

Sara M. Zak

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sarazak.com

Education

University of Buffalo

8/2021 Master of Fine Arts; GPA 4.0

State University of New York College at Buffalo

12/2009 Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies (Fine Arts, English, and Education; magna cum laude)

8/2002 English 7-12 Teaching Certification; Art K-12 Teaching Certification

5/2000 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting (summa cum laude)

5/2000 Bachelor of Arts in Art History (summa cum laude)

Minor in Italian Language

Selected Awards

2023 New York Council of the Arts Individual Artist Grant

2021 UB Working Artist Lab with Cecily Brown: Selected as part of a small committee to work with Cecily Brown on the development of her first mural

2019 Awarded full tuition and assistantship at University of Buffalo

2015 Juror's Pick Award, Big Orbit Gallery; Silver Medal Winner, Buffalo Society of Artists 117th Spring Exhibition

2014 Sustainable Arts Foundation Finalist (San Francisco), Fall 2014; Gold Medal Winner, Buffalo Society of Artists 117th Spring Exhibition; Silver Medal Winner Buffalo Society of Artists 118th Fall Catalogue Exhibition

2012 Gold Medal Winner, Buffalo Society of Artists 116th Catalogue Exhibit

2011 NYFA MARK 2011 (Juried artists' professional development program)

2000 Faculty of Arts and Humanities Dean's Award for Academic Excellence at Buffalo State College

Selected Solo Exhibitions (exhibits are in Buffalo, NY unless noted)

2024 *Jamais Vu*, Buffalo Art Movement

2024 *An Overwhelming Familiarity*, Emmitt Christian Gallery, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY

2021 *Cleave*, Solo Graduate Thesis Exhibit, Buffalo Arts Studio

2019 *Forget-Me-Nots*, Installation, Peter A. and Mary Lou Vogt Gallery, Canisius College

2016-17 *An Overwhelming Familiarity*, TopSpin Solo Exhibit, Castellani Art Gallery, Lewiston, NY

2016 *It's Ridiculous to Leave All the Conversation to the Pudding*, solo installation, (716) Gallery

2015 *MISHAP contained*, solo exhibit, Peter A. and Mary Lou Vogt Gallery, Canisius College

2014 *Echoes of Suspended Motion*, solo exhibit, Starlight Studio and Art Gallery

2013 *A Crowd of Small Metamorphoses*, invitational solo exhibit, 464 Gallery

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *Working Artist Lab with Cecily Brown*, The Space Between; *Chaotic Good 2*, UB CFA Gallery, Upper Floor

2020 *Chaotic Good*, UB CFA Gallery, Upper Floor

2018 *Home Again*, Indigo Gallery

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- 2015 *92nd Annual Spring Show*, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA; *Big Orbit Member's Show*, Big Orbit; *BSA Spring Exhibit*, Hi Temp; *Buffalo Society of Artists 2015 Catalogue Exhibition*, Center for Art and Technology
- 2014 *20"x20"x20": A National Compact Competition and Exhibit*, LSU Student Union Gallery, Baton Rouge, LA; *Big Orbit Member Exhibit*, Big Orbit; *Buffalo Society of Artist Juried Spring Exhibition*, Buffalo Arts Studio
- 2013 *The Technoluminst Eye*, Meridian West Gallery, Buffalo, NY; *The Changing Atmosphere of Preservation*, C.G. Jung Center; *Big Orbit Exhibit*, Big Orbit
- 2012 *Uncommon Threads*, Studio Hart; *Dreams, Dramas, Desires*, Artsphere Gallery; *Showoffs: Hallwalls Artists and Models, Re-Model Installation*; *Buffalo Society of Artists 116th Catalogue Exhibit (juried)*, NACC, Niagara Falls, NY; *Finger Lakes Juried Plein Air Competition*, Canandaigua, NY; *The Artist Among Us*, Burchfield Penney Gallery; *MARK11/12*, Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery, Rockerfeller Arts Center, Fredonia, NY; *A Midwinter's Draw*, and *A Midsummer's Draw Hallwalls*; *Trinity*, 464 Gallery; *Exhibit and Sale*, Dana Tillou Gallery
- 2011 *Paint the Town*, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society; *Art + Preservation*, Statler Towers; *City Strings and Lines*, Carnegie Art Center, North Tonawanda, NY; *Theme Brulee*, Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center; *Landscape: Exploration and Expression*, Market Street Art Center, Lockport, NY; *19th Annual Regional Artists Juried Exhibition*, Art Dialogue Gallery

