

DONNA F. ST. JOHN

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2015

EDUCATION

MFA

Kendall College of Art and Design, MFA Painting, emphasis on oil painting and mixed media assemblage, Thesis: Tribute Exhibition Of Authentic Heroism / Investigation of Grace, Vision, Clarity & Purpose, December, 2015

IB Certification, IB Americas Professional Development Conference, PPI Certified, Seattle, Washington, 2015

MA

Western Michigan University, MA Education & Fine Art, emphasis on Painting, Thesis: *The Correlation of Fine Art Appreciation And Educational Level*, June, 1990

BA

Michigan State University, BA Education & Fine Art, emphasis on Drawing and Painting, June, 1983
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

HONORS AND AWARDS

Recognition Award Art Prize, Grand Rapids, Installation piece titled "Is This the Cost Of Social Justice", Fountain Street Church. This juried exhibit was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union. 2014

85th Regional Exhibition Honorable Mention, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, Mi. "Is This the Cost of Social Justice", 2013

40th Annual Celebrations of the Arts Exhibit, First Place, First Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. Assemblage piece titled "Is This the Cost Of Social Justice?", 2013

Lowell Arts Collage & Assemblage Construction 2012, First Place, Assemblage pieces "If Only My Heart Were Made of Stone" and "If Only I Had No Guilt", King Gallery, 2012

83rd Regional Exhibition 3rd Place, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, Mi. "If Only" 2011

Nominated Art Educator of the Year – Kendall College, 2011
Nomination for MTOY – Higher Division honoring excellence in art education for the commitment to preserving artistic culture.

Teacher of the Year – Coopersville Area Public Schools, 2008
Awarded the district Teacher of the Year for progressive and innovative teaching and curriculum design.

Most Inspirational Teacher – Awarded nine times, by the Coopersville Area Foundation for inspiring student's life long learning.

Teacher of the Year – Godfrey Lee Public Schools, 1989
Awarded the district Teacher of the Year for progressive and innovative teaching and curriculum design.

Recipient of Coopersville Area Arts Council Grant – from 2013 - 2011,
Awarded funding to professionally frame 10 - 12 pieces of student artwork for display in the community foyer. Artwork is returned to the student after one year.

Recipient of Coopersville Mini Grant – 2011 – 2007,
Awarded funding to research, write, and implement diversity curriculum for the community.

Student/Teacher reception for The American Vision Award, Carnegie Hall,
My student received the American Vision Award and we were both invited to the awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall. NYC, June, 2009

TEACHING Experience

Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, MI
Associate Professor, Program, Dates 2008 - present

- Teaching art education courses for the undergraduate and masters program. Basic components of the courses include K-12 pedagogy, neurology, classroom evaluation, effective classroom management, holistic approaches to art education, aesthetics, contemporary art, 21st century skills, computer programs, Universal Design for Learning as a way to honor all students. These courses use the latest brain research to respond to the ever-changing educational demands of the 21st century

Previous Teaching

Coopersville High School, Coopersville, Mi, 2001-2011

High School Instructor, Art Department

- Designed High School curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century, Department Chair, lead designer in an all school community art show,

lead designer in the Theater Leasing competition, chairperson and lead designer for the High School Diversity Club, mentor for many new K – 12 teachers in the district, Trainer for the ISD Train the Teachers program

West Ottawa District, Waukazoo, Pine Creek and Sheldon Woods, Holland Mi. 1996-2001

Elementary Art Instructor, Art Department

- Designed art curriculum for K – 5 Art Education program, lead designer for an all school community art show, numerous student shows and competitions, numerous community art shows and student exhibit.

Godfrey Lee Elementary, Wyoming, Mi. 1984-1996

Elementary Art Instructor, Art Department

- Designed art curriculum for K – 5 Art Education program, lead designer for an all inclusive annual school community art show, numerous student shows and competitions, numerous community art shows and student exhibits, designer for K-5 curriculum maps that integrated world studies

PUBLICATIONS
And/or
EXHIBIT
RECORD

Curriculum

St. John, Donna, F., 2014. Published a complete K-12 set of curriculum for the international artist Mel Chin’s Fundred Dollars organization raising awareness of the interconnections within the environment, human health and existence.

