

Abbi Loree Ruppert

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Public Art

Unity Tree | August 2022 – present

Permanent commission for **Waynesburg University**, Unity Trail, Waynesburg, PA

Goodnight, Shut Up: The Sculpture | December 2022 – August 2024

Evansdale Campus, **West Virginia University**, Morgantown, WV

Revival, **Scovill Sculpture Park**, Decatur, IL | June 2022 – present

Krutch Park, Knoxville, TN | June 2021 – June 2022

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL | October 2019 – June 2021

Leave the trauma to me | May – October 2021

Sukup Lakeside Courtyard and Sculpture Garden, **Clear Lake Arts Center**, Clear Lake, IA

Professional Experience

Teaching

Art Program Coordinator & Instructor | August 2023 - present

Owensboro Community & Technical College: Humanities & Fine Arts | Owensboro, KY

- Organize, curate, install & de-install 3-4 exhibitions per semester in the Dayman Art Gallery.
- Develop course curriculum & teach 3-6 classes per semester, such as Sculpture, 3D Design, Art History, Intro to Art, & Survival Skills for Artists
- Maintain regular e-mail and in-person communication with students to keep them on track with projects and assignments
- Develop and implement safe operations of all Art Studio equipment, tools, and inventory, including proper storage of flammable materials and safe operation of shop equipment, tools, & PPE
- Assess areas for improvement to continually grow and advance the Associate in Fine Arts -Visual Art program

Workshop Instructor | April – May 2023

Monongalia Arts Center | Morgantown, WV

- Developed curriculum for and instruct found object assemblage workshop and work with program coordinator to schedule details and promote programming

Instructor of Record | January 2022 – May 2023

Visual Foundations 2 (3D Design) | West Virginia University

- Organized and performed daily classroom activities, such as lectures and demonstrations, help students problem solve, and facilitate group critiques, while cultivating a positive learning environment
- Effectively utilized alternative approaches to demonstrate/explain difficult concepts to students as needed

Instructor of Record | August 2021 – December 2021

Visual Foundations 1 (2D Design) | West Virginia University

- Demonstrated fundamental art concepts and techniques, provided guidance and feedback on sketches and projects, and guided group critiques

Shop Monitor | August 2021 – December 2022

Sculpture Area (wood & metal shops) | West Virginia University

- Supervised students to ensure safe operation of tools and equipment and troubleshoot malfunctioning equipment to restore to good working order
- Demonstrated safe operation of tools and equipment to students and restock shop supplies as needed
- Helped students solve technical and compositional problems with their sculptures

Stamp Workshop Instructor | April 2021

Jacoby Arts Center | Alton, IL

- Developed and taught a stamp making workshop using the relief printmaking process to adult students

Woodcut Printmaking Instructor | October 2020

Jacoby Arts Center | Alton, IL

- Developed and taught Introductory Woodcut Printmaking to adult students

Teaching Assistant | January – March 2020

Assisted Thad Duhigg in Intro to Sculpture | Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL

- Demonstrated and guided intro sculpture students on MIG welding safety and technique
- Touched base with students in Thad's absence to go over project ideas and brainstorm logistical approaches to building their sculptures

Self-employed artist | May 2019 – present

- Work with independent contractors, such as crane operators and grounds crew support, to safely move large scale sculpture into place and securely install using concrete anchors.
- Arrange sculpture transport logistics such as trailer rental, heavy lifting machinery, and organize support team to assist with install
- Secure large-scale work on a 14-foot flatbed trailer and haul with a truck or 4x4 van
- Coordinate site visits and exhibition install/de-install, including schedule meetings and maintain working relationships with artists, art centers, and city employees
- Plan, design, and execute successful projects on time and within budget and adapt as priorities shift
- Apply for professional exhibitions and opportunities, including writing statements, proposals, project budgets & timelines, and descriptions for work
- Successfully install sculptural work and site-specific installations across the country, including solve problems such as anchoring into concrete and adjusting for abnormally short walls
- Securely package work, including sculpture, framed and unframed prints, to ship, while providing detailed unpacking/repacking and installation instructions for the gallery staff
- Professionally frame prints to protect and display work, including cut beveled mats and build custom frames