Public and Installation Art

- 2021-2022 *Environmental Justice is Social Justice*, Mural, Niagara Falls Mural Project, Niagara Falls, NY
- 2021 *Flight of the Chickadee*, Mural, Working Artists Lab with Cecily Brown, Buffalo, NY; *Come and Find Me*, Large Scale Outdoor Installation, Resource Art, Buffalo, NY
- 2019 *Mother, I Ate You Up*, Ephemeral Outdoor Installation, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
- 2019 *This is Our Happy Place*, Interactive Installation, Silo City, Buffalo, NY
- 2013 *Vidi*, Interactive Installation, Emerging Leaders of the Arts Buffalo's City of Night, Silo City, Buffalo, NY
- 2012 *I Made You*, Interactive Installation and Video, Hallwalls' Artists and Models, Buffalo NY
- 2011-2014 *Painting for Preservation*, Social Practice Art, Buffalo, NY

Exhibit Curator/Juror

- 2016 *Centennial Art Center Spring Exhibit*, Juror, Hamburg Public Library, Hamburg, NY
- 2015 *Seeing and Being: Making Art in WNY*, Curator, Betty's Restaurant, Buffalo New York
- 2014 Buffalo Arts Studio, Curator, Buffalo, NY
- 2013 *City of Night Silos*, Exhibit Organizer, Silo City, Buffalo, NY; *The Changing Atmosphere of Preservation*, Curator, C.G. Jung Center, Buffalo, NY; *West Seneca Art Society Members Exhibit*, Juror, Burchfield Nature Center, West Seneca, NY
- 2011 *Art + Preservation*, Curator, Statler City, Buffalo, NY; *City Strings and Lines*, Curator, Carnegie Art Center, Tonawanda, NY

Bibliography

- 2021 Ewing, Author: Claudine. "Niagara Falls Mural Highlights Environmental Justice." *Wgrz.com*, Dec. 6, 2021, <https://www.wgrz.com/article/news/local/niagara-falls-mural-highlights-environmental-justice-artist-painting-buffalo-wall-art-fashion/71-e68cb56c-aabc-464b-aa62->

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- c92fd379a468.; Fontaine, Pearl. "Cecily Brown Creates Collaborative Mural in Buffalo." *Whitewall*, Aug. 16, 2021 <https://whitewall.art/art/cecily-brown-creates-collaborative-mural-in-buffalo>.
- 2020 Widenor, Yvonne K. "Sara M. Zak at Peter A. and Mary Lou Vogt Gallery, Canisius College" *Cornelia Magazine*. Spring 2020
- 2016 Foran, Jack. "Sara M. Zak at the Castellani Art Museum." *The Daily* <http://www.dailypublic.com/articles/10122016/sara-m-zak-castellani-art-museum>. Oct. 12, 2016;
- 2014 Dabkowski, Colin. "Buffalo's Smallest Gallery to Host Sara M. Zak's Paintings". Jan. 25, 2016
Cover and back cover art, *The Public* Dec. 17, 2014; Foran, Jack. "Works by Three Buffalonians on Display at Studio Hart." *Artvoice* v14n3; Foran, Jack. "Sara M. Zak at Canisius College." *The Daily Public*. Nov. 18, 2015; Foran, Jack. "Hi –Temp Fabrication showcases a wide inventory of works." *Artvoice* v13n39
- 2013 Dabkowski, Colin. "Sara M. Zak's paintings reflect Buffalo's slow and steady progress." *The Buffalo News* Dec. 26, 2013; Behr, Bob. "Can Art Save Buildings?" *Outdoor Painter*. Plein Air Magazine. 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 20 Dec. 2013; Foran, Jack. "Member's Show Big Orbit." *Artvoice* v12n7
- 2012 Foran, Jack. "Artists and Models: Showoffs." *Artvoice* v11n39; Dabkowski, Colin. "Saving Works: Artists Draw Attention to Local Preservation." *The Buffalo News* June 22, 2012;
- 2011 Dabkowski, Colin. "The Artist Among Us." *The Buffalo News* May 25, 2012
Newton, Matthew. "Creating a Legacy with Painting for Preservation." *Western New York Heritage Press* Winter 2011; Foran, Jack. "Group Show at Carnegie." *Artvoice*, v10n42

