CYNDI D. GUSLER

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EDUCATION

M.F.A., James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Dec. 2001

Concentration: Painting and Drawing

B.S., **Summa Cum Laude**, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA

Apr. 1993

Major: Liberal Arts, Minor: Art, Teaching Certification: NK-8th grades

Student Awards and Achievements

Graduate Assistantship, James Madison University 2000-2001 **Menno Simons Academic Scholarship and Deans List**, EMU 1988-1993

WORK EXPERIENCE

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA	2003-present
Professor of Art	2014-present
Associate Professor of Art	2010-2014
Chair, Department of Visual and Communication Arts	2003-'10, 2012-'13,
	2018-present
Assistant Professor of Art	2003-2009
Part-time Faculty	2002-2003

Courses Taught: Painting I, II, and III, Foundations of Design, 3-D Design, Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Drawing, Printmaking (Screen and Relief), Watercolor Painting, Trash Fashion, Junior/Senior Art Seminar, Senior Studio Practicum, Senior Seminar: Issues and Values, Honors Colloquium, Elementary School Art Methods, and University Consultant for student teachers in Art Education.

Service at EMU:

- Chair, Dept. of Visual and Communication Arts (2003-'10, 2012-'13, 2018-present)
- Faculty Senator (2016-2018)
- Faculty Scholarship Committee, Elected Chair (2005-2010 and 2012-2016)
- Undergraduate Council member (2003-'10, 2012-'13, 2018-'19)
- University Consultant for Art Education (2006-present)
- Creation Care Council (2014- 2018)
- Teacher Education Interviewer for Art and Theater Education candidates (2015, 2017)
- Advisor, VaCA students (2003-present), SOAR advisor (2004-present)
- Recruitment: Wild Goose Festival: at the intersection of faith, justice and art (June 2011, 2013)
- Art Club Advisor (2011-2013)
- Guest Professor:
 - o College Writing, Drawing Lessons: Seeing as Artists for Insightful Writing (2012-18)
 - o Arts and Peace-building, Center for Justice and Peace-building, graduate course (2010-2013)
 - Passion and Obsession Colloquium (2008, 2009)
 - First Year Seminar (Fall 2008)
- Honors Student Mentor (2005-2009)
- Senior Class Advisor (2007-2008)
- Advisor, Undeclared majors at EMU (2007-2008)
- New Faculty Mentor (2006-2007)

• **Juror**: Biannual Student Art Shows, Campus Center, EMU (2006-2009)

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Guest Critique, MFA 18-Hour Reviews

2019

Co-director, Summer Study Abroad:

2016, 2017

New Directions in Art and Dance, Integrating the Arts for Trauma Healing 2001-2004

Director, Summer Art Institute for Children and Youth

2001-2004

Directed program consisting of 25+ studio classes for students ages 6-18 and re-certification classes for art educators

Teacher, Summer Art Institute for Children and Youth

2004-2018

Part-time Art Faculty

2002

Taught drawing courses

Curator Sawhill Gallery Summer Exhibitions

2002

One of two curators who selected, received, and displayed the summer exhibition. Led visiting groups through the exhibit with teaching/learning activities.

Program Coordinator, Saturday Art Education Program for Youth

Sept. 2001-May 2002

Oversaw JMU Art Education students as they taught art enrichment lessons; responsible for registration, mailings, accounting, and program organization

University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA

2004-2006

Faculty Mentor and MFA Thesis Committee Member for Summer MFA Program
Served as professor and mentor for MFA student in Painting and Drawing

Blue Ridge Community College, Wevers Cave, VA

2002

Part-time Art Faculty

• Taught painting and drawing courses

Larkin Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA

2013-present

• Teach week-long art classes in the summer for children and youth.

Woodland Montessori School, Harrisonburg, VA

2002-2003

Art Teacher

Sept. 2002-June 2003

• Taught art to students ages 3-6

Art Teacher, Summer Enrichment Program

Summer 2002

• Taught week-long art classes at summer arts enrichment camp, each week followed a chosen theme and art lessons were coordinated with lessons in other disciplines

PUBLICITY and ARTICLES

CIVA Seen, Sacred Dimensions (Vol. IX.2), this edition of the SEEN journal examines the intersection of materials and the sacred (2010)

Pathways to Whole, Documentary film and photo book by EMU's Documentary class, feature artist Cyndi Gusler (April 2010)

Rocks and Minerals Magazine, Featured Artist, Cyndi Gusler (Nov-Dec. 2008)

The Studio, no.15 (June 2001)

MURALS/ PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

Nasaruni Values: Nasaruni Maasai Girls' Academy, Narok, Kenya (Spring 2018)

Mockingbird Mosaic Mural on Main Street, Massanutten Regional Library in Harrisonburg, VA. This mural was commissioned by the MRL in coordination with the Big Read Project. The mural was supported by a grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts** in 2007. The mural is a permanent installation and was created with the help of many volunteers.

