

LESLI ROBERTSON

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2006 University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, TX, Master of Fine Arts, Fibers, terminal degree
2000 Auburn University, Auburn, AL, B.A. Liberal Arts

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS 2010 - present (*SOLO/TWO PERSON)

- 2017 *Weaving Stories*, 360 Mall, Co-organized by Beit Al Sadu and the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Letters, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2016 *Weaving Stories*, Al Shaheed Park, Co-organized by Beit Al Sadu and the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Letters, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Veiled Grace: Works by Lesli Robertson and Shayema Rahim, JM Gallery, Dallas, TX*
The Mother Load: Dundee, Hannah Maclure Centre, Abertay University, Dundee, Scotland; Co-curated with Clare Brennan, Natalie Macellaio, Pernille Spence, Simone O'Callaghan
FACET: Diverse Work by Women in the West, Leech and Hoffmaster Galleries of the Wriston Art Center at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI
- 2015 *From cloth: indigo, metal, concrete*, Brookhaven College, Dallas, TX*
- 2014/15 *The Mother Load: Dallas*, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX*
- 2015 *Show me your Lone Star*, Brick House Gallery, Springfield, MO
- 2014 *Things that are now visible*, Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX
Intangible Cultural Heritage - Third International Photography Biennial, National Art Gallery, Beijing, China
Bark Cloth to Art Cloth, Creative Stitches, NEC Birmingham, England and Creative Stitches, EXCEL London, England
TBD, Build a Better Block, Oak Cliff, TX*
- 2013 *Weaving the Future*, Perot Museum of Nature and Science and in conjunction with MAP 2013, Installation event held November 7, 2013; In collaboration with Ruth West and Amie Adelman; Curator: Janeil Engelstad
NY Art Search 2013, ISE Cultural Foundation, New York, NY; Juror: Nancy Lim, MoMA Painting and Sculpture
OBJECT OBJECT! A selection of smaller works, Helmuth Projects, San Diego, CA; Curated by Helmuth Projects and good good things
Creative Differences: 35 Years at 500X, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
CVAD Faculty Fellows Of the UNT Institute for the Advancement of the Arts, UNT ArtSpace, Dallas, TX
Trace, Prescott College Art Gallery at Sam Hill Warehouse, Prescott, AZ *
- 2012 *Stratum*, Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX *
Constructed Realities, K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX*
The Summer Show, St. Tammany Art Association, Covington, LA
Woven Records, The Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Dallas, TX*
- 2010 *Woven Records*, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-Curator, *Weaving Stories Initiative*, (2016-2017), in conjunction with Beit Al Sadu/Sadu House and the Kuwait Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Letters, Kuwait City, Kuwait. Collaborators include Sheikha Altaf AlSabah, Shelby Allaho, Amanda Batson, Nawal AlBaker and Hanan AlKazemi; led *Woven Paintings Workshop* (11/2016).

Co-Creator, *The Mother Load Project* (2012-present); with Natalie Macellaio, launched an ongoing collaborative project networking with over 100 artists in 10 countries, www.themotherload.org.

Fulbright Specialist, *Al Sadu House*, Kuwait City, Kuwait, (2015-2016); Led two workshop at Al Sadu House, *Designing for Innovation* (01/2015) and *Woven Paintings* (05/2016).

Board Member, Secretary, *Textile Society of America* (2016-present)

Visiting Artist, K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX (2011); Workshop and community installation, the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center; Funded by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation.

Visiting Artist, Dallas Museum of Art, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas, TX (2009-2010); Developed and implemented community outreach initiative titled *Woven Records*.

Curator, Material Evolution: Ugandan Bark Cloth, (2011); University of North Texas, Denton, Texas; curated an exhibition involving international group of artists and designers using Ugandan bark cloth.

Project Curator, Renewing Material: Nurturing Environment, Funded by the Institute for the Advancement of the Arts Faculty Fellowship, (2010-2011); This grant initiated further project work in Uganda including *Traveling Bark Cloth Exhibition*, community art workshops, and international primary school mural exchange. Collaborators include, Fred Mutebi, Ivan Yakuze, Sara Nakisanze, Dr. Venny Nakazibwe, Rasor Elementary in Plano Texas and 10 Ugandan schools.

Member, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX (2007-2009); Assisted in the running of 30 year old artist gallery and co-op; Responsibilities included curating exhibitions, maintaining gallery, and serving as the treasurer for organization.

Project Curator, Renewing Material and the Handmade: the Story of Ugandan Bark Cloth (2008-2009); Developed an interdisciplinary project with the University of North Texas Art Gallery, Denton, TX. Participants include: Uganda Museum, Let Art Talk, independent Ugandan artists, faculty from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda and St Lawrence University, Canton New York.

Independent Researcher, Uganda, (2007,2008, 2010); Interviewed artists, designers, and scholars for “Renewing Material and the Handmade” project; Worked with Fred Mutebi of Let Art Talk to develop “Talking Mural” exchange; Filmed the process of making bark cloth, Kalisizo, Uganda; Researched mat making with Kyambogo University professor Kimani Muturi ; Coordinated with the chief conservator of the Uganda Museum, Rose Mwanja, on current and future mat making and bark cloth research

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

University of North Texas, Denton, TX; Principal Lecturer (2015- present); Senior Lecturer (2009-2015); Adjunct Professor (2006-2009)

Eastfield College, Dallas, TX; Adjunct Professor (2008)

GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

2015 UNT Foundation Outstanding Lecturer Award, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

2011 K Space Gallery, Corpus Christi, TX; received Coastal Bend Community Foundation Grant to fund visiting artist workshop and exhibition.

