

Dana Major

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Education

- Master of Fine Art, Studio Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2011
- Bachelor of Arts, Majors in Philosophy and English, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, 1991, cum laude
- Figurative Sculpture Apprenticeship under Alexander Zadorin, Professor of Ceramic Sculpture at Mukhina Institute of Art, St. Petersburg, Russia 1992 -1993

Exhibitions and Performances

2025

- *Where Energy Meets Matter*, Frederick Arts Council, Frederick, MD
- *Out of the Shadows*, Carter Burden Gallery, New York, NY
- *More than Meets the Eye: Abstract Exhibition*, Oak Park Art League, Chicago, IL
- *The Mystical, The Magical & The Macabre*, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL
- *Discovery*, Gallery of Hermosa, Hermosa Beach, CA
- *Shadows*, Chicago Sculpture International Project Space, Chicago, IL

2024

- *Uncommitted Crimes*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performance, Parlour and Ramp, Chicago, IL
- *Seeing Each Other*, Northern Illinois University Art Museum, DeKalb, IL
- *Monira Foundation for EXPO*, Mana Contemporary Chicago, Chicago, IL

2023

- *Purgatorio*, Boyz with Apple Theater Company, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performance, Chicago, IL

2022

- *Crystal Ball*, Chicago Art Department, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Chicago, IL
- *EXPO Chicago*, 6018 North, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances

2020

- *Sanctuary Sessions | Collective Seeing*, 6018 North, Virtual, Moderated By Tricia Van Eck, May 2020

2019

- EXPO Chicago *Justice Hotel Project. Sanctuary* presented by 6018|North, Crystal Seeing performance for Vernissage VIP opening night
- *Luminosity in the Darkest*, solo exhibition, Pablo Center, Eau Claire, WI, curated by Rose Dolan-Neill

2018

- Envisage Art Residency, in conjunction with a solo exhibition at Pablo Center, Eau Claire Wisconsin Residency programming by CV Peterson 2017
- *Mothering*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL
- *PROJECT ONE* Inaugural Event, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Chicago, IL
- *Crystal Palace Crystal Caves*, Solo show, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances *Corner*, Chicago, IL curated by Lynn Basa, Programming with Rhonda Wheatley

2016

- High Concept Labs, *Visible Music*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Chicago, IL
- *ACTIVATE!*, Chicago Loop Alliance, Public Arts Event, Sullivan Alley, Chicago, IL • *One Long Table*, 6018 North, Chicago, IL, curated by Tricia Van Eck
- HATORADE RETROGRADE, contributing artist, installed reality by Lise Haller Baggesen, Threewalls Gallery, Chicago, IL
- *Crystal Ball*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL
- *Mark-Making*, Olivet University, Bourbonnaise, IL
- *Who Will Care for the Sky*, contributing artist for curated exhibition by Sabina Ott, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- *THAW X*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Salvage One | Links Hall, Chicago, IL
- *A Surprise in the Process*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Chicago Art Department, Chicago, IL

2015

- *Its Elemental*, 6018 North, Chicago, IL, curated by Tricia Van Eck

- *Front & Center*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- EXPO Chicago, *Chapel*, Light installation with Crystal Seeing performances, presented by 6018 North
- *Seductive Materials*, Zhou Brothers Art Center, curated by Sergio Gomez
- *Hybrid's Paradise*, Light Installation, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL

2014

- *SpotLight*, Elmhurst Art Museum, curated by Staci Boris, Elmhurst IL
- *Starwalker Fortune Matrix*, Light Installation and Crystal Seeing Performances, Threewalls Gallery, curated by Shanon Stratton

2013

- *Ways of Making*, Governors State University, University Park, IL, curated by Jeff Stevenson
- *Metamorphosis*, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL
- *Lightsense*, 33 Contemporary, Chicago, IL, curated by Sergio Gomez

2012

- Garfield Park Conservatory, *Chicago's Twelve*, solo installation in the fern room, Chicago, IL, curated by Sergio Gomez 2011
- *LUMA 2011* Benefit Auction Loyola Museum of Art, Chicago, IL
- *33*, Goat Barn, Performative mural project, independent, Cadiz, KY
- *Centerline 11*, Zhou Brothers Art Center, Chicago, IL
- *Touch*, M.F.A. Graduate Thesis Exhibition, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