River of Life mural: a collaboration with muralist, Dimitri Kadiev. Kadiev is a student of Judy Baca, founder of the L.A. Mural Project, the longest continuous mural in the United States, and SPARC, Social and Public Art Resource: http://sparcinla.org/. Fall 2015.

SHOWS and EXHIBITIONS Solo and 2-Person Collaborative Art Exhibitions

Looking for Rocktown: Smith House Gallery, Arts Council of the Valley, Harrisonburg, VA (Sept. 2017)

'Cause This Life is a Crazy Dance: Invitational, Hess Financial Art Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (Apr. 2017)

Parings: Collaborative paintings and drawings Ashley Sauder Miller. McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Oct. 2016)

Artists' Residency and Show: Collaborative and solo paintings and collages with Ashley Sauder Miller. Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Nov.-Dec. 2016)

Retrospective: Spitzer Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2016)

Picking Up Marks: Collaborative and solo paintings with Katherine Burling and Ashley Sauder Miller. Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2015)

Poppies in Winter: McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Feb. 2014)

Haute Trash, Runway Show: Director, Designer and Model, Phoenix Convention Center, Mennonite Youth Convention, Phoenix, AX (July 2013)

Disintegrate: Solo Exhibition, ephemeral drawings with coffee grounds, Eastern Mennonite University's Margaret M. Gehman Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (Feb. 2012)

Trash Couture, Runway Show: Director, Designer and Model, on the rooftop of the Pittsburgh Convention Center, Mennonite Youth Convention, Pittsburgh, PA (July 2011)

Hybrid: Paintings and drawings by Cyndi and Lily Gusler, The Smith House, Harrisonburg, VA, sponsored by Arts Council of the Valley (May 2010)

Pirate: Paintings by Cyndi and Lily Gusler, McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (April. 2010)

Trash Fashion Runway Show: Director, Designer and Model, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40oh_qVE2ZU, Mennonite Youth Convention, Columbus, OH (July 2009)

The Mobile Garden: Collaboration with Greg Stewart, outdoor installation, Harrisonburg, VA (Aug. 2009)

Hybrid: Collaboration with Lily Gusler, Miller Gallery, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA (Sept. 2008)

Conglomerate: Main Gallery, McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (July-Aug. 2007)

The Mobile Garden: Collaboration with Greg Stewart, Larkin Studios parking spaces in conjunction with Harrisonburg Museum and Gallery Walk, Harrisonburg, VA (July 4, 2008)

Featured Artist: Wrecked for the Ordinary e-zine http://www.wreckedfortheordinary.com/category.asp?category=arts (July 2007)

Featured Artist: New England Arts Council, web exhibit (Mar. 2007)

Conglomerate: Weinman Mineral Museum/Tellus: Northwest Georgia Science Museum, Cartersville, GA (Feb-May 2007)

Artist of the Month: Java Java, Charlottesville, VA (July-Aug.)

Artist of the Month: Barnes and Nobel, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2006)

Conglomerate: Hartzler Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2005)

Glass Packaging: Hartzler Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Nov.-Dec. 2002)

M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition: Sawhill Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (Nov. 2001)

SHOWS and EXHIBITIONS Group Art Shows

6x6x30, Juried Invitational, Spitzer Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2016)

Spring Art Invitational, Sunset Art Studio, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2016)

Listening, Margaret Gheman Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Mar. 2015)

Family: Collaborative work with Lily Gusler, McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Apr. 2015)

The Return: EMU Alumni Show, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2013)

8th Annual VMRC Juried Art Exhibition, Park Gables Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (June 2012)

Renaming Infinity, Guest artist for Chapter I Creative Installation Series, with Frances Miller, Hartzler Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Spring 2012)

10 x 10 x 10, Juried Show, Second Street Contemporary Art Gallery, Charlottesville, VA (Oct. 2010)

Riverviews Juried Exhibitio, Riverviews Artspace, Lynchburg, VA (Nov.-Dec. 2010) heart/soul: (re)seeing the familiar: EMU Faculty Art Exhibition, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2010)

EMU Faculty Art Exhibition, Invitational, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA (Sept. 2010)

Art for Climate's Sake, Invitational, Clementine, Harrisonburg, VA (Jan. 2011)

Annual Art Auction, Invitational, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA (Mar. 2011)

5th Annual VMRC Juried Art Exhibition, Park Gables Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (June 2009) Awarded: Best in Show

Well of Shoes: In coordination with Well of Hope's project *Shoes for Kenya*, that collects shoes to be resold by Kenyan widows; profits pay for land and start-up funds for small businesses off of which the women and the their children live, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2009) http://www.emu.edu/news/index.php/2035/

Red: Invitational, Darrin McHone Arts Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (Dec. '08-Jan '09)

Love and Lust: McGuffey Art Center, Members' Show, Charlottesville, VA (Feb. 2009)

Lecturer and Exhibitor: Mennonite Arts Weekend, Cincinnati, OH (Feb. 2008)

Members' Show: McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (July-Aug. 2008)

Trash Fashion Runway Show: Producer, Designer and Model, EMU, Harrisonburg. VA (Dec. 2007)

Faculty Art Show: Hartzler Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2007)

4th Annual VMRC Juried Art Exhibition: Park Gables Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA, Purchase Award Recipient (June 2007)

Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA) Transforming Spaces Conference: Grantham, PA (June 2007)

His Gifts His Presence: New England Arts Festival, Portland, Maine (June 2007)

Members' Shows: McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Dec. 2006 and July-Aug. 2006)

Nature Working with Artists: Gualala Arts, Art Center for Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, CA (Sept. 2006)

VMRC Juried Multimedia Art Exhibition: Park Gables Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (June-July 2006)

Invited Artist: Ballou Studios, Harrisonburg, VA (Apr. 2006)

New Members' Show: McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Jan. 2006)

Members' Show: McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA (Dec. 2005)

Coordinator and Exhibitor: Mennofolk Arts Festival, Harrisonburg, VA (Nov. 2005)

Guest Artist: Oasis Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA (Nov. 2005)

Trash Fashion Show: Coordinator, Designer, and Model for group, EMU, Harrisonburg, VA (Apr. 2005)

Members' Show: Staunton-Augusta Art Center, Staunton, VA (July 2005)

Juried Art Exhibit: VMRC 50th Anniversary Celebration, Harrisonburg, VA (June 2004)

PROFESSIONAL GRANTS

EMU Sabbatical: *Cultivating the Skills for Teaching and Creating Art for Trauma Healing*: An apprenticeship and guest teaching with Russian NGO, Maria's Children: Beslan, Russia; Kerus Global, Johannesburg, South Africa; Music for Life, Kampala, Uganda and Nasaruni Maasai Girls' Academy, Narok, Kenya (Spring 2018)

Eastern Mennonite University Faculty Scholarship Grant: Research grant from EMU for \$500.00 and six semester hours of teaching release time to develop the proposed body of artwork, *The Artists' Workshop, a Collaborative Painting Practice with Ashley Sauder Miller*, and complete an artist's lecture and gallery show (Fall 2016)

EMU Sabbatical: **Ecological Art and Sustainability:** Midwest Permaculture Institute, Grass Valley, CA (Fall 2010)

Artist Grant, Arts Council of the Valley: Harrisonburg, VA, \$1500.00 for the *Flexible Geography Project*, a collaborative project with artists with Greg Stewart and Scott Keen; includes a mobile, community garden/sculpture in reconfigurable parts, seedbomber attire and accessories, website and interactive blog, and educational/outreach activities (2009)

Eastern Mennonite University Faculty Scholarship Grant: Research grant from EMU for \$500.00 and six semester hours of teaching release time to develop the proposed body of artwork and complete an artist's lecture and gallery show (2008)

Commission to Create Public Tile Mosaic Mural for Massanutten Regional Library as part of the National Endowment for the Arts Grant for the Big Read Project: All supply costs covered by N.E.A. and Arts Council of the Valley grant funding, Harrisonburg, VA (2007)

Individual Artist Grant, Arts Council of the Valley: Harrisonburg, VA, \$500.00 toward the Glenn Workshop in assemblage and collage at St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM (2006)

Eastern Mennonite University Summer Research Grant: Harrisonburg, VA, \$1,500.00 to jump-start *Nesting* (2006)

