

## **EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE**

### **Education**

- 2005      MFA, University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Master of Fine Arts in Painting
- 2000      BFA, Massachusetts College of Art & Design  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting  
Graduation with Distinction

### **Teaching Experience**

- 2015-present    Assistant Professor, 2D Animation Program  
Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)  
School of Film and Animation, College of Art and Design  
Rochester, New York
- 2014-2017      Faculty, 2D Animation  
School of Visual Arts (SVA)  
BFA Animation  
New York, New York
- 2014-2015      Visiting Instructor, 2D Animation  
Pratt Institute  
Digital Arts and Animation  
Brooklyn, New York
- 2012-2014      Lecturer  
University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design  
Undergraduate Fine Arts & Design  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Related Experience

- 2005-present Independent Animator  
New York City/Rochester, New York  
Independently responsible for every element of the production pipeline for 2D animated films including, design, direction, storyboarding, layout, animation, color, clean-up and compositing as well as writing lyrics for animated children's songs, I create short animations for companies such as Sesame Workshop (*Elmo at the Zoo, Lonely Eleven, Twelve Little Chicks, Thirteen's Not So Lucky, Not Yet*), Sesame International (*Use It Again, Everyone Needs Water*), MTV (Virgin Territory Promos: *Snooki, Nev, Jamie Lee, Chet*), Comedy Central (Trip Tank: *Sunday Funday*) New York Foundation for the Arts and Cartuna Production Studio.
- 2002-2014 Regional Artist/Muralist  
Trader Joe's Corporation  
Boston, Massachusetts/Brooklyn, New York  
Part of a two-person team, I worked directly with regional vice-presidents and store managers to research, design and produce by hand interior murals for over fifty stores in the Eastern US, including all five flagship New York City locations.
- 2007 Artist Abroad Facilitator-Ecuador  
MYX: Multicultural Youth eXchange  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Taught, in English and Spanish, mural production over the course of a two-week collaboration between American high school students and South American elementary school students.
- 2005 Program Director  
Mystic Mural Program  
Somerville, Massachusetts  
Working directly with an environmental educator, instructed crew of Somerville teenagers in mural production with an emphasis on exploring the local environment.
- 2003 Instructor  
Mural Arts  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Designed and taught painting curriculum focused on fifth through seventh graders.

## TEACHING

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### Rochester Institute of Technology

2017-present **Principles of Animation-SOFA 107**

Spring. First Year Students. Introduction to the concepts and mechanics of movement for animation, focused on, but not limited to, character based movement applied using hand-drawn methods.

2017- present **Animation Scriptwriting and Storyboarding-SOFA 228**

Fall. Second Year Students. An exploration of story structure, visual composition and temporal organization in animated productions.

2016- present **Drawing for Animation-SOFA 108**

Spring. First Year Students. Working directly from a live model, and also employing visualization techniques, students develop figure-drawing skills along with gesture drawing, focusing on the correct representation of weight, energy and force in sequential poses.

2016-present **Animation Production Workshop II-SOFA 317**

Fall. Second Year Students. Animation student's second experience in producing an animated film individually or in collaboration with a classmate. Provides practice in all phases of single-frame film production.

2015-present **2D Animation I-SOFA 203** (previously Dynamics)

Fall. Second Year Students. Focusing on the principles and processes of hand-drawn, 2D digital animation, students develop a short animated scene, including audio/dialogue, that ultimately conveys an emotional performance through timing, staging, solid drawing and acting.

2016-2019 **Animation Writing and Visual Storytelling-SOFA 628**

Spring. First Year Graduate Students. Through a series of rigorous exercises, students hone the skills and techniques utilized in the animation pre-production pipeline including storyboarding and script development.

2018 **Study Abroad Animation-SOFA 355**  
**BASE Camp Balkan Animated Storytelling Exploration**

Fall. All Students. Consisting of a summer travel experience to Kosovo and a fall studio class, students create visual travel journals which contribute to the production of an animated project during the fall semester.

2016 **Animation II: Mechanics-SOFA 604**  
Spring. Second Year Graduate Students. Through multi-week assignments that build on skills gained in foundation animation courses, course allows students to fully grasp the production process involved in hand-drawn animation as well as a deeper understanding of character interaction, emotion and timing.

2015 **Graduate Seminar-SOFA 610**  
First Year Graduate Students. A forum to establish among a diverse student group a common vocabulary for discussing film language and structure, collaborative relationships and a sense of community while exploring issues related to the film making process.

