I incorporated the actual shape of the paths into the composition of the pieces. I studied the work of author Rebecca Solnit, who describes the relationship between traversing a landscape and creative thinking, and looked at the work of artists Marina Abramović and Yuji Agematsu who also draw inspiration from the ritual of walking.

2009

Bachelor of Arts in Painting and Creative Writing

Hope College, Holland, MI

Cum Laude graduating honor

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present

Gallery Director for Friesen Gallery

Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID

Responsibilities of gallery director include managing both physical gallery spaces in the Brandt Center on NNU's campus as well as the permanent collection of artwork purchased through the Friesen Gallery Fund. I curate 6 unique exhibitions throughout the academic year and work with local and visiting artists to display their work in our gallery space. This involves arranging for the shipment of artwork, installing the work in the space and creating the marketing materials for each exhibition. The Friesen Gallery is an educationally focused gallery space where we strive to bring in a diverse selection of exhibitions that showcase a variety of disciplines and approaches to art-making. Over my time as director, I have tried to curate shows that touch upon important cultural topics as well as collaborate with different departments across campus and the community.

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE
CONTINUED**

**2013-Present
Assistant Professor of Studio Art
Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID**

My role in the NNU Visual Art Department is to teach the majority of the fine art classes within the Studio Arts major. This means that I teach courses that focus on traditional art mediums such as painting, drawing, sculpture and mixed media. All students in our department, regardless of their area of emphasis, are required to take foundational art classes that teach them about the principles of color theory, composition, proportions and good craftsmanship. Because I teach these foundational classes, I work with designers and fine artists alike to prepare them for their creative careers. I also serve as primary advisor for all declared Studio Art majors in our department.

**2010-Present
Professional Studio Artist
Chicago, IL, Urbana, IL and Nampa, ID**

My professional art experiences encompasses many different bodies of artwork and commissioned projects. My time in the art studio remains a vital part of my weekly routine and I see it as vital to maintaining my craft and engaging in artistic scholarship. This includes applying for and participating in group and solo exhibitions of my work locally and around the country. I create commissioned artwork for print publications, book cover designs, musical album artwork and product design for local Treasure Valley businesses.

**2012-2013
Instructor for ARTS299, Drawing 1
University of Illinois Champaign - Urbana, IL**

This drawing course was specifically designed for non art majors and the syllabus I designed focused on the foundational elements of composition, proportion, value and perspective.

**2012-2013
Head of the Link Gallery Exhibition Committee
University of Illinois Champaign - Urbana, IL**

This committee was responsible for the curation of artwork in the Link Gallery, located in the School of Art + Design at UIUC. As head of the committee, I was responsible for bringing proposed artwork to the group for consideration and arranging for the installation of the work.

**2010-2013
3D Fabrication Lab Assistant
University of Illinois Champaign - Urbana, IL**

This position involved assisting undergraduate students with their 3-dimensional sculpture projects and monitoring the woodshop lab and machines.

**PROFESSIONAL
AND ACADEMIC
AWARDS**

2021

Recipient of the Alexa Rose Foundation Grant

2021

Featured Visiting Artist at Gallery 55 in McCall Idaho

2017

Peer-Nominated Keynote Presenter at The Idaho Art Educators Conference
Skyview High School, Nampa, ID

For this keynote presentation I focused on ways for art educators to maintain their own personal art practices and overcome barriers to artistic block. Title of presentation: "Turning on the Faucet: Nourishing Your Own Art Practice."

2009

Recipient of the West Michigan Scholarship award from Oxbow Artist Residency Program through the Art Institute of Chicago

2008

Recipient of the Snow Scholarship for international study in Vienna, Austria

2007

Recipient of the Hope College Kruizenga Scholarship

2006

Recipient of the Hope College Distinguished Artist Award Scholarship

**SELECTED
EXHIBITIONS**

2022

"Magic of the Ordinary" group exhibition at Gallery Underground, Arlington, VA.

2021

"LIMINAL" group exhibition at Verum Ultimum Art Gallery, Portland, OR

2021

"Growing Wild" solo exhibition in Caldwell, ID

2020

"Micro/Macro" solo exhibition at Blue Eye Gallery, Nampa, ID and Gallery 55, McCall, ID

2018

Group Faculty Exhibition at Northwest Nazarene University, Friesen Gallery, Nampa, ID.

**SELECTED
EXHIBITIONS
CONTINUED**

2017

"The Shape We Take" solo exhibition at Cornerstone Gallery, Nampa, ID

2016

"Soul at White Heat" solo exhibition at Friesen Gallery, Nampa, ID

2016

"HEART" group exhibition at Cornerstone Gallery, Nampa, ID

2014

"Line of Thought" solo exhibition at Friesen Gallery, Nampa, ID

2013

MFA group exhibition at the Spurlock Museum, Champaign, IL

2013

Group exhibition at The Peanut Gallery, Chicago, IL

2012

Solo exhibition at SoDo Theatre and Gallery, Champaign, IL.

2012

"Art Basil" group exhibition, Link Gallery Champaign, IL.

2012

"you, I, You, See" group exhibition at Co Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

2011

"Engage" group exhibition, Link Gallery, Champaign, IL

2011

Collaborative mural shown in conjunction with the Library and Information Science storytelling Festival, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

2011

"Artsplasia" group exhibition at Co Prosperity Gallery, Chicago, IL

2009

Exhibition at the Oxbow Summer Residency Exhibition, Saugatuck, MI

2008-2009

"Activesite" group exhibition in conjunction with the International Sculpture Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

2009

"Grafted" Senior Thesis show, De Pree Gallery, Holland, MI

**CURATED
EXHIBITIONS AT
FRIESEN GALLEY**

2020

"Earth & Sky" an exhibition of work by Rhonda Tuholski, Nampa, ID

2021

NNU Homecoming exhibition, featuring the artwork of Dr. Mary Shaffer and S. E. Lisk, M.D., Nampa, ID

2022

Night of the Arts 2022, student juried exhibition, Nampa, ID

2022

"Rods and Cones" an exhibition of work from the permanent collection of the Friesen Gallery, Nampa, ID

2022

"A Painters Pursuit" the artwork of Anne Peterson, Nampa, ID

2022

"Chromatic Construction" the work of Laura Wennstrum, Nampa, ID

2023

Night of the Arts 2023, student juried exhibition, Nampa, ID

2023

"Journey Through Hospice" a collaborative exhibition by Emily Fox and Journey's Hospice Center, Nampa, ID

2023

Senior Studio Art Exhibition, featuring the work of Louie Heaton and Abbey Shaw, Nampa, ID

**UPCOMING
CURATED EXHIBITIONS
AT FRIESEN GALLEY**

Oct 2023

The artwork of BSU Professor Emeritus, John Taye, Nampa, ID

Nov 2023

NNU Homecoming exhibition, featuring the photography of Dr. John Cossel, Professor of Biology, Nampa, ID

Nov 2023

NNU Homecoming auction of the work of renown artist David Finkbeiner, Nampa, ID

March 2024

"Elemental" a group exhibition of Idaho artist exploring the theme of the 4 natural elements, Nampa, ID