

nisa renee blackmon

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 8-07 to present** General Biology Lab Coordinator, Natural Sciences Division, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL.
8-05 to 5-07 Graduate Teaching Assistant, School of Art & Design, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL
1-00 to 7-04 Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Art & Design. Brenau University, Gainesville, GA
8-96 to 7-04 Science Lab & Office Manager/Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Math & Science, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA
3-95 to 6-96 Assistant Lab Manager, Photo Express, Athens, GA
8-94 to 12-94 Mat-cutter/Framer, Hobby Lobby Frame Shop, Stillwater, OK
5-94 to 8-94 Forest Research Technician, Missouri Department of Conservation, Ellington, MO
8-92 to 5-94 Biology Learning Resource Center Staff, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
1-90 to 8-94 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Botany, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
6-92 and 6-93 Paleontology Academic Summer Camp Counselor, Department of Philosophy, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
5-90 to 8-90 Stewardship Intern, The Nature Conservancy, Tulsa Field Office, Tulsa, OK
5-88 to 5-89 Student Assistant Clerk, Edmon Low Library (Science & Engineering), Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
8-87 to 5-88 Proofreader, O' Collegian Daily News, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
8/85 – 5/86 Customer Service, Helt Photography, Stillwater, OK.
10-83 to 5-88 Panel Artist/Lab Technician, Tom Flora Photography, Shawnee, OK.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2009** Beginning Bookbinding. DIY Workshop Series, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
2003-06 Metals & Jewelry. FIRESARK! SummerArts Camp, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.
2002-03 Jewelry Design, All State Festival of Art and Design, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.
1990-94 Stained Glass & Jewelry workshop instructor, Multigraphis (now Multi Community Arts Center), Stillwater, OK

EDUCATION

- MFA candidate, Craft-Metals. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (finishing thesis).
MS, Natural and Applied Sciences (Botany, Studio Art, Philosophy). Oklahoma State University, 1995.
BS, Biological Sciences. Oklahoma State University, 1989.
High school diploma; McCloud High School, McCloud, Oklahoma, 1985

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2007** Frank Flood: Powder Coating and MIG Welding. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
Chong Ryol Kim: Asymmetrical Raising. University of Illinois Metals Dept. Champaign, IL.
2006 Cynthia Eid: Egyptian Spiral Forms. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL
2005 Yevgeniya Kaganovitch: Mold-Making and Cast Rubber. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
Deborah Lozier: Torch-Fired Enamels. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL
Paulette Myers: Reticulation. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL
Prof. Kyoung Sook Kim. Wax Carving. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
2004 Christina Y. Smith: Large Scale Soldering. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL
Damon MacNaught: Frameworking and Glass Bead-Making. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.

(Additional Educational Experience, cont.)

- 2002-03** Graduate Study. Metals Program, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. Rob Jackson, Major Advisor.
- 2001** Keith Lo Bue: Precious Little: Poetry of the Found Object. Atlanta ODDyssey Workshop Program, Fayetteville, GA.
 Maria Phillips: Electroforming and Then Some! Penland School for Crafts, Penland NC.
 Chris Ramsay: The Connecting and Forming of Materials: Metal, Stone & Wood. Society of North American Goldsmiths Workshop Program. Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.
- 1996** Nicole Raisin Stern: Handmade Books. Athens, GA.
- 1995** Barbara Mann: Intermediate Metalsmithing/Silver casting. Georgia Center for Continuing Education, Athens, GA.
 Mary Lee Hu: Survey of Chainmaking. University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 1994** Ted Ramsay: Handmade Papercasting. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
 Joe Wood: Steel, Paper and Stone. Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME.
 Gretchen Goss: Enameling Techniques. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
- 1993** Billie Jean Theide: Anodizing Techniques. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