Books

St. John, Donna, F., Book Title, *Let Me Tell You a Story*, Self Published, 2009. Children’s Book written and illustrated to help people of all ages through the grieving process. This book has been purchased and sponsored by the Lemmen/Holton Cancer Center and the DeVos Children’s Hospital.

Journal Publications

St. John, Donna, F., “*Everyday Heroes of Sioux County*”
Curriculum written for the International Education Center, Rexford NY, SPNetwork Site, 2009

St. John, Donna, F., “*Art Symbolism*”
Curriculum written for the International Education Center, Rexford NY, SPNetwork Site, 2009

St. John, Donna, F., *“Typography and Subconscious Awareness”*
Curriculum written for the International Education Center, Rexford NY,
SPNetwork Site, 2009

St. John, Donna, F., *“Tesselations, Connecting Art and Math”* Ottawa Area
ISD, Holland, MI, Curriculum written for a WIKKI website, 2007

St. John, Donna, F., *“Cultural Clay Masks and Balance”* Ottawa Area ISD,
Holland, MI, Curriculum written for a WIKKI website, 2007

St. John, Donna, F., *“Surreal Montage”* Ottawa Area ISD, Holland, MI,
Curriculum written for a WIKKI website, 2007

St. John, Donna, F., *“Computer Altered Photography”* Ottawa Area ISD,
Holland, MI, Curriculum written for a WIKKI website, 2007

St. John, Donna, F., *“Symbolism in Life and Art”* Ottawa Area ISD, Holland,
MI, Curriculum written for a WIKKI website, 2007

Exhibits

ArtPrize, Art To Change the World, Juried Exhibition “Homage To
Nobility, Examination and Hope For the Simulated”, Installation piece,
Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. This juried exhibit was sponsored
by the American Civil Liberties Union. 2015

DeVos Hall, Juried Exhibition, “Guanyin”, Oil Painting Mixed Media
Assemblage, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2015

Muskegon Musueum of Art, Juried Exhibition, “Homage To Nobility,
Examination and Hope For the Simulated”, Oil Painting Assemblage,
Muskegon, Mi. 2015

ArtPrize, Grand Rapids, Installation piece titled “The High Cost Of
Education”, Fountain Street Church, Oil Painting Assemblage, This juried
exhibit was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union and received the
Special Recognition Award. 2014

Solo Exhibition, “No Regrets”, Exhibition of six mixed media torso, self
portraits and Let Me Tell You a Story Illustrations, Fountain Street Church,
Grand Rapids, Mi. 2014

40th Annual Celebrations of the Arts Exhibit, Juried Exhibition, First Place Award, “Is This the Cost Of Social Justice?”, First Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. Assemblage piece titled 2013

DeVos Show, Juried Exhibition, “If Only I Had No Guilt”, Assemblage piece, DeVos Hall, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2012

Kendall Faculty Exhibition “Sanctuary”, Assemblage piece, Kendall Federal Building Gallery, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2012

Lowell Arts Collage & Assemblage Construction, Juried Exhibition, *First Place*, “If Only My Heart Were Made of Stone” and “If Only I Had No Guilt”, Assemblage pieces King Gallery, Lowell, Mi 2012

Grand Haven ArtWalk, Juried Exhibition, “Sugar and Spice”, Assemblage Piece, Grand Haven, Mi. 2012

ArtPrize, Art To Change the World, Juried Exhibition, “Is This the Cost Of Social Justice”, Assemblage Piece, Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. This juried exhibit was sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union. 2012

Faculty Exhibition, KCAD Historic Federal Building, “Sanctuary”, Assemblage, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2012

Lowell Arts Collage & Assemblage Construction 2012, *First Place*, “If Only My Heart Were Made of Stone” and “If Only I Had No Guilt”, Assemblage pieces, King Gallery, Lowell, Mi 2012

83rd Regional Exhibition Juried Exhibition, Awarded 3rd Place, “*If Only I Had No Guilt*”, *If Only I Had Wings*”, Assemblage, Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, Mi. 2 artworks selected, 2011

