

ALEX SABA

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ABOUT They are an Interdisciplinary Artist working in sculpture, writing, and performance art. They currently work at Clay Wollongong as an Instructor and Technician for Raku, salt, and gas-firing kilns. They have also worked in galleries as an Art Handler and Engagement Guide at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cleveland, Ohio and did an array of jobs as an intern at the Mississippi State University Galleries such as Art Handler, Conservator, Registrar, Spokeperson, and Gallery Manager under Lori Neuenfeldt.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Art Sculpture, Mississippi State University, Magna Cum Laude, May 2020

SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS, AND PUBLIC ART

2023	“Escape” in Cityscape – City Life, juried online exhibition, group	Cista Arts	London, United Kingdom
	“101 contemporary artists and more...” book, invitation, group	Collect Art	Tbilisi, Georgia
	“If I Had to Make You a Color” published in #Loveofmylife, group	Collect Art	Tbilisi, Georgia
	Poetic Inventory in CVNP Poetic Toolkit, invitation, public project	Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Ohio, USA
2022	Two pieces in “Blue,” juried virtual exhibition, group	Colors of Humanity	Pennsylvania, USA
	Come Tell Me My Body Isn’t Mine, solo	Waterloo Arts	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
	Untitled Mural, public, solo	Coffee Cat	Auburn, Alabama, USA
2020	“Two-Faced,” in ESCAPE: BFA Thesis Exhibition, group	Visual Arts Center	Mississippi, USA
2019	Stenis Flag Project in the archival collection, collaborative	The Museum of Impact	New York, USA
	“We Don’t Eat” poem performed at Taking Back My Crown, group	Lexus Giles	Mississippi, USA
	One Night Only, group	Mississippi State University	Mississippi, USA
2018	#Metoo with Lexus Giles, public collaboration		Mississippi, USA

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2024	Invitation for Sculpture in the Garden	Wollongong Botanic Garden	Wollongong, AUS
2023	Invitation for a self-funded residency	BigCi	Blue Mountains, AUS
2022	Urgent Art Fund Grant	SPACES Cleveland	Ohio, USA
2021	Best in show in Jewelry	Cotton District Arts Festival	Starkville, MS, USA
2020	Full Scholarship to Sculpture Course	Penland School of Craft	Bakersville, NC, USA
	Graduated with Magna Cum Laude	Mississippi State University	USA
2017	Invitation to Shackouls Honor College	Mississippi State University	USA
	Invitation to Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society	Mississippi State University	USA
	Invitation to The Society of Collegiate Leadership and Achievement	National Honor Society	USA

RECENT PRESS

2023	Interview and piece in “#LoveofmyLife” edition	Art Collect	Tbilisi, Georgia
2022	Waterloo Arts Gallery newsletter and announcements	Waterloo Arts	Cleveland, OH, USA
	Urgent Art Fund Announcements	SPACES Cleveland	Cleveland, OH, USA
2020	At the Gallery with Lori Neuenfeldt	MSU TV	Starkville, MS, USA
	BFA thesis show press	The Reflector, MSU paper	Starkville, MS, USA

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

2021	Setting the Tone with Anna Johnson	Penland School of Craft	Bakersville, NC, USA
2020	What Were You Wearing? (Lead and directed)	Colvard Union Gallery	MS, USA
	Starkville Community Mural Project with Justin Rainsburg and Pablo Reyes	Mississippi State University	MS, USA
2019	Stennis Flag Project with Monica Montgomery and The Museum of Impact.	Mississippi State University	MS, USA
2018	Taking Back My Crown and What Were You Wearing?	Colvard Union Gallery	MS, USA

FIELD STUDIES

2020	Alabama Clay Conference	Orange Beach, AL
2019	Contemporary Feminist Art Study with Jenna Altomonte	New Orleans, LA
	Private Sculpture Collection	New Orleans, LA
	Alabama Clay Conference	Jacksonville, AL
	Civil Rights Museum on Lynching, Slavery, and Beyond	Montgomery, AL
2018	Prospect 4 Local Artists Installations	New Orleans, LA

