

## **Kira Birney**

### **Education:**

2001

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Completed course work in Masters of Art Education in Art Education

Professional Certificate in Art Education K-12

1997

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

BFA in Painting

### **Professional Experience:**

January 2006-present

#### **Barista**

Café Grumpy, New York, New York

Key member of the café's staff since its early stages. During this time I have continued to develop my knowledge and skills of brewing, preparing and serving espresso and coffee beverages in a friendly and professional manner.

March 2002-June 2004

#### **Art Teacher**

Class Academy, Portland, OR

Developed leadership skills and taught elementary age students visual art in an alternative school setting. Facilitated age appropriate art projects including: drawing, painting and sculpture with the positive emphasis on working at students ability. Contact person for parent/teacher special projects.

April 2002-June 2002

#### **Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art**

Portland State University, Portland, OR

Instructor of college level course *Art in the Elementary School* for those majoring in education. The course was designed to provide the student with the basic skills and knowledge to create and implement an elementary school curriculum by exploring art history, aesthetics and studio production.

June 1998-August 1999

#### **Teacher**

New Day School, Portland, OR

Taught the school's neo-humanistic philosophy to education by exposing the children to different forms of life, the earth and the environment through yoga, meditation, music, dance and art. Functioned as the

kindergarten and first grade class teacher's aid during the morning and head teacher during after school arts program.

**Exhibitions:**

2010

A thru Z

**Curator**

Café Grumpy, Brooklyn, NY

2010

Slideshow & Tell

**Presenter**

Pete's Candy Store, Brooklyn, NY

2006-2010

The Hearts and Crafts Affair

**Curator**

NYC

2006

Greato Tomato

193c Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2005-2006

Renegade Craft Fair

**Vendor**

Chicago, IL and Brooklyn, NY

2003

The Bedroom Project

PCAC: The Modern Zoo, Portland, OR

2002

An Honest Response

Eagerwally Gallery, Portland, OR

2001-2004

Handmade Bazaar

**Organizer and Vendor**

Portland, Oregon

2001

Involuntary Action

1926 Gallery, Chicago, IL

2001

Apprentice Teaching Final Presentation  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

1997

Senior Thesis Exhibition  
Augusta Savage Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

1997

UMASS Exchange Exhibition  
Gallery 244, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA

1994

Foundations Art Exhibition  
Herter Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

**Projects:**

2011

**Stuffed**

Handmade creatures and objects for children and adults using recycled fabric to facilitate open ended and uninstructed play.

2006-2010

**The Hearts and Crafts Affair**

Founder and Organizer

The Hearts and Crafts Affair is DIY event featuring independent artists and crafters. The fair is known for its fun and intimate setting that allows for the quality and craftsmanship of each vendor to shine.

2005-present

**Pet Portraits**

As an artist my goal is to continue the practice of seeing and interpreting my reality through painting. Pet portraits has been a great way to exercise my skills as a painter. My ultimate goal as an artist is to develop my skills in documenting with paint to the point of abstraction.

2004-present

**Felt Hearts**

Since Valentine's Day 2004 I have been distributing hand cut felt hearts in the hopes of spreading and celebrating love.

2002-present

**Mermaid Kitty**

In the process of collecting and archiving mermaid kitty drawings via an assignment I have created and facilitated. Based on a request from a student to "draw me a mermaid kitty" I have created an assignment for all

who cross my path. By providing the individual with a pen, paper and the task to of drawing a mermaid kitty. The project documents the immediate creative response of each artist and the potential dialog about the experience.

**Award:**

1994 Award of Excellence for my accomplishments in the Foundations Art Program at the University of Massachusetts

**Objective:** to live, work and create from the heart