

ALLEN C. TOPOLSKI

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

[Sage Art Center](#)
[Department of Art and Art History](#)
[University of Rochester](#)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (current – 2003)

- 2024 *Things Transfigured*, Solo,
Tower Fine Arts Gallery, Aug. – Sept.
- 2023 *Diverse/Eclectic*, group invitational,
Hartnett Gallery, Rochester, NY, Aug. – Sept.
[Impermanent Fix](#), Solo,
Mirabo Press, Buffalo, NY, Aug.
Open Studio, Group Invitational,
Loud Cow, Spencerport, NY, May- June
- 2021 *Sculptors Drawing*, traveling group invitational,
Traveling:
[Wilmer Jennings Gallery](#) at Kenkeleba
East 2nd Street. NY, NY Aug. – Dec.
SUNY Geneseo, [Bertha V.B. Lederer Gallery](#),
Geneseo, NY Feb. – March
[Vessel: Revisioning the Receptacle](#), group invitational,
Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington, DE, Jan. – May
- 2020 [Residuals](#), large-scale [outdoor installation](#), [Play/Ground](#),
in [collaboration](#) with Aster Topolski
[Artpark](#), Lewiston, NY, Sept. – Oct.
- 2019 [Space Transfixed](#), installation *Inside/Out*, 248 East Avenue,
Part of [Current Seen: Small Venue Biennial](#), Oct.- Nov.
- 2018 [A Common Inculcation](#), large-scale installation, three-day event
[Play/Ground](#), Medina, NY, Oct.
- 2017 [Coping Mechanisms](#), two-person show
Colleen Buzzard Studio Gallery Rochester, NY, July – Aug.
Buffalo Art Studio Gallery Buffalo, NY, Sept. – Oct.
[Placemakers](#), two-person show
Loud Cow Art Space,
Spencerport, NY, Oct. – Sept.
[Rainforest IV](#), collaborative installation
Memorial Art Gallery
Rochester, NY, September
[Take the Long Way Home](#), two-person show
Gallery Q, Out Alliance Rochester, NY, Dec. – Jan.
- 2015 [Compartmented](#), large-scale installation,
Lyric Opera Company, 440 East Avenue,
Rochester, NY, December.
Social Justice, First Niagara Rochester Fringe Festival,
Collaboration with BioDance, Geva Theater, September.
Amid/In Western New York
Hallwalls, Buffalo NY, June-July.
- 2014 *Cradle to Grave*,
University at Buffalo Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Sept.-Nov.
- 2013 *Waiting for the World to Change*,
Anderson Alley, Rochester, NY, Sept.

