

Iris Bechtol

Iris Bechtol is an artist, educator, and curator. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Intermedia from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2010 and is currently the Gallery Manager and Adjunct Professor of Art at Eastfield College in Mesquite, TX. Bechtol was an integral member of Texas' oldest artist collaborative, 500X Gallery from 2001-2005. She served as president for one year. She is founder and curator for Terrain Dallas, a temporary public exhibition space which ran from December 2014 to October 2016 with a focus on exhibiting site specific, temporary interventions by established and emerging artists in and around the conventional landscape of a suburban front yard.

Education

MFA | 2010 | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON, ARLINGTON, TX

- Intermedia

BFA | 2001 | UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, DENTON, TX

- Major: Photography
- Minor: Anthropology

Experience

GALLERY MANAGER | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2010-CURRENT

PHOTOGRAPHY LAB TECHNICIAN | UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON | 2009-10

INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2006-08

GALLERY COORDINATOR | EL CENTRO COLLEGE | 2004-2006

Teaching

ADJUNCT FACULTY| ART APPRECIATION | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2010-CURRENT

ADJUNCT FACULTY| 2D DESIGN | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2016

ADJUNCT FACULTY | PHOTOGRAPHY | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2014-2015

ADJUNCT FACULTY| 3D DESIGN/SCULPTURE | EASTFIELD COLLEGE | 2011-2012

ADJUNCT FACULTY| COLOR THEORY FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM | EL CENTRO COLLEGE | 2003

Student Success Statement

I believe both teaching and managing the galleries require the ability to adapt and seek out new methods and practices. To stay current and keep myself excited about the work, I utilize each summer to modify and/or incorporate new methods into both teaching and curating exhibits. I like to learn new things and so I see teaching as an opportunity to share my knowledge with students as well as learn from them. I see myself as a guide; I provide a foundation for them while also allowing them freedom to explore and shape their own critical thoughts about art and art making. I also see myself as a mentor and cheerleader to students. I want them to succeed not only in my class, but in whatever plan they have for their future. As an example, two of my photography students have gone on to study and successfully graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College of Visual Arts and Design at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

I enjoy mentoring students and assisting them in planning their career paths. I also know that students today have many adult responsibilities and life can often get in the way of the best laid plans. This is why I think it is important to make connections with students by simply knowing their names and taking the opportunity to talk to them about their aspirations as well as their daily lives. Students who have good relationships with their professors tend to be more successful.

solo art exhibitions

Carry, The Safe Room at The Texas Theater, April 2018

Several, near each other, Anthem Gallery, Blue Star Arts Complex, San Antonio, TX, 2017

Lots (of things), but nothing (I could use), MFA exhibition, UT Arlington, 2010

Sound, Gallery 219, Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX, 2008

59 minutes, Gallery West, UT Arlington, Arlington, TX, 2007

Tags, Artruck at Mighty Fine Arts, Dallas, TX, 2007

Welcome to Oak Cliff, Mighty Fine Arts, Dallas, TX, 2005

selected group art exhibitions 2004 - 2019

2019

Four person exhibition at Mountain View College curated by Alison Starr, October 2019

2017

Identity: I am one, I am many, Oak Cliff Cultural Center, Dallas, TX curated by Sunset Art Studios

Super Fantasy Mercado, Red Bird Mall, curated by Taro Waggoner and Mylan Nguyen for Decolonize Dallas

MFA 10th Anniversary Expo, UTA Art Gallery, Arlington, TX curated by Benito Huerta

2016

Girls Just Wanna, Galleri Urbane, Dallas, TX, curated by Adrian Zuniga and Ree Willaford

Now What, Coop Gallery, Nashville, TN, curated by Tom Williams

2014

Things that are now visible, Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX

And then I whirled at the sound of, Oil and Cotton, Dallas, TX, curated by Janeil Englestad

2011

Big and Bright, San Diego, CA, curated by good good things

2010

Sustenance, Warehouse in West Dallas, curated by Stephen Laphisophon

Temporary Occupants, Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX

2009

Sound Art Exhibition, Galerija 73, Belgrade, Serbia, curated by Snezana Petrovic

Rising Eyes of Texas, Rockport Center for the Arts, Rockport, TX (juried)

2008

Word & Image, Lumenhouse Project, Brooklyn, NY

MFA at CAA, University of North Texas, Cora Stafford Gallery, Denton, TX (juried)

Your favorite artist was a member, 30th Anniversary Exhibition, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX (invitational)

2007

DCCCD at 500X, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX

Bustillos & Cardona, Kiva Gallery, Mountain View College, Dallas, TX

Graduate Student Exhibition, Gallery West, UT Arlington, Arlington, TX

Ojo Dos, Studio Gallery, Brookhaven College, Dallas, TX, curated by Tina Medina

2006

Jingle Balls, Artruck, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX, curated by Brennen Bechtol

Ojo, the Unexpected, Richland College, Dallas, TX, curated by Tina Medina

White Trash Delight, Artruck (two locations 500X Gallery & MFA Gallery), Dallas, TX, curated by Brennen Bechtol

2004

Bodacious Bods, curated by Steve Cruz, Mighty Fine Arts, Dallas, TX

Annual Members Show, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX

New Work, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX

Artist Collaboratives

500X Gallery, Artist Member, 2001 – 2005

Residencies

Sunset Art Studios, Dallas, TX, March-May 2016

Awards

Ideas in Art – Barnett Foundation, UT Arlington, 2009, awarded \$1000 for art proposal

Graduate Dean's Fellowship, UT Arlington, 2007-2008

Honorable Mention, Parallax Photo Organization Exhibit, University of North Texas, 2000

Juror's Award, Eastfield College Student Exhibition, 1995

Private and public collections

Robert Bennett, Dallas, TX

Rick and Lisa Cook, Seattle, WA

Nic Davies, London, England

C.J. Davis, Dallas, TX

Jill Hay, New York, NY

Jessica McCambly and John Lewis, San Diego, CA

Jennifer and Lee Pepper, Nashville, TN

John Reoch, Dallas, TX

Charlotte Smith, Dallas, TX

David Willburn, Fort Worth, TX

Kathy Windrow, Dallas, TX

Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX

Rachel Fischer, Denton, TX

Sarita Westrup, Penland, NC

Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX

River Jackson-Paton, Dallas, TX

Mark Todd and Esther Pearl Watson, Los Angeles, CA