Celebrations of the Arts Exhibit, If Only Self Portrait Torsos, Award Winner, Assemblage, First Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2011

Art Prize Juried Exhibition Grand Rapids Ballet Company, “No Regrets”, Installation, Grand Rapids Ballet Company. Grand Rapids, Mi. 2010

DeVos Place, Juried Exhibition, “If Only”, Assemblage, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2010

Faculty Exhibition, Rankin Art Gallery, Ferris State University, “If Only My Heart Were Made Of Stone”, Assemblage, Big Rapids, Mi. 2010

Celebrations Exhibit, First Methodist Church, Awarded Honorable Mention, “Ramifications”, “Taking From Nature”, Assemblage, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2009

Kendall Faculty Show, Kendall College Galleries, Grand Rapids, “Ramifications”, Assemblage, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2010

Two Person Exhibition, Connections, Exhibition of nine paintings and mixed media pieces, **Christ Community Church**, Spring Lake, Mi. 2009

Celebrations Exhibit, First Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Mi. “Sanctuary” assemblage piece featured in the auditory tour. 2008

Holland Area Arts Council, Oddities and Curiosities, “Time”, Assemblage, Holland Mi. 2009

**PRESENTATIONS
AND INVITED
LECTURED**

Facilitator For the Midwest Brain Institute, Engaging the Brain, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. Three-day conference presented by researchers, neuroscientist, and master teachers focusing on education and healthy brain development Hope College, 2015

Invited Lecture, *21st Century Teaching and Learning*, Professional Development for Grand Rapids Public Schools, Lecture, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2014

Presentor, 2014 MAEA Conference, Integrity, Integration, Advocacy. East Lansing, Michigan, 2014

Veteran KCAD ArtPrize Studio/Lecture Event, Contemporary Art – Never Look Down Installation, community lecture for veterans learning about contemporary art and participating in a community wide installation. Kendall College, Grand Rapids, Mi. October 2014.

Workshop Lecture “Building Community Advocacy With An All-Inclusive Art Show”, MAEA, Fort Worth, Texas, March. 2013

Workshop Lecture “Lights, Camera, Action, Engagement”, Fire Up Conference, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mi., 2013

Invited Lecture, *ArtPrize*, “21st Century Learning About 21st. Century Art”, Lecture presented to *ArtPrize* writers and designers’, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2013

Facilitator For the Midwest Brain Institute, The Creative Brain, Moving Beyond To Extended Thinking, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. Four-day conference presented by researchers, neuroscientist, and master teachers focusing on movement, nature and play requirements for healthy brain development Hope College, 2013

Workshop Lecture “Art Advocacy Within Your Own Community”, MAEA, Fort Worth, Texas, March. 2013

Workshop Lecture “Lights, Camera, Action, Engagement”, Fire Up Conference, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mi., 2013

Invited Lecture, *ArtPrize*, “21st Century Learning About 21st. Century Art”, Lecture presented to *ArtPrize* writers and designers’, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2013

Facilitator For the Midwest Brain Institute, The Creative Brain, Moving Beyond To Extended Thinking, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. Four-day conference presented by researchers, neuroscientist, and master teachers focusing on movement, nature and play requirements for healthy brain development Hope College, 2013

Invited Lecture, “You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too”, Professional Development for Forest Hills Public Schools, Lecture, Ada, Mi. 2012

Invited Lecture, “21st Century Skills And the Human Brain”, Michigan Educators School Board Association (**MASB**), Detroit, Mi. One hour interactive presentation given to administrators and School Board members. Dec. 2012

Guest Lecture “Let’s Talk About the Hemispheres”, Fire Up Conference, Aquinas, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2012

Workshop Lecture “Using ArtPrize As an Educational Resource”, MAEA, Traverse City, Mi., Nov. 2012

Workshop Lecture “Building Community Advocacy With An All-Inclusive Art Show”, MAEA, Traverse City, Mi. Nov. 2012

Invited Lecture, “You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too”, Professional Development for Forest Hills Public Schools, Lecture, Ada, Mi. 2012

Conference Workshop, Ottawa Area ISD, “Diversifying Learning For Every Student, Spring Lake Professional Development day, Spring Lake, Mi. 2011