2015 **Animation Pre-Production-SOFA 227**  
First Year Students. Introduction to the storytelling pipeline including, writing, pitching, storyboarding, layout, character design, timing to audio, and creating animatics.

### **Capstone and Thesis**

2015-present **Senior Capstone I/II-SOFA 406/407** (17 Students to date)  
Weekly one-on-one meetings focused on the entire film making production pipeline for capstone films.

2015-present **Research and Thesis I/II-SOFA 790/890** (9 Students to date)  
Weekly one-on-one meetings focused on the entire film making production pipeline for Thesis films and paper.

2015-present **Thesis Committees** (8 to date)  
Meeting a minimum of once a semester, thesis committee members convene to discuss the progress of the MFA Thesis film and advise the progress as necessary.

### **Courses Created**

2018 **Delayed Film Completion-SOFA 011**  
Allows third year students to extended time to complete Workshop Films.

2018 **Study Abroad Animation-SOFA 355**  
Open to All Undergraduate Students. An opportunity to study cultural, social and/or environmental issues based on location. Students will work individually or as a collaborative team through the concept, planning design and building of an animated film project.

### **School of Visual Arts**

2015-2017 **Pre-College Program: Animation-ANP 0201**  
High School Students. Two-week portion of the summer program acting an introduction to Animation principles and production concepts as well as opportunity for students to create their own short films.

- 2015 **TVPaint Animation-AND 2259**  
Open to all students. While completing a series of traditional animation exercises, students will gain proficiency in the 2D digital animation software TVPaint.
- 2015 **Animation Workshop II-AND 2015**  
Second Year Students. Students continue to be immersed in the animation production pipeline covered in Animation Workshop I, completing animation on their short film.
- 2014 **Animation Workshop I-AND 2010**  
Second Year Students. Immersion in the basic animation principles and the animation production pipeline. Along with in-class skill building exercises, students are responsible for conceptualizing, designing, story-boarding and animating a short film.
- 2014 -2015 **TVPaint Animation-ANC 2259**  
Continuing Education. Introduction to the 2D bitmap-based program TVPaint taking students through a series of skill-specific exercises incorporating basic animation principles.

## Pratt

- 2015 **Storyboarding and Storytelling-DDA 514**  
Open to All Students. This course targets all areas of pre-production and focuses on the fundamental skills of design for film and animation beginning with basic conceptual scripting and storyboarding techniques.
- 2014 **Animation II-DDA 384**  
Third Year Students. Students are required to create individual short films in a technique of their own. They also learn to work on a group assignment and handle responsibility of producer, director, and/or animator.

## University of Pennsylvania School of Design

- 2012-2014 **Hand-Drawn 2D Digital Animation-FNAR 241/541**  
Open to All Students. Through careful study of natural movements, precedents in the history of animation, and a series of hand-drawn animation projects, students develop strategies for representing naturalistic movement and storytelling.
- 2012 **Mixed Media Animation -FNAR 289/401**(co-taught with Erinn Hagerty)  
Open to All Students. Students use digital SLR cameras, scanners and digital compositing software to produce works in hand-drawn animation, puppet and clay animation, sand animation, and multi-plane collage animation.
- 2012 **Computer Animation -FNAR 267** (co-taught with Erinn Hagerty)  
Open to All Students. Through a series of studio projects this course introduces techniques of 2D and 3D computer animation. Emphasis is placed on time-based design and storytelling.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Grants**

- 2019 RIT Provost Learning Innovation Grant (PLIG)  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
SOFA Slow-Mo: Movement Research Through Active Learning
- 2019 ADVANCE: Connect Grant  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
Developing Spatialized & Volumetric Audio in VR Storytelling
- 2018 RIT Faculty Education and Development (FEAD) Grant  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
3D Character Design: Swing
- 2017 RIT Faculty Education and Development (FEAD) Grant  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
Exploratory Trip to Kosovo
- 2016 RIT Faculty Education and Development (FEAD) Grant  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
Labor of Love: Mutoscope
- 2016 ADVANCE: Connect Grant (recommended for funding)  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York  
Animated Poetry Project
- 2012 NYFA Gregory Millard Fellowship  
New York Foundation for the Arts, Brooklyn, New York  
Film/Video
- 2007 Urban Artist Initiative/New York City Fellowship  
Asian American Arts Alliance, Brooklyn, New York

