

## MO KESSLER

mokessler.art mo@mokessler.art

## EDUCATION

2018-21 MFA in Studio Art Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2003-07 BFA in Sculpture Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Baltimore, MD

## EMPLOYMENT

2022-Current Operations Manager for Paradise Labs Baltimore, MD  
2021-2022 Program and Recruitment Consultant Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

## TEACHING

2022 Fundamentals of Design 2 - Adjunct Professor NOVA Woodbridge, Woodbridge, VA  
2022 Drawing 1 - Adjunct Professor NOVA Woodbridge, Woodbridge, VA  
2021 Fundamentals of Design 1 - Adjunct Professor NOVA Woodbridge, Woodbridge, VA  
2021 3D Design (Online) - Instructor of Record Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2020 3D Design (Hybrid/Online) - Instructor of Record Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2020 LIVLAB Co-Instructor Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2019 Intro to Sculpture - Instructor of Record Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

2019 2D Design Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2018 Intro to Ceramics Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC  
2005-07 Intro to Sculpture MICA, Baltimore, MD  
2005 Drawing & Illustrating the Figure MICA's Pre-College, Baltimore, MD  
2004-05 Sculptural Forms MICA, Baltimore, MD

## EXHIBITIONS

### Solo Shows

2023 *CHEAP WORTH* Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD  
2022 *Exercises in Dependency* University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC  
2020 *Lapwork and Leftovers* Kitchenshop, Dillsboro, NC  
2008 *Artifacts* Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem, NC

### Two-Person Shows

2021 *Whatever Coming and Going Is* Revolve, Asheville, NC  
2009 *Winter Art Show* Richmond Studio Project, Richmond, KY

2007	<i>Selected Works</i>	The Garage at Biltmore, Asheville, NC
2007	<i>Layered Insights</i>	The Dripolator, Asheville, NC
2009	<i>Richmond Gallery Hop</i>	Downtown Richmond, KY
2006	<i>Repercussions</i>	Load of Fun Studios, Baltimore, MD

### Group Shows

2021	<i>NOVA Faculty Show</i>	NVCC Woodbridge, Woodbridge, VA
2021	<i>Fiction of the Real</i>	Ramp Space, Asheville, NC
2021	<i>WCU MFA Group Show</i>	Tracey Morgan Gallery, Asheville, NC
2021	<i>MFA Thesis Exhibition</i>	WCU Fine Arts Museum, Cullowhee, NC
2020	<i>Hope Is A Horizon</i>	Revolve, Asheville, NC
2020	<i>Still Relevant</i>	Happy Gallery Chicago, Chicago, IL
2020	<i>ArtFields</i>	Lake City, SC
2019	<i>Next Wave IV</i>	Revolve, Asheville, NC
2019	<i>Appalachia Futures</i>	West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
2019	<i>STREET/ART</i>	Push Gallery, Asheville, NC
2019	<i>SoundWave</i>	Bascom Art Gallery, Highlands, NC
2018	<i>Rad and Unexpected</i>	Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
2018	<i>Queering The Mountains</i>	Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
2011	<i>Dirty Laundry</i>	Pop-Up Gallery, Downtown Greensboro NC
2007	<i>All Member Juried Exhibition</i>	Greensboro Center for Visual Arts, Greensboro, NC
2007	<i>The Summer Salon</i>	Greensboro Center for Visual Arts, Greensboro, NC
2007	<i>Commencement Exhibition</i>	MICA, Baltimore MD
2006	<i>Just off the Path</i>	Hyattstown Mill Arts Project, Hyattstown, MD
2006	<i>Wondering</i>	MICA, Baltimore, MD
2004	<i>Freshman Exhibition</i>	MICA, Baltimore, MD

### RESIDENCIES

2022	Vermont Studio Center	Johnson, VT
2004	Elsewhere	Greensboro, NC

### CURATION

2020	SiP Residency Online Show	Shelterinplace.art
2011	Occupy Art Fest	Greensboro, NC
2008-09	Curator & Gallery Director	Dripolator, Asheville, NC
2008	Guest Curator, Survivor's Art Show	Our Voice Organization, Asheville, NC

### PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

2019-2020 *UKKU*, 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. Completed Fall 2021. 185K commission budget.

2018-2020 *Du Quotidien*, 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. Completed Fall 2021. 100K commission budget.

2019 *Glue: Celebrating the Unseen Women of Appalachia*, panel discussion and community engagement event through Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC. Co-Organizer.

2019 *LIVLAB Town Halls 1 & 2*, community engagement event through the Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Sylva Public Library, NC. Co-Organizer.

2019 *Draw Sylva: Community Sketchbook Project*, Sylva, NC. Collaborative Artist.

## LECTURES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

2022 Workshop *Making with what you have* University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC  
2019 Visiting Artist 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 Presenter *Breaking Down the Silos* CommonBound Conference, Buffalo, NY  
2014 Panelist *Stories from the Front Lines* Hard Times Are Fighting Times Conference, Durham, NC  
2008-10 Independent Portfolio Consulting Richmond KY, Asheville NC, Greensboro NC  
2008 Guest Art Critic Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

## MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

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

## AWARDS

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  
2003 Academic and Merit Scholarships MICA, Baltimore, MD

## **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, Western Carolina University, (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 100 Days in Appalachia, Advisory Board Member
- 2020-2021 SiP Online Artist Residency Shelterinplace.art, Founder
- 2019-(Current) College Art Association (CAA), Member
- 2018-2021 Founding Member of LIVLAB Artist Collective, Cullowhee, NC
- 2012-2018 Board Member of the Beloved Community Center, Greensboro, NC
- 2016-2018 Founding Board Member of the Greensboro Radio Project, Greensboro, NC
- 2015-17 Board Co-Chair, Central Carolina Worker Justice Center, Greensboro, NC
- 2011-2017 Founding Board Member and Vice President of the Renaissance Community Cooperative, Greensboro, NC
- 2011-2012 Founding Member of the Youth & Student Coalition for Police Accountability, Greensboro, NC
- 2009-10 Founder of the Richmond Studio Project, Richmond, KY