

# Melanie Renée Roll

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## EDUCATION

**Master of Arts, Visual Communication Design**  
Kent State University, Anticipated 2021

**Master of Arts, Art History**  
Kent State University, 2014  
**Thesis:** *Performing the Image: The Tableaux of Vanessa Beecroft*

**Master of Library and Information Science**  
Kent State University, 2003  
**Thesis Practicum:** Image Library, Cleveland Museum of Art.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts, Jewelry, Metals & Enameling**  
Kent State University, 2004  
**Thesis:** *Before and After: Models of Objectification*

**Bachelor of Science, Fashion Merchandising**  
Kent State University, 1984

## CURRENT RESEARCH

I am an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of design, craft, material studies, and its convergence with art history and critical theory in the field of visual culture. My current research investigates the relationship between critical making, hierarchical relationships in contemporary art, craft and design, and production of meaning through media affiliated with all genres of visual production—both academic and mainstream. An additional trajectory of this research includes investigation of the role or identity of artist or maker within global society, and how creative practice is valued or understood within diverse cultures.

As a metalsmith and designer my work investigates how the body, text, and object collide to investigate notions of self-awareness, human interface, display, and value. Modes of adornment, status, and archival presentation all parlay into interesting juxtapositions and relationships between object, maker, and wearer. These adjacencies work to create acute and personal memories which provide substantive territory for understanding human relationships and the objects which operate at the convergence of these boundaries.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kent State University

2006-present

### **Art Survey/Art as a World Phenomenon**

#### Course Description:

*This course explores the essential qualities of visual art and the motivations for creating art in both Western and non-Western cultures through a thematic paradigm. By the end of the term the student will have developed an enhanced ability to identify and describe various media and styles of artistic production, and have a basic knowledge of culturally significant periods and representative artworks in the history of global art.*

### **Ancient through Medieval Art**

#### Course Description:

*Using a chronological approach, this course examines the history of the visual arts from the earliest prehistoric examples through the Western tradition as found in Greece and Rome and ending in the Late Middle Ages (ca. 1350 CE). Through recognition of the principal themes, subjects, and symbols in visual art in a variety of cultures and periods, the student will learn to apply critical thinking and creative inquiry to traditional art historical interpretations.*

### **Art History Research and Writing**

Undergraduate and Graduate

#### Course Description:

*This course will focus on improving skills in writing about the visual arts, with the goal of preparing effective research papers, critical essays, and reviews of exhibitions. An initial introduction will expose you to a wide variety of library resources—both print and electronic—for researching art. In concordance, the course will introduce new strategies and theories being deployed in contemporary critical discourse of global visual culture. Several written assignments and one research paper are required, with a presentation of research at the conclusion of the course. In addition, participation in seminar-style class discussions is mandatory.*

### **Contemporary Craft: History, Process, and Meaning**

Undergraduate and Graduate

#### Course Description:

*This course provides an overview of the history, theory, and practice of modern and contemporary Studio Craft. By the end of the term, the student will have developed an enhanced ability to identify and describe various media and styles of artistic production normally associated with “craft” genres: ceramics, textiles/fibers, jewelry/metals/enamels, glass, and wood/furniture. You will become familiar with important makers, theorists, and venues in the craft movement. Concurrently, you will build a basic knowledge of the philosophies, pedagogical styles, and controversial issues which have shaped this unique cultural and artistic tradition.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Assistant to the Director**

**Kent State University, School of Art**

*Kent, OH*

Responsibilities include:

*7/2014-present*

Coordinate with faculty and division coordinators to develop semester schedules and make associated hiring decisions. In concordance, identify problems in student roadmaps and prerequisites, gaps in sequential course offerings, and advise on general use of adjunct payroll to best serve the needs of the School of Art and commensurate financial directives.

Provide administrative advice on and assistance in matters of the school as needed, especially in areas of budget, publicity, and media. Coordinate with faculty and staff to facilitate equitable and safe use of facilities, especially shared studios and classrooms and student work spaces.

Coordinate submission and review of materials from various School of Art faculty and administration for national accreditation reviews and university assessments. Collection and archiving of student artwork and research in concordance with required policy to demonstrate achieved competencies.

