

# Laura Elizabeth Sapelly

## Education

- 2016 **The Pennsylvania State University**  
Doctor of Philosophy, Dual Degree in Art Education and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2010 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Teacher's License #439555, Visual Art, grades 5-12
- 2004 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**  
Master of Fine Arts in Fiber Arts
- 2003 Mediterranean Studies Association Summer Study Abroad Program, Sicily, Italy  
Painting, Drawing, and Art History
- 1994 **Harvard University**  
Master of Liberal Arts in History
- 1989 **Massachusetts College of Art and Design**  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Design

## University Teaching Experience

- 2017-present **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**  
Lecturer & Placement Coordinator  
Department of Art Education  
*Courses:* Histories/Theories/Philosophies of American Public Education, Fieldwork: Elementary and Secondary Experiences Seminar, Apprentice Teaching Seminar.  
Graduate thesis advising.
- 2014-present **The Pennsylvania State University, World Campus, College of Liberal Arts**  
Online Lecturer  
Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies  
*Courses:* Living in a Diverse World, Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art, and Popular Culture, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
  
Department of History  
*Courses:* American Civilization to 1877, American Civilization from 1877, The World at War, 1939-1945, Europe Since 1848
- 2015-2017 **The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, College of Liberal Arts**  
Lecturer  
Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies  
*Courses:* Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art, and Popular Culture, Debates in Contemporary Feminism, Doing Feminism: Theory and Practice
- 2010-2012 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, College of Visual and Performing Arts**  
Lecturer & Placement Coordinator  
Department of Art Education  
*Courses:* Contemporary Artists in the K-12 Classroom, Mixed and Multi-media in the K-12 Classroom, Textiles in the K-12 Classroom
- 1994-1995 **Roxbury Community College, Humanities Program, Roxbury, MA**  
Lecturer  
*Courses:* World History, Introduction to Humanities, Human Conduct and Values

## Visiting Artist, Museum and K-12 Education

- 2008-11 **DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA**  
Taught fiber arts workshops to adult students using clothing, book, vessel and stuffed forms.
- 2011 **St. Peter and Paul's School, Fall River, MA**  
Integrated art into fifth grade Social Science curricula; collaborated with students and teacher to design and create a *Flags of the World* quilt.
- Brooks Middle School, Lincoln, MA**  
Integrated stitching into studio art curricula; collaborated with students and art teacher to design and create stitched drawings.
- 2010 **Plouffe Academy, Brockton, MA**  
Integrated observational and stitched drawing activities in an International Baccalaureate authorized middle school.
- 2008-09 **Fuller Craft Museum-Gilmore Academy, Brockton, MA**  
Taught a mixed-media art elective at an International Baccalaureate authorized middle school the museum's Art Aspire program.
- 2009 **Fuller Craft Museum-Brockton High School, Brockton, MA**  
Assisted Brockton High School students in creating site-specific installations for the city's *Summer of Work and Learning/Art in Windows* program
- Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA**  
Art and Mentoring program  
Created hand dyed designs exhibited in Brockton Town Hall in partnership with Stonehill College undergraduates, Plouffe Elementary School students, and members of Boston's Artists for Humanity.

## Related Academic Work Experience

- 2017-2018 **Illinois Licensure Testing System Development Conference, Springfield, IL**  
Visual Arts Content Advisory Committee, Item review and Framework redesign of Visual Arts Content Exam
- 2013-2015 **The Pennsylvania State University, School of Visual Arts**  
Director, Edward R. Zoller Gallery
- 2006-2008 **Adelante! Youth Center, Lawrence, MA**  
Grant writer  
Won over \$40,000 in grant monies for educational programming to support at-risk youth, including a \$25,000 grant from Bank of America
- 2002-2003 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, College of Visual and Performing Arts**  
Assistant Academic and Student Life Advisor
- 1995-2001 **IBM, Cambridge, MA**  
Instructional Designer, Technical Writer, & Technical Trainer

## Publications

- 2019      **Spinning, sewing, and soliciting for the American Revolution** invited chapter in *Crafting Dissent: Handicraft as Protest from the American Revolution to the anti-Trump Pussyhats* edited by H. Mandell. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