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020	First Friday Artist Talk at MSU
	CAA Undergraduate Poster Session
	MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium

EXHIBITIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2023	<i>We Are Dust and Shadow</i> with Sam Falls	Art Handler	MoCa Cleveland
	<i>Big Butch Synergy</i> with Nina Chanel Abney		
	<i>Pieces of Me</i> with Bruno Casiano		
2022	<i>Contact</i> with Renée Green for FRONT International	Art Handler, Engagement Guide	
	<i>Puppies Puppies</i> with Jade Kuriki Olivo		
	<i>At Once Terrifying and Equally Freeing</i> with Jerome AB		
	<i>Flowers in Temporary Hands</i> with J.J. Adams		
	<i>Who Was This Built to Protect?</i> with Aram Han Sifuentes		

EXHIBITIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS *CONTINUED*

	<i>Flyfall</i> with Dana Oldfather	Art Handler, Engagement Guide	MoCa Cleveland
	Color Me <i>Boniface</i> with Robert Banks and Dexter Davis		
	<i>Where We Overlap</i> with Museum of Creative Human Art and Davon Brantley		
2020	<i>ESCAPADE</i> : BFA Thesis Online Exhibition	Curator and digital designer	MSU CAAD website
	<i>48th Annual MSU Student Juried Virtual Exhibition</i>	Curator and digital designer	MSU CAAD website
	" <i>What Were You Wearing?</i> "	Co-Director, Curator, Handler	Colvard Union
	<i>Cotton District Arts Festival Juried Art Exhibition</i> with SAAC	Curator and Gallery Coordinator	Visual Arts Center
	<i>BUZZY'S</i> Juried Competition	Juror and Curator	Starkville Schools
	<i>Art of Hope</i>	Assistant Curator, Handler	Culvis Wade Depot
2019	" <i>What Were You Wearing?</i> "	As. Curator/Director, Handler	Colvard Union
	<i>One Night Only</i>	Director and Curator, Handler	Metalshop Gallery

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE POSITIONS

2023-Current ***Ceramics Instructor and Technician at Clay Wollongong in Wollongong, NSW, Australia***

- Responsible for preparing course curriculum including materials list for the class and students
- Instructing students and owners of studio on ceramics, specifically on Raku, salt, and other specialized gas kiln firings
- Preparing and creating glazes using hazardous materials and chemicals in a safe manner
- Designing and building a gas fire kiln using firebrick, fire blankets, etc. to enhance the studio
- Teaching students how to create glazes, glaze chemicals, and what to change in glaze recipes for differing results
- instructing how to correctly use the kiln and safety equipment such as proper clothing and fire jacket, gloves, and helmet
- Encouraging students to push out of their comfort zones into stretch zones so they can create new and exciting ceramics

2022-2023 ***Exhibitions Installation Team at MoCa Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio, USA***

- Handle, pack, and install loaned art pieces to US Museum Standards and Best Practices
- Operate lift machinery to remove, repair, and install throughout museum
- Complete tasks as directed include: patching and painting walls, building and maintaining pedestals and display needs, mounting art, and AV and lighting set up.
- Work with Museum Registrar to document packaging and condition of artwork when it is received and sent back to artist.
- Enhances individual projects by working with different team members daily.
- Work directly with artists to create installations to their liking or their documentation to interpret their vision into the gallery spaces

2022-2023 ***Engagement Guide at MoCa Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio, USA***

- Guide visitors throughout the museum to enhance their learning experience of the exhibition
- Work with artists to accurately depict the meaning of their art and what they want visitors to take from the exhibition
- Work as a team to collaborate on the conversations surrounding art
- Report incidents that involve the loaned pieces and determine whether or not they have a condition change.
- Facilitate exhibition-specific programming and events through engagement and admission
- Event planning and execution for benefits, opening or closing receptions, private events, etc. to ensure the safety and well-being of the art and museum visitors.