- 2013 *Uncanny Congruencies*,
Palmer Museum of Art, State College, PA
(re)collection and (re)construction,
Stedman Gallery, Rutgers Camden, NJ, Sept.- Oct.
Regional Faculty Show, July – August,
Gallery R, R.I.T., Rochester, NY
Peepshow 2013: Hot Mess, one-night juried event,
Squeaky Wheel, Buffalo NY, Feb. 22.
- 2012 Collaboration Biodance (dance company), *No Dancing Allowed* (revised)
School of the Arts, Rochester NY, June
The City is Asleep and Dreaming, one-night invitational event
National Bank, 35 State Street, Rochester, NY, Dec. 7.
Downstairs and to the Left,
Hartnett Gallery, Rochester NY, Oct.
- 2011 Collaboration Biodance (commissioned by *Finger Lakes Dance! No Dancing Allowed*,
Hochstein Performance Hall, Rochester NY, Nov.
- 2011 *Once Familiar Twice Removed*, solo,
Buffalo Art Studio, Buffalo, NY, Sept. – Nov.
Modern Icon: The Machine as Subject in American Art,
Memorial Art Gallery, Lockhart Gallery, Rochester NY, Feb. – April.
- 2010 Collaboration Biodance (commissioned by *Finger Lakes Dance!*), *No Dancing Allowed*,
Cracker Factory, Geneva, NY, October.
Reimagining the Distaff Toolkit, group Exhibition,
Traveling:
The Berman Museum, Ursinus College, PA, Jan.-March.
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green Ohio, Nov.
Beard Gallery, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, Sept.-Oct.
The 40 Acres Art Gallery, Sacramento, CA, May-June,
Ellen Noel Art Museum, Odessa, TX, July-Aug.
Denison University Museum, Granville, Ohio, Jan.-March.
How Good are Your Dwelling Places, four person exhibition,
Koffler Centre of the Arts, Toronto, Ontario, January - March.
- 2009 *Reimagining the Distaff Toolkit*, group Exhibition,
Traveling:
Mandeville Gallery, Schenectady, NY, Sept.- Dec.
The Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ, July-Sept.
Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, Roanoke, VA Feb.-June.
Gardiner Art Gallery, Oklahoma State University, Jan.-Feb.
The Mead Museum, Amherst College, Oct-Dec
Dwell, Two Person Exhibition
Roberts-Wesleyan College,
Rochester, NY; October – November.
- 2008 *Reminiscence*,
Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ; May – September
- 2007 *2nd Rochester Biennial*,
Memorial Art Gallery,
Rochester , NY; June – September.
- 2006 *Video-Rama: Expanded Formats For the Moving Image*,
Clifford Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY; March – April.
Sculpture Since Bucknell,
Samek Gallery, Bucknell University,
Lewisburg, PA; January – March. *Apperceptions*, solo exhibition,

- 2005 *In/Beyond New York*, three person show
Hallwalls, Buffalo NY,
organized through Albright-Knox Museum, Buffalo, NY; April – May.
Thought at Work, group exhibition,
Gallery R, 775 Park Avenue, Rochester, NY; October.
- 2004 *Domestic Odyssey*, group exhibition,
San Jose Museum of Art,
San Jose, California; March – July.
- 2004 *Items of Convenience*, solo exhibition,
Moreau Art Gallery, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN; September - October.
- 2003 *re/order*, group exhibition,
Traveling:
Mercer Gallery, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY; April – May
Houghton House Gallery, Hobart and William Smith Colleges,
Geneva, NY; February – March.
Happiness is Electric Living, installation, Rochester Contemporary,
Sibley Building, Rochester, NY; May - June.

EDUCATION / RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Mirabo Press,
Buffalo, NY, August 2023
Toolmaker in Residence,
Signal Culture, Owego, NY, Sept. 2015
- 2020 University of Rochester Faculty Online Course Development, EDU 472
Warner School of Education, University of Rochester, non-matriculated.
- 1990 Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture,
Pennsylvania State University, College of Arts and Architecture.
- 1988 Graduate program, (non-degree) Bucknell University.
- 1986 Bachelor of Arts in Art, 1986, Bucknell University, Major: Studio Art.
- 1983 Bachelor of Arts program, 1981-1983, Pennsylvania State
University, Major: Art Education.

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

- 2021 - Chair of the Department of Art and Art History,
2006 – 2012 University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
1998 – 2004 Studio Coordinator, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
1998 - Associate Professor of Art, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
1992 – 1998 Assistant Professor of Art, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
1990 – 1992 Lecturer, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
1990 – 1992 Instructor, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
1988 – 1990 Instructor, (of record) Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
1986 – 1988 Departmental Teaching Assistant, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

PUBLICATIONS

- Amid/In WNY Exhibition Catalogue*,
Edited by John Massier, Hallwalls, 2016
- Porous Boundaries: Art and Essays*
Edited by Cyril Reade and David Peters Corbett,
Manchester University Press, 2015

'Working with a Restriction,' *100 CREATIVE DRAWING IDEAS*,
Anna Held Audette, editor, Shambhala Publications, Inc. Random House distributors, 2004.
The Romantic Continuum, Penn State Journal of Contemporary Criticism,
Second and Fifth Editions, April 1990 and February 1994.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching the Incarcerated:

