

# VALERIE XANOS

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## EDUCATION

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- MFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago** Aug 2021  
Thesis: *Exiled in Light: An exploration of altered phenomenological perception*  
Thesis exhibition: *Exiled in Light* :|: *Never(W)here* an immersive art installation.  
Low Residency MFA program  
Thesis Advisors: Gregg Bordowitz and Tyler Coburn
- MS Western Illinois University** (partially completed) 1994-1996  
Emphasis: Therapeutic Recreation in Education  
GPA 3.86-4.0, Rho Phi Lambda Honor Society
- BFA School of the Art Institute of Chicago** May 1991  
Emphases: Painting, Multi-Media Installation, Art Education  
Founder of EARTH, a student environmental activist group  
Illinois Art Education Teaching Certification K-12  
Glasgow Art School in Glasgow, Scotland 1989  
Student Exchange Program for Research and Advanced Painting.

## ARTIST AND TEACHING RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

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- Resident Artist**, Chicago Art Department (CAD) 2018-Present  
Personal Art Practice
- Creating for personal art practice as part of the CAD community with studio space, workshops, event planning, presentations, studio visits, and exhibition/curatorial experience.
  - Curated three art exhibitions
  - Exhibited in six art exhibitions
- Judge for DCASE Mural Public Art Project**, 2022  
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Public Art Department, City of Chicago
- Acted as the artist member of a judge panel to choose the muralist for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Mural at 59<sup>th</sup> street and Central Park Ave.

**MotherArt Revisited Collective**

2019-Present

- Creating and exhibiting as a collective artist member
- Contributed to MAR literary publications.
- Given public artist talks in conjunction with exhibitions.

**Lead Artist Teacher for SPACE (School Partnership for Art and Civic Engagement), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Curie Metro HS - Pilot school**

2016 - 2022

Co-created the SPACE curriculum. Partnered with resident artists, civics teachers, and museum programs to create contemporary art projects with high school art students around issues of social justice. Centered around the work done in the advanced ARTivism classes AKA the Guerrilla Art Collective. IG@GAC.CurieHS

- 2023 *Sanctuary Redux*; community engaged art installations around issues of reimagined public spaces that create sanctuary, inclusivity, and social justice.
- 2022 *Hear Our Voices!*; community engaged art installations around issues of Sexual Harassment, Unity, Immigration Rights, and Medical Care Rights.
- 2021 *Self Care is Self Love*; a virtual art museum showcasing student art, videos, and self care performance scores. *Infinite Care Card Deck*, a limited edition of card decks (ala Oblique Strategies) – performance scores for self and community care. Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez
- 2020 *Untitled*; projects addressing issues of safety, access and equality in public spaces and the Covid19 Pandemic. Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez and Daniel Jimenez
- 2019 *Selfies 4 Justice*; Self Portraits of Empowerment, a photographic series. Partnered with Ricardo Gamboa and Daniel Jimenez
- 2018 *Identity Crisis*, a self-published book and exhibition of art projects addressing social justice issues and personal identity. Partnered with Samantha Hill
- 2017 *Sanctuary*; a community engaged art installation festival around issues of safety and access. Partnered with Andres L. Hernandez

**Lead Artist Teacher in Art Partner School Initiative, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Curie Metro HS.**

2015-2016

Partnered with resident artists and museum programs to create special projects with high school arts students using contemporary practice in fine arts. Centered around the work done in the advanced ARTivism classes AKA The Guerrilla Art Collective.

- 2016 *Sound + Vision*, a series of interactive sound sculptures addressing issues of inequality and lack of arts funding in the Chicago Public School system. Partnered with Mikel Patrick Avery
- 2015 *Wake UP!* A film addressing issues of youth voice and anti-conformity inspired by the work of David Bowie. Partnered with Lee Blalock

**Art Teacher Institute, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.**

2015-2017

Worked in year-long residencies to create dynamic contemporary art lessons, projects, and curricula using MCA exhibitions.

- Attended workshops and used the teacher/museum community as laboratory for experimental curriculum development.

- Published lessons for sharing with art teacher community

**Art Educator Delegate for the NAEA Research Trip to Finland,** 2014  
National Art Education Association

- Academic research of Finnish art education

**Spaces for Possibilities, Northeastern University.** 2011-2014

Worked in year-long residencies to create dynamic contemporary art lessons, projects, and curricula.

- Attended workshops and used the teacher community as laboratory for experimental curriculum development using Studio Habits as a language and process in the classroom.
- Emphasis: creating student agency, deconstructing the classroom hierarchy, and the creation of the Guerrilla Art Collective as a teaching methodology.

