

MO KESSLER

mokessler.art mo@mokessler.art

EDUCATION

2018-21 MFA in Studio Art
2003-07 BFA in Sculpture

Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
Maryland Institute College of Art Baltimore MD

EXHIBITIONS

Solo Shows

2023 *CHEAP WORTH*
2022 *Exercises in Dependency*
2020 *Lapwork and Leftovers*

Frostburg State University Frostburg MD
University of South Carolina Upstate Spartanburg SC
Kitchenshop Dillsboro NC

Two-Person Shows

2024 *The Work of Remembering*
2021 *Whatever Coming and Going Is*

Montgomery Building Gallery Spartanburg SC
Revolve Asheville NC

Group Shows

2024 *Hard + Soft*
2022 *Building Community, Building Power*
2021 *NOVA Faculty Show*
2021 *Fiction of the Real*
2021 *WCU MFA Group Show*
2021 *MFA Thesis Exhibition*
2020 *Hope Is A Horizon*
2020 *Still Relevant*
2020 *ArtFields*
2019 *Next Wave IV*
2019 *Appalachia Futures*
2019 *STREET/ART*
2019 *SoundWave*
2018 *Rad and Unexpected*
2018 *Queering The Mountains*

Greater Denton Arts Council Denton TX
Swords Into Ploughshares Gallery Detroit MI
NVCC Woodbridge Gallery Woodbridge VA
Ramp Space Asheville NC
Tracey Morgan Gallery Asheville NC
WCU Fine Arts Museum Cullowhee NC
Revolve Asheville NC
Happy Gallery Chicago Chicago IL
Lake City SC
Revolve Asheville NC
West Virginia University Morgantown WV
Push Gallery Asheville NC
Bascom Art Gallery Highlands NC
Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC

RESIDENCIES

2025 Walkaway House
2024 Mother's Milk
2022 Vermont Studio Center

North Adams MA
Newton KS
Johnson VT

FELLOWSHIPS

2025 Walkaway House Tend Fellowship North Adams MA
2023-2024 Watson-Brown Southern Studies Fellowship in Arts and Letters Spartanburg SC

TEACHING

2024-current	Part-Time Faculty	Maryland Institute College of Art	Baltimore MD (Color Design)
2023- current	Adjunct Professor	University of South Carolina Upstate	Spartanburg SC (Contemporary Art History, Renaissance to Modernism Art History)
2021-2022	Adjunct Professor	Northern Virginia Community College	Woodbridge VA (Fundamentals of Design 1, Fundamentals of Design 2, Drawing 1, Sculpture 1)
2019-2020	Instructor of Record	Western Carolina University	Cullowhee NC (3D Design, Intro to Sculpture, and LIVLAB Public Practice)
2018-2019	Teaching Assistant	Western Carolina University	Cullowhee NC (2D Design, Intro to Ceramics)
2005	Teaching Assistant	Maryland Institute College of Art Pre-College	Baltimore MD (Drawing & Illustrating the Figure)
2004-2007	Teaching Assistant	Maryland Institute College of Art	Baltimore MD (Sculptural Forms & Intro to Sculpture)

PUBLIC PRACTICE PROJECTS

2023-2024	<i>The Work of Remembering Audio Tours</i> , Created a public map and tour guide for 5 mills across the upstate of South Carolina that followed the connective actions of the Uprising of 1934, the largest textile strike in US history. Audio was made through the contributions of 21 artists, historians, labor organizers, and writers. Chapman Cultural Center and the Hub City Writers Project Spartanburg SC
2020-2021	<i>Watershed</i> , LIVLAB, Co-Organizer of a series of performances, lectures, and studio visits conducted between Western Carolina University's MFA and BFA students and professional regional artists. Western Carolina University
2019-2021	<i>No New Plastics</i> , LIVLAB, Co-Organizer of creating a closed-loop recycling system on campus to take single-use plastics and turn them into materials to make functional ware and art objects. Western Carolina University
2019-2020	<i>UKKU</i> , Arts in Embassies, US Department of State permanent artwork commission for the US Embassy, Niamey, Niger, Western Carolina University School of Art and Design/Workingman Collective, Collaborating Artist for Courtyard Sculpture. 185K commission budget.
2018-2020	<i>Du Quotidien</i> , Arts in Embassies, US Department of State Commission for the US Embassy, Niamey, Niger, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey Niger/Western Carolina University School of Art and Design/Workingman Collective Collaborating Artist for Interior Artwork Installation. 100K commission budget.
2019	<i>Glue: Celebrating the Unseen Women of Appalachia</i> , LIVLAB, Co-Organized a panel discussion and community engagement event through the Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC.
2019	<i>LIVLAB Town Halls 1 & 2</i> , LIVLAB, Co-Organizer of community engagement event through the Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Sylva, NC.
2019	<i>Draw Sylva: Community Sketchbook Project</i> , Collaborative Artist for city-wide sketch drawings collection and exhibition. Sylva, NC
2012	<i>Occupy Artfest</i> , Organizer of a city-wide, multi-day grassroots arts festival that included art exhibitions, poetry readings, theater performances, music shows, and films. Greensboro, NC

