

# Sonja Czekalski

Artist and Educator

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## Experience

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### Sonja Czekalski

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### SMFA Tufts University/ Pre- College Program Director

March 2022- Present, Wakefield RI

I organize and implement the visual arts summer intensive pre- college program for prospective SMFA students. Duties include curriculum design, hiring team, syllabi review to ensure standards, review of material orders, program marketing, lead planning meetings, organization of student schedules and field trips and installation of final student exhibitions.

### Art Department, Framingham State University / Visiting Lecturer

August 2021 - Present, Framingham MA

Art 167: Introduction to Studio Art (Remote)

### Hera Gallery / Gallery Director

March 2021 - Present, Wakefield RI

I curate and install art exhibitions , coordinate art and culture education within the community, collaborate with local and national artists to organize virtual and in person exhibitions and events. I develop websites, virtual gallery spaces, digital resources, marketing campaigns, manage social media promotional services, and organize and implement the intensive college internship program.

### Massachusetts College of Art and Design/ Graduate Assistant

September 2020- May 2021, Boston MA

I facilitated virtual learning experiences for Sculpture, Visual Language, Advanced Painting, and Curating Fashion, collaborated with professors to develop virtual learning curriculum and lectures, created websites and digital resources to engage students in a virtual studio environment, and facilitated class critiques.

### Cumberland High School/ 9-12 Studio Art Teacher

August 2017 - June 2020, Cumberland RI

I taught a variety of studio art courses both in person and online ( Studio Art 1-3. Ceramics 1, Sculpture 1 and Art History 1 and 2), advised the National Art Honors Society and Jewelry Club, was a leading member of Cumberland High School Assessment Committee , and designed the CHS Art History curriculum.

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## Education

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### Massachusetts College of Art and Design/ MFA in Fine Arts

June 2019 -August 2021, Boston MA

Coursework: Contemporary art history, art theory, printmaking, fiber arts, hand papermaking, welding, and book making.

### Rhode Island College / BS in Art Education, Concentration in Painting

September 2014 - May 2017, Providence RI

Coursework: Contemporary art history, art history, art theory, art education, painting, drawing, ceramics, color theory, digital media, printmaking, sculpture, woodworking, and metalsmithing.

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## Accomplishments/ Curatorial Experience

- Juror Prize- for *The Top 10* in Double Take, International Juried Exhibition Trolley Barn Gallery Poughkeepsie NY
- Awards Juror, Providence Art Club Fall Members Show, 2021
- Co-Curator of *Bodies Embodied*, a small group show featuring the work of Sonja Czekalski, Leslie Goldman, and Jillian Vaccaro, 2021
- Dean's Scholarship- Massachusetts College of Art and Design Awarded Spring 2021
- Antonio Cirino Memorial Scholarship Award- Grant for Massachusetts College of Art and Design 2019 and 2020
- Light Space and Time 10th Anniversary Virtual Exhibition- Merit Award Recipient for *Breath*, Summer 2020
- Grey Cube Gallery Merit Award for Outstanding Art- Portrait Series Virtual Exhibition, featured work *I'm a Mess*, Summer 2020
- PAC Textures Exhibition- 4th place winner for *I'm a Mess*, Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, Fall 2019

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## Exhibitions

- *Paper Off Skin*, RANT Arts and Burnie Arts Council, Burnie, Tasmania, Summer 2022
- *Bodies; Embodied*, Laconia Gallery, Boston MA, Spring 2022
- *Where We Are*, Hera Gallery, Wakefield RI, Spring 2022
- *Empowerment Vs. Exploitation*, Cultural Center of Cape Cod, South Yarmouth MA, Winter 2022
- *Double Take*, Trolley Barn Gallery, Poughkeepsie NY, Winter 2022
- *COHORTS – alone : together*, MFA Online Exhibition, University of Montana, Winter 2021-2022
- *Newport Biennial*, Newport Art Museum, Newport RI, Winter 2021-2022
- *Exposed*, Hera Gallery, Small Group Members Show, Wakefield RI, Fall 2021
- *Small Works*, Hera Gallery, Members Exhibition, Wakefield RI, Fall 2021
- *Small Doses*, Periphery Space, Providence RI, Fall 2021
- *Yeah, I'm doing great*, Mass Art Alumni Juried Exhibition, MassArt SOWA, Boston MA, Fall 2021
- *Unthemed*, Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, Fall 2021

