

Kate Skelly

Johns Hopkins University

2012-2015

M.A. Museum Studies

Kenyon College

2002-2006

B.A. Art History

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Practice and Armory Gallery Director, Virginia Tech

June 2023 – Present

- Curates exhibitions for the Armory and Mezzanine Galleries for the School of Visual Arts. Develops, produces, and realizes year-round gallery programming including solo exhibitions, group exhibitions, and educational activities related to SOVA's galleries, school programming, student exhibitions, and exhibition design/museum studies courses.
- Teaches a 2/1 course load, including Exhibition Design and Display, Advanced Exhibition Design, and Museum Studies.
- Maintains the Armory Gallery budget (for purchasing equipment and supplies, hiring of student workers, receptions, shipping/pick up/delivery of artwork, etc.)
- Manages gallery staff.

Owner and Artist, Skal Ceramics LLC

January 2021 – Present

- Designs, produces, and promotes handmade ceramic items.
- Negotiates wholesale orders with distributors.

Executive Director, Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation

January 2022 – May 2023

- Hired and supervised staff, interns, and volunteers including Curator, Museum Assistant, and Gallery Assistants.
- Led fundraising efforts including annual fund, membership drives, securing sponsorships, and grant writing.
- Designed, edited, and produced content for the Museum website, print media, e-newsletter, and social media.
- Oversaw the preservation and maintenance of two historic properties: St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall: African American Heritage Site and the Alexander Black House & Cultural Center.

- Oversaw the care and growth of the Museum's permanent collection.

Director of Programming, Floyd Center for the Arts

March 2021 – August 2021

- Responsible for developing and promoting programming designed to grow the programs and activities of the art center including arts education, cultural and art opportunities, performances, workshops, lectures, and exhibits.
- Wrote and developed content for gallery publications, press releases, website, social media channels, grant applications, and e-newsletters.
- Developed and maintained relationships with artists and instructors, scheduling educational arts experiences/classes/workshops for youth and adults.
- Organized and facilitated special events/fundraisers/festivals.
- Supervised support staff and volunteers.

Lecturer, Arts Leadership, Virginia Tech

July 2019 – July 2020

- Taught Arts Marketing courses.
- Oversaw media and communications for the School of Performing Arts.

Director of the University Art Galleries, University of South Dakota

June 2017 – January 2019

- Curated/developed/designed 10-12 exhibitions per year.
- Oversaw all operational aspects of galleries.
- Developed and managed lectures, panels, educational programs, art classes, gallery talks, performances, and fundraising events.
- Developed content for all gallery publications, collateral materials, website, and gallery social media.
- Wrote a \$50,000 Luce Foundation grant for the preservation of the University's Native American art collection.
- Oversaw the donation of over \$900,000 worth of artwork by noted artists including Oscar Howe and Bruce Conner.
- Co-managed a 3-year, \$300,000 Cargill Foundation grant for the Native arts program with the Chair of the Fine Arts Department.
- Hired and supervised staff and volunteers including Preparator, Collections Project Manager, and Gallery Assistants.

- Acted as chief spokesperson and public figure for the University Art Galleries.
- Managed the Oscar Howe Curatorial Fellowship Program and Northern Plains Indian Artist in Residence Program.
- Taught Introduction to Museum Studies course.

Communications and Program Coordinator, Western Museums Association Sept. 2015 – May 2017

- Developed museum conference programming including panel discussions, lectures, and special events.
- Worked with WMA Board to write a new Strategic Plan for the organization.
- Wrote and developed content for WMA newsletter, website, blog, and other communications materials.
- Acted as WebMaster for the WMA website.
- Developed annual WMA Marketing plan, editorial calendar, and digital content strategy.

Marketing and Special Projects Coordinator, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum April 2012-September 2015

- Managed O’Keeffe Museum website, social media, and other online communications.
- Wrote and developed content for gallery publications, website, social media channels, grant applications, and e-newsletters.
- Cultivated relationships with donors and patrons.
- Managed fundraising campaigns in coordination with Development staff.
- Wrote and reported on grant applications in coordination with the Grants Manager.
- Oversaw the production of informational and promotional videos.

Staff Writer, ArtSlant

June 2012-July 2013

- Reviewed exhibitions in the Santa Fe area.

Curatorial Assistant, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum

May 2007-April 2012

- Assisted with the research, planning, and installation of museum exhibitions.
- Oversaw the editing, printing, and circulation of exhibition brochures, exhibition publicity banners, and exhibition wall text.
- Maintained digital collections management systems for collections objects.
- Assisted with collections care and storage.
- Coordinated Museum’s fellowship program and lecture series.
- Supervised interns with long-term curatorial and conservation projects.

- Digitized materials from the Museum archives.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Practice, Virginia Tech, “Exhibition Design & Display”, “Advanced Exhibition Design”, and “Museum Studies: Theory and Practice”, Fall 2023 - Present

Lecturer, Virginia Tech, “Arts Marketing”, 2019

Guest Lecturer, University of South Dakota, “Introduction to Museums Studies”, 2017

Instructor, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of South Dakota, “Art Appreciation”, 2018

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Thường. Việt Lê | Ly Hoàng Ly 2 person Solo Exhibition, February 28 - April 4, 2025, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Macon Reed: Hello Death, Where Have You Been All My Life?, October 10 - November 22, 2024, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Chase Bowman: Threadbare Heart, August 26 - October 3, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Amy Fill: Exquisite Cloud, June 20 - July 26, 2024, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Collections and Connections: Excerpts from the Swiss Poster Collection at Virginia Tech, February 29 - March 29, 2025, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Earth and Fire Exhibition 2024, Stifel Fine Arts Center [artist], February 23, 2024 - March 30, 2024

Bob Marsh: Letters and Melodies, January 16 - February 22, 2024, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

