

SUZANNE GONSALEZ

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Lexington, KY. 40505
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EDUCATION: (selected)

Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art, Emphasis in Photography, University of Kentucky,
Lexington, Kentucky, 1997-2000

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Studio Art, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico,
1995-1997

AWARDS:

Don Haug Memorial Award, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, NY, 2004

Third Place, 4th International Exhibition at Studio 4 West Art Gallery, Piermont, NY, 2001

Merit Award, Reverse Raffle Exhibition, Lexington, Kentucky, 2000

Second Place, Carey Ellis Juried Show, Lexington, Kentucky, 1999

Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship Recipient, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1999-
2000

Madame Shoa Feng Sheng Award, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, New
York, 1998

Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship Recipient, Summer Term, University of Kentucky, Lexington,
Kentucky, 1998

Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship Recipient, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1997-
1998

Best of Show, Juried Art Show, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1997

GRANTS:

2007: International
Grant Finalist, Ultimate Eye Foundation Grant for figurative and digital
photography, Belmont, CA

2005: Local
Artist Enrichment Grant, Kentucky Foundation for Women, Louisville, KY
Grant received for completion of Digital Montages based on family archetypes and
genetic coding

2003: Local
Artist Enrichment Grant, Kentucky Foundation for Women, Louisville, KY
Grant received for completion of Mixed Media Photographic Altars

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS: (selected)

- Current- 2004 *Instructor of Art*, Bluegrass Community & Technical College, Lexington, KY
- 2004-2000 *Instructor of Art*, Lexington Community College, Lexington, KY
- 2004-2003 *Instructor of Photography*, Living Arts and Science Center, Lexington, KY
- 2006-2003 *Administrative Assistant*, The Film Lab, INC., Lexington, KY
- 2000-1998: *Teaching Fellow in Photography*, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
(instructor of record)
- 1997-1995: *Assistant Manager in Photography Lab*, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Duties: Responsible for maintaining the color and non-silver photography labs.

EXHIBITIONS:

- 2007: Invitational
**Evidence of Things Unseen*, Peninsula Museum of Art, Belmont, CA, an Invitational Exhibition of Grant Finalists from the Ultimate Eye Foundation Grant
- Invitational
**Day of the Dead Festival, Remember, Relive, and Rejoice*, this exhibition received grant funding through *The Federated Department Stores Foundation* to pay tribute to Lexington, Kentucky's growing Hispanic population, the Gloria Singletary Gallery at the Living Arts & Science Center, Lexington, KY
- 2006: International
**On the Edge*, Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, Colorado, juror: Stephen Perloff, Editor of the Photo Review
- National
**49th Annual Chautauqua National Exhibition of American Art*, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, New York, juror: Louis Grachos, Director of the Albright Knox Museum of Art
- Invitational
**Familia*, State Theatre Gallery located in the Historic Kentucky Theatre, Lexington, KY, in conjunction with the Kentucky Women Writers Conference
- 2005: International

**Gallery International Figurative Competition*, Gallery International, Baltimore, MD, Contemporary Chinese painter Hai-ou Hou, juror

National

**Social Scan: the Authentic Image!* The Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY, Russell Joslin, Editor and Publisher of SHOTS MAGAZINE, selected 44 photographs from 200 submittals for the exhibition.

**48th International Award Exhibition*, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA; only 98 artworks chosen from a field of 1400 images submitted from the USA and 11 other countries by juror, Derrick R. Cartwright, the new Director of the San Diego Museum of Art. Mr. Cartwright was also the previous director of the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College and also the Musee d'Art Americain, Giverny, France

Local

**Angels and Demons: a Solo Exhibition of Archetypes for the 21st Century*, Gallerie Soleil, Lexington, Kentucky

2004: National

**47th Chautauqua National Exhibition of American Art*, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, NY, juror: Donald Kuspit, art critic and professor of art history and philosophy at SUNY-Stony Brook. Mr. Kuspit selected 75 pieces for the exhibition out of 1600 slides. *Awarded the Don Haug Memorial Award.*

**Women's History Month, Artists 2004: Elizabeth Dove, Suzanne Gonsalez & Sarah Whorf*, Northwest Vista College, San Antonio, TX, March 3 – 31

**The Nude 2004*, Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY, juror: Michael Markowitz, art instructor from 23rd Street Studio in San Francisco

Local

**Contemporary Altars*, State Theatre Gallery located in the Historic Kentucky Theatre, Lexington, KY

2003: National

**Islands In the Stream: Stream of Consciousness*, A Juried National Exhibition, Union Street Gallery & Studio Complex, Chicago Heights, IL Juror: Ruth Crnkovich, Director of Exhibit and Artist Services at Northern Indiana Arts Association, Munster, Indiana