Invited Presentation, Kendall College of Art and Design, ArtPrize, Understanding Contemporary Art, Professional development for Berkley School District, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2011

Invited Presentation, Muskegon Museum of Art, “Talk To the Artist”, Presentation explicating my artistic goals, Muskegon, Mi. 2011

Invited Lecture, Grand Rapids Art Museum, “Prediction and Curiosity: How To Keep Your Listener Engaged”, Lecture presented to GRAM’s docents, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2011

Conference Workshop, “You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too”, What Works and How to Make It Happen, Michigan Educators Association, Kalamazoo, Mi. Three hour interactive presentation given to administrators and educators from all disciplines. Dec. 2010

Workshop Lecture “How To Diversify the Learning”, Fire Up Conference, Aquinas, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2009, 2010

Workshop Lecture “What Every Educator Should Know About the Brain”, Fire Up Conference, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mi., 2010

Workshop Lecture “Engaging the Brain”, Fire Up Conference, Aquinas, Grand Rapids, Mi. 2009, 2010

Workshop Lecture “Everything You Need To Know About the Brain”, Connecting the past, present, and future to shape the world with art, MAEA, Dearborn, Mi. Nov. 2010

Workshop Lecture “You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too”, Connecting the past, present, and future to shape the world with art, MAEA, Dearborn, Mi. Nov. 2010

Presentation *Eco and Social Justice* Grand Valley State University, MC for Dr. Gordy Alderink and Dr. Martiwitz, I was a chair for the community organization providing a lecture and social event for that Union High School and Coopersville High School to investigate social justice, Coopersville, MI.. 2009.

Presentation Celebrate Diversity, Grand Valley State University, Lead organizer and presenter. Providing a lecture and hors d’oeuvre reception at the Grand Valley Alumni House, Allendale, Mi. 2007

Seminar or Workshop

2011 NAEA National Convention, Seattle, WA, March 2011, Creativity, Imagination, & Innovation in Art Education.

Contemporary Art in the Classroom, Ottawa Area ISD, Holland, Mi. Sept. 2010, How to incorporate contemporary art into the classroom.

2010 NAEA National Convention, Baltimore, MD, April 14 – 18, 2010
4 day conference titled “Art Education and Social Justice”

2009 MAEA Conference, Kalamazoo, MI. “Shaping the World Piece by Piece”, 2009

ASCD Educational Leadership Conference, Orlando, FL. 2009, Three-day conference focusing on educating the whole child.

Facilitator For the Midwest Brain Institute, The Creative Brain, Moving Beyond To Extended Thinking, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. 2013 Four-day conference presented by researchers, neuroscientist, and master teachers focusing on movement, nature and play requirements for healthy brain development Hope College.

Facilitator, Creating Brain Compatible Environments to Engage Learners, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. 2010, Four-day conference presented by researchers, neuroscientist, and master teachers focusing on brain compatible environments Hope College.

Facilitator, Healthy Brains, Engaged Learners, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. 2009, Four-day conference exploring the latest in brain research and its potential on learning, Hope College.

Diverse Brains, Diverse Learners, Haworth Center, Holland, Mi. 2007, Four-day conference exploring the latest in brain research and its potential on learning, Hope College.

**PROFESSIONAL
TRAINING**

MAEA, Michigan Art Education Association, 1985 - Present
Presenter and Member.

NAEA, National Art Education Association, 1985 - Present

Midwest Brain & Learning Institute, Hope College, Holland, Mi. Facilitator for small group dialog. This is an annual 4- day brain conference focused on the latest brain research and how it can be utilized to revolutionize education. This group of professionals coordinates the group norms and protocol for small group dialog for the conference, 2003 – present.

ArtPrize Education Advisory Committee Member through the Urban Institute of Art. This committee advocates the arts exploration for the Kent and Ottawa

area K-12 students, 2009- present.

KCAD Diversity Senate Diversity Chair, Grand Rapids, Mi. Chairing the committee by coordinating this professional group of educators and staff with the goal of cultivating a broader perspective in regards to diversity and inclusion. 2013 – present.

CAAC, Coopersville Area Arts Council, Coopersville, Mi. Previous Board member and current member. This local organization promotes cultural arts events and the importance of the arts in the community. 2007 – 2012.