2010

- *Nude*, Perimeter Gallery, SOFA Chicago
- *Put To Paper*, first ever Interactive Performance at SOFA, Perimeter and Ferrin Galleries, SOFA Chicago
- *Bonus Day*, A Performative Exhibition by Collaboration, Swanson Reed Contemporary, with Amy Lemaire, Louisville, KY, curated by Chuck Swanson
- *Proof*, Interactive performance, NCECA 2010 Conference, Philadelphia, Convention Center, in collaboration with Amy Lemaire

2009

- Residents of the Archie Bray, NCECA, Phoenix, AZ
- Alter Piece*, Interactive Performance in conjunction with The Self and Beyond exhibition, Wexler Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- Wetware, Render Machine/Binary* drawing performance, St. Paul's Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
- The Self and Beyond*, group show with Kiki Smith, Monica Bilenker, and Monica Cook, Wexler Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

2008

- Artist as Alchemist*, Highland Park Art Center, IL
- Waterline*, Interactive Performance, Lillstreet Art Center, Chicago, IL
- Residents of the Archie Bray Foundation exhibition, Helena, MT
- Train Tagging*, Interactive Performance, Independent, Dillon, MT
- Fortune Project*, Interactive Performance, The Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Art, Helena, MT

2007 and Prior Selected Exhibitions

- Surface Matters*, Lillstreet Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2006 & 2007
- Time Passes*, Solo Exhibition, LillStreet Art Center, Chicago, IL, 2007
- SOFA Sculpture, Objects, Functional Art*, Presented by Ferrin Gallery of Pittsfield, MA, Chicago, IL 1998, 1999, 2000, 2006, 2007; SOFA New York, NY 1998, 1999, 2000; SOFA NCECA Louisville, KY 2007
- American Craft Council retail and wholesale shows annually, Baltimore, MD and Chicago, IL, 1995-2003
- National Arts and Crafts shows and fairs including: Peoria Art Festival, (IL) 2005, Cherry Creek Arts Festival (CO) 2004 (award), St. Louis Art Fair (MO) 2003 (award), Park City Art Fair (UT) 2000, Restin Art Fair (VA) 1999, Berea Arts Festival (KY) 1996, St. James Art Fair (KY) 2002
- Piedmont Craftsmen Gallery, New Artist Exhibition, Winston-Salem, NC 2003 • Society for Arts and Crafts, Mystical Ritual and Spiritual, Boston, MA 2000
- Kentucky Museum of Art + Design: Duo Show with Mary Zena 1996; Solo Show 1997; Group Show 1999
- Mastery in Clay*, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA 1998 and 2006 • *Cups*, Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, MA 2000
- American Crafts Gallery, Solo Show, Cleveland, OH, 1999
- Wasatch Annual Invitational, Park City, UT 1998