**The Nude 2003*, Lexington Art League, Meridian Gallery, Lexington, KY, Juror: Gary Chapman, painter and Associate Professor of Art at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

2002: National

**Biennial 2002: Peninsula Fine Arts Center*, 101 Museum Drive, Newport News, Virginia. Juror: Philip Pearlstein, painter

**The Nude 2002: The 16th Annual Juried Exhibition*, Loudoun House Gallery, 209 Castlewood Drive, Lexington, Kentucky; juror: Sharon Hunter, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lyme Academy of Fine Arts

Invitational

**The Ofenda Exhibit (Day of the Dead Altars) Invitational Exhibition*, major funding provided through the project *Mes de la Hispanidad* that received grant funding through *The Federated Department Stores Foundation* to pay tribute to Lexington, Kentucky's growing Hispanic population. Living Arts and Science Center, Lexington, Kentucky

2001: International

**45th Annual International Exhibition*, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA; juror: Bram Dijkstra, internationally noted critic, art advocate and collector, honored Professor at the University of California, San Diego, art essayist and recognized author

**4TH International Exhibition*, Studio 4 West Art Gallery, Piermont, NY, juror: Graciela Kartofel, international, independent art critic and curator. *Awarded third place.*

National

**Cambridge Art Association National Prize Show*, Cambridge Art Association, Lowell Street & 124 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA, Juror: Maxwell L. Anderson, Director, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Invitational

**Thoughts In Progress: An Invitational Exhibition of International Art*, Studio 4 West Art Gallery, Piermont, NY

**4 Women: Spirituality and Art, An Invitational Show*, ArtsPlace Gallery, 161 N. Mill Street, Lexington, KY

**University of Kentucky Print Show*, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Local

**View: Perspectives of Four Women*, Gallerie Soleil, 363 W. Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky

**She By Her: Images of Women by Women*, President's Room, Singletary Center for the Arts, Lexington, KY

- 2000: National
 **Delta National Small Prints 2000*, Arkansas State University, State University, Arkansas. Juror: Mark Pascale, Associate Curator, Department of Prints and Drawings.
- **Long Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences 2000 National Juried Competition*, Long Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences, 120 Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies, NJ, juror: Darsie Alexander, Assistant Curator, Museum of Modern Art, New York
- Local
 **Reverse Raffle Exhibition*, Lexington Art League, 209 Castlewood Drive, Lexington, KY. *Awarded Merit Award.*
- **All Members' Show*, Lexington Art League, 209 Castlewood R., Lexington, KY,
- **The River of Styx: Master of Fine Arts Solo Exhibition*, The Tuska Gallery, University of Kentucky, 107 Fine Arts Bldg., Rose Street, Lexington, KY
- 1999-
 2000: National
 **Artifact: Past, Present, Future: An Exhibition Investigating the Millennium*, Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington, MA
- 1999: National
 **4Th Annual All Media Juried Show*, Eklektikos Gallery, Washington, D.C., juror: Barbara Januszkiewicz
- **The Nude '99 Exhibition*, The Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
- Local
 **The Carey Ellis Juried Art Show*, The Barnhart Gallery, Lexington, KY *Awarded Second Place.*
- 1998: National
 **41ST National Exhibition of American Art*, Chautauqua Center for the Visual Arts, Chautauqua, NY; juror: Marc Mayer. *Awarded the Madame Shao Feng Sheng Award*
- **The Georgetown Annual International Art Exhibition*, Fraser Gallery, Washington, DC; juror: Barbara Januszkiewicz
- **The Nude '98*, The Lexington Art League, Lexington, KY
- Local
 **The Graduate & BFA Show*, The Barnhart Gallery, Lexington, KY
- 1997: Local

The Carey Ellis Juried Art Show, The Barnhart Gallery, Lexington, KY

University of Kentucky Photography: Then and Now, The Downtown Gallery, Lexington, KY

Suzanne Gonzalez & Christopher Thomas, The Robert C. May Gallery of Fine Art Photography, Lexington, KY

University of Kentucky Graduate Exhibition, The Downtown Gallery, Lexington, KY

Juried Student Show, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. Juror: Rebecca Solnit, Visiting Lecturer from the San Francisco Art Institute *Awarded Best of Show*.

1995: Local
Native American Exhibition, Natural History Museum, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

PUBLICATIONS:

1999: Summer Issue of *The Photo Review*, a critical journal of national and international photography, Langhorne, PA

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS:

1994: Permanent Collections, Art & Art History Department, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

2001: Graciela Kartofel, international independent art critic and curator.

1996: Maria Novaro, Mexican film director of *Danzon*. Mexico City, Mexico.

COMMISSIONS:

2002: *The Lexington Arts & Cultural Council 2002 Commissioned Print*. A limited edition series of 200 prints of *Winter*, to be given to individual contributors of \$250.00 or more to the annual Campaign for the Arts by LACC in appreciation.

