

Sara M. Zak

Visual Artist/Community Arts Organizer

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Education

State University of New York College at Buffalo

- 12/2009 Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies (Fine Arts, English, and Education; magna cum laude); Masters' Project: Painting, drawing, & sculpture exhibit titled *Early Sunday Morning*
- 8/2002 English 7-12 Teaching Certification; Art K-12 Teaching Certification
- 5/2000 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting (summa cum laude)
- 5/2000 Bachelor of Arts in Art History (summa cum laude)
Minor in Italian Language

Awards

- 2013 4th Place, Buffalo Society of Artists 117th Catalogue Exhibit; Juror's Pick Award, Big Orbit Member's Exhibit
- 2012 Gold Medal Winner, Buffalo Society of Artists 116th Catalogue Exhibit
- 2011 NYFA MARK 2011 (Juried artists' professional development program)
- 2009 Nominated for Outstanding Masters Project at Buffalo State College
- 2000 Faculty of Arts and Humanities Dean's Award for Academic Excellence at Buffalo State College

Solo, Two, and Three Person Exhibitions

- 2014 *Echoes of Suspended Motion*, solo exhibit, Starlight Studio and Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2013 *A Crowd of Small Metamorphoses*, invitational solo exhibit, 464 Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2012 *Joyce Hill, Elizabeth Leader, and Sara Zak: Selections from the Buffalo Society of Artists*, Olean Public Library Visual Arts Program, Olean, NY
- 2011 *Early Sunday Morning: Beauty in Urban Decay*, East Aurora Public Library, East Aurora, NY
- 2010 *Early Sunday Morning*, Buffalo History Museum, Community Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2009 *M.S. Exhibit: Early Sunday Morning*, Sp@ce224 Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions (exhibits are in Buffalo, NY unless noted)

- 2014 *20"x20"x20": A National Compact Competition and Exhibit*, LSU Student Union Gallery, Baton Rouge, LA; *Big Orbit Member Exhibit*, Big Orbit; *Buffalo Society of Artist Juried Spring Exhibition*, Buffalo Arts Studio
- 2013 *ELAB's City of Night*, Vidi (on-site interactive installation at Silo City), The Technoluminst Eye, Meridian West Gallery, Buffalo, NY; *The Changing Atmosphere of Preservation*, C.G. Jung Center; *Big Orbit Exhibit*, Big Orbit
- 2012 *Uncommon Threads*, Studio Hart; *Dreams, Dramas, Desires*, Artsphere Gallery; *Showoffs: Hallwalls Artists and Models, Re-Model-Installation*; *Buffalo Society of Artists 116th Catalogue Exhibit (juried)*, NACC, Niagara Falls, NY; *Finger Lakes Juried Plein Air Competition*, Canandaigua, NY; *The Artist Among Us*, Burchfield Penney Gallery; *MARK11/12*, Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery, Rockerfeller Arts Center, Fredonia, NY; *A Midwinter's Draw*, and *A Midsummer's Draw* Hallwalls; *Trinity*, 464 Gallery; *Exhibit and Sale*, Dana Tillou Gallery
- 2011 *Paint the Town*, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society; *Art + Preservation*, Statler Towers; *City Strings and Lines*, Carnegie Art Center, North Tonawanda, NY; *Theme Brulee*, Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center; *Landscape: Exploration and Expression*, Market Street Art Center, Lockport, NY; *College Street Gallery Monthly Exhibits*, College Street Gallery; *19th Annual Regional Artists Juried Exhibition*, Art Dialogue Gallery
- 2010 *Plein Air Juried Exhibition*, Impact Artists Gallery; *Faster Pussycat, Spill, Spill*, Hallwalls

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Exhibit Curator/Juror

- 2013 *City of Night Silos*, Exhibit Organizer, Silo City, Buffalo, NY; *The Changing Atmosphere of Preservation*, Curator, C.G. Jung Center, Buffalo, NY; *West Seneca Art Society Members Exhibit*, Juror, Burchfield Nature Center, West Seneca, NY
- 2011 *Art + Preservation*, Curator, Statler City, Buffalo, NY; *City Strings and Lines*, Curator, Carnegie Art Center, Tonawanda, NY