AWARDS

- 2009** *2nd Place, Objects*, \$200. The Enamelist Society 8th Biennial International Exhibition. Oakland, CA.
- 2007** *Mel Someroski Memorial Award*, \$250. The Enamelist Society 7th Biennial Student Exhibition. Columbus, OH
Finalist, NICHE Student Awards (Mixed Media category). NICHE Magazine; Philadelphia, PA.
- 2006** *Best of Show*, \$275, "On Fire! Contemporary Enameling" gallery M.I.M, Baltimore, MD.
Honorable Mention, Arsenal Metals & Enamels Exhibition, Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH.
- 2005** *NICHE Student Award Winner*, Metal: non-wearable, functional category.
Honorable Mention. Society of North American Goldsmiths Educational Scholarship Competition.
Third Place. Influence of Rock and Roll. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland, OH.
- 2003** *Honorable Mention Award. 28th Juried Exhibition*. Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, Georgia.
- 2002** *1st place, Three Dimensional Artwork. The Elixir* (Brenau University Annual Student Art publication). *Award for Aesthetic Achievement by Faculty or Graduate Student. Brenau Collaborative*. Brenau University Galleries, Gainesville, GA.
- 1995** *2nd place. Oklahoma Small Works V*. East Central University Art Gallery, Ada, OK.
Merit Award. 22nd Annual Juried Exhibition. Lyndon House Art Center, Athens, GA.
- 1994** *3rd place. Oklahoma Small Works IV*. East Central University Art Gallery, Ada, OK.
- 1993** *Art Faculty Award. Juried Student Exhibition*. Gardiner Art Gallery, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
First Place, Designer Arts. "Run For The Arts" Fine Art and Jazz Festival (Juried). Stillwater, OK.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2006** *College Art Association Graduate Student Travel Grant*. \$200.00.
Department of Art & Design Conference Travel Grant. \$450.00 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
Brodie Graduate Materials Grants (Fall & Spring 2007). \$1000.00 total. Department of Art & Design, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2004** *Brodie Graduate Fellowship*. \$6,600.00 Department of Art & Design, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2000** *Society of North American Goldsmiths Workshop Program Grant*. \$750.00. Awarded to Brenau University Art Department, Gainesville, GA.
- 1994** *Society of North American Goldsmiths' Educational Scholarship*. \$500.00.

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** *Surfacing: The Enamelist Society 8th Biennial International Exhibition*. Oakland Art Gallery, Oakland, CA.
- 2008** *Co-Laboratory*. Savannah College of Art & Design/Society of North American Goldsmiths. Savannah, GA
Wunderkammer! Firehouse Studio. Kingston, NY
- 2007** *Fusion: The Enamelist Society 7th Biennial Student Exhibition*. Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH
Driven: 2007 SNAG Student Slide Show. Directions Unknown: 2007 SNAG Annual Conference. Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN
- 2007** *Emerging Illinois Artists '07*. McLean County Arts Center. Bloomington, IL
Fine Contemporary Craft Exhibition. Artspace Art Center, Raleigh, NC.
- (Juried Exhibitions, cont.)*

