

AARON MCMULLIN

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COMMITTED TO **COLLABORATION, CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, AND CONNECTION**
THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF ART AND COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

- 2023 Masters of Fine Arts Candidate, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL
- 2019-20 Teaching Artist Institute, Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis, MO
- 2009 Bachelor of Arts, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

GRANTS, RESIDENCIES, & AWARDS

- 2023 Emily Pierce Graduate Student Residency Award, Lillian E. Smith Center, Piedmont University, Clayton, GA
- 2023 Print Council Award, Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL
- 2022 Barbara Dyck Memorial Award, Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL
- 2021 Photo Club Award, Annual Juried Student Exhibition, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL
- 2020 Competitive Graduate Award, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, IL
- 2019 Artist Support Grant, Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis, MO
- 2018 Finalist for City of Phoenix Artist Residency "Reimagining Phoenix," Phoenix, AZ
- 2016 Artist Support Grant, Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis, MO & Maharashtra, India
- 2015 Community Social Impact Grant, Regional Arts Commission, St. Louis, MO
- 2015 Group Centered Leadership in the Arts, Residency, Yeyo Arts, St. Louis, MO
- 2014 PXSTL Programming Grant, The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, St. Louis, MO
- 2011-12 Fulbright-Nehru Research Grant, United States-India Education Foundation, Maharashtra, India
- 2011-12 Critical Language Enhancement Award, United States-India Education Foundation, Pune, India

EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Annual Student Juried Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
- 2022 7th Biannual 12 x 12 Exhibition, Angad Arts Hotel, St. Louis, MO
- 2022 Small Works Art Show, Wood River Historical Society, Wood River, IL
- 2022 Belonging: Cross River, Lewis Collaborative, University City, MO
- 2022 Over Looked, Framations Art Gallery, St. Charles, MO
- 2022 Annual Student Juried Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
- 2021 Annual Student Juried Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
- 2019 Art is Labor, Arcade Contemporary Art Projects, Webster University Gateway Campus, St. Louis, MO
- 2018 *Tracing Threads, Weaving Stories: a retrospective, Yeyo Arts Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2015 *Cotton: The Fiber of Our Being, Yeyo Arts Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2013 *Cotton: The Fiber of Our Being, Left Bank Dance Studio, Alton, IL

*indicates solo exhibition

PERFORMANCE ART

- 2010 Hidden Costs, United States Social Forum, Detroit, MI
2009 Hidden Costs, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

COMMISSIONS

- 2021 Forest ReLeaf Fundraiser, Concert in the Trees. "The Questions," plywood, acrylic paint, chalkboard paint, chalk. 8' x 6' x 6'
2020 Faceless Farmer Upcycled T-Shirt, Private Collector

AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

- Aaron McMullin, "St. Louis Social Justice," *All the Art*, 2016. pp. 8. (online - <https://bit.ly/3EuvzLc>)
Corinne Gorla, Kalpona Akter, & Aaron McMullin "Pournima Akolkar." In *Invisible Hands: Voices from the Global Economy*. (pp. 113-130). Essay, Voice of Witness, 2014.

PRESS

- Jen Roberts, "Moral Fiber: Art meets activism in Aaron McMullin's work," *St. Louis Magazine*, March 2020. print and online: <https://bit.ly/3K0iTwR>
Steve Potter, "City Corner: Jacoby Arts Center," STL TV, <https://bit.ly/JACSTLTV>

PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

- 2020-23 Annual Self-Love Manifestation Candle Collage Workshop, virtual/St. Louis, MO
2020 Guest Speaker, Principia High School Art Students, virtual
2014-20 Guest Lecturer for Human Rights in Modern South Asia, Prof. Dr. Rachel Ball-Phillips, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
2018 Artist Talk, Nerinx Hall High School Art Students, St. Louis, MO
2015 The Power of a Story: An Oral History Workshop, Yeyo Arts Gallery, St. Louis, MO
2015 Bitter Seeds, film screening/talk, Yeyo Arts Gallery, St. Louis, MO
2014 Invisible Hands: Voices from the Global Economy, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO
2014 Mapping Food Access in St. Louis, lecture, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
2012 Cotton Farmers, Sustainability, & the Modernization of Agriculture: Notes from the Field, South and Central Asia Annual Fulbright Conference, Kochi, India