Education

2022 Master of Arts: Studio Art

College of Creative Arts, West Virginia University (WVU), Morgantown, WV

2021 Bachelor of Fine Arts: Sculpture

Minors: Applied Communication Studies, Art History

College of Arts and Sciences, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE),
Edwardsville, IL

Exhibitions

- 2024 *Along the way*, solo exhibition, Foundry Art Center, St. Charles, MO
Owensboro Art Guild 62nd Juried Exhibition, Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, Owensboro, KY
Echoes in the Mountains, The Gallery at Andrew White Guitars, Morgantown, WV
- 2023 *Maybe tomorrow*, two-person exhibition with Haley Clancy Inyart at Bonsack Gallery,
John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO
Three Rivers Arts Festival Juried Visual Arts Exhibition, SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
Making Sense: interactive exhibition, Beckley Art Center, Beckley WV
Heavy Water, The Co-op, Morgantown, WV
- 2022 *Goodnight, Shut Up*, two-person exhibition at Clear Lake Arts Center, Clear Lake, IA
Tapped, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Adorned: Inspired by Fabric and Fashion, AnnMarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center,
Solomons, MD
16th Annual HWD Juried Sculpture Exhibition, Rosewood Art Center, Kettering, OH
Smorgasbord 3: West Virginia University Student Exhibition, Artists Image Resource,
Pittsburgh, PA
Trifecta: West Virginia University Ceramics, Sculpture, and Printmaking Showcase, Love Hope
Center for the Arts, Fayetteville, WV
10th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Laura Mesaros Gallery, WVU, Morgantown, WV
Kingdom Animalia – 2022, Exhibizone, Biafarin Online Exhibition
- 2021 *Among Beasts*, Sugar Gallery, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
Cedarhurst Biennial, Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, Mt. Vernon, IL
2021 ISC Student Member Exhibition, International Sculpture Center, sculpture.org
Art in Public Places Sculpture Exhibition, Dogwood Arts, Krutch Park, Knoxville TN
2021 Sculpture Exhibition, Clear Lake Arts Center, Clear Lake, IA
2021 AAH 4th Biannual Exhibition, Angad Arts Hotel, St. Louis, MO
The Emerging Artist Showcase, Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL
Breaking Ground, Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
22nd Annual Wills Creek Exhibition of Fine Art, Saville Gallery, Allegany Arts Council,
Cumberland, MD
Cherished: Things Most Loved, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Common Threads: A fibers exhibition, Lux Center for the Arts, Lincoln, NE
Self-Reflections, Foundry Art Centre, St. Louis, MO
Why, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
SIUE Student Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
9th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Laura Mesaros Gallery, WVU, Morgantown, WV
The Greatest Student Exhibition, The In Art Gallery, theinartgallery.com
Abstraction, The In Art Gallery, theinartgallery.com
Homegrown, Sean Christopher Gallery, Columbus, OH
Flyover, Hub Arts and cultural Center, Rushville, IL
- 2020 *2020 ISC Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards*, Online exhibition,
International Sculpture Center, artsy.net
Encore, Webster Arts, invitational group exhibition, St. Louis, MO
Stand Up Prints, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Minneapolis, MN
Voices of the Midwest, The Kavanagh Gallery at Fine Line Creative Arts Center, St. Charles, IL
Modern Art National Juried Exhibition, Dallas Metro Arts Contemporary, Anna, TX
Dangerous Lullabies VI, Old Courthouse Arts Center, Woodstock, IL