### **Grant Applications**

- 2020 Epic Mega Grant (under review)  
Cary, North Carolina
- 2018 Creative Capital (unfunded)  
New York, New York
- 2018 ASIFA Animation Educators Forum Grant (unfunded)  
Los Angeles, California
- 2017 Buffalo Creative Arts Initiative (unfunded)  
Buffalo, New York

## Awards and Honors

- 2020 Satisfied Eye International Film Festival  
Surrey, UK  
Best VR Film
- Demetera International Film Festival  
Paris, France  
Best VR Short
- Open World Animation Festival  
Allentown, Pennsylvania  
Immersive Award (VR)
- University Film & Video Association (UFVA) 2020 Conference  
3rd Place New Media Award
- 2015 LoopdeLoop RITUAL  
New York, New York  
New York Winner
- 2011 Animation Block Party  
Brooklyn, New York  
Audience Award
- 2010 Aniboom Sesame Street Contest  
New York, New York  
Finalist
- 2003-2005 University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Audrey Robinson Award, 2005  
Alumni Association Award, 2004  
Stuart Egnal Scholarship Award, 2004  
Chair's Merit Scholarship, 2003-2005
- 2006 Winnipeg Mural Festival  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Finalist
- 2000 Massachusetts College of Art & Design  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Lawrence Kupferman Memorial Award, 2000  
Travel Scholarship: Printmaking in China, 2000

## Residencies

2018            The 3rd Annual ILSSA Group Residency  
North Mountain, Hedgesville, West Virginia

## Selected Films

2020            *Swing*  
Six-minute Virtual Reality film incorporating 2D and 3D animation techniques

2019            *Labor of Love* (Mutoscope)  
Sculptural animation

2016            *Every Single Inch of Ground*  
Two-minute pixilation animation

*Tired Tongues*  
One-minute animated poem

*Family Camp Anijam III*  
Animated two segments of collaborative animation

2012            *Bullets for Breakfast*  
Three-minute, hand-drawn 2D animation

2011            *Craft*  
Five and a half-minute hand-drawn 2D animation

## Selected Commissioned Films

2020            Anibar Animation Festival  
Peja, Kosovo  
Anibar Trailer: *Humans*  
One-minute, hand-drawn 2D animated film

2012-2019     New York Foundation for the Arts  
Brooklyn, New York  
*NYFA Annual Appeal*, 2019  
*May the Spirit of the Season Move You* (Zoetrope), 2018  
*Light-filled New Year* (Light-painting), 2017  
*Transformative New Year* (Time-lapse), 2016  
*Hope Your Holidays are Sweet* (Stop-motion), 2015  
*Let It Snow*, 2014  
*Warm Wishes* (Phenakistoscope), 2013  
*Make the Season Bright*, 2012



## Peer Reviewed Festivals/Conferences

- 2021            Anibar Animation Festival (upcoming)  
Peja, Kosovo (VR program postponed until 2021)
- 2020            SIGGRAPH Asia  
Daegu, South Korea
- Asian American International Film Festival  
New York, New York (festival moved online)
- Austin Indie Fest  
Austin, Texas
- VASTLAB Experimental Film Festival  
Los Angeles, California (festival moved online)
- Geneva International Film Festival  
Geneva, Switzerland (festival moved online)
- LUSCA Caribbean International Fantastic Film Festival  
San Juan, Puerto Rico (festival moved online)
- Red Rock Film Festival  
Springdale, Utah
- FIVARS Festival of International Virtual and Augmented Reality Stories  
Mississauga, Ontario (festival moved online)
- Aesthetica Film Festival  
York, United Kingdom (festival moved online)
- SATISFIED EYE International Film Festival  
Surrey, United Kingdom (festival moved online)
- Montreal International Animation Festival (Animaze)  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada (festival moved online)
- Bolton Film Festival  
Bolton, United Kingdom (festival moved online)
- Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN)  
Bucheon/Seoul, South Korea (festival moved online)
- Open World Animation Festival  
Allentown, Pennsylvania (festival moved online)

University Film & Video Association (UFVA) New Media Exhibition  
(conference moved online)

Cybershorts: A VR Film Festival (online)  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Demetera International Film Festival  
Paris, France (festival moved online)

2017 Frankly Film Festival  
Piqua, Ohio

2016 Borderless: In Perspective  
Lite-Haus Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Borderless: In Time  
Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2015 Animation Block Party  
BAM Cinemas, Brooklyn, New York

Animation Block Party Sesame Slam: A Retrospective on Sesame Street Animations  
BAM Cinemas, Brooklyn, New York