**Judge for MCAD Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards,** 2008  
Minneapolis College of Art and Design

## ART EXHIBITIONS

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***Articulating Nodes (I) Movement in Mothering Spheres,*** Jan-Feb, 2023  
Ink Drawing/Digital Print on Canvas, 61"x 18",  
Group Exhibition Title: *I'm Tired*, MotherArt Revisited Collective, Fresno State University  
Gallery, Fresno, CA

***Articulating Nodes (I) Movement in Mothering Spheres,*** Sept, 2022  
Ink Drawing/Digital Print on Canvas, 61"x 18" and a video work called *Tired*.  
Group Exhibition Title: *Thresholds in Parameters of What It Is to Be...*,  
MotherArt Revisited Collective, Clovis Community College Gallery, Fresno, CA

- Artist Talk, Sept. 29, 2022: *Feminist Utopia* with Sonja Blum. A performative artist discussion around our making experience as mother artists in an imaginary feminist and inclusive utopia.
- Artist Talk, Sept. 22, 2022: *The Intersection of an Artist and Teaching Practice*. This talk centered around my work as a mother artist and how that practice intersects with my teaching practice of the Guerilla Art Collective.

***Exiled in Light :|: Transfiguration,*** July, 2022  
Immersive Video Projection & Sound Installation with Movement  
Performance in two acts; in collaboration with Allen Turner,  
Chicago Art Department.

***Crystal Ball Group Show,*** Chicago Art Department May 14, 2022

***Exiled in Light :|: Through the Looking Glass,*** Oct-Nov, 2021  
Immersive Video Projection & Sound Installation with Movement

Performance; in collaboration with Allen Turner & Irene Hsiao.  
*Terrain Biennial*, 4916 S Leamington, Chicago, IL

***Never(W)Here***, July, 2021  
Immersive Video & Sound Installation, Black fabric and LCD Screens,  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago Galleries, *Low-Res MFA Thesis*  
*Exhibition*, Chicago, IL

***SAIC Low-Res MFA Thesis Exhibition Microsite*** Summer, 2021  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

***Connectivity Group Show***, Hyde Park Arts Center Summer 2021

***Long Time No See Residents Group Show***, Chicago Art Department Oct 2020

***Mother to Mother, Knots and Nodes Group Show***, March - June 2020  
MotherArt Revisited Collective, Chicago Art Department.

***On Tyranny Postcard Art Group Show***, Spring, 2020  
MotherArt Revisited Collective, traveling exhibits and mail art action.

***Curated & Exhibited: Exiled in Light***, immersive video projection May 2019  
as part of *Through the Looking Glass*, Exhibition of 4 women video  
and sound artists, Chicago Art Department.

***Exiled in Light***, immersive video projection April 2018  
as part of *Light Matters*, Exhibition of 3 women light and video artists,  
Chicago Art Department.  
- Artist Talk, April 14, 2018. *Light Matters: Artists in Conversation*  
with Galina Schevchenko and Margarita Fainshtein.

***Collaborative Collisions Group Show***, MotherArt Revisited Feb 2018  
Collective, CC's Art Garage & Gallery, Chicago.

***Exiled in Light :|: Never(W)here*** July 2017  
Immersive Installation for *SAIC LRMFA Open Studios*, Chicago.

***The Sublime Light and Dark*** July 2016  
Immersive Installation for *SAIC LRMFA Open Studios*, Chicago.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Educator Show***, Bridgeport Arts Center, Chicago. April - June 2016

***Tied Up and Boxed In, Bluebird of Happiness*** May 2014  
2 paintings in group show: *It's Not Just Art – A Complicated*  
*Conversation with Teachers*, Firecat Projects, Chicago.

<i>Annual Curie Faculty Art Exhibit &amp; Auction</i> , Curie HS, Chicago	1999-2014
<i>Postcard Art Group Show</i> , APW Gallery in NYC, NY	2009
<i>2' x 2' Group Show</i> , Galaxie Art Gallery, Chicago.	2007
<i>Photo and Digital Group Show</i> , 33 Collective, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago	2007
<i>Self Portrait Group Show</i> , 33 Collective, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago	2007
<i>Revisioning America Art Exhibition</i> , Chicago Music Garage.	2006
<i>SHE, An Exhibition Celebrating Women</i> , 33 Collective, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago	2006
<i>Art of Teaching Group Show</i> , Gallery 37, Chicago.	2003
<i>Solo Retrospective Exhibition</i> , Primitive Circle Gallery, Chicago	2003
<i>Earth Artworks Group Show</i> , Gallery Egg, Chicago.	1997

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#### CURATION OF ART EXHIBITIONS