- 2006** *Heart & Hands 2: A National Juried Book Art Exhibition.* Love Library, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
A Sense of Place. Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Augusta, GA.
On Fire! Contemporary Enameling. gallery M.I.M, Baltimore, MD.
Queer ID National Juried Exhibition. Visual Arts Center, Boise State University, Boise, ID.
Environmental Horizons 2006. University of Illinois, Champaign, IL.
Shelter Me. Lilstreet Art Center, Chicago, IL.
8th International Juried Enamel Exhibition. Northern California Enamel Guild & Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA.
The Arsenal Metals & Enamels Exhibition. Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH.
- 2005** *CraftForms 2005.* Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA.
Good Bird/Bad Bird. Contemporary Crafts Museum & Gallery, Portland, OR.
Secret Identities. gallery M.I.M. Baltimore, MD.
Collections. Elise Mankes Studio, Marblehead, MA.
Public Name-Blind Review. Professional Development Workshop, Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH.
Experimental Jewelry. The Jewelry Studio, Rehoboth Beach, DE.
Metamorphosis: Enamelist Society Exhibition 2005. Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN
The Influence of Rock & Roll. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland, OH.
On the Verge: Society of North American Goldsmiths Student Juried Exhibition. Reinberger Galleries, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, OH.
Learning Curves: SNAG Juried Student Slide Show. Presented at “Intersection,” SNAG Conference 2005, Cleveland, OH.
- 2004** *Craft Forms 2004.* Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA.
Incoming. Link Gallery, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
Spotlight 2004: ACC Southeast Region Annual Juried Exhibition. Tamarack Gallery, Beckley, WV; West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Charleston, WV.
- 2003** *Craft Forms 2003.* Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA.
Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Juried Student Exhibition. California College of Arts and Crafts.
28th Juried Exhibition. Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, Georgia.
The Ties That Bind: Women and Collaboration in Art and Life. Smithtown Township Arts Council, St James, New York.
- 2002** *The Elixir* (Brenau University Annual Student Art publication).
Brenau Collaborative. Brenau University Galleries, Gainesville, GA.
- 2001** *26th Annual Juried Exhibition.* Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA.
Gala 2000: Brenau University National Invitational Art Exhibit. Gainesville, GA.
Brenau Collaborative. Brenau University Galleries, Gainesville, GA.
- 1999** *Brenau Collaborative.* Brenau University Galleries, Gainesville, GA.
- 1998** *Chickens, Etc!* Brenau University Gallery, Gainesville, GA.
24th Annual Juried Exhibition. Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA.
- 1996** *Materials: Hard & Soft.* Greater Denton Arts Council Center for Visual Arts, Denton, TX.
23rd Annual Juried Exhibition. Lyndon House Art Center, Athens, GA.
21st Annual Juried Show. Anderson County Arts Center, Anderson, SC
- 1995** *Oklahoma Small Works V.* East Central University Art Gallery, Ada, OK.
22nd Annual Juried Exhibition. Lyndon House Art Center, Athens, GA.
- 1994** *Oklahoma Small Works IV.* East Central University Art Gallery, Ada, OK.
North American Juried Student Exhibition (Society of North American Goldsmiths). Contemporary Crafts Gallery, Portland, OR.
VisionMakers '94. Oklahoma City Art Museum, Oklahoma City, OK.
- 1993** *97th Annual Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club Exhibition.* National Arts Club, New York City, NY.
Oklahoma Small Works III. East Central University Art Gallery, Ada, OK. June - August, 1993.
Juried Student Exhibition. Gardiner Art Gallery, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
Oklahoma State University Student Show. Individual Artists of Oklahoma Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK.
“Run For The Arts” Fine Art and Jazz Festival (Juried). Stillwater, OK.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2004** *Keeping House: a series of installations.* The Martin House, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.

(Solo Shows, cont.)

- 1999** *Works by Nisa Blackmon.* Bertelsmann Gallery, Athens Academy, Athens, GA.
Clay, Revisited. DreamCatcher Gallery/Athens ArtFest, Athens, GA.
- 1994** *Objects for Contemplation.* Bartlett Art Center, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

INVITATIONAL CURATED EXHIBITIONS

- 2007** *Dookie*. I-Space Gallery, Chicago, IL
MFA Exhibition. Krannert Art Gallery, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL
- 2006** *Thinking Outside the Book: Contemporary Artists Books*. Main Library, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 2005** *Terrains Perceived*. Springer Cultural Center, Champaign, IL.
- 2004** *The Election Show*. University Galleries, Illinois State University, Bloomington, IL.
- 2001** *Brenau Faculty Exhibition*. Simmons Visual Art Center, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.
The Studio Group at 20. Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA.
- 1998** *Hanging Together: The Studio Group of Athens, GA*. Bascom-Louise Gallery, Highlands, NC.
Seven Athens Artists. Aurum Studio, Athens, GA.
- 1997** *Metals/Links*. Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA.
- 1996** *Seven Women Artists*. Clayton Street Gallery, Athens, GA.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2009** Three works in: *500 Plastic Jewellery Designs*. Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 2008** Two works in: *Wrap, Stitch, Fold, Rivet*. Mary Hettmansperger. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
Two works in: *500 Enameled Objects*. Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 2007** One work in: *500 Metal Vessels*. Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC
One work in: *500 Handmade Books*. Suzanne J.E. Tourtillott, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC
Fusion: The Enamelist Society Juried International Exhibitions, 2007 Catalog. The Enamelist Society, Jamesville, NY
- 2006** One work in: *500 Necklaces*. Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
One work in: *The Art & Craft of Making Jewelry*. Joanna Gollberg. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 2005** Two works in: *Fabulous Jewelry From Found Objects*. Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
Metamorphosis: Enamelist Society 10th Biennial Juried International Exhibition & 6th Student Exhibition, 2005 Catalog.
The Enamelist Society, Jamesville, NY
Three Before Mars. Nisa Blackmon (Artist's book, ed. of 25) Champaign, IL.
- 2004** *Where You Lived*. (poetry) *Tapawingo Quarterly Arts Journal*, Gainesville, GA. Vol. 1: 3
- 2003** *Selecting the Right Personal Flotation Device*. Nisa Blackmon (Artist's book, ed. of 25) Copyrighted. Athens, GA.
- 2002** Cover art, University of Georgia Lamar Dodd School of Art Graduate Handbook (Ed.S.)
- 1995** *Design and Construction of Two Large-scale Botanical Models: A Sunflower Capitulum and A Grass Spikelet*. Nisa Blackmon. Master's Thesis, Oklahoma State University Dept. of Botany, Stillwater, OK.
22nd Annual Juried Exhibition Catalog. Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA.
- 1993** *97th Annual Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club Exhibition Catalog*. National Arts Club, New York City, NY.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2007** *Influences, Instruments & Ideas*. Tri-Beta Honor Society Initiation, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL
- 2006** *The Audubon Effect: The Appropriation and Reconfiguration of John James Audbon's 'Science' in the Paintings of Walton Ford*. Poster presentation, College Art Association 94th Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2004** *Incoming: Works by New Graduate Students*. Department of Art & Design, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
Outside the Frame: Works by Nisa Blackmon. Gainesville State College, Gainesville, GA.
- 1994** *The Making of a Botanical Model*. Department of Botany Seminar Series, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2007** Association for Women in Science
- 2006-present** The Enamelist Society
- 2005-present** Society for Literature, Science and Arts
- 2002-03, 2004-2007** College Art Association
- 1995-2004** The Studio Group, Athens, GA
- 1994-present** American Craft Council
- 1993-present** Society of North American Goldsmiths

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- 2007** *Directions Unknown*. Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference. Memphis, TN, USA
- 2006** *Woven In Time: The Intimate Relationship Between Fashion and Jewelry*. Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City, USA.
Mind & Matter: From Thought to Object. Society of North American Goldsmith's Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, USA
College Art Association 94th Annual Conference. Boston, MA, USA
- 2005** *Intersections*. Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference. Cleveland, OH, USA.
College Art Association 93rd Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, USA
- 2003** College Art Association 91st Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2002** SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Europe. Madrid, Spain.
- 2000** SETAC Europe. Leipzig, Germany
- 1994** Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference. Portland, OR, USA.

INTERESTS

My primary research interests lie in the overlap between art and science and in various aspects of jewelry. I am specifically interested in jewelry as a specimen in natural history museums, as well as a commodity souvenir in gift shops of all kinds. I am also interested in the historic ties between jewelry & metalsmithing, artisanship and science. In future projects, I would like to explore issues involving genetic engineering, agribusiness and our relationship to our food and to our environment.

I also love to cook, read, travel, hike & bike, write poetry & fiction, and practice Tai Chi.