2014 Northwest Animation Festival  
Portland, Oregon

Animix International Animation  
Comics, Caricature Festival, Israel

2013 Annecy International Animation Festival  
Annecy, France

2013 Melbourne International Animation  
Melbourne, Australia

Australian International Animation Festival  
Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

Talking Transition- NYFA New Video Compilation  
New York, New York

2012 Philadelphia Film & Animation Festival  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Animation Block Party  
Brooklyn, New York

Glomation-Parer Place Project at the Creative Industries Precinct  
Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia

- 2011 Philadelphia Film & Animation Festival  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Animation Block Party  
BAM Cinemas, Brooklyn, New York
- Northside Festival: Animation Block Party Short Films  
Brooklyn, New York
- 2010 Animation Block Party  
BAM Cinemas, Brooklyn, New York
- Rooftop Film Summer Series  
Brooklyn, New York
- 2007 Philadelphia Film Festival  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2005 SPEMA Conference Video Festival  
Fairfax, Virginia

## **Exhibitions**

- 2020 Disegno-in-Motion, Peer Reviewed Group Show  
Marymount Manhattan College (exhibition rescheduled for fall 2020)
- 2019 ILSSA: Frameworks, Group Show  
Unrequited Leisure, Nashville, Tennessee, September
- Tin Ceilings and Other Specifics, Peer Reviewed Group Show  
The Magenta Suite, Exeter, New Hampshire, June
- ILSSA, Group Show  
Cummings Arts Center Galleries, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut, February
- 2018 ILSSA, Group Show  
Cecile R. Hunt Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis Missouri, November
- Made on the Mountain: A North Mountain Residency Retrospective  
Phaze II Gallery, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, September
- 2016 Decensortized: A Safe Space, Peer Reviewed Group Show  
Westbeth Gallery, New York, New York

CIAS Faculty Show  
RIT Rochester, New York

- 2015 Cartuna's Art Basel Animation Showcase  
Miami, Florida
- 2010 7 Body Language Mistakes by Kira Blazek  
Dixon Place, New York, New York
- 2009 Wild Things, Peer Reviewed Group Show  
AnnMarie Garden & Sculpture Park, Dowell, Maryland
- 2008 Action.Stop.Action, Group Show Juried by Joshua Mosley  
Vox Populi, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Penn Alumni Show  
Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York, New York
- 2007 Jersey City Museum Screening, Curated by Delmira Valladares  
Jersey City, New Jersey
- 2006 Proof, Curated by Colette Copeland  
Vox Populi, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **Invited Presentations**

- 2020 "That's Unreal!: Filmmaking in VR"  
Masterclass, Presenter  
Anibar Animation Festival, Peja, Kosovo. August 21.
- 2019 "Line of Action: Two-Dimensional Animation in a Three-Dimensional Space"  
Hybridity and Mixed Media in Animation, Panelist  
University Film & Video Association Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota. July 31.
- "The Animated Line in VR"  
2D Animation in VR Workshop, Presenter  
Anibar Animation Festival, Peja, Kosovo. July 15-21.
- 2015 Sesame Slam: A Retrospective on Sesame Street Animations  
Animation Block Party, Panelist  
Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) Brooklyn, New York. August 2.

### **Artist Talks**

- 2020 "Making the Switch from Traditional Animator to VR"  
IEEE VR Birds of a Feather Program (conference moved online)  
Atlanta, Georgia. March 25.

- 2018 mari jaye blanchard: Recent Work (online)  
Professional Practices for Animators (Instructor: Erinn Hagerty)  
Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, Maryland. November 14.
- 2017 mari jaye blanchard: Recent Work  
Art Talk Series, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, New York. October 23.
- 2013 Collaborative phenakistoscope workshop  
Visual Communication (Instructor: Bobby Genalo)  
Pratt, Brooklyn, New York

### **Campus Presentations**

- 2020 Frameless Fast Forward, Rochester Institute of Technology, Presenter  
Rochester, New York, February 26.
- 2018 FRAM Applied Critical Thinking: Critical Thinking in Motion, Presenter  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York. October 25.
- 2017 “Looking Forward by Looking Back,” 20/20 Research in Focus Colloquium: Perception,  
Panelist, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York. March 22.