### **Visual Resource Center Coordinator**

**Kent State University, School of Art, Digitization Project**

*Kent, OH,*

Responsibilities include:

*2006-present*

Oversee equipment, staffing, and coordinated services provided in the Visual Resource Center, which serves students, faculty and staff in the School of Art. The center provides scanning, printing, computing services, along with a photography studio for general use. Students use the center as part of required course-work, but may use the center for a variety of research and creative projects.

Initiation of initial plan for sequential digitization of analog images (35mm slides) into digital format to support School of Art pedagogy, in concert with School of Art Director, LAN Administrator, and art history faculty. Subsequent projects include capture and storage of student visual works and other archival images necessary for accreditation and marketing purposes.

Systematize uploading and retrieval of images and manage associated database. In collaboration with individual faculty members and LAN administrator, develop processes for accessing, downloading, delivering, and storing images. Participate in design and realization of workshops for faculty, including from regional campuses, on all aspects of sourcing and using digital images (scanning, storing, and use).

Coordinate and oversee hourly workers doing data entry/cataloguing (and only secondarily, scanning); provide quality control for all such work as entered onto server. Report on progress and adjust work schedules as needed to take advantage of resources and keep to general timetable.

Develop digital materials for asynchronous course delivery and digital pedagogy initiatives within the School of Art. Advise faculty on effective strategies for building and managing **Blackboard Learn**© sites, and encourage coordination with University Library digital initiatives.

Advise and generate procedures for the School of Art as related to intellectual property issues, use of images by students in theses and other school projects, and general use of third-party materials by faculty and student in coordination with existing university policy.

**Assistant to the School of Art Gallery Director***Kent State University, School of Art Galleries,*

2004-2006

*Graduate Assistantship**Main Gallery, Downtown Gallery, Michener Gallery, Eells Gallery,*

Responsibilities:

Hire, train, and schedule student gallery attendants, curatorial assistants, and art handlers for all four galleries. Review and expand the *Gallery Procedures & Training Manual*. Coordinate exhibition planning, installation, gallery discussions, and opening receptions for all four galleries.

Assistant Curator and Registrar for the 3500 item School of Art collection; revise and enhance procedures for the reorganization and conservation of museum objects; update collection database using standardized vocabulary and concise categorization tools.

Work in conjunction with the Gallery Director concerning public relations strategies, creation of promotional materials for gallery exhibits, grant writing and collection related goals and priorities.

Oversee selection, pricing, installation, and inventory management for all consignment artwork in the Downtown Gallery, and generate commensurate sales and profit reports.

**CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Online Learning Symposium, Kent Ohio

November, 2016

VRA 2017 Unbridled Opportunities, Louisville, Kentucky

March, 2017

*Establishing a Brand for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Visual Resource Center- Kent State University*

MACAA 2016 Studio Shift, Cincinnati, Ohio

October 2016

**EXHIBITIONS***KSU Jewelry/Metals Invitational*

2005

Kent State University School of Art Gallery

Kent, Ohio

Curated Exhibition

*Before and After: Models of Objectification*

2004

Gallery 138

Kent, Ohio

B.F.A. Thesis Show

*SNAG 2004: Metals-A-Go-Go*

2004

Florida International Museum

St. Petersburg, Florida

Juried Student Exhibition

2003\_armwork

2003

Robert E. &amp; Martha Hull Lee Gallery

Oxford, Ohio

Miami University

Juried Student Exhibition

*SNAG 2003: Making It In Metal*

2003

California College of Arts and Crafts

San Francisco, CA

Juried Student Slide Presentation

*Student Annual Exhibition*  
School of Art Gallery  
Kent State  
University  
Juried Exhibition

2002  
Kent, Ohio

*Clay and Metals/Jewelry Invitational*  
SMSU Student Exhibition Center  
Southwest Missouri State University

2001  
Springfield, MS

## **SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

School of Art Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, chair  
Center for Teaching and Learning, Working Lunch: *Navigating Difficult  
Conversations and Controversial Subjects*  
Improving your Online Course Workshop  
School of Art Undergraduate & Graduate Curriculum Committee

2017-18  
  
December 2017  
April 2018  
2018-19

## **LANGUAGES**

French, basic reading and writing

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

College Art Association  
Mid-America College Art Association  
Visual Resource Association  
Society of North American Goldsmiths