

nisa renee blackmon

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EDUCATION

MFA, Craft-Metals. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2010.
MS, Natural and Applied Sciences (Botany, Studio Art, Philosophy). Oklahoma State University, 1995.
BS, Biological Sciences. Oklahoma State University, 1989.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (Science jobs in boldface)

8-19 to present Self-employed artist; owner/proprietor of Wishbone Studio LLC, Normal, IL.
8-07 to 7-19 **Biology Lab Coordinator & Instructor, Dept. of Biology, 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

2018 & 2013 Tab Construction and Folding Techniques workshop, Jewelry and Metal Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
2014 Tab Construction for Enameling workshop, Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX, and The Enamel Guild Northeast Conference, White Plains, NY.
Tab Construction for Enameling workshop, The Enamelist Society Conference, Covington, KY
2009 Beginning Bookbinding. DIY Workshop Series, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
2003-06 Metals & Jewelry. FIRESPARK! 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

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019 Nicole Jacquard. Piece-A-Day. Arrowmong School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.
2017 Ruth Ball: Enamels. The Enamelist Society, Post-Conference Workshop. Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.
2016 Billie Theide: Porcelain, Small Scale Processes. Midwest Metalsmiths Workshop Series, June 13-14. Maryville University, St. Louis, IL.

(Additional Educational Experience, cont.)

- 2015** Elizabeth Turrell: Add and Subtract; the Pleasures of Mark-Making in Enamel. Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME.
Billie Jean Theide: Porcelain Clay for Small Scale Objects. Society of Midwest Metalsmiths, Maryville University, St. Louis, MO.
- 2014** *SMITTEN Forum* (invited). Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.
- 2013** Jessica Calderwood: Overglazes, Pencils & Decals for Enamels. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
- 2012** Cynthia Toops: Polymer Clay Caning and Mosaics. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
Caroline Gore: Working with Narrative. Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC.
- 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: Flameworking and Glass Bead-Making. University of Illinois Metals Dept., Champaign, IL.
- 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.

(Grants and Fellowships, cont.)

- 2006, cont.** *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.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2013** *Illuminate, Magnify.* Wakely Gallery, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL.
- 2004** *Keeping House: a series of installations.* The Martin House, Brenau University, Gainesville, GA.
- 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

- 2019** *Strings and Hollows: Prints by Paul Klee & Works by Nisa Blackmon.* McLean County Arts Center, May 31 - July 12.
Six Years Smitten. Form and Concept Gallery, Santa Fe, NM. July 1-October, 2019
- 2017** *Ripples from Stillwater.* Modella Gallery, Stillwater, OK.
- 2015** *SMITTEN Forum: The Exhibition.* ECU Material Topics Symposium, Greenville Art Center, Greenville, NC.
- 2013** *Art + Design Reunion Alumni Exhibition,* Figure One Gallery, Champaign, IL.
CTRL +A, ⌘ + A: Attendee Exhibition. Zoom Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 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.

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

- 2017** *Craftforms 2017.* Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA. Dec 8 - Jan 27, 2018.
- 2016** *The Jewelry Exchange.*
- 2012** *Craftforms 2012.* Wayne Art Center, Wayne, PA.
- 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. 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.
- 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.
- (2005 Juried Exhibitions, cont.)**
- 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.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018** *Narrative Jewelry: Tales from the Toolbox.* Mark Fenn. Schiffer Publishing.
- 2014** *SMITTEN Forum 2014: A Creative Gathering of Makers.* Brown, Sara & Marissa Saneholtz, eds. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- 2011** *21st Century Jewelry: Best of 500 Jewelry.* Marthe LeVan, ed. Sterling Publishing Co.
- 2010** *Souvenirs, Specimens and Saints: How Historical Jewelry Types and the Evolution of Natural History Museums Contribute to Function and Meaning in the Souvenir Jewelry of Museum Stores.* MFA Thesis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
- 2009** *500 Plastic Jewelry Designs.* Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 2008** *Wrap, Stitch, Fold, Rivet.* Mary Hettmansperger. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 500 Enameled Objects.* Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.
- 2007** *500 Metal Vessels.* Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC
- 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** *500 Necklaces.* Marthe LeVan, ed. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.

The Art & Craft of Making Jewelry. Joanna Gollberg. Lark Books, Asheville, NC.

(Publications, cont.)

- 2005** *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.

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

2015 - present Charon Kransen Arts, New York City, NY.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2015** *Connections: How Science Met Art, Broke Up With Art and Why They Still Keep Getting Back Together*. Guest lecture for English Dept. May Term Course, "On Science and Literature," Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL.
- 2014** *Tab Constructed Narratives*. Houston Metal Arts Guild, Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX.
The Enamels Guild Northeast Annual Conference, White Plains, NY.
(2013) Metals & Jewelry Program, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.
Jewelry & Metal Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
- 2013** *Tab Constructed 3-D Forms for Enameling*. Breakout sessions, The Enamelist Society Annual Conference, Covington, KY.
- 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

2006 - present The Enamelist Society
2005-2010 Society for Literature, Science and Arts
2002-2007 College Art Association
1995-2004 The Studio Group, Athens, GA
1994 - present American Craft Council
1993 - present Society of North American Goldsmiths

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA ATTENDED

- 2019** Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, USA.
The Bench, Smitten Reunion & Symposium. Form & Concept Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, USA.
Project MESH (invited, inaugural). Pocosin Arts Center, Columbia, NC.
Material Topics. Eastern Carolina University, Greenville, NC.
- 2017** *Alchemy IV: The Enamelist Society Biennial Conference*, Gatlinburg, TN.
- 2014** The Enamelist Guild Northeast Annual Conference. White Plains, NY.
SMITTEN Forum. (Invited, inaugural) Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN.
- 2013** *Alchemy II: Transformation in Contemporary Enamels*. The Enamelist Society Biennial Conference, Covington, KY, USA.
ZOOM Symposium, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- 2007** *Directions Unknown*. Society of North American Goldsmiths Annual Conference. Memphis, TN, USA

(Conferences & Symposia, cont.)

- 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 the relationships between jewelry, the body and landscape. I am also interested in jewelry as a specimen in natural history museums, as well as a commodity souvenir in gift shops of all kinds, and in the historic ties between jewelry-making, artisanship and science. My current production work explores relationships between form, color and material history.

Outside of the studio, I love to garden, cook, read, travel, run and hike.