



LESLI ROBERTSON

leslirobertson@gmail.com

214.244.2213

www.linkedin.com/in/leslirobertson

www.leslirobertson.com

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, College of Visual Arts and Design, University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, TX (2006); Foci: Fibers and Textiles; Terminal Degree.

Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Auburn University, Auburn, AL (2000); Summa cum laude.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fulbright Specialist, AKA Gallery, Kampala, Uganda (2018-2019, 2 trips); partnering with community leaders and organizations to develop contemporary approaches to traditional Ugandan textile techniques.

Founder, Mekeka Designs, (2018 – present); small design company collaboratively designing and finding markets for new products using traditional Ugandan textiles.

Consultant, Bhavana World Project (2018 – present); recent project includes designing and implementing textile product design workshops for *My Handmade Armenia*, a collaborative program between USAID, Smithsonian Institution, and the people of Armenia.

Board Member, Secretary, Textile Society of America (2016-present); work with Executive Committee on org. needs **University of North Texas**, Denton, TX; Principal Lecturer, Fibers (2015-2017); Senior Lecturer, Fibers (2009-2015); Adjunct Professor, Fibers (2006-2009); Taught courses for graduate and undergraduates on textiles, including multiple levels of weaving, surface design, introduction to textiles, and alternative processes. Developed innovative Fibers based curriculum; Facilitated programs to partner students with local and international organizations and interdisciplinary activities; Hosted visiting artists and scholars; Faculty Sponsor for the UNT Natural Dye Garden, (2012-2017).

Co-Creator, The Mother Load Project (2012-present); with Natalie Macellaio, launched an ongoing collaborative project that addresses what it is to be an artist and mother; to date, have networked with over 100 artists in 10 countries, this project is exhibited internationally; www.themotherload.org.

Design Consultant, Tacos4Life (2017, 6 mos.); Designed and developed conceptual framework for interior design in growing restaurant concept; created signature installations using Ugandan baskets and Haitian lanterns.

Fulbright Specialist, Al Sadu House, Kuwait City, Kuwait (2015-2016, 3 trips); Co-curated community based project / exhibition to educate on the tradition of sadu weaving, titled *Weaving Stories*, exhibited at Al Shaheed Park; led series of textile and product design workshops with local artisans, including *Designing for Innovation* and *Painted Warp I and II*.

Workshop Instructor, Dallas Museum of Art, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas, TX (2009-2015); led numerous workshops connected to the DMA collection with groups from elementary to adult.

Informal Advisor, Bark Cloth Ltd. Uganda (2013); Through the LAUNCH Forum, a collaboration between NIKE, NASA, USAID and the US State Department, served as advisor to Oliver Heintz and Mary Barongo Heintz as they developed presentations and participated in forum events.

Visiting Artist, Maho Bay Art Center, Textile Department, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (2012); worked closely with the Textile Department director to advise and participate in the creation of sustainably produced textiles from the eco-resort waste.

Curator, Material Evolution: Ugandan Bark Cloth, UNT Art Gallery, Denton, TX (2011); Part of the Renewing Material initiative, curated exhibition with international group of artists/designers using 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; Worked in collaboration with Fred Mutebi of Let Art Talk to create art based programs in Kibinge, Uganda.

Visiting Artist, Dallas Museum of Art, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas, TX (2009-10); Implemented program with 16 community groups (over 550 people) to create exhibition, "Woven Records."

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

SELECTED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- **Presenter, "Sadu Weaving: the pace of a camel in a fast moving culture."** Textile Society of America Symposium, Savannah Georgia; 2016.
- **Co-Moderator, "The Creative Practice and Motherhood: A Global Perspective"**, Hannah Maclure Centre, Dundee, Scotland; 2016.

- **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 and Qurain Cultural Festival, 2015.
- **Gallery Talk, "Textiles of the Andes,"** Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX, 2015.
- **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.
- **Presenter, "Ugandan Bark Cloth: A Model for Innovation,"** Textile Society of America Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, 2014.
- **Presenter. "Let Art Talk: Engaging Communities through Art Education,"** Hawaii University Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, HI, 2012.
- **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," MAASA Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.
- **Presenter. "Material Context: the relevance of art within African culture,"** Dallas Museum of Art, 2011.
- **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.

PUBLICATIONS: AUTHORED ARTICLES (UN-REFEERED)

- "**Weaving Stories: Sadu Weaving of Kuwait,**" Textile Society of America Newsletter, Volume 29 No. 1, Spring 2017.
- "**Weave Around the World,**" Fulbright Scholar Blog, October 2015. <http://www.cies.org/article/weave-around-world>.
- "**The UNT Natural Dye Garden: Finding a Space for Community,**" Hand/Eye Magazine, June 20, 2014. <http://handeyemagazine.com/content/unt-natural-dye-garden>
- "**Barkcloth in Uganda,**" by Dr. Celia Nyamweru and Dr. Catherine Gombe. LAMBERT Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany (2013) Contributed to the chapter contemporary bark cloth artists.
- "**Shred to Sell: A practice in sustainable design.**" Hand/Eye Magazine, 2013. <http://handeyemagazine.com/content/shred-sell>
- "**Olubugo Reloaded: The Push Towards a New Awareness.**" Start Journal of Arts and Culture in East Africa, issue 019, April 2012.
- "**Food for thought: Recent Work by Fred Mutebi.**" Start Journal of Arts and Culture in East Africa, issue 010, June 2011.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (*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*
The Mother Load: Dallas, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX*
Show me your Lone Star, Brick House Gallery, Springfield, MO
- 2014 *Intangible Cultural Heritage - Third International Photography Biennial*, National Art Gallery, Beijing, China
Bark Cloth to Art Cloth, Creative Stitches, NEC Birmingham, UK and Creative Stitches, EXCEL London, UK
- 2013 *Weaving the Future*, Perot Museum of Nature and Science, in conjunction with MAP 2013 and Janeil Engelstad; engagement event held November 7, 2013
NY Art Search 2013, ISE Cultural Foundation, New York, NY; Juror: Nancy Lim, MoMA
OBJECT OBJECT! A selection of smaller works, Helmuth Projects, San Diego, CA
Creative Differences: 35 Years at 500X, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
Trace, Prescott College Art Gallery at Sam Hill Warehouse, Prescott, AZ *
- 2012 *Constructed Realities*, K Space Contemporary, Corpus Christi, TX*
- 2010 *Woven Records*, Center for Creative Connections, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX*