

Kathryn Elizabeth Novak

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Education

2020 MFA- Studio: Textiles- Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

2020 Master Spinner Certification- Haliburton School of Design, Haliburton, ON CA

2014 MA- Clothing, Textiles, and Interiors- University of Akron, Akron, OH

2004 BA- Fashion Merchandising, Consumer Marketing- University of Akron, Akron, OH

Work Experience

2021-Current Assistant Professor | Kent State University | Kent, OH

Lead instructor for Fashion Fabrics and Fashion Visuals.

2020-Current Associate Director of the TechStyleLAB | Kent State University | Kent, OH

Ensure that day-to-day operations run smoothly. Train and coordinate student workers on equipment and scheduling. Fulfill course projects and give tours.

2020 Workshop Instructor | Praxis Fiber Workshop | Cleveland, OH

2016-2021 Part Time Instructor | Kent State University | Kent, OH

Lab and lecture instructor for Fashion Visuals. Fashion Fabrics instructor where students conducted lab experiments.

2018-2019 Assistant Lecturer | University of Akron | Akron, OH

Created curriculum and instructed Textiles for Apparel lecture and lab. Maintained equipment and instructed students how to use textile testing equipment.

2013 – 2018 Founder/Manager | Hildebrandt Artist Collective | Cleveland, OH
Founded and managed the Hildebrandt Artist Collective. It consists of a rotating group of Cleveland artists working in a shared space.

The group holds fundraisers, collaborates on artworks, and hosts events.

2007-2009 Teaching/Graduate Assistant| University of Akron | Akron, OH

Teaching/Graduate assistant for Dr. Teena Jennings. Taught Textiles lab, graded papers, tutored students, set up a lab for experiments.

2008 Internship | Misti International Alpaca Yarn Incorporated | Arequipa, Peru

Was the stylist for the Misti International catalog photo shoot. Learned the alpaca yarn process from fiber to finished product. Created yarn color ways for future products.

2006 – 2020 Responsible Food Coordinator/Community Outreach Ambassador | Great Lakes Brewing Company | Cleveland, OH

Organized product collaboration using local entrepreneurs and brewery waste products.

Founding member of the Responsible Purchasing team for Great Lakes Brewing Company. I researched and found the most ethically responsible T-shirt available and source merchandise for the gift shop.

Created a company volunteer program, company CSA, and implemented a composting system. To emphasize the importance of composting to our staff I bundle dyed our compost on silk scarves. These are for sale in the gift shop and on a storyboard on the tour.

2006 – 2020 Retail Strategist | Bella Toccare Salon and Spa| Brecksville, OH
Orchestrated visual merchandising displays for the retail area of the store. Inputs the receiving orders into the system and accurately documents inventory.

Professional Development and Service

2024	Earth Month Committee
2024	WARP Fireside Chat Presentation
2024	Rustbelt Fibershed Symposium- Fashion Show Organizer and model
2023	A.L.I.C.E. Training Kent State University
2023	FAC member
2021-2023	Committee Member-Research Culture Committee
2022-Current	Fabric Pantry Advisor
2022	Blossom Art Intensives: Nash Quinn, Kent State University
2019	Adire Workshop: Gasali Adeyemo
2019	Blossom Art Summer Intensives: Samantha Bittman and Chinami Ricketts, Kent State University
2017-2021	Makeup Artists of Kent State Advisor
2016	2016 Brite Winter Festival “Fiber and Flagmaking” Metal Yellow Studios Cleveland OH Artist led workshop.
2012	Kimono painting workshop, Tokyo, Japan

Awards, Exhibitions, and Acknowledgments

2023	“Story Reveal” <i>Threads of Connection</i> , Downtown Gallery, Kent, OH Pieces from Argentina, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Laos, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Uganda, and the United States
2022	“Reading Reveal” <i>Currency, Cosmology, and Culture</i> , Goggleworks, Reading, PA
2020	“Reveal” solo Master’s thesis show, Kent, OH
2019	“Gender is a Drag” and “Coral Wars” ITAA, <i>Graduate Student Designs</i> , Las Vegas, NV 2019
2019	“Fit to be Tied Tees” <i>Art of Adire</i> , Uumbaji Gallery, Kent, OH
2019	<i>Persuasive Pattern</i> - Selected Group Show - Hive Mind Gallery - Akron, OH
2018-2019	“Flow” Healing Garden, Ravenna Hospital, Ravenna, OH
2013	Master’s thesis “Textiles in Rural Bolivia: Where Does the Art of Traditional Textile Making Fit into Today’s World?”
2011	Akron’s Women in Higher Education Award
2010	Summit Art Space, Akron, OH
2008	National Needlearts Association/PIPN Intern of the year

Volunteer and Organization Affiliations

2022- Current	Rustbelt Fibershed Student Ambassador Advisor
2010- Current	Weave A Real Peace board member

2023	Creative Placemaking Conference
2017-2019	Creativity Fest Workshop volunteer
2019	Shirt Talkin' community event creator Kent and Cleveland, OH
2018-2019	International Textile and Apparel Association member Volunteer and member
2014 & 2017	Tinkuy: A Gathering of Weavers in Cuzco, Peru
2013-2020	Ontario Handweavers and Spinners member
2009, 2010, 2013, 2016	Volunteer in Bolivia with weavers, taught sewing, dye workshops.
2000-2004	Akron Student Fashion Association member
2004	Textile Society of America member
2003	Handweavers Guild of America member