The Art of Salvadoran Refugee Children: \$500.00 grant from the Lilly Foundation through the EMU Lilly Fund to frame and display a body of drawings by El Salvadoran children who survived the El Salvadoran civil war in the late 1970's and early 1980's; the drawings were created as a device for expressing and communicating some of the horrors the children had experienced (2005)

Mining for Gemstones: the search for meaningful existence in a culture of faux individuality: Research grant from Eastern Mennonite University for \$500.00 and three semester hours of teaching release time to develop the proposed body of artwork and complete an artist's lecture and gallery show (2004)

JUROR / AWARDS JUDGE

VMRC Juried Art Exhibition: Juror and Awards Judge for this national show. (Apr. 2019)

City Youth Arts Month, Visual Art Awards: #1 Court Square, Larkin Arts, Court Square Theater, and Clementine; Harrisonburg, VA, Judged middle and high school art work (May 2013)

6" x 6" Invitational: Larkin Arts, Harrisonburg, VA, Juror and Awards Judge (April 2013)

Central Shenandoah Arts Annual Members' Show: Houff Community Center, Bridgewater, VA (May 2012)

Shenandoah Valley Arts Center Annual Members' Show: SVAC, Waynesboro, VA (June 2011)

School of Art and Art History Undergraduate Juried Exhibition: Sawhill Gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA (Apr. 2011)

Elements: around us and within us: Paintings of Kari Martin and Rachael Harnish, Asbury United Methodist Church, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct-Nov. 2010)

Reclaim this Object: Juror, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA (Sept. 2009)

Shenandoah Valley Arts Center Members' Show: SVAC, Waynesboro, VA (Oct. 2008)

Reflections: Creative Arts Program, Art Juror for Thomas Harrison Middle School, Harrisonburg, VA (Dec. 2007)

Student Works: Cleo Driver Miller Art Gallery, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA (April 2007)

Central Shenandoah Arts Annual Members' Show: Houff Community Center, Bridgewater, VA (May 2006)

The ARC of Harrisonburg Annual Art Show: Harrisonburg, VA (March 2006)

CURATORIAL WORK

Nurture/ Nature, Parent and Child Art Collaborations, Larkin Arts, Harrisonburg, VA (2013)

e(m)3body: an EMU Senior Art Exhibit, Court Square Theater, Harrisonburg, VA (Apr. 2011)

Everence (Mennonite Financial): Biannual exhibitions of student and faculty work, Harrisonburg, VA (2009-present)

Three (3): Third annual *c*ollaborative art show representing the work of art students at EMU, JMU, and Bridgewater College; co-curated by faculty from the three schools, The Miller Gallery, Bridgewater College, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2008)

Three (2): Collaborative art show representing the work of art students at EMU, JMU, and Bridgewater College; co-curated by faculty from the three schools, The Student Gallery, EMU, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2007)

Three (1): Three colleges, three curators, three shows: representing the art work of students at Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University and James Madison University; co-curated by faculty from the three schools, Artworks Gallery, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2006)

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS – Presenter

Ephemeral Art as Spiritual Practice, Drawing with Coffee Grounds: Workshop for Staff and Volunteers at Kerus Global Orphan Care Center, Sochenguvey, South Africa (Feb. 2018)

Master Classes in Watercolor painting:

- Kerus Global Orphan Care Center, Johannesburg, South Africa (Feb. 2018)
- Music for Life Schools, Kampala and Entebbe Uganda (Mar. 2018)
- School #1, Beslan, Russia (Apr. 2018)

The Thing She Rode (illustrations): in collaboration with writer Chad Gusler. Mennonite Writers' Conference, Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, CA (Feb. 2015)

I have had a number of opportunities to present the work of interventionist artists, including my work, reclaiming and drawing with used coffee grounds, to various audiences. The next five workshops and seminars are a selection of my presentations on the role of artists as social interventionists—interrupting and intervening in unjust systems; calling attention to environmental or social degradation and a call to action through inspiration.

