

**TARA POLANSKY**  
tarapolansky@gmail.com

**RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL, TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

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**2016-Present Instructor and Manager, Clayspace, Columbus, OH**

- Teaching hobbyists and clay enthusiasts in hand building and wheel throwing 8-week courses.
- Teaching team building and other one-time workshops.
- Running day-to-day operations.

**2013-2015 Adjunct Instructor, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH**

- Teaching Introduction to Ceramics, Studio Professions, Drawing and Studio Collaboration courses.
- Managing all aspects of the classroom including creating syllabus and assignments, demonstrating techniques, teaching class and grading.

**2015 Instructor, Denison University, Granville, OH**

- Teaching Ceramic Handbuilding and Studio Art Foundation courses.
- Managing all aspects of the classroom including creating syllabus and assignments, demonstrating techniques, teaching class and grading.

**2013 Lecturer, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH**

- Taught Introduction to Ceramics, 3D Design, and Advanced Topics in Ceramics.
- Managed all aspects of the classroom including creating syllabus and assignments, demonstrating techniques, teaching class and grading.

**2013 Visiting Lecturer, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH**

- Served as Visiting Lecturer for 3D Design Course for seven weeks while professor was on leave.
- Taught wood project from introduction to completion including critique and determining grades.

**2012-13 Program Coordinator, Latino and Latin American Space for Enrichment and Research (LASER), Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

- Developed mentorship program for Latino high school students to develop a strong academic profile and apply to college.
- Created program from the ground up, including: creating structures for application and application review; developing a training curriculum for mentors; building relationships with high schools, and pairing mentees with appropriate mentors.

**2010-11 Instructor of Record, Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

- Served as instructor of record for Introduction to Ceramic Handbuilding course.
- Managed all aspects of classroom including creating syllabus and assignments, demonstrating techniques, teaching class and grading.

**2010-11 Graduate Teaching Associate, Teaching Assistant, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

- Mentored students in groups and individually, taught workshops, and provided feedback on graduate application portfolio materials for the Program for Arts & Humanities Development Summer Institute.
- Worked with other members of teaching team to create syllabus, assignments and special projects for courses.

**2007 Project Director, American Jewish Word Service, New York, NY**

- Formulated and implemented plans to influence foreign policy platforms of US Presidential Candidates during the primary campaign.
- Supervised a team of ten organizers in four states to engage citizens in project.

**2004-2006 Campaign Organizer, New York Civic Participation Project, New York, NY**

- Organized union members around immigrants' rights at the local, state and national level. Trained and supervised a team of organizers.

- Developed and implemented plans for all organizational campaigns, including comprehensive immigration reform, access to drivers' licenses, and translation services at hospitals.
- Built coalitions with other progressive organizations, including labor, faith, advocacy and community organizations.
- Organized the annual Leadership Development Institute.

**2003 Research Intern, Immigration Equality, New York, NY**

- Conducted and compiled original research about the effects of current U.S. immigration policy on binational same-sex couples.
- Wrote 70-page educational publication regarding the Permanent Partners Immigration Act.

**1999-2001 ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), Oakland, CA**

**Head Organizer, 2001, Lead Organizer, 2000, and Field Organizer, 1999**

- Organized people in low-income neighborhoods to fight for changes in their communities. Ran campaigns including: opening the first new school in Oakland in 30 years; winning the strongest ordinance in the country outlawing abusive lending practices; winning over one million dollars for the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department; assisting in a successful city council election; and creating a community controlled school.
- Hired, trained, and supervised all Oakland staff.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**2013** "Artists in the Community" Professional Development Grant, City of Columbus/Greater Columbus Arts Council  
"Artists in the Community" Supply Grant, City of Columbus/Greater Columbus Arts Council

**2011** NCECA Purchase Award, National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts  
Outstanding Functional Pot by Trax Gallery Merit Award, Trax Gallery  
Ohio Union Art Board Purchase Award, The Ohio State University  
Past President's Award, Ohio Art League  
Fergus Materials Award, The Ohio State University  
Diversity and Inclusion Research Grant, The Ohio State University

