

KAREN GERGELY M.F.A.

SOCIALLY ENGAGED ARTIST // ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART
304.216.3229 // KarenGergely@gmail.com // www.karenergely.com

EDUCATION

2006 MFA University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 2D Studio Art
2003 BFA Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV, Painting, Magna cum Laude, Joseph McMurrin Scholar

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2015 - Present Associate Professor of Art at Graceland University, Lamoni, IA (2018-present)

Maintain a full 4 x 4 teaching load and teach courses focusing on 2D foundations, professional arts development, art and social engagement, all levels of drawing, painting, printmaking, and art history to majors and non-majors.

Assistant Professor of Art at Graceland University, Lamoni, IA (2015-2018)

Division Chair for the Division of Visual and Performing Arts, Graceland University, Lamoni, IA (2019-2020)

- **Leadership:** Cultivate a sense of community, trust, and energy within the division, keeping the division informed on matters of importance, conduct division meetings, provide leadership in achieving institutional goals, address institutional needs and priorities.
- **Administrative Relationships:** work as a liaison to the senior administration, the Board of Trustees, and the entire campus on behalf of the Division and its programs, Keep the CLAS Dean informed of matters of importance to the division; work together to achieve division goals.
- **General Administration:** Prepare course offerings and schedules, oversee program review, assessment, and strategic planning processes; work to resolve student, faculty, and staff interpersonal issues; develop and maintain division policies.
- **Budgets:** Oversee the division budgets for Art, Music, and Theater.
- **Donor relationships:** Cultivate and maintain relationships with donors through various modes of correspondence, events, and performances, including special donor galas, homecoming events, and exhibitions.
- **Personnel:** Conduct performance evaluations as required by university policies; hire, orient, train and supervise staff; provide for orientation, mentoring and evaluation of teaching personnel; recommend to the Dean appointments, promotions, tenure, sabbatical, salary adjustments, leaves of absence, dismissals or other matters affecting personnel of the division.
- **Recruitment and retention efforts for the Division:** Meet with prospective students, represent the division at recruitment events on and off campus, work with admissions and financial aid to develop scholarships.
- **Promotion:** Regularly work with our communications and design team to create engaging promotional materials and created a sustainable plan for all Visual and Performing Arts programs to increase visibility on social media.

Art Department Coordinator, Graceland University, Lamoni, IA (2017-present)

Oversee budgets for the studio art and graphic design majors, create schedules, manage annual course offerings, hire and coach new faculty and adjuncts, coach student workers, maintain department website, ensure completion and accuracy of program review and assessment documents, oversee daily operations of the department, and work with donors.

Constance Gallery Director, Graceland University, Lamoni, IA (2015-present)

Create gallery schedule to meet the needs of our contemporary program and our larger community to cultivate town and gown relationships. Manage gallery operations, organize guest artists visiting lectures, work with donors and coach student employees.

- 2013 – Present West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy, faculty member at Morgantown, Fairmont, & Marshall Universities
Instructing gifted high school students in a yearly immersive three-week program. Classes focused on in concept development, social justice, and creativity through visual and social engagement.
- 2007 – 2015 Adjunct Art Faculty, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV
2013 – 2015 Phaze 2 Gallery Director, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV
2012 – 2015 Adjunct Faculty: Art History, Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD
2014 – 2015 Contracted Instructor, Barbra Ingram School for the Arts, Washington County, Hagerstown, MD
2006 – 2007 Visiting Lecturer: Fine Arts Studio, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV

RELEVANT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

PRESENTATIONS

2024 CAA College Art Association

2023 FATE Denver Denver, CO April 13-15 2023

Reaching Way Beyond Their First Idea chaired and presented this panel on ideation and divergent thinking in the classroom. While attending the conference I attended panels on the trauma-informed art foundations classroom, place, AI and VR, and project shares.

UMHC Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference, March 2023

Mentored and brought students to present their research at this student-centered regional conference.

NCHC National Collegiate Honors Conference, November 2023, Chicago

Mentored and brought students to present their research at this student-centered regional conference.

2022 Midwest Art History Society Conference, Houston, TX, March 10-12, 2022

Presentation: *Not Waiting on the World to Change: Finding Peace, Fight, and Voice Through Social Engagement*
As part of a larger discussion on socially engaged art history, The presentation focused on pedagogy and course design for my course Art for Social Change - a studio-based course with emphasis in socially engaged art history and activism.

UMHC Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference, March 2022

Mentored and brought students to present their research at this student-centered regional conference.

NCHC National Collegiate Honors Conference

Mentored and brought students to present their research at this student-centered regional conference.