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING AND FACILITATION

2023 Reckoning with White Femininity and Anti-Blackness: Towards Humanizing Relationships and Solidarity, Facilitators: Jen Willsea & Ellen Tuzzolo, online

How are modern and historical patterns of white femininity, as forces of violence and anti-Blackness, operating in my relationships with Black women and Black gender expansive people? A four-part virtual workshop for white people of all gender identities who have been socialized as white women

2022 Finding Freedom: White Women Taking on Our Own White Supremacy

A workshop that aims to deepen our individual and collective understanding of how white women and gender-expansive people are complicit with white supremacy, how we can make changes to live more deeply and consistently into our racial justice commitments, and how we can move ourselves and other people in our networks to join the fight for racial, economic, and gender justice now.

2021 Disrupting Our Whiteness: Finding Wholeness in Resistance (DOW), Holistic Resistance, online

DOW focuses on building long-term relationship for connection, accountability, and support by:

- Fostering community to dismantle the myth that we can do this work in isolation
- Practicing reaching for white people using strategies that connect us in long-term

- community, as opposed to shaming and blaming people out of the movement
- Delving into the power of questions and real-life scenarios to deepen your BODY's (not just your mind's) analysis of anti-racism
- Exploring how trauma and oppression are ultimately linked to white supremacy culture
- Practicing centering POC in a room even when POC are not present
- Practicing undoing white supremacy culture, like naming perfectionism and practicing being in conflict together, so that we don't put the burden of this work on POC
- Using mindfulness and embodiment to create long term resilience and anti-racist patterns in our bodies.

2020 Deepening Roots and Stretching Branches: Anti-Racism Analysis for Moving White People Towards Action, Anti-Racism Organizing Collective, St. Louis, MO

Deepening Roots is a 12-session program designed to engage and challenge white people in personal work and social analysis to better address racism and structural oppression on both an individual and systemic level. Topics explored include:

- Internalized Racial Superiority
- Policing, Prisons and Abolition
- Socialization and Locating our Stories
- Racism and Patriarchy
- White Fragility and Shame
- Mechanics of Oppression
- Capitalism and Racism

2019 Participant, White Awake, Facilitator: Jan Rosamund, St. Louis, MO

White Awake combats white supremacy by focusing on educational resources and spiritual practices designed to support the engagement of people who've been socially categorized as "white" in the creation of a just and sustainable society. Over the course of 6 months we explored:

- Personal Experience with Race
- Historical Racism
- Contemporary Institutional Racism
- Seeing Racism in the World Around Us
- Applying our Spiritual Practice

2014-19 Facilitator (2016-19) and Participant (2014, Witnessing Whiteness, YWCA, St. Louis, MO

Using the book *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It (2nd edition)* by Shelly Tochluk, group members explore:

- History and construction of white racial identity
- Community building within white spaces
- White culture and values and how US national culture reflects and largely rests on white culture, practices and values
- Manifestations of white supremacy and privilege
- Cross-racial communication, conflict, and relationship building
- Activation of white solidarity and accountability

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

2020-23 Graduate/Teaching Assistant, Textiles, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL

Assisted with instruction of Introduction to Material Studies undergraduate class (shibori indigo resist

dye techniques, rust dyeing, sewing, thermafax printing, silk-screen printing, color theory, non-objective and objective compositions, student art critiques, classroom management) and Textile studio management (laundry, keeping supplies stocked, cleaning studio, assisting students outside of class)

2020 Resident Teaching Artist, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, ArtReach, Vashon High School, St. Louis, MO

Since 2017, CAM has partnered with Vashon High School to ensure a consistent art curriculum is available for students. Resident Teaching Artists and CAM staff provide weekly art classes throughout the year, and collaborate with students to create an annual exhibition at the museum.