**2010** Fergus Family Travel Award, The Ohio State University  
Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship, The Ohio State University

**2009-2010** University Fellowship, The Ohio State University

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 2014, *Mary Jo Bole Tombs & Toilets Exhibition Catalog, "Interview with Mary Jo Bole"*, interviewed by Tara Polansky**  
**2013, *500 Prints on Clay*, by Paul Andrew Wandless, Lark Books**  
**2012, *The Best of 500 Ceramics: Celebrating a Decade in Clay*, by Lark Crafts, Published by Lark Books**  
**2012, "Bricks and Mortals: Witness to terrorist attack honors peers killed on Sept. 11,"** Review by Michael Grossberg of solo exhibition, *They were older than me, The Columbus Dispatch*, April 15  
**2012, "Exhibit: They were older than me,"** Review by Jackie Mantey of solo exhibition, *Columbus Alive!*, April 12  
**2012, "The Clay's the Thing: Ceramicist's show focuses on simplification after death."** Review by Christopher Braun of solo exhibition, *They were older than me, City Scene Magazine*, March  
**2012, *Push Play The NCECA 2012 Invitational*, Exhibition Catalog, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA**  
**2012, "Dark Childhood- PUSH PLAY: The 2012 NCECA Invitational,"** Review by Matthew Kangas, *Ceramics Monthly*, April  
**2012, *Image-Self- Women in Art: A Portrait Project*, Book by Ardine Nelson, essay by Guisela LaTorre**  
**2012, "The 2011 NCECA Biennial"** Review by Sasha K Reibstein, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, March- May  
**2011, *NCECA 2011 Biennial, Exhibition Catalog*, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL**  
**2011, "Acres of Talent,"** Article by Christopher A. Yates *The Columbus Dispatch*, review of *Confluence(s): 2011 Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition*, Urban Arts Space, Columbus, OH, July 31  
**2011, *Ceramics Art and Perception*, "Kansas City Clay,"** article by Tara Polansky, March-May, Issue 88  
**2010, *500 Vases: Contemporary Explorations of a Timeless Form*, by Julia Galloway, Published by Lark Books**  
**2010,** Upfront section, *Ceramics Monthly*, Exhibition review of *Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition* at Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA, October Issue  
**2010, *Her Mark 2010*, calendar** juried by Maria Elena Buszek, published by Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

## **ARTIST TALKS, PANELS, LECTURES and DEMOS**

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- 2015** Process Room Demo "Drawing in Clay," NCECA, Providence, RI
- 2014** Artist Talk, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH  
Demo, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH  
Gallery Talk, Blair Museum of Lithophanes, Toledo, OH
- 2013** Guest Artist, Summer Ceramics Institute, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH  
Artist Talk, International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemét, Hungary  
Gallery Talk, Schnormeier Gallery, Mt. Vernon OH  
Lecture, Guest Speaker in Art Education class, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2012** Lecture, in conjunction with Souvenirs Exhibition, Wittenberg University, November 14, Springfield, OH  
Invited Panelist, "Sexual Orientation in the Workplace." Queers and Allies Student Organization, The Ohio State University, October, Columbus, OH  
Artist Talk, "Visiting Artists at Project Art." Project Art, September 12, Cummington, MA  
Artist Talk, "Artist Residencies." Project Art, July 18, Cummington, MA
- 2011** Invited Panelist, "The Role of Art and Artists in a Racially Progressive Future." Transforming Race: Visions of Change 2012, March 15 – 17, Kirwin Institute for Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2009** Lecturer, Brown Bag Lecture Series, The Ohio State University Ceramics Area, November 18, Columbus, OH

## **EDUCATION**

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- 2009-2011** Master of Fine Arts, **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**, Columbus, OH
- 2007-2008** Post Baccalaureate Study, **KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE**, Kansas City, MO
- 2002-2004** Bachelor of Arts with Special Honors in Studio Art and Sociology, **HUNTER COLLEGE**, New York, NY
- 1997-1998** **PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN**, New York, NY