2021 SECAC Southeastern College Art Conference 2021

Not Waiting on the World to Change: Finding Peace, Fight, and Voice through Engagement as part of a larger discussion on *Reshaping the (Art) World: Integrating Socially Engaged Research into Art History Curriculums*

College Art Association National Conference (CAA,) remote

Cohosted a live edition of the CAA Conversations Podcast: *Sustainable Design: Beyond the Stuff, Towards the System*. A conversation between Rachel Beth Egenhoefer and Peter Dean. This podcast is part of a larger series of podcasts for the national organization that Gergely has been managing for the past two years. Currently in its fourth season, CAA Conversations primarily focus on pedagogy, diversity, and inclusion in the university setting and can be found on the CAA website, iTunes and SoundCloud.

FATE Foundations in Art: Theory and Education, University of North Carolina Charlotte, remote

PRESENTATION: *Inclusion: A Commitment to Equality, Diversity, & Justice*

2020 College Art Association National Conference (CAA) Chicago. IL // February

PRESENTATION: *Cultivating Social Engagement at a Small, Rural Liberal Arts University and Beyond*
Participated in a Risograph workshop on digital printmaking.

Teaching Place Conference, Minneapolis, MN June 2020, PRESENTATION: *Teaching Rural Community Engagement*

2019 College Art Association National Conference (CAA) NYC. NY // February

Panel Co-Chair with Ellen Mueller: *Social Practice and Service Learning*

FATE Foundations in Art: Theory and Education // Foundations in FLUX, Columbus College of Art & Design
Columbus OH // April

CHAIR: *Art and Activism in Foundations*

2018 CAA College Art Association National Conference L.A. CA // February

PRESENTATION: *Challenges and Triumphs of Curating Socially Engaged Works*

2017 16th Biennial National FATE Conference in Kansas City April 6 – 8, 2017

PRESENTATION: *Building Better Risk-Takers and World Changers, Social Practice in Foundations*

2014 National Conference on Governor's Schools, Invited Speaker. Pittsburgh PA

PRESENTATION: *Superheroes of the Art World: Integrating Social Practice into Governor's Academies*

WORKSHOPS

2016-present

- #superawesomefunnight 2017 – 2023. Facilitated socially engaged work/workshop commissioned for the West Virginia Governors Honors Academy
- Invited Artist Workshop on Practicing Socially Engaged Art at The Union, Omaha NE. Facilitated a series of workshops to artist in residence Fellows who will engage North Omaha in a socially engaged work.
- *ArtTalk* // George Fox University Department of Art and Design Professional Network & Development course lecture series in collaboration with the Chehalem Cultural Center. Newberg Oregon // November
Invited featured Lecturer for the *ArtTalk* series, conduct studio visits and workshops with upper division students, and classroom visits.
- College Art Association National Conference (CAA), Round Table Discussion Co-Facilitator with Ellen Mueller
Facilitated: *Social Practice: Doing and Teaching*
- Teaching Social Practice Conference, UMass Dartmouth, Dartmouth MA *Share Circles and Active Listening*
- Big A** Portfolio Day, Grandview University, Facilitated: *How to write a good cover letter*
- Art and Social Practice - a Task Party Tri County Older 4-H Camp, *Art event and discussion*
- Funshine: Art Workshop, *Explore Art!*

COMMUNITY ENGAGED COLLABORATIONS

- 2022 MURAL, Fairmont State University community mural with the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy
Focused on celebrating Appalachia through public art initiatives, students immersed themselves into the Fairmont community and did a great amount of research before working with community members to paint a 50' x 10" mural on Fairmont State University's campus, Fairmont, WV.
- 2022 LAMONI FOOD PANTRY MURAL, Lamoni IA
Teaching artist cultivating a relationship between food pantry leadership, donors, patrons, and university students to create a welcoming mural in the new food pantry space in Lamoni, IA. Lamoni is located in the poorest county in Iowa and as a community of 1500 people, over 80 families use the food pantry on a weekly basis for regular and relief help.
- 2021 MURAL, New Virginia, IA
Collaboration with Tacy Cummings. Mural commission by the town of New Virginia, Iowa. The project was developed in concert with the community. The wall is 88' long by 2 stories high. www.karenergely.com/murals
- MURAL, Lamoni, IA
Facilitated a space where Graceland students worked with Lamoni community to create a mural Downtown
- 2019 MURAL, HUNTINGTON, WV community mural with the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy
Focused on revitalizing Appalachia through public art initiatives, students immersed themselves into the Huntington community and did a great amount of research before working with community members to paint a 50' x 12' mural on a historical building in Huntington's Central City. An article featuring the project was written by Amanda Larch and featured in Huntington's Herald-Dispatch. The article was picked up by US News and World Report and was seen in many newspapers all over the country including the Marietta Daily Journal in OH, the Waco Tribune-Herald, the Eagle in Bryan, TX, Star-Telegram in Fort Worth, TX, the Saratogian in NY, and the Miami Herald, among others. <https://www.apnews.com/fd317355e5a940f4825c7bfdb45ef91e>
- 2017 MURAL, Lamoni, IA
Collaborative community mural inspired by the history of Lamoni Iowa, and the Jefferson Highway

