

ALEX FRENCH

Education

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC 2004- 2008
B.A. in Studio Art- Concentration in painting/drawing

- Minor in Creative Writing

The Art Students League of New York, New York, NY 2007- 2010
Studied under William Behnken, Michael Grimaldi, and the late Anthony Palumbo

Employment

Independent Visual Arts Curator Project-based for Numerous Galleries and Venues, Baltimore, MD 2013- *Present*
Function Gallery Gallery Director and Curator, Baltimore, MD August 2018- December 2018 (*project based*)

I bring together diverse perspectives, often rooted in a sense of place, to engage in issues of empathy, collaboration and interdependence. The exhibitions I curate are dynamic- featuring local, regional, national and international artists. I regularly recruit new artists and offer high quality representation focusing on research, promotion, social media, sales and documentation.

***Jimmie's Angel: The True Story of an Extraordinary Encounter Between Two Aviation Pioneers* by Jimmy Marull**

Biographical Novel- Editor In Chief Caracas, Venezuela- Baltimore, MD April 2023- *Present*

"I cannot find a rational explanation to understand this meeting, except for the fact we shared the same name and had each crashed on the same day of April, at the same time, yet thirty-seven years apart." *Jimmie's Angel* is the true story about two figures of aviation history transcending time and space to meet and share their legend.

SewLab USA and Hold Fast- Cut + Sew, Bike Equipment and Lifestyle Accessories Baltimore, MD August 2021- June 2022

Assistant Director of Sales; Durable Soft Goods Fabricator

- Fabricated superior quality durable soft goods by hand with sustainably sourced materials under *SewLab USA* and *Hold Fast* product lines, in addition to commissioned products developed and fabricated for clients.
- Created the first dedicated sales leadership position in company history, where I led *Hold Fast* in the restructuring of information, revived dormant partnerships, and established new business relationships while expanding the brand's footprint into new markets.
- Increased Wholesale Sales by 37% vs. LY within first 3 months of assignment
- Wholesale business outreach, engagement and expansion, B2B Sales, Event Sales
- Copywriting, Product Debut and Sales Campaigning.
- Industrial Sewing Machine Operator, Quality Control and Inventory Management
- Proficient in Shopify Retail and Wholesale e-commerce platform

Hayles and Howe, Inc.- Ornamental Plasterwork and Scagliola Baltimore, MD February 2019- May 2021

Resource Manager, Studio Fabrication, On-Site Delivery, On-Site Construction

- Restored and fabricated high quality ornamental plasterwork, Venetian plaster and scagliola.
- Managed inventory and allocation, including logistics, documentation and transportation of site resources and heavy, fragile handmade products across multiple simultaneous construction sites.
- 30-Hour Construction Safety and Health Certification- US Department of Labor OSHA
- Cutting/Power Tools Operator- Workshop Safety, Maintenance and Operations Certification
- Forklift Operator- Workshop Certification
- Projects: Arlington House, Arlington National Cemetery, VA; US House of Representatives, Washington, DC; Woodrow Wilson House, Wash., DC; National Gallery of Art, Wash., DC; Milken Institute, Wash., DC; Polk County Courthouse, Des Moines, IA; CASA de Maryland, Baltimore, MD; multiple residential projects, among other projects.

Gutierrez Studios- Custom Metal and Wood Fabrication Baltimore, MD August 2017- June 2018

Installation Technician, Workshop Assistant

- Fabrication, finishing and installation of high quality handmade products such as staircases, screen-walls, signage, lighting, furniture and architectural features for the built environment.
- Workplace Fire Safety and Fire Extinguisher Trained- Fireline Corp.
- Cutting/Power Tools Operator- Workshop Safety, Maintenance and Operations Certification

K. Hamill Fine Art & Design Baltimore, MD January 2017- *Present (ongoing, as needed)*

Art Handler and Installer

- Responsible for the handling, placement and installation of art while maintaining residential and corporate clients' preferences, aesthetic integrity and adherence to insurance industry standards.