Wild Goose Festival: *at the intersection of faith, justice and art.* Invited artist and lecturer. I created an ephemeral drawing using reclaimed coffee grounds and sand on-site for the weekend event. In addition, I presented a slide and video lecture of my ephemeral artwork with time for questions and conversation following. Hot Springs, NC. (Aug. 2013)

Artist as Interventionist, Intergenerational, multi-media lecture. Mennonite Convention, Phoenix, AZ (July 2013)

Wild Goose Festival: at the intersection of faith, justice and art, ephemeral drawings created on site ephemeral drawings/ dry paintings for the event in collaboration with Ted Lyddon Hatten. Each day we created a new, symbolically-loaded drawing and gave an interactive talk discussing topic ranging from meaning embedded in the

work and the power of creating short-lived art to audience interpretations of the work. Shakori Hills, NC (June 2012)

Disintegration: Colloquium Presentation/Slide Lecture, Eastern Mennonite University's Mainstage Theater, Harrisonburg, VA (Jan. 2012) This presentation was in coordination with the opening of a full-gallery, ephemeral drawing with used coffee grounds on the floor of the Margaret Gehman Gallery. Photos follow.

First You Must Love a Stone: Ephemeral drawings, shadow tracing, The Glenn Workshop, St. John's College (Aug. 2011)

Art for Social Change: Anabaptist Communicators Conference, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA (Oct. 2011)

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS - Participant

Painting Workshop with Anton Gericke: Cape Town, South Africa (Feb. 2018)

Stained Glass: Moscow, Russia (2017)

Innovation In Pedagogy Summit: University of Virginia (May 2015)

Painting with Tim Lowly, Professor of Painting at North Park University in Chicago: The Glen Workshop, St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM (July 2011)

Permaculture Design Certification: Midwest Permaculture Institute, Bill Wilson and Wayne Weiseman, Grass Valley, CA (Nov. 2010)

The Artist and the City: The Glen Workshop and Seminar with Tim Rollins of K.O.S. (Kids of Survival, NYC), St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM (July 2008)

Intervene! Interrupt! Art as Social Action: UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA (May 2008)

Tile Mosaics: The Glen Workshop with artist Ginger Geyer (six days of workshop and lectures), St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM (July 2007)

Paper Pulp Painting: CIVA Transforming Spaces Conference, Grantham, PA (June 2007)

Collage and Assemblage: The Glen Workshop with artist Barry Krames (6ix days of workshop and lectures), St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM (Aug. 2006)

Sustaining Creative Energy and Integrity: Organizer and Participant; professional practice workshop led by Carrie Newcomer (Apr. 2005)

Encaustic Collage: Coordinator and participant, workshop and lecture; EMU Homecoming Guest Artist, Aaron Eichorst (Oct. 2004)

Introduction to Glassblowing: Co-coordinator and participant, workshop; Sunspot Studio, Staunton, VA, taught by Daniel Scogna (Nov. 2004)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- McGuffey Art Center, Charlottesville, VA; juried member (2005-present)
- Any Given Child Harrisonburg, a program of the Kennedy Center, providing arts engagement for all K-12 students in Harrisonburg City Schools (2014-2016)
- Fine Arts Academy, Advisory Board; Harrisonburg City Schools (2012- 2015)
- Arts Council of the Valley, Board of Directors (2008-2013)
- Women Environmental Artists' Directory
- Christians in the Visual Arts (2002-present)
- Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, VA
- Staunton-Augusta Art Center, juried member, Staunton, VA (2004-2008)
- Rockingham Fine Arts Association, Board of Directors (June 1998- June 2000)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- The Value of Arts Education, Professional panel for the Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class
- VMRC Art Appreciation, Interactive lecture about the work in the VMRC Juried Art Exhibition (June 2018)
- **Artist in Residence**, Shalom Mennonite Congregation. Create and install visuals to enhance each liturgical season. (2009-2018)
- Art Director, Interfaith Peace Camp, Eastern Mennonite University (Summers 2010-2015)
- Art Director, Identity Camp, James Madison University (Summer 2011)

 This camp was provided by JMU Outreach as a place for learning and growing for children of diverse family backgrounds. The rangoli design was symbol of welcome to all who entered and a blessing from the children to all who exited
- Walk a Mile in My Shoes, Watercolor Monoprinting Workshop for Reflections Creative Arts Program, sponsored by the PTO at Thomas Harrison Middle School, Harrisonburg, VA (2013)
- Look Through My Window, Rangoli/ Ephemeral Drawing Workshop for Reflections Creative Arts Program, sponsored by the PTO at Thomas Harrison Middle School, Harrisonburg, VA (2012)
- **Artist in Residence**, responsible for installations each liturgical season, Shalom Mennonite Congregation, Harrisonburg, VA (2010-present)
- Instructor for Children's Formation Classes, Shalom Mennonite Congregation, Harrisonburg, VA (2008-present)