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Brickscape Artist Residency and Exhibition, The Union Building, Charleston, WV
Featured artist in residence for a 6-week installation/socially engaged residency
- 2016 North Mountain Artist Residency, Shanghai, WV
A three-week competitive artist residency awarded

SERVICE

NATIONAL

- National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Co-Chair Partners in the Parks Committee 2023 - present
- College Art Association (CAA) Services to Artists Committee 2021 - present
- College Art Association (CAA) Education Committee 2018 - 2021
- CAA Conversations Podcasts Project Manager, 2 seasons
- National Collegiate Honors Association, elected Iowa representative

REGIONAL

- Iowa Faculty Representative, Upper Midwest Region to the National Collegiate Honors Council
- Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference 2021, designed logo and promo materials
- Co-organized and hosted the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference at Graceland University, Lamoni, IA. Hosted 140 Honors students from the upper Midwest region in March

SERVICE TO THE LAMONI COMMUNITY

- Trail Visioning Committee // worked with Trees Forever to create a new vision for Lamoni trail system
- Lamoni Food Pantry // Board Member

OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE

- Co-Director of the Honors Program at Graceland University helping build curriculum and mentoring high achieving students at all levels
- Served on numerous faculty search committees including the Vice President of Academic Affairs//Dean of Faculty
- Council for Student Welfare mentoring students
- SCOEPAT: A committee that reviews faculty for tenure and promotion
- Summer 2020 Creative Design Team for the University's COVID transition
- Regularly guest lecture for classes in other disciplines seeking art related connections
- Faculty advisor for the Art Club
- Participated in "The Living Library" and other storytelling events in the community
- Co-organized Graceland's second study abroad to London and the Dunfield House. A month long educational study for University students, Summer 2017
- Served on the Visiting Artist Committee at the University of Cincinnati organizing, planning for and hosting over 20 national and internationally recognized artists.

RECENT GRANTS

- Grant received from Iowa Private Academic Libraries to develop Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Wrote and received a DEKKO grant town of Lamoni, Graceland students and local high school students to create a Jefferson Highway inspired mural in downtown Lamoni
- Co-Authored 2 Reacting Endeavor Challenge Grant proposals for Reacting to the Past

AWARDS

- Nominated for an Outstanding Faculty Award, Graceland University for the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching
- West Virginia Artist Fellowship, WV Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts
- Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Cincinnati, OH
- Who's Who in American Graduate Students, Granted by the University of Cincinnati, OH

RELATED TRAVEL

- Appalachian Trail Thru-Hike, Georgia – Maine // self-supported, 5 months
- Allegheny Trail Thru-Hike // self-supported, 311 mile hike through West Virginia, north to south
- Continental Divide Thru-Mountain Bicycle, Mexico-Canada // self-supported, 3 months
- Trans American Bicycle Ride // self-supported trip Oregon to Virginia, 3 months
- Santiago de Compostela Spain/Camino de Santiago // walking pilgrimage France-Spain 1.5 months
- Wolfstien Student Travel Grant, Peru (2 months) Granted by the University of Cincinnati
- Mail, West Africa // Drew University Graduate Summer Arts Program, one-month course
- Rotary Exchange Student // Debrecen, Hungary, 12 months, language proficiency

SELECT EXHIBITIONS

- *Walk Along*, J.D. Brooks Gallery, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV
- *West Virginia Faculty Invitational: SECAC*, Convention Exhibition, Charleston, WV
- *Re-visitation/Reconciliation*, Monongalia County Arts Center, Morgantown, WV
- *Expedition Revisited: M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition* University of Cincinnati, OH
- *Immediate Family University of Charleston*, Charleston, WV

- *Toss=Explosion Morgantown, WV, Invitational*
- *Art: Visual Diversity* West Virginia State University, Delta Taylor Brown Gallery, Charleston, WV, Juried
- *West Virginia Juried Show Cultural Center*; Charleston, WV, Merit Award. (Catalogue)
- *For Untold Reasons* WVU Creative Arts Center, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
- B.F.A. Thesis Exhibit: *Immediate Family* Canterbury Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- *ARTiculation* The Art House, Leesburg, VA, invitational
- *Awakening* Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, Invitational
- *Emerging Artists Maryland Federation of Art Gallery on the Circle*, Annapolis, MD
- *Snapshot* Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD
- *Innovations in Printmaking* The Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, Frederick, MD

REFERENCES

Dr. Brian White, Dean of Humanities and Visual & Performing Arts and the Honors Program, Graceland University, Lamoni IA // bjwhite@graceland.edu 801-391-3884

Dr. Robin Payne, Co-Dean for the West Virginia Governor's Academy, Fairmont State University, Associate Professor of History, Director of the Honors Program // rpayne4@fairmontstate.edu 304-367-4758

Deb Skinner, MEd, Vice President for Enrollment and Strategic Growth, Graceland University, Lamoni, IA // dskinner@graceland.edu 515-777-5315

Ellen Mueller, Director of Programs at Arts Midwest, Minneapolis MN // ellen.mueller@artsmidwest.org 612.238.8008