PROFESSIONAL CREATIVE POSITIONS *CONTINUED*

2021 **Cabinet Warehouse Manager, Assembler, Installer, and Woodworker at Sawmark Construction in Auburn, AL, USA**

- Assembles and installs cabinets for every Sawmark job assignment
- Work with clients on-site to get the desired results for their homes
- Builds exterior décor and supports such as queen and gables, shutters, brackets, and other custom pieces
- Organizes and quality checks all shipments to the warehouse in correspondence to upcoming or past installs
- Uses Forklift machinery to organize and maintain warehouse
- Reads building design plans and blueprints in order to execute outdoor decor and cabinet installation plans
- Organize the install team to efficiently carry out jobs

2019-2020 **Gallery Intern and Assistant at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, USA**

- Handle art to unpack, hang, and repack pieces for shows
- Curate shows with Gallery Director, such as: The Art of Hope, The 48th MSU Student Juried Exhibition, CDAF, etc.
- Point person for the transportation, organization, and documentation of the permanent art collection and posters for archival and conditional records
- Opening and closing of the gallery spaces to ensure safety of artwork
- Serve as lead for reception and event set up and creating an environment for patrons to feel welcome and excited
- Spokesperson for the Art Galleries including speaking with press and creating posts on the gallery's Instagram account.
- Transition the galleries into becoming remote for COVID-19 by curating and building online exhibitions

2018-2020 **Co-Director and Assistant Curator, "What Were You Wearing?" at Union Gallery in Starkville, MS, USA**

- Work alongside Professors such as Jenna Altomonte to create, organize, and bring exhibitions to MSU Galleries
- Collect submissions for the show to then curate the stories with clothing matching the description of what survivors were wearing at the time they were sexually assaulted
- Perform gorilla marketing such as bathroom stall advertising to procure submissions from the student body and faculty so submitters could remain anonymous
- Work alongside the Sexual Assault Awareness group and Counseling Center to create a safe environment for the exhibition giving proper sensitivity training to the gallery attendants for viewers
- Brought show together with, "Wear my Crown," by Lexus Giles during sexual assault month to bring awareness to students and viewers.

REFERENCES

Ray Juairé

Exhibitions Director at MoCa Cleveland
Rjuairé@mocacleveland.org

Natalie Grave

Director of Engagement at MoCa Cleveland
Ngrave@mocacleveland.org

Jenna Altomonte

Professor of Art History at Mississippi State University
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Critz Campbell

Head of Art Department at Mississippi State University
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SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Process

Metalsmithing (Silver, Copper, Brass, and Bronze)
TIG, MIG, and Oxy Acetylene welding
Brazing, Soldering
Metal working and manipulation
Joinery
Woodworking
Electrical wiring
Professional painting (walls)
Proficient in simple and complex powertools
Operating scissor lifts and forklifts

Digital

TAM (track museum-goer demographics)
Square
Adobe illustrator
Adobe Photoshop
Gif or simple animation
Adobe InDesign
Google slides, docs, spread, etc.
Microsoft Office Suite

Studio

Ceramics: Glaze making, Raku, Salt, Gas High-Firing
Furniture building
Installation work
Lighting

OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2022 **Barista at Heartwood Coffee Roasters in Hudson, Ohio, USA**

- Work alongside a team in a fast-paced environment to ensure the customers were served quality food and beverage in a timely matter
- prepare syrups, coffee, teas, food, spice mixes, etc. to efficiently run the bar
- communicate with the head barista and manager to solve problems
- build customer relations producing a friendly atmosphere
- create playlists and tended to plants to create a cozy and inviting environment so customers could feel welcome and comfortable
- perform mid-day and closing duties for easy and swift shift change and opening the next morning.
- Clean and sanitize the cafe, bathroom, and bar above and beyond health code standards

2021-2022 **Artist/Designer/Barista at Coffee Cat in Auburn, Alabama, USA**

- Redesign and paint menu boards for better readability and quality, bringing a fun element to the cafe
- Paint an original mural in the bathroom with figures and written text inviting a retrospective atmosphere to the bathroom
- Harness deep and meaningful conversation and relationships with customers to build community within the cafe space
- Create custom drink recipes, in-house syrups, and teas for seasonal and special menu
- work and organize a variety of events such as live music, comedy shows, wedding receptions, etc.
- Aid in reorganizing and redesigning shop layout, carry out closing duties, and maintain a clean work environment
- Create a down to earth and welcoming environment by maintaining and bringing in plants for the shop