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

Kendall Senate, 2015. Senate Representative. Monthly meetings and discussion on the KCAD Senate Committees and advancements within the college. Grand Rapids, Mi.

Kendall Art Prize Education Committee, 2009 – present. Committee Chair, created an educational packet to be used as a teaching resource in the classroom. The packet initiated a broad dialog about Contemporary Art: helping students see and question their associations and assumptions about the art that they are viewing.

GRPS/IB Arts Academy, 2011- present. Participated in a partnership with the Grand Rapids Public Schools to plan and design an International Bachelorette Arts Academy, Grand Rapids, Mi.

Kendall Student Mural Painting, 2010 – 2012

Committee Chair, collaboration of Kendall's Art Education, Painting, and Interior Design programs. Kids Food Basket feeds over 2000 elementary children a day. We are designing and painting a mural for their head quarters in Grand Rapids, Mi.

GRAM/Kendall Education Partnership, 2009 – 2012. Began a partnership with the Grand Rapids Art Museum that provided my students the real-world opportunity to write curriculum that would be used in the GRAMS education center. This curriculum was required to promote the artwork featured at the GRAM, environmental awareness and must include rigor required for the 21st century.

**PROFESSIONAL /
INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICE**

Kendall American Asian Collaborative, 2013, - Building friendships and mutual understanding through a Cultural/Art Exchange. Teachers and students participated in a K-12 summit to learn about each other, their art and their educational systems.

Lead Organizer for the Kendall ArtPrize Installation, 2013, 2014. The public created installation will help teach local students about public art by engaging them in the creation of “Shower of Gratitude” and “Don’t Look Down” installation in the Fountain Street Kendall atrium.

The Hope Project, 2011, Justice Organization, Organized local artists to donate work that we framed and matted for the rehabilitation center used to help heal victims of human trafficking.

Stand Up To Racism – A Collaborative with the YWCA, 2011, Facilitator for art mural used in a community show revealing the negative effects of racism.

Kendall Colors Student Advisor, Kendall advisor for Diversity Club, 2010, This newly formed club will promote acceptance and celebration of diversity. This will help to promote safety for students, staff, and faculty at Kendall.

Kids Food Basket –Volunteer Fund Raising, 2006 – Present, T-shirt design and sales, organizer for Kendall Art Education Program in making sack suppers to feed the poor in Grand Rapids.

Kids Food Basket, Degage Ministries. 2007, Fund raiser for a silent auction raising money for the hungry and homeless in Grand Rapids through the sale of artwork. Grand Rapids, Mi.

**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

Lead Organizer for the Veteran KCAD ArtPrize Studio/Lecture Event, 2014, the event provided local veterans the opportunity to discuss and participate in a studio experience for a contemporary art exhibition, Grand Rapids, Mi.

Lead Organizer for the Special Needs ArtPrize Studio/Lecture Event, 2014, this event received great KCAD publicity through both TV and local media coverage providing special needs students to participate in a community art installation, Grand Rapids, Mi.

Lead Organizer for a community lecture titled Understanding Contemporary Art, 2014, by Dr. Eberle, Community lecture event facilitating the understanding of contemporary art for local business owners and community members. Grand Rapids, Mi.

Consultant for ArtPrize, 2012- present, Curriculum design and initiation of rigor with the inclusion of Art and Integrated Standards in their aesthetic education resources, Grand Rapids, Mi.

Consultant for PBS and ArtPrize. 2012-2014, On-line curriculum ideas using ArtPrize as a springboard, Grand Rapids, Mi.

Coopersville Area Public School, 1999 – 2012, Advisor and curriculum designer for the school diversity club; this club helps to move beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating diversity. Coopersville, Mi.

Coopersville Area Arts Council Member, 2007 – 2012, Board Member and logo designer.

Coopersville Area Public School, 1999 – 2012, Lead organizer and designer of a school wide art show inviting hundreds of community members in the promotion of visual art, Coopersville, Mi.

Coopersville Area Public School, 2007 – 2009, Volunteer tutor for low achieving students, Coopersville, Mi.