## Website Author

- 2016      **A feminist pedagogy through the sociopolitical stitch**, invited contribution to Textile Society of America: <https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/6446/a-feminist-pedagogy-through-the-sociopolitical-stitch/>
- 2014      **The case for living aesthetics** invited contribution to The Rhinoceros Project: <http://rhinocerosproject.tumblr.com/readingroom>, <http://www.laurasapelly.com/blog/2017/1/7/the-case-for-living-aesthetics-continued-from-november-2014>

## Interviews

- 2017      **Role of knitting and sewing in political activism** live with Rebecca Corral, anchor, KCBS Radio, San Francisco, CA.
- 2016      **Stitch by stitch, a brief history of knitting and activism**, invited by Corinne Segal, PBS Newshour's Art Beat. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/stitch-stitch-history-knitting-activism/>

## Exhibitions

- 2015-2016      **Zoller Gallery, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA**  
*The Sewing Circle as Social Practice*
- 2013      **Borland Gallery, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA**  
*Subversive Humor*  
Invitational
- 2011      **Artworks! Community Art Center Gallery, New Bedford, MA**  
*One Passion, Many Voices*  
Juried
- Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**  
*Merge and Flow*  
Juried
- 2010      **Herter Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
*What's the Story?*  
Juried
- Gallery X, New Bedford, MA**  
*Women of Umass: Alumnae*  
Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center  
Invitational

**Brockton Public Library, Brockton, MA**  
*Works from the Fine Arts Faculty, Brockton Public Schools*  
Invitational

2009 **Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA**  
*Veiled/Revealed*  
Solo

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Fall River Gallery**  
*Natural Selections*  
Invitational

**ALL Arts Gallery, Lowell, MA**  
*The Fabrication of Imagination*  
Juried

**Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, MO**  
*Surface Matters*  
Invitational

**Boston Center for the Arts, Cyclorama, Boston, MA**  
*Unexpected*  
Invitational

2008 **Somerset Public Library, Somerset, MA**  
*Pages from a Somerset Memoir*  
Solo

2006 **Bedford Free Public Library, Bedford, MA**  
*Reinventing Traditions*  
Invitational

2007 **Bedford Free Public Library, Bedford, MA**  
*Reinventing Traditions*  
Invitational

2006 **Ayer Lofts Gallery, Lowell, MA**  
*Small Works II*  
Juried

**ALL Arts Gallery, Lowell, MA**  
*Fiber Invitational*

2004 **Fiber Art Center, Amherst, MA**  
*Forward Fiber*  
Invitational

2003 **Gallery 244, New Bedford, MA**  
*Perspectives on Craft*  
Invitational

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, University Gallery**  
*Perspectives on Feminism: Art and Design*  
Juried

**The Handweaving Museum and Arts Center, Clayton, NY**  
*Image and Embellishment*  
Invitational

## Work in Public and Private Collections

The New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford, Massachusetts  
Mindy Boffmeyer and Gregory Kausch, State College, Pennsylvania  
Linda Wolf and Stephen Bennett, Waltham, Massachusetts  
Rick and Martha Hanson, Hollis, New Hampshire  
Marjorie Puryear, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
Susan Hamlet, New Bedford, Massachusetts  
James Lawton, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
Robert and Kathleen Damish, Walpole, Massachusetts

## Exhibition Reviews

2008 **Fabric of her life** *The Point*, p. C1.  
2002 **Capturing fishermen on fabric** reviewed by Beth Purdue, *The New Bedford Standard Times*, p. F1.  
**Young designers show their style** reviewed by James Reed, *The New Bedford Standard Times*, pp. 10-11.