LECTURES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

- 2024 Grant Writing for Artists Moore College of Art and Design Philadelphia, PA
2024 Grant Writing for Artists Chapman Cultural Center Spartanburg SC
2024 Grant Writing for Artists Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
2024 Artist Talk Converse University Spartanburg SC
2024 Junior Frostburg State University Student Juried Show Frostburg MD
2023 Artist Talk Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
2023 Artist Talk Frostburg State University Frostburg MD
2023 Junior NOVA Woodbridge Student Juried Show Woodbridge VA
2022 Workshop *Making with What You Have* University of South Carolina Upstate
Spartanburg SC
2022 Artist Talk University of South Carolina Upstate Spartanburg SC
2019 Artist Talk Warren Wilson College Swannanoa NC
2019 Panel Moderator *Glue: Celebrating the Unseen Women of Appalachia* Cherokee NC
2019 Presenter *Art & Organizing: Expanding What is Possible Through Changing the Frame*
Graduate Research Symposium Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
2017 Panelist *Women in Greensboro: Communicating for Social Change* Harriet Elliott
Lecture Series University of North Carolina at Greensboro Greensboro NC
2016 Keynote Speaker *Food + Equity + Co-ops: a recipe for a food system that works for
everyone* Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance Philadelphia PA
2016 Workshop *Breaking Down the Silos* CommonBound Conference Buffalo NY
2014 Panelist Hard Times Are Fighting Times Conference Durham NC
2008-10 Independent Portfolio Consulting Richmond KY Asheville NC Greensboro NC
2008 Guest Artist Critic Warren Wilson College Swannanoa NC

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Artist Talk Magazine Issue 23
2022 Dinner Bell Magazine vol. 3
2021 God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise Zine
2020 Dinner Bell Magazine vol. 2
2020 Power Clash, "Remote Residencies with Mo Kessler of SiP Residency"
2020 Reject Collective, Issue 1
2019 Blueridge Public Radio, "Memories Appalachian Women Are Worth Preserving"

AWARDS

- 2025 Tend Fellowship Walkaway House North Adams MA
2024 Mother's Milk Scholarship Mother's Milk Artist Residency Newton KS
2023 Southern Studies Fellowship Watson Brown Foundation Spartanburg SC
2021 Windgate University Fellows Scholarship Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Gatlinburg TN
2019 Windgate University Fellows Scholarship Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Gatlinburg TN
2018 Graduate Scholarship Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC

GRANTS RECEIVED

2022 BG&E Small Business Grant, (grant writer for Paradise Labs) \$20,000
2020 Graduate Summer Research Grant, Western Carolina University (individual) \$3,000
2020 UNC Systems Undergraduate Research Grant, (lead grant writer for LivLab) \$12,000
2020 Campus Theme Grant WCU, (lead grant writer for LivLab) \$1,000
2019 WCU's School of Art and Design's Catalyst Grant, (lead grant writer for LivLab) \$5,500
2018 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Inclusive Public Art Grant, Semi-finalist (lead grant writer for LivLab) \$5,000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

2020-2021 Board Member 100 Days in Appalachia Advisory Board
2020-2021 Founder SiP Online Artist Residency Shelterinplace.art
2019-(Current) Member College Art Association (CAA)
2018-2021 Founding Member LIVLAB Artist Collective
2012-2018 Board Member Beloved Community Center
2016-2018 Founding Board Member Greensboro Radio Project
2015-17 Board Co-Chair Central Carolina Worker Justice Center
2011-2017 Founding Board Member and Vice President Renaissance Community Cooperative Grocery Store