

ROBERTA S. BENNETT

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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy Student in Art Education

Syracuse University (August 2014 – May 2015)

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (January 2012 – August 2013)

Master of Arts in Art Education

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (August 2010 – December 2011)

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education & Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (August 2003 – December 2007)

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor Fall 2014

ART 103 Essentials of Art | Cornell University Prison Education Project

Introductory art course. Employs techniques of artists & art teachers. Topics include basic design, color theory, elements of composition, various drawing & painting techniques. Student's interests & talents are directed toward individual final projects.

Instructor Spring 2012 & Spring 2013

ARTS 250 Writing with Video | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Advanced composition course wherein students explore creative inquiry, self-reflection, social engagement, & media production, critical writing & analysis to communicate with image production effectively. Directed writings, in concert with video production projects, allow students to experience an integrated process of thinking, creating, & problem-solving.

Co-Instructor Fall 2012– Spring 2013

ARTE 301 Early Field Art Teaching | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Developed & maintained relationships with rural area schools. Placed pre-service student teachers in public school classrooms for weekly art instruction.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2012

ARTF 101 Contemporary Issues in Art | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Exposes first year students to contemporary issues & disciplines in the visual arts. Course requirements include keeping of a journal, writing a paper & attending lectures, field trips, & visiting artist presentations. TA responsibilities include helping students identify appropriate paper topics, keeping attendance & grading.

Instructor Fall 2011– Spring 2012

ART 202 Art in the Elementary Grades | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Taught ¾ basic studio & ¼ art educational theory to pre-service elementary education teachers. Content & execution of final project was democratically determined & raffled off with proceeds benefitting local cause.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2010– Spring 2011

ARTE 201 Saturday Art School | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Mentored pre-service art educators. Worked with students in 3rd-8th grades.

Collaborated with local artists. Created net art, 2-second plays, musical instruments, site-specific installations, and performances.

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Visual Arts Certified, K-12**

Illinois State Board of Education, Certificate Number 1949321

Art Teacher August 2017-Present

Urbana High School, *Urbana, IL*

Teach 9th-12th grade students. Art 1 & Art 2 (survey courses), Art 3 Drawing, Art 3 Painting, Art 3 Sculpture, Web Design, and Digital Imaging. Rewrote curriculum for transition into standards based grading using the NAEA standards.

Art Teacher August 2015-May 2016

J.W. Eater Junior High School, *Rantoul, IL*

Required course for 6th-8th grade students. Introductory curriculum includes units on drawing, painting, and sculpture. Art 2 focuses on sculpture and web art. Advanced Painting explores historical and contemporary techniques.

Art Educator January 2012– January 2013

Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center, *Urbana, IL*

Weekly class for incarcerated youth. Students aged 12-18. Most lessons based on work of contemporary artists. Painting, clay sculpture, drawing, collage, and conceptual art.

Instructor December 2010– December 2011

University of Illinois After School Arts Program

Franklin Middle School, *Champaign, IL*

Work two days weekly with 4-12 junior high students. Lessons include toast murals, stop motion animation, collage, & fashion design.

Education Coordinator August 2009– May 2010

Orpheum Children's Science Museum, *Champaign, IL*

Created & taught curriculum for field trips, Boys & Girls Club, weekend events. Conducted educational outreach to schools & community fairs. Coordinated schedules & curriculum for volunteers & instructors.

Substitute Teacher January 2008– May 2009

Champaign Public Schools, *Champaign, IL*

Worked throughout the school district, K-12.

Student Teacher October 2007– December 2007

Holy Cross School, *Champaign, IL*

Students grades K-8. Junior High units focused on response from student interest surveys. Lessons incorporated extensive dialogue & reflection on Visual Culture.

Student Teacher August 2007– October 2007

Garden Hills Elementary School, *Champaign, IL*

Students grades K-5. Unit focused on the integration of installation art with schools

science units. Lessons incorporated contemporary artists, art history, _ Technology. Successfully co-wrote grant for a “Latino Cultural Triathlon”.

Arts & Crafts Teacher September 2005– May 2006

Chinese Heritage Association, *Urbana, IL*

Students aged 4-10 years in contained room. Unit focused on, by parent/administration request, techniques of realism in painting & drawing.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Guest Lecturer December 2014

The Art Institute of Chicago, Teen Lab Program, *Chicago, IL*

After investigating the trompe l’oeil work of Lucy McKenzie students created experimental paintings appropriating her style.

Guest Lecturer October 2013

The Art Institute of Chicago, Teen Lab Program, *Chicago, IL*

Following a conversation about place and space students created site-specific works using only their bodies and cel phone cameras.

Workshop Facilitator February 2012

Making & Meaning, University of Illinois School of Art & Design, *Champaign, IL*

Students all studio majors. Talked about the process behind quilted recycled materials, then Q&A.