<i>Curating: A Woman for All Seasons</i> , Retrospective of the art and life of Darlene Gambotz, a Chicago artist. Chicago Art Department.	Dec, 2022
<i>Sanctuary Village</i> , Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition and installation about inclusive public spaces and contemporary art, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago.	2022
<i>Rest, Play, Protest – Art as Resistance</i> , ARTivism 1 protest banner parade, 'zine distribution, and conceptual performances around social justice and self care, Curie Metro HS, Chicago. Collaboration with SAIC student teachers Simone Sigousky and Joe Barcelona.	2022
<i>Hear Our Voices</i> , Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition of collaborative final projects around issues of Sexual Harassment, Unity, Immigration Rights, Medical Care Rights; Curie Metro HS, Chicago.	2022
<i>Power to the Students</i> , Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged exhibition of about contemporary art and social justice issues, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago.	2021
<a href="#"><i>Self Care is Self Love</i></a> , Guerrilla Art Collective virtual reality exhibition of conceptual performance scores and other artworks, curated in	2021

collaboration with virtual museum architect and resident artist,  
Andres L. Hernandez and the GAC.

<b><i>Selfies 4 Justice</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective exhibition of photography and text design around creating an inclusive identity culture through self-portraits, Curie Metro HS SPACE Gallery, Chicago.	2019
<b><i>Identity Crisis</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective interdisciplinary exhibition and installation around social justice and inclusivity issues, Curie Metro HS, Chicago.	2018
<b><i>Sanctuary Festival</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, MCA 21 Minus Festival, Chicago.	2017
<b><i>Sanctuary Festival</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective community engaged art Installation around issues of equity, safety, and access in public spaces, Curie Metro HS outdoor campus, Chicago. Collaboration with Andres L. Hernandez.	2017
<b><i>Sound + Vision</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective exhibition of sound Sculptures addressing inequity for the arts in Chicago Public Schools, MCA 21 Minus Festival, Chicago.	2016
<b><i>Wake UP!</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, MCA 21 Minus Festival film screening in the MCA Theater, Chicago.	2015
<b><i>Wake UP!</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, film about challenging social conformity inspired by the MCA's David Bowie exhibition. Screening in the Curie Auditorium, Chicago.	2015
<b><i>Shout Out! – Art Advocacy</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, Wheat Paste Street Exhibit on the outside of Curie HS campus buildings, Chicago.	2014
<b><i>Shout Out! – Art Advocacy</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, wheat paste street exhibit about challenging budget cuts of the arts in Chicago Public Schools. Outside walls of Firecat Gallery building and other neighborhood buildings. In conjunction with exhibition <i>It's Not Just Art – A Complicated Conversation with Teachers</i> , Chicago.	2014
<b><i>Curie HS Alumni Art Gallery and Auction</i></b> , (included works by Herman Aguirre and Maria Wolf Lopez) Curie Metro HS Gallery, Chicago.	2014
<b><i>Postcard Art Exchange</i></b> , Guerrilla Art Collective, founder of program to create postcard art about social justice and exchange with other artists through the mail.	2010-2014

***Guerrilla Art in the Community***, Guerrilla Art Collective, 2010-present  
 Various artworks curated into the community and on Chicago streets; for example, in libraries, bookstores, magazine racks, street stickers, zine give-aways, trading cards, micro-world installations, altered street signs, etc.

## COMMISSIONS

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<i>Future Sex</i> , Collage	2017
Collage Art for Book Cover Illustration for role-playing game <i>Edrigohr</i> .	2014
Commission & Exhibition by Chicago Opera Theater to create a sculpture to celebrate the opening of the Philip Glass Opera, <i>Akhenaten</i> .	2001

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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<b>World's Best School Prizes, T4 Education</b> Category: Supporting Healthy Lives, Contributing teacher, as part of the Art Department of Curie HS, for curriculum addressing social justice issues and self/community care, school was awarded \$50,000 grant.	Oct, 2022
<b>Individual Artist Grant, DCASE, Chicago</b> Awarded IAP Grant for partial funding of personal art installation exhibition, <i>Exiled in Light</i> : : <i>Transfiguration</i>	2022
<b>Finalist for Harvard Education Review (Special Arts Edition)</b>	2012
<b>"Teacher of the Year" and "US Partner of the Year"</b> Awarded honors and exhibition with ArtLink Creative Connections, International Art Exchange and Gallery	2011
<b>Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant</b> For art education project "Postcards for Healing"	2011
<b>Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant</b> For art education project "Postcards from the Edge"	2010
<b>HP Grant for Art and Technology</b> For art education project "The Golden Mean"	2007
<b>Suave Performance Teacher Award Finalist</b>	2004

<b>Suave Performance Teacher Award Finalist</b>	2003
<b>Lead Teacher award for Studio Art of the AP Arts Initiative</b> The College Board	2001
<b>IAEA Best Illinois Art Program – Curie HS Art Department</b>	2001

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Books and Publications***

Xanos, Valerie; Andres L. Hernandez; and the Guerrilla Art Collective, *Infinite Care Card Deck*, Chicago: The Normal Studio and MCA Chicago, 2022. Sold in the MCA Gift Shop.