2010/11 Institute for the Advancement of the Arts Faculty Fellowship, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

2008 The Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
New Professional Scholarship; Textile Society of America, Washington D.C.

2006 Personal Development Grant, Surface Design Association

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS: LISTINGS

2016 Al-Ahwadi, Reham. “Lesli Robertson: Taking Sadu out of the House and into the Community,” *Khaleejesque Magazine*, Issue 23, 2016: 32-37.

Etheridge, Jamie. “Weaving a community together – Workshop on weaving arts celebrates Kuwait’s heritage,” *Kuwait Times*, 23 May, 2016.

Allaho, Shelby and Lesli Robertson, Sheikha Altaf Al-Sabah. “Sadu ... weaving its way into today,” *Arab Times*, 25 June, 2016.

Pant, Deepa. “Failaka Island: Where Time Stands Still,” *Bazaar: The Ultimate Guide to Kuwait*, 29 June, 2016.

Severins, Andrea. “Weaving in the Andes”, Dallas Museum of Art: Unboxed Blog,

- <https://uncrated.wordpress.com/2015/06/24/weaving-in-the-andes/>
- 2015 Venegas, Margarita. "UNT faculty member connects Bedouin culture and the classroom." *The North Texan*, 9 March, 2015.
- Fattahova, Nawara. "US Artist Lectures at Sadu House." *Kuwait Times*, 11 January, 2015.
- Kate Fisher, "Artist/Mother of the Month – November 2015," <http://bothartistandmother.com/artistmom-of-the-month/>
- 2014 Blue, Lilly and Jo Pollitt. "Mother Artist Network: The Mother Load project", *BIG Kids Magazine* blog, <http://www.bigkidsmagazine.com/blog/2014/01/mother-artist-network-the-mother-load-project.html>
- Jamison, Mollie, "The Mother Load." *CHILDish* blog, <http://dallaschildblog.com/2014/11/mother-load/>
- 2012 Rossetti, Ellen. "Institute Fellows Further Artistic Excellence." *UNT Research Magazine*, Vol 21, 2012: 20-21.
- 2011 Pitman, Bonnie and Ellen Hirzy. *Ignite the Power of Art: Advancing Visitor Engagement in Museum Experiences*. "Community Voice: Art, Museum, and Community, Lesli Robertson." Dallas Museum of Art and Yale University Press: New Haven and London, 2011, pg 164-167.
- Schiller, Rebecca. "Material Evolution." *Hand/Eye Magazine*, March 10, 2011.
- Bjornskau, Thomas. "Material Evolution: Ugandan Bark Cloth Exhibition at the University of North Texas." *Start Journal of Arts and Culture in East Africa*, issue 008, April 2011.
- 2010 Community Response Project with Lesli Robertson. *Dallas Museum of Art Magazine*. January – March 2010:4.

SELECTED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2016 **Presenter.** "Sadu Weaving: the pace of a camel in a fast moving culture." Textile Society of America Symposium, Savannah Georgia.
- Co-Moderator,** "The Creative Practice and Motherhood: A Global Perspective", Hannah Maclure Centre, Dundee, Scotland; Panelists; Clare Brennan, Simone O'Callaghan, Pernille Spence; Panelist via video link: Shira Richter (Israel), Mali- de-Kalo (Israel), Marina Schterenberg (USA), Rachel Powers (Australia).
- Co-Presenter,** "The Mother Load", Creative Dundee, Pecha Kucha Night Vol. 14, Dundee, Scotland.
- 2015 **Panelist,** "UNT Natural Dye Garden," Surface Design Association Made/Aware Conference, Gatlinburg, TN, co-panelist with Yoshiko Wada, Catharine Ellis, Donna Brown and Peggy Cox, 2015.
- Lecture,** "The Art of Engagement: Bringing communities into the creative process," Al Sadu House, Kuwait City, Kuwait. In connection with US Embassy Fulbright Specialist Program and Qurain Cultural Festival.
- Gallery Talk,** "Textiles of the Andes," Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX.
- 2014 **Co-Presenter,** "Border Crossings: the dynamic interplay between, place, culture, and creativity." With Andy Milligan (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design), ELIA (European League of the Institute of the Arts) Biennale Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, November 13-15, 2014.
- Gallery Talk,** "The Mother Load", Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX.
- Presenter,** "Ugandan Bark Cloth: A Model for Innovation," Textile Society of America Symposium, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013 **Lecture.** "Current Work and Research." Prescott College Art Gallery at Sam Hill Warehouse, Prescott, AZ.
- 2012 **Presenter.** "Let Art Talk: Engaging Communities through Art Education", Hawaii University Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, HI.
- 2011 **Paper Presentation.** "Material Evolution: Ugandan Bark Cloth", at "The Life of the Object: An Experimental Workshop and Conference on Production, Consumption, and Creative Reuse in American Culture," The Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA) Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Presenter.** "Material Context: the relevance of art within African culture", Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas TX.
- 2008 **Panel Moderator.** "Bark Cloth in Uganda; an ancient craft in modern times", with Dr. Celia Nyamweru, St. Lawrence University, New York and Dr. Venny Nakazibwe, Makerere University, Uganda, 11th Annual Textile Society of America Symposium, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2008