

Surface Tensions: Fragility, Resilience, and the Traces of Time

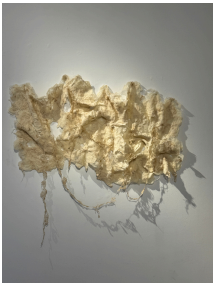
Everything all at Once, India ink, encaustics, burlap, Thai gossamer paper, reed, hand-corded plant material and thread, 2024, NFS



Vestige in Suspension, Teabag paper, India ink, watercolor, encaustics, thread, waxed linen, jade stone beads, petrified wood, 2024-2025



Landing Lightly, Gathering Slowly, Hand-felted Merino wool, Thai gossamer paper, pearl pins and thread, 2024, \$800



A Graceful Gravitation, Reed, wood, and waxed linen, 2025, \$300



Between Worlds: Held in Memory, Jute twine, cotton cord, and wood, 2024, \$500



Weft of Time: Organic Fragments (installation wall), Materials include reed, jute twine, waxed linen, corded paper, drift wood, ogura paper, Thai gossamer paper, thread, encaustics, hand-felted Merino wool, and hand-corded plant material, 2024-2025, All works for sale with prices varying from \$50 to \$400



Bioluminescence 1, Reed, jute twine, and light, 2024, \$500



Moonlit Threshold: In the Blur of Night, India ink, watercolor, collaged paper, encaustics, waxed linen, cotton cord and steel, 2025, \$2,000



Between Held and Unraveled, Wood, jute twine, waxed linen, hand-felted Merino wool, Thai gossamer paper and thread, 2025, \$1,200



Echoes of Infrastructures Revealed, India ink, watercolor, spray paint, encaustics, Ogura paper, Thai gossamer paper, burlap, thread, paper covered wire, paper wasp nest, Charlevoix stone, 2024, \$1,800



Bound, Encaustics, waxed linen, Thai gossamer paper, thread and pearl pin, 2024, \$400



Roots and Truth Stones, Waxed linen, polished jute twine, Charlevoix and Petoskey stones and drift wood, 2025, \$1,200



Bioluminescence 4, Maple veneer, encaustic, paper covered wire and light, 2024, \$300



Bioluminescence 2, Paper covered wire and light, 2024, \$300



Bioluminescence 3, Paper covered wire and light, 2024, \$300





Bioluminescence 5, Maple veneer, encaustic, paper covered wire and light, 2024, \$400



Tethered Rhythm, Amate bark paper, encaustics, metallic leaf, jute twine, cheesecloth, paint, thread, waxed linen, wood beads and stone, 2024, \$500



Artist Statement

Just as roots intertwine and connect, we are all intrinsically linked to one another and to the earth. Through my art, I explore and contemplate the fragility of these connections and the beauty and resilience of the natural world. Using fiber and mixed media, I evoke both unity and dissonance, creating richly layered compositions with materials like paper, burlap, cheesecloth, jute twine, reed, India ink, paint, encaustics, thread, and wool. I alternate between abstract paintings and free-form creations.

I think of my paintings as a way to freeze time or hold onto a fleeting moment, but they are more than just reflections of the natural world. While my work is often inspired by details I notice on walks through the woods or along the shore, the process of creating transforms these observations. Nature becomes a metaphor for personal and collective experiences, reflecting cycles of growth, change, and uncertainty. My woven and torn-apart pieces allow for slow, meditative work, with the repetitive motions becoming a form of contemplation. Whether pinned to the wall or standing freely, the shadows these fiber works cast add another dimension, symbolizing protection, transformation, mystery, and the duality of presence and absence. Weaving represents connection and interdependence, while tearing apart speaks to rupture and fragmentation. Through my art, I aim to reflect these themes and invite viewers to consider the delicate balance of existence—both in nature and within themselves.

Sherri Denault

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ARTIST, EDUCATOR, CURATOR
CULTIVATING CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY



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Education

2025 (Expected SP2025) – MFA, Governors State University
2013 – MA, Studio Courses under Javier Chavira, Governors State University
2006 – BS in Art (Painting Concentration), Olivet Nazarene University
2004 – AFA, High Honors, Phi Theta Kappa, Kankakee Community College

Teaching Experience

2006–2017 – **Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL**
Courses Taught: 2-Dimensional Design, 3-Dimensional Design, Drawing 1, Drawing 2, Figure Studies, Painting 1, Painting 2

Guest Lectures & Presentations

Guest Lecturer, Women in Art History – Taught by Dr. Rebecca Siefert, Governors State University, University Park, IL
2022 – Presented on the work of *Mary Miss* and led a class visit to *Field Rotation* at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
2021 – Delivered a lecture on fiber arts, exploring historical and contemporary practices, followed by a hands-on art activity

Employment

2018–Present – **Education and Outreach Coordinator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, University Park, IL**

- Assist the Curator and Director of the Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery, Jeff Stevenson
- Plan and coordinate events both on and off-site, organize educational field trips, and develop supporting materials for school visits
- Manage volunteers, curate select exhibitions, and oversee installation processes
- Conduct guided tours of the park and contribute to fundraising and awareness events

2015–2018 – Gallery Director, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

- Served as the first gallery director, establishing a visiting artist program and overseeing all artist relations
- Curated and managed exhibitions, coordinated installations, and facilitated artist talks
- Organized the senior capstone exhibition for graduating students

2012–2013 – Graduate Assistant, Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University, University Park, IL

2011–2012 – Owner, SD Studio 123 Portrait Studio and Fine Art Gallery, Cullom, IL

Solo Exhibitions

2022 – *From a Whirlwind*, University of St. Francis Art Gallery, Joliet, IL

2019 – *Exploration and Discovery*, Crete Creative, Crete, IL

2018 – *Finding Place*, Skylight Gallery, Governors State University, University Park, IL

2017 – *Solo Site-Specific Installation*, Cultivator at Bray Grove Farms, Morris, IL (*Reviewed by Lise McKean for Bad at Sports*)

2013 – *Brandenburg Gallery*, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

2013 – *Governors State University, Visual Arts Gallery*, University Park, IL

2012 – *Governors State University, Atrium Gallery*, University Park, IL

2012 – *Monkey Mind Art Studio*, Frankfort, IL

2011 – *Provena St. Mary's Hospital*, Kankakee, IL

2011 – *Monkey Mind Art Studio*, Frankfort, IL

2009 – *Watseka Historical Museum*, Watseka, IL

2006 – *Brandenburg Gallery*, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

Juried Exhibitions

2024 – *Pattern Recognition*, Arc Gallery, Chicago, IL

2023 – *6th Midwest Open*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

2023 – *46th Art Comp*, Beverly Art Center, Chicago, IL

2022 – *Midwestern Biennial*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL

2021 – *Ephemera: The Power of Impermanence*, Art Center Highland Park, IL

2018 – *6th Annual Art Competition*, Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL

2017 – *Small Works 2017*, White Ripple Gallery, Hammond, IN

2016 – *Midwestern Biennial 2016*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL

2016 – *From Earth*, Tall Grass Art Association, Park Forest, IL

2016 – *Quadratfuss*, Annex:Art, Berlin, Germany

2015 – *Biennial Quad-State Exhibit*, The Quincy Art Center, Quincy, IL

2014 – *South Lake Artist Co-Op 5th Annual Exhibition*, Paul Henry Gallery, Hammond, IN

2014 – *Minute Musings*, Union Street Gallery, Chicago Heights, IL

2014 – *Spring Show*, Water Street Studio, Batavia, IL

2014 – *Women's Work 2014*, Woodstock, IL

2014 – *Equilibrium: Art for a Changing World*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL

Invitational Exhibitions

2025 – *Strength in Delicacy*, Christopher Art Gallery, Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, IL (Two-person exhibit with Katherine Steichen Rosing)

2024 – *Natural Exchange*, Laura Sprague Gallery, Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL (Two-person exhibit with Margie Glass Sula)

2023 – *Wordless Wonder*, Kenny Machay Gallery, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

Public Collections

Governors State University, University Park, IL

Fra Angelica Foundation of Sacred Art, Riverside, IL

Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery, Kankakee, IL

Orthopedic Associates of Kankakee, Kankakee, IL

Curatorial Projects

Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University, University Park, IL

2024 – *Maximizing Minimalism*, Amanda Gentry, Bob Fields, John Fraser, Beverly Rautenberg, Yvette Kaiser Smith

2023 – *Espectro - Spectrum*, Cesar Conde, Georgina Valverde, Vivian Zapata, Raul Ortiz, Javier Chavira

2023 – *In Reciprocity – Humans and Nature*, Joanne Aono, Christine Forni, Deanna Krueger

Skylight Gallery, Governors State University, University Park, IL

2024 – *Hydrological Shift*, Jennifer Cronin and Alison Ruttan

2023 – *Dreams of Inkarrí*, Jose Alemann

2022 – *Emotional Repositories*, Bobbi Meier

2022 – *The Turnings of Fire*, Shirley Nannini and Candace Wark collaboration, and Louise Pappageorge

Victorian House Art Gallery, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

2018 – *Studio Conversations*, Mary Bookwalter, Janice Meister, and Carol Weber

2018 – *Leave Space*, Tammy Kordik

2017 – *Attention is the Beginning of Devotion*, Joanne Aono and Kate Ingold

2017 – *Comma*, Gunjan Kumar

2017 – *Tierra*, Sergio Gomez

2016 – *Ocean Inside the Drop*, Ahavani Mullen

2016 – *Mark Making*, Linda Emmerman and Dana Major

2015 – *Faces*, Michael Brown and Patty McWilliams

Committee Service

2020 – Sculpture Selection Committee Member, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

- Served on a five-member committee to select a sculpture for the park, funded by the Illinois Art-in-Architecture Grant
- Reviewed artist proposals and contributed to discussions on artistic and site-specific considerations

Community Volunteer Projects

2017 (Fall) – Curator & Artist, *An Unexpected Pause*, Perry Farm Park, Bourbonnais, IL

- Organized and participated in an outdoor art exhibition featuring five artists, integrating site-specific installations throughout the park
- Coordinated logistics, artist selection, and installation to engage the public with contemporary outdoor sculpture

2006–2018 – Volunteer, Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery, Kankakee, IL

- Assisted with the installation of art exhibitions, ensuring proper presentation and display of artworks