Camp Facilitator July 2011

Lori Catterini’s Youth Arts Camp, SoDo Theatre, *Champaign, IL*

Students aged 5-10. Projects included drawing, performing student written shorts on stage

Workshop Facilitator September 2010, June 2009

City of Urbana Art Workshop, Farmers Market at the Square, *Urbana, IL*

Students of all ages. Planned & taught five-hour workshops for Urbana Public Arts Program. Ten-minute sessions served approximately 150 people. Projects included “mother-nature mobiles” & watercolor paintings

Workshop Facilitator October 2009

Formulating Your Aesthetic Agenda Skill Share, Independent Media Center, *Urbana, IL*

Adult Students. Projects included making visual brainstorms, a silent dance party, & performances of student compositions.

Camp Facilitator June 2006

Art Camp, Kewanee YMCA, *Kewanee, IL*

Students aged 5-12. Projects included masks, marionette puppets, “hot air balloons”.

AWARDS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Advanced Placement Summer Institute, **Scholarship Recipient**, 2022
- Illinois Art Education Association, **Professional Development Scholarship Winner**, 2021
- Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation, **Competitive Grant Recipient** 2021
- Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation, **Career Awareness Grant Recipient**, 2019
- Urbana Arts and Culture Arts in Schools, **Grant Recipient**, 2019
- Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation, **Attach Grant Recipient**, 2017-2023

- Urbana Arts and Culture Arts in Schools, **Grant Recipient**, 2017
- Syracuse University, **Dean's Fellow**, 2014-2015 School Year
- Feminist Film Festival, **Best Documentary Film**, Spring 2013
- Illinois Art Education Association, **Graduate Student Scholarship**, Fall 2012
- Writing Across the Curriculum **Workshop Attendee**, Spring 2012
- Departmental **Fellowship**, Spring 2012
- Graduate College Conference Travel **Grant**, 2011 & 2012
- Center for Teaching Excellence, **Excellent Teachers List**, Fall 2011
- Cultural Arts **Grant**, 2007
- University of Illinois **Dean's List** (4.0 GPA) Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007
- Illinois State House of Representatives **Tuition Waiver**, 2003

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member 2012-present *Illinois Art Education Association*

Member 2010-present *National Art Education Association*

Member 2012-2016 *American Educational Research Association*

Member 2011-2016 *United States Society of Education through the Arts*

Member 2012- 2015 *American Studies Association*

PUBLICATION

Bennett, R. (July 2014). T-Shirts. *Visual Arts Research*, 39(77).

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Bennett, R. (2021). Teaching Web Design at Urbana High School. Presentation at the Preservice Teacher Conference at University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

Bennett, R. (2014). Writing with Video. Presentation at the National Art Education Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA. Co-Presenters: Jones, M., O'Connor, J., & Olsen, B.

Bennett, R. (2013). The Evolving Face of Art Education. Presentation at the Illinois Art Education Association, Lisle, IL. Co-Presenters: Conn, M., Horwat, J., & Lucero, J.

Bennett, R. (2013). Culture and Agriculture: Art Education and Socially Engaged Art. Presentation at the American Education Research Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Bennett, R. (2013). The Changing Culture of Agriculture: Agricultural Practices as Visual Art Medium. Presentation at the National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Forth Worth, TX.

Bennett, R. & Scott, R. (2013). Empowerment through Art of Underrepresented Students, Overrepresented in a Juvenile Correctional Facility. Presentation at the National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Forth Worth, TX.

Bennett, R. (2012). Searching for Anti-Racist Art Education. Presentation at the National Art Education Association Annual Conference, New York City, NY.

GRADUATE COURSES

New Directions for Social Sculpture: Food, Art, & Ecology Spring 2015
Statistical Thinking & Application Spring 2015
Qualitative Research I Spring 2015
Teaching & Leadership for Social Justice Spring 2015
Current Scholarship in Teaching & Leadership Fall 2014
Video Research Fall 2014
American Vernacular Cultural Land Spring 2013
Seminar in Contemporary Art: Art & Ecology Spring 2013
Pedagogy as Contemporary Art Practice Spring 2013
Art History Theory & Methodology Fall 2012
Cultural Studies & Critical Interpretation Spring 2012
Foundations of Qualitative Methods Spring 2012
Race & Cultural Critique Fall 2011
Writing for Publication Fall 2011
Artistic Development Spring 2011
Pedagogy as Contemporary Art Practice Spring 2011
Curriculum Development in Art Fall 2010
Theoretical Foundations of Art Education Fall 2010
Writing with Video Fall 2010
Teaching Elementary Science Fall 2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Teacher Perception of Public Education
- Ecological Thinking & Object Oriented Ontology
- Plant Husbandry for Home Consumption
- Cultural Representations of Agriculture & Farming
- Domesticity & Unpaid Labor
- Class

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Indianapolis Art Center 2021