Collections

Albright-Knox-Gundlach Museum
Burchfield Penney Art Center
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
State University of New York at Buffalo
JRS Morgan Reality

Teaching Experience

2022-present *Adjunct Professor, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY*

2015-present *Professor of Record, Villa Maria College, Buffalo, NY*

- Teach between 18-35 credit hours a year in Foundations Art and Painting
- Provide student-centered instruction in Drawing 1, Life Drawing, Color Theory, 2-Dimensional Design, Painting 1, 2 and 3, and Plein Air Painting
- Develop new curricula using current best practices in education with special attention to highlighting diversity within the arts
- Create a welcoming, inclusive classroom environment that caters to different learning styles and abilities
- Integrate technology to deliver content, assess student performance, and provide reinforcement for students who need additional time and materials; proficient in D2L.
- Served on Summer Course Schedule Committee for Villa Maria College
- Market the programs at Villa Maria College and SUNY Fredonia via social media and word of mouth

2019-2021 *Graduate Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY*

- Independently teach Drawing Fundamentals and Drawing Concepts

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- Adapt and create curriculum to focus on students' interests and knowledge gaps
 - Create online content in order to switch to a digital delivery of classes during worldwide pandemic
 - Teach via Zoom, Discord, and video for 2.5 semesters
- 2013-2022 *Instructor of Adult Oil Painting Classes, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY*
- Create curriculum for and instruct oil painting, drawing, and portraiture workshops
- 2004-2009 *High School Digital Photography, Current Issues, and English Language Arts Teacher, Erie 1 BOCES, Southtowns Academy, Hamburg, NY*
- Designed and implemented highly interactive, NYS standards-based lesson plans
 - Worked across disciplines and technologies to best serve each individual students' needs
 - Assessed student progress through multiple learning styles projects, essays, journals, participation, effort, and examinations.
 - Faculty Advisor to yearbook committee

Related Experience

- 2011 - 2014 Founder of *Painting for Preservation*
- Conceptualize and direct events and exhibitions; coordinate a team of 5-10 volunteers; cultivate and maintain relationships with artists, media, and local community groups.
 - Plan, publicize and execute 6-10 events yearly and host a yearly exhibition, coordinating with artists, neighborhoods, media, and host sites for events and exhibitions.
 - Maintain blog/website at www.paintingforpreservation.org; update social media weekly; write weekly press releases during the Painting for Preservation season.
- 2012 – 2014 Buffalo Society of Artists Board Member: Co-Chair Education, Co-Chair Fundraising
- Plan, publicize, and execute educational and fundraising events, collaborate with fellow board members, the society at large, and the community
- 2003 – 2004 Online Learning Writer, WNED, Buffalo, NY
- Research and write editorial copy and interactive, multidisciplinary lesson plans aligned to NYS standards for ThinkBright Online
 - Redevelop the design of ThinkBright Online and coded html web content
 - Collaboratively create learning materials for “Our Town” video project and Reading Rainbow online educational games.

Relevant Technology Skills

Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro, and After Effects
 Emerging proficiency in Arduino, Cinema 4D, Rhino, and PYTHON
 Proficiency in woodshop tools and mold-making