Women Speak (1920-2020), Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL
Cell Phone Art Exhibit, Jag Gallery, Key West, FL
Art in the Time of Corona | A Global Art Project, Dab Art Co., Dabart.me
Wood River Small Works Show, Wood River Museum and Visitor Center, Wood River, IL
41st National Juried Art Show, Arts Council of Wayne County, Goldsboro, NC
2020 – Botanical, Las Laguna Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA
October National 2020, Gallery 510, Decatur, IL
August Group Art Show, Jones Gallery, Kansas City, MO
The Premiere Exhibition – June Show, The In Art Gallery, theinartgallery.com
Human Conversations, The In Art Gallery, theinartgallery.com
State of the Arts 2020, Prairie Village Arts Council, Juror: D. Lori Phillips, artspv.org
7th Annual College Student Art Show, Gallery Zeke, Steeleville, MO
Open Theme Annual, Webster Arts Center, St. Louis, MO
Annual Student Juried Exhibition, Art & Design Gallery, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL

Site-specific Installations

2023 *What's your hurry?* The Co-Op, Morgantown, WV
 2022 *Maybe tomorrow*, Slavic Village, Cleveland, OH, Installation for Rooms to Let: CLE
 2021 *Leave a light on for me*, artist's home, Westover, WV

Gallery, Curatorial, & Art-Handling Experience

2023-24 Dayman Art Gallery Coordinator/Curator, OCTC, Owensboro, KY

- *Juried Student Exhibition*, October-November 2024
- *Functional Uncertainty*, solo exhibit by Asha Cabaca, May-October 2024
- *Engrossed*, AFA degree candidate exhibition, April-May 2024
- *Skylark 2024*, Art & Literary Exhibition, March – April 2024
- *KO Lewis*, Black History Month Exhibition, February 2024
- *Ever Evolving*, AFA degree candidate exhibition, December 2023 – January 2024
- *Juried Student Exhibition*, October-November 2023
- *Memories in the Shadows*, solo exhibit by Haley Clancy Inyart, August-October 2023

 2022 *Goodnight, Shut Up*, two-person show at Clear Lake Arts Center, Clear Lake, IA

- Curated & installed work in collaboration with my sister for our show in the Hansen Gallery

10th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Laura Mesaros Gallery, WVU, Morgantown, WV

- Wall mounted my sculpture in the vestibule area and helped colleague install her ceiling-hung work

 2021 *Common Threads*, Co-curated with Sophia Ruppert, Lux Center for the Arts, Lincoln, NE

- Thoughtfully unpacked, placed, and installed free-standing, wall mounted, and ceiling mounted artworks by nine different artists working with or inspired by fiber

9th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Laura Mesaros Gallery, WVU, Morgantown, WV

- Assisted gallery coordinator with placing the show, assisted colleague with installing her prints, and wall mounted my own sculptural work

 2019 *Sway*, Cal Lane, Art & Design West Gallery, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL

- Uncrated Cal Lane's sculptural work for her juror's exhibition for Sculpture on Campus

 2018 Gallery Intern, Flood Plain Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO

- Helped set up for and clean up after gallery openings and live music performances.
- Designed an informational brochure about the gallery for them to give to visitors.

 Volunteer, Art and Design Gallery, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL

- Repaired and painted gallery walls and pedestals and Install artwork for exhibitions.

- Greeted gallery visitors and provided additional information about exhibitions and artwork.

Awards, Grants & Scholarships

- 2023 Juror's Choice Award, *Three Rivers Arts Festival Juried Visual Arts Exhibition*, SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2022 3rd Place Award, *16th Annual HWD Juried Sculpture Exhibition*, Rosewood Art Center, Kettering, OH
 Honorable Mention, *Adorned*, AnnMarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Solomons, MD
 CCA Student Professional Development Grant, College of Creative Arts, WVU, Morgantown, WV
- 2021-22 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, College of Creative Arts, WVU, Morgantown, WV
- 2021 People's Choice Award, *Dogwood Art in Public Places Sculpture Exhibition*, Knoxville, TN
 2nd Place Award, *Dogwood Art in Public Places Sculpture Exhibition*, Knoxville, TN
 Juror's Award, *Self-Reflections*, Foundry Art Centre, St. Charles, MO
 Edna and Frithiof Carlson Endowed Award for Creative Expression in a CAS Discipline, SIUE
 Thomas and Carol Gipe Award in Sculpture, Art & Design department, SIUE
- 2020 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award, International Sculpture Center
 SIUE Art & Design Scholarship
 William Justin Brown Memorial Award, Art & Design department, SIUE
 Award of Excellence, Open Theme Annual, Webster Arts Center
 Sculptors at Wagner Award, Annual Student Juried Exhibition, SIUE
- 2019 Sculpture on Campus Grant, SIUE
 Honorable Mention Award, Wood River Small Works Show
 Sculpture on Campus 3rd Place Award