- The Clay Studio 25th Anniversary, Philadelphia, PA 1997
- Nancy Sachs Gallery, New Works, solo show, St. Louis, MO 1997
- Earth Forms*, 2-person with Wyman Rice, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, KY 1996
- Your Life Changes Completely Today*, Actors Theater of Louisville, KY, Visual Arts Gallery, solo show, 1996
- Featured Artist Exhibitions: Red Sky Gallery, Charlotte, NC (2005); Mark Milliken Gallery, New York, NY (2003); Bellagio Craft Gallery, Asheville NC (1998); American Artisan Gallery, Nashville, TN (1998)
- United States/Russia Ceramics Symposium Exhibition, Museum of City of St. Petersburg, Russia 1993 (Director)
- Dzintari International Invitational Ceramic Art Symposium Exhibition, Riga, Latvia, 1993
- International Invitational of Ceramic Art China Painting Symposium Exhibition, Dzintari, Latvia, 1992
- Awards/Recognition/Residencies
- Residency, Envisage Art Residency, Eau Claire, WI, 2018 • Residency and Solo Show, *Corner*, Chicago, IL, 2017
- Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Sculpture Department, beginning Sep 2016
- Named as Chicago Magazine's top artist at EXPO Chicago, IL, 2015
- Visiting Artist, Elmhurst Art Museum, 2-day Workshop: Shadow Puppetry: making and staging, Elmhurst, IL, 2013
- Visiting Artist Workshop, Santa Fe Clay, Santa Fe, NM, 2012
- Annenberg Fellowship Nominee, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL, 2011
- Visiting Artist Instructor; Santa Fe Clay, Slab Construction for Figurative Sculpture, 2011
- TA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Art and Technology Department, 2010-2011. Forbidden Avant Guards: Light Sound and Movement
- Residency, Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Art, Helena, MT, 2008
- Teaching Artist Resident, Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Art, Helena MT
- 2008**
- LillStreet artist studio workshop programs: instructor for ceramics, light metals, encaustic painting, art marketing, Chicago 2004 - 2009
- Best New Work, Cherry Creek Art Festival, Denver, CO, 2004
- Artist's Choice Award, St. Louis Art Fair, MO, 2003
- Best in Show, Wasatch Annual Invitational, Park City, UT, 1998

- Director, first USA/Russia Ceramic Art Exchange Symposium approved by the Union of Artists of St. Petersburg, Russia, 1993
- Residency, Overglaze/China Painting, Dzintari International Ceramic Art Center, Dzintari, Latvia, April – May 1993
- Residency, Ceramic Sculpture, Dzintari International Ceramic Art Center, Dzintari, Latvia Oct – Nov 1992 (Teaching)
- Instructional Programming and Workshops offered as part of art installations and residencies: 2016 & 2017 *Corner*, Chicago Artist Residency Educational Programming 2013 Elmhurst Art Museum shadow puppetry workshop, Elmhurst, IL 2015 Hyde Park Art Center Center Program, Chicago IL 2007 Archie Bray Foundation: Automobile Painting Techniques

Visiting Artist workshops and art projects:

- 2004-2016: Chicago Waldorf School, 11 workshops
- 2006-2010: Roycemore Academy, Evanston, IL, 4 workshops
- 2013-2014, Beacon Academy, 3 projects
- 1994-2003 Louisville Collegiate School, 5 workshops; Kentucky Country Day School, 2 workshops
- Studio Teaching: Instructional fabrication and techniques classes and workshops offered to groups of adult students in ongoing educational programming created in studio 1994-present.
- Workshop: Making and Marketing for Retail and Wholesale Handmade Craft, offered 7 times through Louisville Craftsman's Guild, 1995-2003; 3 times through Park City Art Association 1999-2001; and by invitation to Florida Craftsmen's Guild

Bibliography

- 500 Ceramic Sculptures: Contemporary Practice, Singular Works*. Lark Books, New York, 2009, p. 238. *Ceramic Sculptures*. Lark Books, New York, 2011, p. 184.
- Dluzen, Robin. *Catalogue Essay for Crystal Palace Crystal Caves*. Corner Chicago, www.cornerchicago.com, last accessed 12 Dec. 2016.
- Foumberg, Jason. "Critic's Choice: Critics Guide to EXPO Chicago 2015." Chicago Magazine, Sept. 2015, www.chicagomag.com/arts-culture/September-2015/Critics-Guide-to-EXPO-Chicago/, last accessed 17 Sept. 2019.

- Reichert, Elizabeth. *“On Transformation and Wings.”* Ceramics: Art and Perception, no. 71, Apr.–June 2008, pp. 13–17.
- “Suboart Magazine Nr. 44.”* Edited by Nina Seidel and Carolina Castilho, Suboart Magazine, 17 Aug. 2025,
suboartmagazine.com/2025/08/17/suboart-magazine-nr-44/
- Yamasaki, Parker. *“EXPO 2022: Special Exhibitions Inhabit the Periphery of the Art World.”* Newcity Art, 6018 North, Chicago, 10 Apr. 2022,
www.art.newcity.com/2022/04/10/expo-2022-special-exhibitions-inhabit-the-periphery-of-the-art-world/.