Plaza Artist Materials and Custom Framing Baltimore, MD April 2015- December 2016

Senior Keyholder

- Responsible for store opening, closing and maintenance; sales, customer service, custom framing design, and inventory management.
- Provided expert knowledge regarding the archival use of materials in the creation, preparation and custom framing of artworks.

Event Network- Cultural Attraction Retail Baltimore, MD 2010- 2014

Assistant Director of Retail Operations- National Aquarium and Port Discovery Children's Museum

- Achieved Highest National Per Capita One-Year Sales Increase- *Children's Museum Category, Company-wide Award, 2012*
- Broke 8-Year Single-Day Sales Record, with a fraction of the former store's physical area, 2013
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, Tradewind POS OS, and WinRetail Inventory Management OS
- All aspects of Retail Management and E-Commerce

The Art Students League of New York Store, New York, NY 2008-2009

Sales Associate, Web Sales Associate

- In-store sales, web sales, stock fulfillment, store facility maintenance
- Proficient in Counterpoint SQL POS operating system

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SWOON, Swimming Cities of Switchback Sea, Deitch Projects, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, New York, NY *Spring- Fall 2008*

Artist Studio Production, Gallery Installation, Ship Builder, Ship Crew, Play Performer

- "The project, 'Swimming Cities of Switchback Sea,' Swoon's latest large-scale work, is part floating artwork, part performance, part mobile utopia"- *The New York Times*, 2008

Languages

- English- fluent
- Spanish- read, write, conversational
- Hebrew- read and write, beginner comprehension
- Yiddish- phrases and basics, currently studying

Professional Installation

- Fine Art (15 years)
- Archival Use of Materials, Handling, Transport and Storage (15 years)
- Custom Architectural Features (3 years)
- Fabrication and Manufacturing (5 years)
- Wall Preparation and Painting (16 years)
- Residential and Commercial Flooring (28 years)

Professional Skills

- Project Management
- Strong Customer Service and Sales Background
- Clear Communicating Team Leader
- Multi-track Mind, Focused on Achieving Objectives
- Manufacturing, Time-Oriented Production-Run Process Experience
- Solution-Based, Creative Problem Solver

Certifications

- **30-Hour Construction Safety and Health Certification-** *US Department of Labor OSHA*
- **Multiple Company-based Workshop and Site, Safety and Operational Certifications-** Including forklift operation, fire safety, particle and chemical inhalation safety, heavy machine operation, as well as COVID safety precautions.

Publications

Author and Presenter, *The Street Artist Swoon* [Panel Presentation of Paper], "Popular Culture and Art: Creative Art in a Dystopic World" Panel, The Popular Culture Association in the South and The American Culture Association in the South's Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL, Sept 27- 29, 2007

Cohen, Jane. "Jane Cohen" Interview by Alex French. March 3, 2006. Primary Oral History Account, The Veterans History Project, The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

"Eyes Wide Open" and "South Memphis is Death," *Outlaw 28778* [Book of Poetry], Asheville, NC, 2006

Featured Poet, *Local Color*, WNCW 88.7 Radio Station, Asheville, NC, 2006

Multiple Poems Published, *Peal* Literary and Art Magazine, Asheville, NC, 2005-2008

Volunteer Experience

Housing Rehabber, New Orleans, LA, *Jan 2006*

Habitat for Humanity International, Disaster and Humanitarian Relief

We gutted many existing structures down to their frame after decontaminating the homes from a toxic mix of crude oil and mold; then built additional critical home infrastructure or completely new housing for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in St. Bernard Parish.

Trailbuilder, Asheville, NC, *Sep 2004- May 2008*

International Mountain Bicycling Association, IMBA, Forest Conservation, Environmental Recreation

Trail building and maintenance in Pisgah National Forest in Asheville, NC for the United States Forest Service

Over 100 hours of volunteer service across numerous organizations, serving communities in: Baltimore, MD; Asheville, NC; Swannanoa, NC; Memphis, TN; New Orleans, LA

Curatorial Portfolio

Artist Portfolio