Drawing I

Groveland Correctional Facility, Sonyea, NY
Rochester Education Justice Initiative

Drawing Space

Five Points Detention Center, Romulus, NY, Cornell University and the University of
Rochester Education Justice Initiative

Introduction to Art, (co-taught)

Buffalo (Batavia) Service Processing Center | Immigration Detention and Enforcement,
Batavia, NY

Multi-media:

Material Matters, University of Rochester

Senior Studio and Seminar, University of Rochester

Introduction to Visual Production, University of Rochester

Appropriation and Collage, University of Rochester

Markings, Methods and Materials, University of Rochester

Techniques, Materials and Tools, Penn State University

Three-Dimensional Design, Penn State University

Two-Dimensional Design, Penn State University and Bucknell University

Drawing:

Introductory level, University of Rochester, Bucknell University, Penn State University.

Figure and Advanced level, University of Rochester, Penn State University.

Sculpture:

(Re)Collecting the Object, University of Rochester.

Introductory level, University of Rochester and Penn State University .

Advanced levels, University of Rochester.

Painting:

Advanced level, University of Rochester.

Non-Production Based:

Writing on Art, University of Rochester

PAPERS, PANELS & PUBLICITY

University Publicity Video,

A Playground for Artists, Medina NY,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QN2b5Hzw5tQ>

A World Within a Library Within the Walls of Immigration,

Crossroads Conference Panel, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2017

University Publicity Video,

Calyx, Rochester NY,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPMOOTP52Uc>

Lecture,

Fine Arts Seminar / Ortlip Gallery Houghton College, February 11, 2016.

Seen, Artist talk,

Hartnett Gallery, Wilson Commons, University of Rochester, 2015

Film, Photography and Me,
 Artist talk, Buffalo Arts Studio, Sept. 22, 2012

ART 21 Screening and Talk Back,
 Little Theatre, East Ave. Rochester, NY. April 11.2012

Taking Things, Seriously: Art and Memory
 Univ. of Rochester Medical Center, December 14, 2007

Dwelling, Roberts Wesleyan College Gallery,
 Artist talk, October 25, 2007

Apperceptions,
 Artist talk, Samek Gallery,
 Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA; August 26, 2005.

Design as Metaphor, invited lecturer,
Thought at Work, industrial design conference, Rochester Institute of Technology,
 June 1, 2005. Rochester, New York; October 16, 2004.

Domestic Artistry,
 Artist talk, Bay Area University of Rochester Alumni Group,
 San Jose, CA, March 6, 2004.

Artist Talk, *Recent Production*
 Rochester Contemporary, Rochester, New York; October 26, 2002.

Tower Fine Arts Gallery, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York; March 7, 2002.

Visiting Lecturer,
Art Appreciation class, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York; February 26, 2002.

Artist Talk,
 Art Library Gallery, Alfred University, Alfred, NY; February 23, 2001.

Tools for the Making of a Happy Home, paper/panelist, Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Annual Conference, Valley Forge, PA; November 5-7, 1999.

Visiting Artist, Ivan Wilson Arts Center,
 Bowling Green, KY; September 30 - October 2, 1997.

Symposium, *Object/Material*,
 Seton Hill College, Greensburg, PA; April 9, 1995.

Lecture, *The Dysfunctional Object*,
 The Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA, July 17, 1991.

The Imagery of Andy Warhol, lecture to coincide with Andy Prints: Recent Series by Warhol,
 exhibit at Center Gallery, Bucknell University, May 15, 1986

REVIEWS

Amid/In Western New York at Hallwalls
The Public, Buffalo NY <http://www.dailypublic.com/Wednesday>, June 10, 2015

Toronto Shuffles Off to Buffalo, Sarah Milroy, Beyond/In Western New York,
 The Globe and Post, Toronto, ON, June 1, 2005.