2001: *Wildcat Madness!* Design picked: *Kentucky Cathouse*.

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE:

Women in the Arts, Slides of work part of a lecture given by Graciela Kartofel, The Hague, Odenax Auditorium, February 12, 2003.

In Art: Images Are More Than Just That, Slides of work part of a lecture given by Graciela Kartofel, University of Veracruz, Xalapa, Mexico, February 22, and March 27, 2003.

ARTIST LECTURES/DEMOS:

Arts Profession, Artist Lecture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 2005

Added Perspective: A Panel Discussion featuring photographers from the *Social Scan: the Authentic Image* exhibit talking about their work and the state of photography today. Ruth Adams, Suzanne Gonzalez, and Gary Mesa-Gaido, 2005.

Alternate Monitor for the University of Kentucky's *Figure Drawing Sessions*, 1997 - currently.

Gallery Assistant for the Carey Ellis Juried Show, Barnhart Gallery, The University of Kentucky, fall semester 1999.

Gallery Coordinator for the Carey Ellis Juried Show, Barnhart Gallery, The University of Kentucky, spring semester 1999.

Vice President of the Graduate Art Association of the University of Kentucky 1997 - 1998.

Assistant Manager, Photography Department, University of New Mexico, 1995 - 1997. In charge of color processor and the non-silver lab

ORGANIZATIONS:

Society for Photographic Education
College Art Association

TECHNICAL ABILITIES;

Digital and Photographic Skills:

Experience with digital cameras, hardware and imaging software in a Macintosh platform. Examples of software programs: CS3, InDesign, Dreamweaver and Lightroom.

Experienced in traditional black and white photography, including all aspects of exposure, developing, archival printing and multiple toning processes.

Experienced in both E-6 and C-41 color processes, along with Polaroid applications.

Experience with Non-Silver photographic processes, Mural printing and Mixed Media photographic collage processes.

Experience in formats ranging from 35mm through 20" x 24" as well as studio lighting expertise.

Studio Skills Outside Photography:

Mixed Media & Assemblage skills

Figure drawing and experience running a life drawing studio.

Installation

Experience in Waterless Lithography.

Theory and History: Exceptional understanding of the theory and history of art, photography since 1950 and contemporary art.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My artwork has always revolved around the female figure as a central point to the divine feminine, the embodiment of the sacred. In 2003, I received my first grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women to produce a series of photographic altars based on the sacred feminine. In 2005, I received my second grant from the foundation to produce a body of digital photomontages based on family archetypes and genetic coding about my most notorious relative, General Pancho Villa of Mexico.

However, my artwork began a shift the moment that Cancer entered into the relationship between my partner and myself. His diagnosis and subsequent death changed not only my life but also my art. During his nine month battle with the disease, I was drawn to color and a heightened state of beauty. My work contained everything my life at this time did not. I began creating Madonna and saint figures that resonated calmness and an ethereal quality that provided me with a sense of peace outside my routine of impersonal doctors and sterile hospitals. Using vintage photographs containing scuffmarks and scratches as most of the centerpieces for my compositions, I had the factor of decay already present. These marks represent the one dark element within this series. Building upon them further through added, digital manipulation, I am providing a visual expression of the deterioration associated with age, disease and ultimately, of course, death. This work is my way of surviving the abandonment created by death through the act of creation as a means of self-expression and self-preservation.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As a teacher I set up an atmosphere aimed at breaking down boundaries through investigation and experimentation. By providing a broad and diverse vocabulary I am able to help students locate their own unique voices through their own sense of natural curiosity. I have always pushed students to test the boundaries of what they consider art to be, whether through the act of creation, presentation, or by interpolating one media into another. Perhaps this is because I have always pushed myself to go exploring outside my own comfort zone. Only through trial and error can true knowledge and skill be gained.

The Digital art world is an extremely technically oriented field. I therefore expect my students to become fluent in the basic understanding and principles of the media. This means they must be diligent to the constantly changing and fluctuating digital technologies along with an understanding of art history as well as the pedagogy of contemporary art theory. These factors are important for my students to gain a foundation on which to build their creative voices upon. This knowledge gives them the verbal understanding on why they create and the language they will need to define and defend their work within the framework of contemporary society.

REFERENCES:

RUTH ADAMS

Associate Professor of Photography
Board of Directors, SPE National
University of Kentucky
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GARRY R. BIBBS

Associate Professor of Sculpture,
University of Kentucky
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KRISTINA BOGDANOV

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GERALD FERSTMAN

Associate Professor of Printmaking and Drawing,
University of Kentucky

LAURA HEYRMAN

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Bluegrass Community & Technical College
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JEFFREY L. SIPPEL

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