Studied Metalworking, *Indianapolis, IN*

Haystack Mountain School of Craft 2015

Studied Relational Creation, *Deer Isle, ME*

Illinois Master Gardener Training 2010

Studied Horticulture, *Champaign County, IL*

School for Designing a Society 2008-2009

Studied Permaculture, Cybernetics & Art, *Urbana, IL*

Regenerative Urban Sustainability Training (R.U.S.T.) 2007

Studied Permaculture, Aquaculture, Compost & Mycology, *Austin, TX*

ART EXHIBITIONS

IAEA 75th Anniversary Show June 2023 | Norris Cultural Arts Gallery, *St. Charles, IL*
Boneyard High April 2023 | The Crow, *Champaign, IL*
Art Educator Exhibition July 2022 | Bridgeport Arts Center, *Chicago, IL*
Around the Block June 2015 | Giertz Gallery, *Champaign, IL*
Food, Art, & Ecology May 2015 | Huntington Hall, *Syracuse, NY*
Feminist Film Festival May 2013 | Art Theatre, *Champaign, IL*
Art Chicago April 2011 | The Merchandise Mart, *Chicago, IL*
Boneyard Arts Festival April 2010 | 34 East Main Street, *Champaign, IL*
Untitled Solo Exhibition September 2009 | Café Kopi, *Champaign, IL*
Boneyard Arts Festival April 2009 | Grand Prairie Friends' Space, *Bondville IL*
 Independent Media Center, *Urbana IL*
Self Describing Show March 2009 | Independent Media Center, *Urbana, IL*
Boneyard Arts Festival April 2008 | Iron Post, *Urbana, IL*
Bachelors of Fine Arts Exhibition May 2007 | Krannert Art Museum, *Champaign, IL*
The Space Between April 2007 | Bennett Building, *Urbana, IL*
P.S. Painting & Sculpture March 2007 | Link Gallery, *Champaign, IL*
George Brecht's Water Yam Box September 2006 | Krannert Art Museum, *Champaign, IL*
Postcards from Traveling Friends June 2006 | OpenSource Art Gallery, *Champaign, IL*
Over[site] Relocation & the Site-Specific April 2005 | OpenSource Art Gallery, *Champaign, IL*

PRESS

Evans, C. (2009, April). Young People Have It Hard: A review of the Roberta Bennett art show, "Self-Describing Show" at the Independent Media Center. *The Public Eye*.
 Fenske, J. (2005, December 5). Look, Up in the Sky! *The Daily Illini*.
 Fenske, J. (2005, December 7). Eenie, Meanie, Miny, Moe. *The Daily Illini*.
 Hoemann, D. (2007, October 10). Paper Garden. *The News Gazette*.
 Merli, M. (2015, June 14). Backyard talent in 'Around the Block'. *The News-Gazette*.
 Nostwick, A. (2015, July 6). Block party: Parkland showcases community art. *Smile Politely*.
 Taiwo, T. (2010, January 7). One-on-one with Roberta Bennett of the Orpheum Museum. *The Buzz*.

FOOD WORK EXPERIENCE

Bartender
 September 2013–May 2014
 The Antlers Restaurant, *Ithaca, NY*
Bartender & Server
 May 2007– December 2010
 Iron Post Bar, *Urbana, IL*
Cook

August 2009– December 2009
 Red Herring Restaurant, *Urbana, IL*
Prep Cook & Hostess
 April 2009– August 2009
 The Great Impasta, *Urbana, IL*
Bartender & Server
 May 2008– November 2008

Stortini Restaurant, *Austin, TX*
Produce Stocker & Cashier
November 2007– May 2008
Common Ground Food Coop, *Champaign, IL*
Server
August 2006– November 2006
Miko Restaurant, *Urbana, IL*
Café Worker

August 2004– May 2007
Strawberry Fields, *Urbana, IL*
Sandwich Shop Worker
May 2000– August 2003
Subway, *Kewanee, IL*
Corn Detassler
August 1997, August 1998
Jerry Eisenbarth's Farm, *Henry & Stark Counties, IL*

SERVICE

School Improvement Committee, Equity Committee, 2023-24 Academic Year
 Urbana High School, *Urbana, IL*

University of Illinois & Parkland College Observers Host 2017-present
 Urbana High School, *Urbana, IL*

Art Club Sponsor 2017-present
 Urbana High School, *Urbana, IL*

School Improvement Committee 2015-2017
 J.W. Eater Junior High School, *Rantoul, IL*

Art Club Sponsor 2015/16 Academic Year
 J.W. Eater Junior High School, *Rantoul, IL*

Visual Arts Judge Summers of 2013, 2012, 2010
 Champaign County 4-H Fair, *Urbana & Champaign, IL*

Art Educator January 2012– January 2013
 Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center, *Urbana, IL*

Vegetable Gardening Instructor Summer 2011
 Master Gardener Volunteer, Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center, *Urbana, IL*

REFERENCES

Jorge Lucero jlucero@illinois.edu 217.333.0855
 Assistant Professor of Art Education, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
 Former Advisor, Graduate Professor, ARTE 202 Supervisor, ARTE 301 Co-Instructor

Jill Lagerstam jlagerstam@usd116.org
 Art Department Head, *Urbana High School*
 Colleague & Former Mentor

Christine Rinkenberger crinkenberger@usd116.org
 Assistant Principal, *Urbana High School*

Erika Mennig mennig@countysideschool.org
 Former Colleague