

MO KESSLER

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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

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

North Adams MA
Newton KS
Johnson VT

FELLOWSHIPS

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

TEACHING

| | | | |
|------|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | Contemporary Art History | USC Upstate | Spartanburg SC |
| 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 |
| 2020 | 3D Design - 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 |

PUBLIC PRACTICE PROJECTS

- 2023-2024 *The Work of Remembering Audio Tours*, 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
- 2019-2021 *No New Plastics*, 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
- 2020-2021 *Watershed*, 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
- 2019-2020 *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. 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. 100K commission budget.
- 2019 *Glue: Celebrating the Unseen Women of Appalachia*, LIVLAB, Co-Organizer of a panel discussion and community engagement event through Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC.
- 2019 *LIVLAB Town Halls 1 & 2*, LIVLAB, Co-Organizer of community engagement event through the Z Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art Grant, Sylva, NC.
- 2019 *Draw Sylva: Community Sketchbook Project*, Collaborative Artist for city-wide sketch drawings collection and exhibition. Sylva, NC

LECTURES AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

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|------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | Grant Writing for Artist | Chapman Cultural Center | Spartanburg SC |
| 2024 | Grant Writing for Artist | Western Carolina University | Cullowhee NC |
| 2024 | Artist Talk | Converse University | Spartanburg SC |
| 2023 | Artist Talk | Western Carolina University | Cullowhee NC |
| 2023 | Artist Talk <i>Cheap Worth</i> | Frostburg State University | Frostburg MD |

- 2022 Workshop *Making with What You Have* University of South Carolina Upstate
Spartanburg SC
- 2022 Artist Talk *Exercises in Dependency* 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 Graduate Research Symposium Presenter *Art & Organizing: Expanding What is Possible
through Changing the Frame* Western Carolina University Cullowhee NC
- 2017 Harriet Elliott Lecture Series Panelist *Women in Greensboro: Communicating for Social
Change* University of North Carolina at Greensboro Greensboro 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

- 2024 Tend Fellowship Walkaway House North Adams MA
- 2024 Mother's Milk Scholarship Mother's Milk 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
- 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 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