- *Bodies Embodied*, Patricia Doran Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston MA, Summer 2021
- *Changing Since Changing*, MassArt SOWA, Boston MA, Summer 2021
- *Rhode Island Community Invitational Exhibition*, Providence Art Club, Providence RI, Spring 2021
- *Fresh Faces 2021*, Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, Virtual Exhibition, Spring 2021
- *Fresh Faces 2021*, Artsy, Virtual Exhibition, Spring 2021
- *Femme- Art Fluent*, Internation Virtual Exhibition, Spring 2021
- *Artist Visions 2021*-Marin Society of Art, Virtual Exhibition Spring 2021
- *Women in Art 2021*- Las Lagunas Gallery, Virtual Exhibition, Spring 2021
- *Inner Pictures*- Hera Gallery Small Group Members Show, Wakefield RI, Fall 2020
- *Windows on Pawtucket*- Art League Rhode Island and the Pawtucket Foundation Window Installation, Fall-Spring 2020
- *3rd Annual Women Artist Art Exhibition*- Fusion Art Palm Springs Virtual Exhibition, Fall and Winter 2020
- *Micheal Rose 30 Under 30 National Virtual Exhibition*- Michael Rose Virtual Gallery, Summer 2020
- *10th Anniversary Online Art Competition*- Virtual Exhibition, Light Space and Time Gallery, Summer 2020
- *Grey Cube Gallery* - Portrait Series Virtual Exhibition, Summer 2020
- *Primary Colors*- Primary Colors Virtual Exhibition, Light Space and Time Gallery, Summer 2020
- *Lines, Shapes, and Objects*- Fusion Art Palm Springs Virtual Exhibition, Summer 2020
- *Millennial RI Virtual Exhibition Featured Artist*- Millennial RI, Providence RI, Spring 2020
- *13th Annual Pawtucket Foundation Prize Exhibition*- Exhibited Selected Works Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, Winter 2020
- *Art Speaks Out*- Political Pop-Up Show, Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, January 2020
- *5th Decade of Hera*- Jamestown Arts Center, Jamestown RI, Winter 2020
- *PAC Textures Exhibition*, Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, Fall 2019
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design- Exhibited Selected Works June 2019-August 2019
- *The Naked Print*- Photography Exhibition- RI Center for Photographic Arts, Providence RI, Winter 2019
- *42nd Festival of the Arts Photography Exhibition*- North River Arts Society, Marshfield MA, Summer 2018
- *Focus on Figures Exhibition*- North River Arts Society, Marshfield MA, Spring 2018
- *11th Annual Pawtucket Foundation Prize Exhibition*- Pawtucket Arts Collaborative, Pawtucket RI, Spring 2018
- *Extra-Terrestrial Nation Exhibition*- Alien Entertainment Pawtucket RI, Fall 2017
- *Edge of the Outback-Photography Exhibition*- Stefano's Cafe, Mildura Australia, Summer 2016

- Summer 2021 MFA Thesis Talks, presented *Viscera: A Body of Work*, in virtual lecture series

- *WE THE ARTISTS: AMERICA 2021: HERA EXHIBITION PULLS THE COUNTRY TOGETHER*, Artscope Magazine, Issue May/June 2021
  - Windows on Pawtucket, Year 1 Catalogue, Art League Rhode Island, Fall 2021
  - Witches Mag Contributor Issue #5, Published writings and artworks, Summer 2021
  - Massachusetts College of Art and Design Fashion Archive Digital Catalog, *Then & Now*
  - Witches Mag Contributor Issue #4, Published writings and artworks, Summer 2020
  - Witches Mag Contributor Issue #3, Published writings and artworks, Winter 2020
  - Illustrated Children's book *Home is Where the Heart Is*, for Woonsocket Rhode Island Homeless Shelter Winter 2015
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## Residencies

- *Edge of the Outback*, student photography and Australian Aboriginal history residency, Mildura Australia, Summer 2016