FunctionFest, November 17–December 15, Clay Center of New Orleans [artist]

Chris Demaria: Now We Stand Outcast, October 10 - November 17, 2023, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

Alex Foster: Cycles of Becoming, August 28 - September 29, 2023, Virginia Tech Armory Gallery [director]

From Africa to Appalachia: Roots of Old-time and Bluegrass, October 7 – November 19, 2022, Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation [director]

Virginia is for Farmers: Agriculture in Southwest Virginia, Then and Now, July 8 – August 18, 2022 [director]

Becoming Howe: Five Decades of Oscar Howe, August 2019 - February 2020, University of South Dakota, [curator]

Bruce Conner: A Limitless Circle, University of South Dakota, March 17, 2019 – April 5th, 2019 [curator]

Nancy Friedemann-Sánchez: Palimpsests, University of South Dakota, December 14, 2018 – January 17, 2019 [director]

Gregory Euclide: Thesis, October 11, 2018 - January 2019, University of South Dakota, [curator]

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Future Ancestral Technologies, University of South Dakota, August 15 - October 12, 2018 [director]

Wade Patton: Home, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, 2017 [director]

Georgia O’Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land, May 17, 2013 - September 8, 2013 [curatorial assistant]

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: Landscapes of an American Modernist, January 27, 2012 - April 29, 2012 [curatorial assistant]

Georgia O’Keeffe and the Faraway: Nature and Image, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, 2012 [curatorial assistant]

Shared Intelligence: American Painting and the Photograph, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, 2011 [curatorial assistant]

Modernists in New Mexico: Works from a Private Collector, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, 2010 [curatorial assistant]

Georgia O’Keeffe: Abstraction, Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, 2009 [curatorial assistant]

GRANTS & AWARDS

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia Resource Team Grant Projects, Mellon Foundation, 2024
\$2000

Virginia Tech New Faculty Mentoring Grant, December 2023, \$1,500

Virginia Humanities, Rapid Grant, February 2023, \$5000

Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) Award, October 2022, \$8,000

ICAT Sead Grant, *The World of Pamela Colman Smith: A Virtual Reality Experience*, Virginia Tech, April 2020, \$3,000

Arts & Empathy Research Faculty Grant for Research at the Center for Arts and Empathy at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Virginia Tech, November 2019, \$2,000

American Art Responsive Grant, Luce Foundation, September 2018, \$50,000

Bush Foundation Research Scholarship, October 2018, \$2,000

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

“After Dark: Fay Ku’s Asa Nisa Masa at Eight Modern”, ArtSlant, June 2013.

“Material World: Rare Earth at Red Dot Gallery”, ArtSlant, May 2013.

“Until The End of the World: Michelle Blade’s Making Light Of It at CCA, Santa Fe”, ArtSlant, January 2013.

“The Plush Life: Stitch Thought at CCA, Santa Fe”, ArtSlant, November 2012.

“Turn on the Bright Lights: SCUBA’s Inside the Outside at Caldera Gallery”, ArtSlant, October 2012.

“Market Watch: Meow Wolf’s OmegaMart”, ArtSlant, September 2012.

“Reality Check: Art in the Age of Truthiness at SITE Santa Fe”, ArtSlant, August 2012.

“Sparkle and Fade: Art Santa Fe 2012”, ArtSlant, July 2012.

“Where the Wild Things Are: Ferus at EGGMAN and WALRUS gallery”, ArtSlant, June 2012.

SERVICE

Public and Visual Arts Council, Virginia Tech, Fall 2024 - Present

Local Arrangements Committee, Virginia Association of Museums, August 2024 - March 2025

Rhizome Living-Learning Community Advisory Committee Member, Virginia Tech, Fall 2023 - Present

Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia Resource Team Member, Virginia Tech, Fall 2023 - Present

Material Culture Steering Committee, Virginia Tech, Fall 2023 - Present

Inclusion & Diversity Committee Member, School of Performing Arts, Virginia Tech, September 2019–July 2020

Experiential Learning Committee Member, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Virginia Tech, September 2019 –July 2020

Collaborator, Empathy Tour Pilot, Center for Empathy and the Visual Arts, Minneapolis Art Institute, November 2019

“Champion” Consultant, Bush Foundation Change Network, September 2018 –2019

Committee Member, Northern Plains Indian Art Market, 2017–2019

Committee Member, Vermillion Downtown Cultural Association, 2017–2019

Committee Member, Vermillion Sculpture Walk, 2017–2019

Juror, Arts Night, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, Winter 2017

Volunteer Web Designer, Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum, Rancho Dominguez, California, March 2014–July 2014

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) 2024 - Present

Association of Academic Galleries and Museums (AAMG), September 2023 - Present

American Alliance of Museums (AAM), 2007- 2019

Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums, 2018- 2019

Native American Art Studies Association (NAASA), 2017- 2019

Western Museum Association (WMA), September 2015 - June 2017

Museum Computer Network (MCN), September 2012 - 2015

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Dreamweaver. Adobe Animate, Acrobat, Arts People Ticketing Software, Asana, Audacity, Basecamp & Wrike Project Management, Blackboard, Canva, Constant Contact, CONTENTdm, Counterpoint, CSS, Dreamweaver, Drupal, Excel, Facebook Insights, File Maker Pro, Final Cut Pro, Google Analytics, Grant Writing, Hootsuite, HTML, Illustrator, InDesign, Instagram, Linux, Mac, Maya, MailChimp, The Museum System (TMS), Outlook, PastPerfect, Photoshop, PowerPoint, Raiser’s Edge, SEO Best Practices, Squarespace, TikTok, Tweetdeck, Unity, Vernon CMS, Weebly, Windows, Word, WordPress, XHTML. Professional experience in digital photography, website design, and app development.