

Central Massachusetts Portfolio Review

Reviewer Bios

Tamar Russell Brown

A Tennessee native with Hungarian roots, Ms. Russell Brown's background is in print design and letterpress printing. Her father is a bookbinder and letterpress printer in the Bowling Green, Kentucky. Ms. Russell Brown has a certificate in photography from Cumberland University in Tennessee, an associate degree in visual communication from Nashville State Technical Institute, a Bachelor of Arts in design from Rhode Island College and a year abroad at the economics university, Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem, in Budapest, Hungary. Ms. Russell Brown is the owner of Design Studio, Sitka Creations in Shirley, MA and the owner/founder of Gallery Sitka in Fitchburg

Lisa Crossman

Lisa Crossman, Ph.D., is an art historian and Curator at the Fitchburg Art Museum. As Curator, she oversees changing exhibitions of work by contemporary New England artists and those featured in the permanent collection. In addition to managing all operations of the Curatorial Department, she collaborates with Fitchburg State University's faculty and students and curators of other regional museums. Prior to FAM, she worked with the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University, edited and wrote for *Big Red & Shiny*, taught at Middlebury College and St. Michael's College, and served as a Research Associate at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Her doctoral work and later professional experiences have solidified her interest in supporting contemporary artists and creating links among art museums, universities, and community partners.

Katherine French

Over the course of her active professional career, Katherine French was responsible for exhibitions at Boston University, Montserrat College of Art and Danforth Art, where she was recipient of an award for curatorial excellence from the New England chapter of the International Association of Art Critics and named Best Curator of Locally Made Art at the Boston Art Awards. Upon retirement, French moved to northern Vermont where she now serves as a part time gallery director at Catamount Arts and also works as a freelance curator with recent shows at the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Ogunquit Museum of Art, and the Fairbanks Museum.

Roger Hankins

Roger Hankins received his B.A. in Art Practice from the University of California at Davis where he studied with Robert Arneson, Wayne Thiebaud, Roy De Forest, Manual Neri and others. Hankins received his MA in Studio Art from the California State University, Sacramento where he studied with Peter Vandenburg, Robert Brady and William Allen. From 1976 - 1979 he was the studio assistant to sculptor Robert Arneson where he assisted in the production aspects of

Arneson's ceramic sculpture practice. Hankins was the director for the Memorial Union Art Gallery at the University of California, Davis from 1982 - 2001 and has been the director of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester since 2001. Hankins has organized and curated over 150 exhibitions at both UC Davis and the College of the Holy Cross on a broad range of subjects and artists. As a practicing artist, Hankins had exhibitions of his work the Paule Anglim Gallery, Rena Bransten Gallery, Fuller Gross Gallery and the San Francisco Art Institute all of San Francisco as well as the Candy Store Gallery, in Folsom, CA. Since 2009 he has returned to making art using clay, water and fire.

Leah Triplett Harrington is a Boston-based writer, editor, and curator focused on modern and contemporary art. Leah has contributed catalogue essays to CUE Art Foundation (New York) and Hashimoto Contemporary (San Francisco), as well as articles to a number of publications, most recently *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Harper's Bazaar Art*, and *Hyperallergic*. She has lectured on art criticism at Boston University, Montserrat College of Art, Stonehill College, and Tufts University Art Gallery. She works as Director of Programs & Exhibitions for Fort Point Arts Community and serves as senior editor of the art magazine *Big Red & Shiny*. She is a co-founder and the editor of *The Rib*, a publication and platform dedicated to decentralizing contemporary art criticism. In Spring 2018, she is the visiting critic at the UMass Amherst Department of Art.

Randi Hopkins

Randi Hopkins is Director of Visual Arts at the Boston Center for the Arts, where she oversees the BCA's Mills Gallery, Visual Arts Artist Residency program and Artist Studios Building. She has initiated ongoing programs including GERTRUDE'S artists salon, the Brink exhibition series, and Run of the Mills - a laboratory for innovation in art that crosses boundaries between visual and movement-based arts - and has worked with invited curators on exhibitions including *James Montford: Persuasions 1990-2015*, *Queer Threads: Crafting Identity and Community* and *Alida Cervantes: Majas, cambujas y virreinas*. In October 2017, in partnership with Oliver Mak from Boston's Bodega and Fourth Wall Projects, she launched the inaugural, annual Boston Art Book Fair at the BCA.

She was formerly Associate Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, co-founder and co-director of Allston Skirt Gallery, and weekly arts columnist for the *Boston Phoenix*. She also teaches contemporary art history in the Art & Music Department at Simmons College in Boston.

Stephen B. Jareckie

Stephen Jareckie joined the Fitchburg Art Museum staff as a Photography Advisor in 1996 on retiring from the Worcester Art Museum as Curator of Photography Emeritus. At Fitchburg, he has mounted more than thirty exhibitions. In 2013, Jareckie was named Consulting Curator Photography when FAM's photography collection reached 500 prints through donations and purchases. Jareckie organized shows and collected photographs at the Worcester Art Museum from 1962 to his retirement. He wrote two exhibition catalogues at the Worcester Art Museum:

American Photography: 1840-1900 (1976) and *Photographers of the Weimar Republic* (1986), a study of German photography in the 1920s. Before coming to Worcester, Jareckie served for six years as Installation Assistant at Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, NY. He earned his B.A. degree in Fine Arts from Lehigh University in 1951 and his A.M. degree in the History of the Visual Arts from Syracuse University in 1961.

Jessica Roscio

Curator, Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University

Since joining Danforth Art Museum in 2011, Jessica Roscio has curated multiple exhibitions of contemporary art, the exhibition *Barbara Swan: Reflected Self*, and most recently, *The Memory Palace: Domesticity, Objects, and the Interior* and *Beautiful Decay*. Prior to joining the Danforth Art Museum, she held positions at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has taught courses at Emerson College and Suffolk University, and is a regular contributor to Aspect Initiative, an online gallery focusing on contemporary photography in New England. Roscio has an MA in Art History from the University at Buffalo and a PhD in American Studies, with a focus on the History of Photography, from Boston University.

Sam Toabe (b. 1988, US) is a curator and art historian based in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the Gallery Curator at the University Hall Gallery for the Art Department, as well as the Director of Arts on the Point, at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Toabe received his M.A. in the History of Art and Architecture and Museum Studies from Boston University in 2015 and a B.F.A. from the Studio for Interrelated Media at The Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2011. His research and writing focuses on alternative curatorial practices across a variety of periods and geographies (looking specifically at artist curated exhibitions and events), revisionist art histories, and the advancement of cultural plurality in our global, visual lexicons. Between 2013 and 2016, Toabe acted as the Assistant Director and subsequent Associate Director at Samsøñ – an internationally recognized commercial art gallery in Boston's South End. He has contributed to over 50 exhibitions, with supporting roles at institutions such as the Yuan Art Museum in Beijing, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, and Brandeis University, among others.

Ellen Wineberg

Ellen Wineberg is co-owner, and co-director of ROOM 83 Spring in Watertown. Her work is in the DeCordova Museum, Boston Public Library, Dana Farber, Simmons College, Danforth Museum and New Britain Museum collections among many others. She has been a Mass. Cultural Council finalist in painting, and she was invited to present a solo show at MCC Headquarters. She is a past member of Bromfield Gallery and has shown at the Clark Gallery in Lincoln and at Gallery Henoch in NYC. Her website is www.ellenwineberg.com.