From Nature to Psychobabble, Cynnie Gaash / Eric Jackson-Forsberg, Beyond/In Western
 New York,
 Artvoice, Buffalo, NY, May 26, 2005.

Beyond Expected, Richard Huntington, Beyond/In Western New York, Buffalo News,
 Buffalo, New York, April 22, 2005.

Feature Article,
Domestic Artistry,
 Rochester Review, Quarterly Magazine, Rochester, New York; Fall 2003.

Art Afloat, Scott Wescott,
 Review of *Floating Suburbia*, Erie City Paper, Erie, PA. July 9, 2000.

Harbour Beauty, Mary Birdsong, Review of *Floating Suburbia*,
 The Arts, Showcase (weekly), Erie, PA. September 28, 2000.

Quartet in Artistic Harmony, Tim Higgins,
Four Artists Exhibit at the Allentown Art Museum,
A.M. Magazine, The Morning Call, Allentown, PA, June 21,1991.
Remnants of a Lost Art, Sandy Cullen,
Three-person exhibition at the Doshi, Patriot News,Harrisburg, PA, April 27, 1989

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Young Student Enrichment Funding Committee, Flower City Arts Center, Rochester, NY
[*Silence*](#), Curator/Organizer
Multidisciplinary, multisite exhibition,University of Rochester, April 2015
Toolmaker in Residence,
Signal Culture, Owego, NY,One Week Residency, Sept. 2015
Consultant, FRA Engineering, Brooks Landing Phase II
Public Art Consultant to a Rochester City project, 2009
Juror, Imaging Space
Center at High Falls Gallery, 2007
Curator, Regional invitational
Hartnett Gallery, University of Rochester, February - March, 2005
Co-Director of Programming,
Rochester Contemporary, non-profit art gallery,
Rochester, NY, May – November, 2004
Juror, SUNY Brockport Undergraduate Exhibition,
Brockport, New York; April, 2001.
Co-Curator, The Campus That Wasn't,
Hartnett Gallery, University of Rochester, October - November, 2000
Faculty Advisor / Director, Hartnett Gallery, Wilson Commons,University of Rochester, 1993 - present
Shop Technician,
Pennsylvania State University, School of Visual Arts, 1990
Interim Gallery Director,
Pennsylvania State University, School of Visual Arts, 1990
Studio Assistant to:
Michael Steiner, sculptor, Bridgewater, CN; Summers, 1988 & 1989.
Neil Anderson, painter, Lewisburg, PA; 1987 - 1988
William Lasansky, sculptor, Lewisburg, PA; 1985-1987
Gallery Assistant,
Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA; 1984 – 1988

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Rochester Education Justice Initiative, Advisory Committee
Art Committee, University of Rochester (University-wide)
College Curriculum Committee, University of Rochester
University of Rochester Humanities Center Director Search Committee, 2016
IES Program Reviewer, Sienna Italy, November, 2015.
Board of Directors, Visual Studies Workshop, 2012 - 2017
Digital Media Studies Program Steering Committee
Humanities Project, Chair, interdepartmental leadership position
George Eastman House / University of Rochester working group
Board Member, Memorial Art Gallery
Art Committee, Memorial Art Gallery
Program Committee, Memorial Art Gallery

Art Committee, Wilmot Cancer Center, / University of Rochester Medical Center
Archeology, Technology and Historical Structures Program Steering Committee
Film and Media Studies Program Steering Committee
American Studies Program Steering Committee
College Curriculum Committee
Public Art on River Campus Humanities Project, Primary Investigator
Art on Campus Committee, Chair
Area Studies Hiring Groups (Eastern Studies, African Studies)
The College Program Planning Committee
Dance Program Review/Assessor/Hire Committee
Multidisciplinary Fund Initiative Advisor for the Provost's office
Sage/Studio Art Committee
Commencement Committee
Hartnett Gallery Advisory Board