### **Print Media**

- 2012 “What I Wore Today”, Spruce, 2011: Gemma Corell, 2012. Illustration on p.60.
- 2007 “Winter of our Discontent”, Stan Hochman, Philadelphia Daily News, January 17.
- 2005 “School’s Clout”, Roberta Fallon, Philadelphia Weekly, Friday, May 18.  
“A Tribute to an Art Lover”, Edward J. Sozanski, Philadelphia Inquirer, Friday May 27.  
“First Friday Focus”, Lori Hill, City Paper, May 5-11.
- 2003 GQ magazine “Destination: Boston” (Photograph of mural included in article), July.

### **Website Publications**

- 2019 Patrick Vincent, “ILSSA: Creative Practice Call and Response”, Number:inc. September.  
Anibar. “Towards the Future with VR Animation”. July 20.
- 2012 Animation Magazine online interview. “Animation Block Party Spotlight on Mari Jaye  
Blanchard” Casey Safron, posted by Thomas J. McLean. April 3.
- 2010 Tim Donnelly “How Do you Get To Sesame Street? Practice, Practice, Practice”  
Inverted Soapbox, May 4.
- 2002 Lindsey E. McCormack, Contributing Writer Harvard Crimson “New Kids on the  
Block”. April 19.

## **SERVICE**

### **Institute Committees**

2020 Institute Writing Committee

### **College Committees**

2015-2018 CAD (formerly CIAS) Awards Committee (Co-Chair with Professor Don Arday in 2018)  
2018 CAD FRAM Committee  
2017,2018 CAD (formerly CIAS) Retreat Planning Committee (organized by Interim Dean Robin Cass)

### **School Committees**

2020 School of Film and Animation Captioning Committee  
Search Committee, SOFA School Director  
2018 Search Committee, SOFA Tenure Track Animation Professor  
2018 CILECT Review Committee (Animation)  
2017 MFA Portfolio Review Committee  
2016 Search Committee, SOFA Lecturer Animation

### **Professional Committees**

2016-2019 Advisory Committee, (NYFA) New York Foundation for the Arts (three year term)

### **Service to College**

2019 Workshop Facilitator, Introduction to Animation  
Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Upstate New York Chapter  
  
Panelist, MAGIC Big Game Project Pitch (“That Damn Goat” selection committee)  
Workshop Facilitator, *Brick by Brick* Diversity & Inclusion Trustees Workshop lead by Tina Chapman with President Munson  
  
Faculty Advisor, NarRITives Project: “Adel Henen” Animated Documentary  
  
Faculty Advisor, Summer Magic Makers Program: “Just the Little Things” & “Distance of a Light Year”  
  
2017 Caller, Phone Power faculty phone calls to admitted, regular-decision students through RIT Office of Undergraduate Admission

### **Service to School of Film and Animation**

2018-2019 Reviewer, National Portfolio Day (Chicago, New York City, Rochester)  
2015-2019 Curator, High Falls Film Festival, Women of SOFA Program

- 2015-2019 Faculty Assistant to Assistant Professor Mark Reisch  
SOFA Anijam 24-Hour Animation Production
- 2015-present Workshop Lecturer, TVPaint FVASA Semester Workshop
- 2015-present Co-Founder/Content Manager, Social Media Team  
Started the School of Film & Animation Instagram account and maintain its presence
- 2015-present Designer, School of Film and Animation marketing materials
- 2017, 2018 Facilitator & Organizer, SOFA New York City Trip
- 2017 Storyboard Artist, "Next Generation Cinema: How You See It-Projection and Display in Cinema," Future of Cinema conference, National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), Las Vegas, Nevada

### **Service to Profession**

- 2014-2018 Juror, Northwest Animation Festival, Portland, Oregon
- 2017 Designer, Light & Sound Interactive Conference, Rochester, New York
- 2012-2013 Juror, SVA Dusty Awards, School of Visual Arts, New York, New York
- 2009 Grant Panelist , Asian American Arts Alliance/Urban Artist Initiative, New York, New York
- 2008 Grant Panelist, New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, New York

### **Community Outreach**

- 2020 Facilitator, "Representation Matters" panel, "Brave Spaces: Rochester's Summit to End Hate," Levine Center, Rochester, New York
- 2019 Liaison, City Hall and RIT, "What's Good Rochester" multimedia program  
Rochester, New York
- Muralist, Hipocampo Bookstore, Rochester, New York
- 2016-present Workshop Leader, Rochester Prep High School, Rochester, New York
- 2015-present Volunteer, Center For Youth, Rochester, New York

### **Professional Development**

- 2020 Provost's ASL Summer Two-Week Intensive  
Breaking Bread (Office of Diversity & Inclusion) Semester Workshop
- 2019 AdvanceRIT Advocates & Allies Workshop