Xanos, Valerie, *Exiled in Light :|: Never(w)here*, Chicago: Self-published, 2021.

Xanos, Valerie and the Guerrilla Art Collective, *Identity Crisis*, Chicago: Self-published, 2018.

### ***Journal Publications***

Xanos, Valerie, *A Classroom in 45's America, My Name is Not Honey, Stop Telling Women to Smile, Glimpses, Corpuscles*, MotherArt Revisited Review Issue 1: 2018, pp. 62-67.

Xanos, Valerie, *Meditative Mandala*, MCA Chicago Teacher Institute Curricula, 2015.

Xanos, Valerie, [\*Wake UP!\*](#), MCA DNA online publication, 2015.

Xanos, Valerie, *There's a Guerrilla in My Classroom!*, Exhibition catalog for It's Not Just Art – A Complicated Conversation with Teachers, published by Center for College Access and Success, Northeastern Illinois University, 2014, pp. 22-25.

### ***Published Thesis***

Xanos, Valerie, *Exiled in Light: An exploration of altered phenomenological perception*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2021.

## **FEATURED IN PUBLICATIONS – AS AN ARTIST TEACHER**

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Pace Green, Lynne [\*Making Space – Self Care is Self Love\*](#), MCA DNA, 2021.



[Curie HS Students Curate Virtual Art Exhibit to Explore Self Love and Self Care](#), CPS Spotlight Article, April 29, 2021.

Koumpilova, Mila, [This School's Response to the Pandemic Health Crisis? A Full-Scale Art Show](#), Chalkbeat, April 9, 2021.

Ana Sekler, [Where I Work](#), featured alumnus in SAIC Biannual Magazine, Fall 2017.

Lydia Ross, [Finding a SPACE for Sanctuary at Curie Metro HS](#), June 20, 2017.

Reyes, Marissa, Ross, Lydia, *The World We're In, The World We Want: Youth as Civic Agents*, featured in article about the launch of the SPACE program with the GAC as pilot, MCA Member's Magazine. Summer 2017.

[Who We Are](#), MCA Website, Nov 2015.

Kletchka, Dana Carlisle; Carpenter, B. Stephen, *Professional Development in Art Museums: Strategies of Engagement through Contemporary Art*, National Art Education Association, Jan 2018. (interview subject)

Contributor to *Not in the Yearbooks*, an historical archive about CPS teachers for the History Moves Project of Jane Addams Hull House, Library Recordings, 2013.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

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**Presentation**, *Expanding Civic Understanding & Student Agency through Contemporary Art*, NAEA Convention, March 2021.

**Presentation**, *Artists Create Change – Educating the Citizen Artist*, SAIC Teacher Toolbox Conference, Sept, 2019.

**Keynote Address**, *The Collective Artistic Voice in the Classroom: The Artistic Practice & The Teacher's Practice*, IAEA Conference, Nov 6, 2016.

**Keynote Address**, *Guerrilla Art Explorations; How Experimentation, Student Autonomy, & Collectivity Works in a Studio Art Classroom*, SAIC Teacher Toolbox Conference, Sept 25, 2015.

**Presentation**, *Teaching as an Artist Collective*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Teacher Exchange, June 6, 2015.

**Presentation**, *NAEA Art Delegation Trip to Finland*, NAEA Convention/New Orleans, March, 2015.

**Presentation**, *Meditative Mandala Drawings*, Spaces for Possibilities, Oct, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Learning to Love You More*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Curriculum Slam, May, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Learning to Love You More – MCA Curriculum Slam*, NAEA Convention/San Diego, March, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Visual Literacy and Learning to Love You More*, YAL Conference, Nov, 2014.

**Presentation**, *Guerrilla Art Class*, National Online Studio Thinking Network, Jan, 2013.

**Annual Presentations**, *Studio Habits of Mind in Art Curriculum*, Every Art Every Child Conference with Center for College Access and Success, 2011-2014.

**Workshop**, *Art History*, CPS CPDU Workshops, 1999.

**Workshop**, *Experiential Art Education – Making Earthworks*, Heartland Conference for Association for Experiential Education/Michigan, 1995.

**Workshop**, *Experiential Art Education – Making Sacred Sculptures/Earthworks*, Heartland Conference for Association for Experiential Education, 1994.

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## OTHER

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Interests: Community Engaged Art, Social Justice/Activism, Philosophy, Environmental Activism, Installation Art, Painting, Drawing, Collage, Sound Art, Photography, Guerrilla/Street Art, Conceptual Art, Art History, Sculpture, Digital & Time-Based Media, Knitting/Crocheting, Reading, Yarn-bombing, Writing, Story-telling, Spirituality, Mythology.

Citizenship: United States of America