- Developed curriculum for "Re-Worn," a class teaching various image transfer and resist dye techniques culminating in the transformation of an old article of clothing into a new statement piece, (spring 2020)
- Reworked curriculum to teach online embroidery class for fall 2020 due to Covid

2019-20 Teaching Artist, Canvass Project, Regional Arts Commission & Springboard to Learning, St. Louis, MO

The St. Louis Canvass Project is a free youth engagement program that uses the arts to unlock skills students need to succeed in life - problem solving, collaboration, communication, imagination and creativity - with a special emphasis on leadership development.

- Serve as professional teaching artist at Beyond Housing, one of four community sites
- Collaborate with partner professional teaching artist to provide quality programming, education, and supervision for up to 25 middle school aged young people. This generally includes a pre-excursion art lesson, an on-site excursion lesson, and a post-excursion art lesson, all related to the guiding question/lesson objective determined by teaching artists during curriculum planning.
- Coordinate with RAC and Springboard to obtain and maintain supplies and materials
- Engage in the planning and coordination of Canvass Project events with Excursion and Community Sites
- Participate in the St. Louis Teaching Artist Institute

2017-19 Teaching Artist, Program Coordinator, Colorbridge Art, St. Louis, MO

Colorbridge Art provides socially-minded, life skill based arts education for schools and families throughout St. Louis.

- Developed and taught Impact Art, a multimedia class designed to explore how to use art for social change (K-4th grade, adapted for middle school enrichment class)
- Developed and taught Printmaking curriculum (Pre-K-3rd grade)
- Developed and taught Storybook Launchpad, a multimedia class that uses illustrated children's books as an entry point for young artists to learn various basic art skills (K-2nd grade)
- Coordinated after school art programs with several local elementary schools and Colorbridge Teaching Artists

2016-19 Artscope, Teaching Artist and Marketing Associate (2017-18), St. Louis, MO

Artscope's mission is to provide a safe and educational environment for children to explore the arts and to strengthen the ties within the Saint Louis community.

- Teaching artist for School's Out Camp Create program
- Artist-in-Residency Teacher program at St. Margaret of Scotland (St. Louis City, 2017)
- Artist-in-Residency Teacher program January Wabash Elementary School (Ferguson-Florissant School District, 2018)

- Managed social media accounts and built new website

2014-20 Teaching Artist, Volunteer and Member, Yeyo Arts Collective, St. Louis, MO

Yeyo Arts Collective is dedicated to the creative empowerment of womxn and their families.

- Summer Photography Camp Instructor, August 2015, ages 8-12
- Facilitated monthly collective member meetings on a rotating basis – open to public
- Assisted with gallery management – exhibits (proposals, installation/deinstallation, promotion, receptions)
- Managed gallery for 4-8 hours monthly (sales, community interaction)
- Assisted with Collective program design and selection (wellness fairs, exhibits, lectures, fundraisers)
- Spearheaded marketing campaign “We are Yeyo” to coincide with/promote annual membership drive

2016 Interim Executive Director, Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL

The Jacoby Arts Center nurtures and promotes the practice and appreciation of the arts through education, exhibits, cultural programs, and community outreach initiatives.

- Reestablished Exhibition and Programming Committees
- Developed Education, Exhibition, and Programming Committee policies and guidelines
- Oversaw Main Gallery Exhibitions, Summer Art Day Camp program, and launch of Seasonal Visual Art Class Series (beginning Fall 2016)
- Coordinated community theater, music, and art events in East Gallery

2013-16 Part-time Studio Assistant, Sun Smith-Foret, Elsah, IL

Sun Smith-Foret is a professional studio artist, teacher, and independent curator. During my time as her studio assistant, Sun’s body of work consisted of quilts inspired by scenarios, social and cultural content from film and filmmakers in various genres related to behavior and cultural impact, gender and social differences, family and other relationships. My studio assistant duties consisted of but were not limited to:

- hand-lettered painting on quilts
- painting stenciled lettering on quilts
- providing feedback about content, color, and form of work
- studio organization
- archiving and storing quilts
- exhibition installation