## Awards and Honors

2016 **The Pennsylvania State University**  
Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
*The Sara Woods Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award*  
2015 **The Pennsylvania State University**  
Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
*The Sara Woods Outstanding Graduate Student Award*

## Grants and Fellowships

2012-2013 **The Pennsylvania State University**  
*The Graduate School*  
University Fellow  
2003 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**  
*Chancellor's Centennial Scholarship for Academic Excellence*  
*Dean Mary Louise Walsh Scholarship for Summer Study Abroad*  
2002 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**  
*Lillian Telles Jenkins Scholarship*  
**Massachusetts Cultural Council**  
*Two grants to create public art quilts for the city of New Bedford, MA*

## Peer-Reviewed Conference Activity

### Panels Organized

- 2017 **College Art Association conference, New York, NY**  
*Feminist pedagogy through activist art practices*, Sponsored by the Committee for Women in the Arts

### Presentations

- 2019 **National Art Education Association conference, Boston, MA**  
*Ordinary Aesthetics, Studio Practices, and Improvisational Quilting in the High School Classroom*
- 2018 **Illinois Art Education Association conference, Normal, IL**  
*Connecting Ordinary Aesthetics to Studio Practices through Improvisational Quilting in the High School Classroom*
- 2015 **Arts Practice Research Conference, Lubbock, TX**  
*Everyday activism through the living aesthetics of a sewing circle*
- 2014 **International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry conference, Urbana, IL**  
*The missing mother: Stitching and shaping the twentieth century girl*
- National Art Education Association conference, San Diego, CA**  
*Crafting sites of collective stitching*
- 2013 **National Art Education Association conference, Cincinnati, OH**  
*The missing mother: Stitching and shaping the twentieth century girl*
- Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Art Education conference**  
*The stitched journal*
- Pennsylvania Art Education Association conference, Bethel, PA**  
*Sewing communities in the art room*
- 2011 **National Art Education Association conference, Seattle, WA**  
*The sewing machine as drawing tool*
- 2010 **National Art Education Association conference, Baltimore, MD**  
*From lead to thread: The stitched drawing*
- Massachusetts Art Education Association conference, Amherst, MA**  
*Stitched narratives*
- 2009 **Massachusetts Art Education Association conference, N. Dartmouth, MA**  
*Quilting across the disciplines*

### Workshops

- 2012 **Surface Design Association conference, Philadelphia, PA**  
*The stitched journal*

## Campus/Departmental Presentations

- 2015 **The Pennsylvania State University**  
*The sewing circle as pedagogy*, sponsored by the Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies
- The Pennsylvania State University**  
*The stitch in the fine arts studio*, sponsored by the School of Visual Arts

## Art and Art Education Service

- 2016-2019      **College Art Association, Committee for Women in the Arts**  
Assembled artists and activists for presentation focused on social practices.
- 2009-2011      **Surface Design Association, Director of Education**  
Board member instrumental in creating **SDA Scholars**, a program awarding scholarships to ten K-12 teachers to attend the annual SDA Conference.
- 2010-2011      **The Boston Globe, Scholastic Art Awards Committee**  
Reviewer for digital image awards given to art students in high schools throughout the Commonwealth.

## University Service

- 2016-2017      **The Pennsylvania State University, College of Liberal Arts**  
Search Committee, Filippelli Institute for e-Education and Outreach.
- 2009-2011      **The Pennsylvania State University, College of Art and Architecture**  
Faculty Award Committee

## Professional Memberships

- 2009-present      **National Art Education Association**
- 2013-2018      **College Art Association**
- 2013-present      **National Women's Studies Association**
- 2002-2012      **Surface Design Association**
- 2017-present      **Illinois Art Education Association**
- 2012-2016      **Pennsylvania Art Education Association**
- 2009-2012      **Massachusetts Art Education Association**

## Public Lectures

- 2007      **Lowell Quilt Festival, Lowell, MA**  
The sewing machine as sculpture tool
- 2002      **New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford, MA**  
The sewing machine as sculpture tool

## Volunteer Work

- 2007      **Odyssey Project, Chicago, IL**  
Visual arts instructor college-credit granting humanities program for underserved adults.
- 2002      **School on Wheels, Brockton, MA**  
Art teacher for educational enrichment program serving homeless children
- 2009-2011      **Rosie's Place, Boston, MA**  
Visual arts instructor for homeless shelter serving women
- 1989-1990      **Oxford Cyrenian Community, Oxford, UK**  
Residence worker serving the homeless