Bibliography

- 2013 Dabkowski, Colin. "Sara M. Zak's paintings reflect Buffalo's slow and steady progress." *The Buffalo News* Dec. 26, 2013; Behr, Bob. "Can Art Save Buildings?" *Outdoor Painter*. Plein Air Magazine. 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 20 Dec. 2013; Foran, Jack. "Member's Show Big Orbit." *Artvoice* v12n7
- 2012 Foran, Jack. "Artists and Models: Showoffs." *Artvoice* v11n39; Dabkowski, Colin. "Saving Works: Artists Draw Attention to Local Preservation." *The Buffalo News* June 22, 2012; Dabkowski, Colin. "The Artist Among Us." *The Buffalo News* May 25, 2012
- 2011 Newton, Matthew. "Creating a Legacy with Painting for Preservation." *Western New York Heritage Press* Winter 2011; Foran, Jack. "Group Show at Carnegie." *Artvoice*, v10n42

Teaching Experience

- 2013-present *Oil Painting and Drawing Workshops*, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY
- Oil Painting, Portrait Painting in Oil and Acrylic, Perspective Drawing
- 2011- present *Oil Painting Demonstrations*, East Aurora Art Society, Alden Art Society West Seneca Art Society, Centennial Arts Center Inc, the Buffalo Niagara Art Association, and others
- 2012 *Building Stories Pecha Kucha*, The Buffalo History Museum
- 2012 *Art + Activism*, visiting lecturer for Graduate Museum Studies at Buffalo State College
- 2004, 2011 PBS TeacherLine Instructor and Trainer
- Teach online college credit bearing professional development courses; enhance online learning with additional web and hardcopy resources; conduct workshops to teach instructors on using PBS Teacherline
 - Monitor and score online discussion forum with weekly feedback; provide feedback and grades for final projects
- 2009- present GED Transitions Teacher, Frontier Central School District
- Provide instruction related to the NYS GED exam to high school students struggling with traditional education
- 2004-2009 High School Digital Photography, Current Issues, and English Language Arts Teacher, Erie 1 BOCES, Southtowns Academy, Hamburg, NY
- Faculty Advisor to yearbook committee
- 1998-2000 Adult Drawing and Drawing, Painting and Sculpture (ages 7-12) Instructor, The Learning Tree Fine Arts Centre, West Seneca, NY

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Related Experience

2011 - Present Founder of *Painting for Preservation*, an artists' initiative designed to bring positive attention to distress properties and communities.

- Conceptualize and direct events and exhibitions; coordinate a team of 5-10 volunteers; cultivate and maintain relationships with artists, media, and local community groups.
- Plan, publicize and execute 6-10 events yearly and host a yearly exhibition, coordinating with artists, neighborhoods, media, and host sites for events and exhibitions.
- Maintain blog/website at www.paintingforpreservation.org; update social media weekly; write weekly press releases during the Painting for Preservation season.

2012 - Present Buffalo Society of Artists Board Member: Co-Chair Education, Co-Chair Fundraising

- Plan, publicize, and execute educational and fundraising events, collaborating with fellow board members, the organization at large, and the community

2003 – 2004 Online Learning Writer, WNED, Buffalo, NY

- Research and write editorial copy and interactive lesson plans for ThinkBright Online
- Redevelop the design of ThinkBright Online and code html web content
- Collaboratively create learning materials for “Our Town” video project and Reading Rainbow online educational games.

2000 Floating Administrative Assistant, Sotheby's, New York, NY

Related Skills/Professional Development

- Participated in workshops of traditional oil painting techniques with Robert Liberace and Thomas Kegler
- Working knowledge of Final Cut Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe After Effects
- Completed NYFA MARK professional development program for artists
- Proficient in Italian