Professional Engagements

- 2024 Juror, *Artworks, Inc. Fall Exhibition*, Kentucky Museum, Bowling Green, KY.
 Juror, OAG High School Juried Art Exhibition, Anna Eaton Stout Art Gallery, Brescia University, Owensboro, KY
- 2022 Artists in Action Residency, AnnMarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
 Festival of Combustion, Rivers of steel, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2021 Rapid Fire ARTslam, Virtual artist talk, International Sculpture Center
 Career Day Virtual Talk to students at my old high school: Nokomis High School, IL
- 2019 SOFA Connect, *Contemporizing Gothic Cathedrals*:
 Installation representing Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 SOFA Chicago, IL

Media Coverage & Publications

- 2024 *Meet Abbi Ruppert*, Bold Journey, <https://boldjourney.com/meet-abbi-ruppert/>
- 2023 *Meet Abbi Ruppert*, Canvas Rebel, <https://canvasrebel.com/meet-abbi-ruppert/>
- 2022 ART IN THE TIME OF CORONA™ VOL.1, Dabster Arts Inc., Reischling Press, Inc., (Tukwila, Washington), Nov 2022.
- 2021 University of Arkansas News, "School of Art M.F.A. Student and Artists Across the Midwest Present 'Among Beasts' at sUGAR Gallery," Dec, 14
Sculpture Magazine, "The 2020 ISC Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards," January/February 2021 Issue

Artistonish Magazine, Issue #9, April 2021

2020 Kimberly Sletten, "SIUE's Ruppert Receives Prestigious Award from the International Sculpture Center," SIUE News, October 2

2019 *The Alestle* "Whimsical, fun, thought-provoking: This year's campus sculptures unveiled," Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, October 10

The Intelligencer, "Winners Named in SIUE's Arts Sculpture Walk," Oct 9

Artist Collectives

2020-23 Rural Midwest Artists Cooperative, Midwest USA

- Organized, promoted, and facilitated Instagram art auction to raise funds to reach non-profit status.

2022-23 Lab Art Collective, Morgantown, WV

Technical Skills

Museum/Gallery

2D & 3D work gallery installation

Art packaging & handling

Matting, framing & frame building

Basic construction tools

Sculpture

Public sculpture: Design, construction, & installation + Large scale work transportation

Welding: MIG, TIG

Steel fabrication: forging, cold bending

Metal shop: plasma torch, horizontal band saw, drill press, chop saw, angle grinder, rotary tools

Wood shop: table, miter, panel, and band saw, belt and palm sanders, air compressor tools

Casting: bronze, aluminum, wax, plaster, non-traditional, concrete

Moldmaking: ceramic shell, sand, plaster, rubber, alginate, standard investment,

Modeling (clay, mortar, plaster): figure, drapery, sighting/measuring

Indoor and outdoor site-specific Installation

Mixed media assemblage

Basic electrical wiring

Printmaking

Woodcut: reductive, multiple block

Wood engraving

Linoleum

Intaglio

Screenprint

Monotype

Design

Adobe: Photoshop, Acrobat, Illustrator

Digital Fabrication

3D Printing: MakerGear (PLA), Ceramic, FormLabs: Resin & Castable Wax

Software: Fusion 360, Simplify 3D, Octoprint, Meshmixer