

ERICA FITZGERALD

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Art, Studio Art - University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2025

Bachelor of Fine Art, Sculpture & Art History - Art Academy of Cincinnati, 2022

Associate of Art in Communication - Columbus State Community College, 2010

FINE ART EXPERIENCE

Teaching:

Instructor of Fiber Arts - Fitton Center for the Arts, Hamilton, OH, 11/2025 – Present

Instructor - Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, 8/2025 – Present

Instructor of Record - Department of Fine Art, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, 8/2022 – 5/2025

Solo Exhibitions:

2025 - Mending As Monument, Fitton Center, Hamilton, OH

And She Carries This Too, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL

2024 - From Under, Within Ourselves, McClure Gallery, Art Academy of Cincinnati, OH

Quietly Notice, 700 Bryden Gallery, Columbus, OH

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2025 - SOS Art Community Exhibition, Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

MFA Thesis Exhibition, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL

2024 - Fiber In Progress, Icelandic Textile Center, Blönduós, Iceland

After (Work) Hours, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH

Fantastic Fibers, Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY

Women In Art 2024, Las Laguna Art Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Half Donut, East Wall Gallery, Champaign, IL

2023 - Unreliable Bestiary: CETACEAN, Set Design Artist, Champaign, IL

RAGS, Link Gallery, Champaign, IL

From Fiber..., Springfield Art Center, Springfield, IL

Roe 2.0, Women Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

2022 - A Jellyfish & A Stop Sign, East Wall Gallery, Champaign, IL

Small Works Members Show, Women Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

In The Fray: Feminist Fiber from Margin to Center, Bolivar Art Gallery, Lexington, KY

This Time Tomorrow, Performance Festival, Site 1212, Cincinnati, OH

(A) Long Story Short, McClure Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Summerfair Cincinnati: Emerging Artists, Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH

2021 - 934 Gallery, Group Show, Columbus, OH

Wavepool Gallery, Pool Party Fundraiser, Cincinnati, OH

Perform-a-rama 2021, Pique Gallery, Covington, KY

31st Biennial Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Botanical Garden, Cincinnati, OH

A Fine Line, w/ Jesse Darling, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH

Minumentals 32, Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

2020 - Members Show, Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
HERSELF, Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
USPS Art Project, Sunset Art Studios, Dallas, TX
A(rtistic)xI(nteresting)xP(owerful), Pearlman Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

Curatorial:

I Don't Know How to Love You (FotoFocus) - Pearlman Gallery, Cincinnati, OH, 2022
Unlikely Materials - Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 2021

Residencies:

SOS ART Artist-In-Residency, Cincinnati, OH – July, August, September 2025
ÓS Textile Residency, Blönduós, Iceland - July 2024
The Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan, Ireland- July, August 2023
Azule Artist Residency, Hot Springs, NC - May 2021
NES Artist Residency, Skagaströnd, Iceland - December 2020 (Awarded, could not attend)

Permanent Collections:

Sarah & Michelle Vance Waddel Collection, Cincinnati, OH
IHotel and Conference Center Collection, Champaign, IL

Artist Lectures, Presentations, Panels, Workshops:

Mending As Monument, Mending Workshop, Fitton Center for Creative Arts, 2025
Material Making Chair, Textile Society of America Symposium, 2024
36th Annual GAFIS Symposium, Living the Land, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023
Student Advisory Board Graduate Representative, University of Illinois, 2023/24
Zora Neale Hurston Conference, Bethune-Cookman University, 2023

Awards:

Greater Columbus Art's Counsel Individual Artist Grant, 2025
Dedalus Foundation MFA Fellowship Nominee, 2025
Art & Design Graduate Thesis Award, 2025
University of Illinois – Teachers Ranked in Excellence by their students:
▪ Spring 2025, Spring/Fall 2024, Spring/Fall 2023
Teaching Excellence Award by a Graduate Student, 2023/24
Art & Design Graduate Event Travel Award, 2023
Creative and Performing Arts Fellowship, 2022/2023
Wilder Traveling Art Award, 2022
Three Arts Scholarship Fund Award, Visual Arts, 2022
John E. and Mary Ann Butkovich-Tuition Scholarship Award, 2021
Folgers Memorial Trust-Purchase Award, 2021
Three Arts Scholarship Fund Award, Visual Arts, 2021
Faculty Alumni Award Scholarship, 2020/2021
Greater Columbus Art's Counsel Marketing Grant, 2019

Publications:

Suboart Magazine, Lisbon, Portugal, 2025
Containers For Memory, MFA Thesis Scholarly Publication, 2025
Beautiful Ohio - Dispatches from a Post-Roe America, 2023
We Were Cornfields, 2023
Thought Art Magazine 05, 2022
Emergency Index Volume 10, 2021

Artforum, 2021 (Wild Frictions the Politics & Poetics of Interruption)

Viral Fibers, 2020

Thought Art Magazine 02, 2020

Front Runner Magazine, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Fiber Arts

Fitton Center for Creative Arts, Hamilton, OH, November 2025 – Present

- Lead workshops in basketry, broom making, and mending
- Introduce students to foundational techniques and diverse materials in traditional craft
- Highlight the cultural history and contemporary relevance of handmade functional objects
- Guide participants in developing a deeper appreciation for the art and utility of handcraft

Slip Casting Team Member

Rookwood Pottery, Cincinnati, OH, July 2025 – Present

- Pour molds and dies for recurring production runs of ceramic product
- Produce quality clay tile, dinnerware and pottery in our forming departments: Slipcasting, Jigger/Jolly
- Work proficiently at quality control of product at all stages

Instructor

Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, August 2025 – Present

- Plan, teach, and support adult students in a variety of courses
- Organize inclusive lessons for unique learning styles

Instructor of Record

Department of Fine Art, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, August 2022 – May 2025

- Develop and implement course syllabi and lesson plans
- Teach courses, deliver lectures, and facilitate student learning
- Establish key objectives to ensure curriculum alignment
- Develop and administer examinations and assessments
- Ensure grades are accurate and submitted on time

Executive Assistant / Human Resources

Youth Advocate Services, Columbus, OH, May 2018 – December 2019

- Supported CEO & CFO leadership and supervised administrative staff in a dynamic nonprofit foster care agency.
- Coordinated onboarding and orientation for new employees and managed personnel files.
- Screened applicants, scheduled interviews, and facilitated background checks.
- Recorded board meeting

Branch Administrator

Bath Fitter, Columbus, OH, January 2017 – May 2018

- Oversaw contract and payment processing, scheduling, and project documentation for a busy regional branch.
- Collaborated with sales, installation, and management teams to maintain operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.
- Trained new sales representatives on workflow and data entry procedures.