2020-2021 **Nursery Worker at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Auburn, AL, USA**

- Care for children within the ages of 2 months-5 years old
- Build trusting relations by participating at the parish with events to build trusting relations with parents
- Communicate with other employees for shift coverage, change, or sick leaves
- Create a safe learning environment for the children so that they would thrive at the nursery

2020 **Food Truck Manager and Line Cook at Good Karma in Auburn, Alabama, USA**

- Place orders in front of house while cooking in the back of house as the sole worker.
- Perform opening duties in the physical restaurant then would change to working the food truck for second shift and closing duties of the truck.
- Serving as the Food Truck Manager, conducting daily/weekly inventory and closing duties such as restocking, cleaning, and preparation for the next day
- Responsible for safely driving the food truck between the restaurant and campus.

2018-2020 **Work Crew (maintenance) and Lifeguard/Support Staff at Camp McDowell in Nauvoo, Alabama, USA**

- Performed maintenance, including: chopping wood, clearing brush, mowing, landscaping, etc.
- Served as a liaison between the permanent maintenance staff and annually contracted staff.
- Implemented and developed youth programming, including: group activities, craft sessions, wilderness exploration (canoeing and water activities).
- Provide a safe environment for youth campers.
- A liaison between parents, counselors, and directors to ensure safe practices.

2016-2017 **Pool Manager and Lifeguard at Vestavia Country Club in Vestavia Hills, AL, USA**

- Manage approximately 40 employees for training, proper member-lifeguard ratios, holidays, events, etc.
- Keep up to date on Red Cross training, Health Codes, and OSHA to ensure proper documentation and pool safety
- Create schedules, organize documents, keep logs, and plan weekly lifeguard training
- Liaison between club supervisor and lifeguards to ensure smooth work days
- Perform and delegate duties such as chemical checks and treatments, cleaning the pool, pool deck, bathrooms, etc.
- Point person for communicating with members about rules, regulations, and friendly conversations to build trusting relations between lifeguards and club members

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- 2016-2019 **Canterbury Student Vestry: Good Samaritan and Senior Warden at Canterbury Episcopal College Ministry in Starkville, Mississippi, USA**
- serve as a liaison for the Starkville community to plan useful service projects for the Episcopal College ministry
 - Plan and execute fundraising for service projects, mission trips, and educational opportunities
 - Lead meetings to plan activities and semester programming for students
 - Participate in the Diososin Convention each year along with planning activities for the college groups across the state, housing accomodation, and budgeting
 - Delegate and conduct tasks among the vestry like fundraising, weekly planning, meetings, retreats, activities, and trips while remaning within the yearly budget
 - Serve as a liaison between chaplain and college students to program appropriate outreach and community programming.
- 2016-2018 **Volunteer Worker at Oktibbeha County Humane Society in Starkville, Mississippi, USA**
- Responsible for the care of animals by socialization, exercise, and cleaning cages and facilities
 - Direct visitors interested in adoption, helping them get to know animals
 - Aid with conducting veterinary visits and transportation of animals
 - Facilitate playtime in outdoor pen for cats infected with HPV.
 - Aid and facilitate meetings between shelter animals and potential owners' pets
- 2016-2018 **Volunteer Gardener and Landscaper at Habitat for Humanity in Starkville, Mississippi, USA**
- Work to create landscaping for Humanity Houses in Starkville area
 - Accommodate yards and gardens for specific homeowners to best fit their needs
 - Do labor intensive work to make wonderful yards for homeowners
 - Build raised garden beds, vegetable gardens, sustainable lawns, etc.
- 2014-2015 **Camp Counselor for Upper Camp (ages 12-14) at Sawyerville Day Camp in Greensboro, Alabama, USA**
- Prepare camp for the children including putting together care backpacks for the summer
 - Responsible for looking after and doing activities with children including field trips and daily bus trips
 - Set up and planned daily activities for children and staff
 - Performed cleaning duties at the end of the day when campers left
 - Participate in counselour team building and bonding