

## Rachel Wallis

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- Education**
- 2015 - 2016 **Moore College of Art and Design**, Philadelphia, PA
    - MA in Social Engagement
  - 1999 - 2003 **Wesleyan University**, Middletown, CT
    - BA in Latin American Studies with a concentration in Sociology.

### **Skill Areas** **Teaching Experience**

Extensive experience teaching functional textiles, art history, and social practice, including:

- A summer intensive course on Feminist Fibers for the Art Therapy Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
- Intro and intermediate sewing, quilting, screen printing, indigo shibori dye, embroidery, screen printing, intro knitting, and block print on fabric;
- Multi-week classes, workshops, panel discussions, and lectures on topics ranging from storytelling in quilts, socially engaged art and community practice, the role of art in addressing trauma, and the history of textiles in fine art;
- Experience teaching diverse student bodies, including graduate and undergraduate classes, continuing education courses, community art centers, and incarcerated students.

### **Project Management**

Planning, funding, and coordinating large-scale, multi-year collaborative art projects, including:

- *Inheritance: Quilting Across Prison Walls*, an ongoing community quilting project which works with incarcerated mothers to create quilts for their families, while coordinating community quilting circles to tell their stories and organize against mass incarceration and family separation. The project was incubated as an artist in residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was the recipient of a grant from Illinois Humanities. It has encompassed two six-week classes at Cook County Jail, as well as six community quilting circles involving nearly 100 participants.
- *Gone But Not Forgotten*, a three year collaboration with We Charge Genocide, creating a community memorial quilt for victims of police violence in Chicago. The project received funding from Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and included dozens of community quilting circles with hundreds of participants across the city of Chicago, resulting in a 40 foot long quilt installation memorializing nearly 150 people killed by the Chicago Police Department. It has been exhibited in universities, churches, community centers, and art galleries in Philadelphia, Chicago, and New Orleans.

### **Communication and Fundraising**

More than ten years of experience doing communications and fundraising work with social justice and arts organizations and projects, including:

- Strategic planning, grassroots fundraising, and communications consulting with Prison and Neighborhood Arts Project, Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, We Believe You Fund, Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, and Chicago Community Cinema;
- Managing donor communications, grassroots fundraising, and special events for Crossroads Fund, a progressive community foundation with a budget of more than one million dollars;
- Raising more \$20,000 in funding through grants, crowdfunding campaigns, and Patreon supporters for personal art and exhibition projects.

### **Selected Work Experience**

- 2014 - 2020 **Textile Instructor** at Sew to Speak, Chicago Public Library, Lillstreet Art Center, School of the Art Institute, Hyde Park Art Center, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.
- 2011 - 2014 **Communication and Events Manager, Crossroads Fund**
- 2008 - 2011 **Media and Education Coordinator, Other Worlds**
- 2009 - 2011 **National Coordinator, Chiapas Media Project**
- 2010 **Fundraising Coordinator, AREA Chicago**

- Selected Exhibitions**
- 2021 *Moore Alumni Invitational* – Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, PA
  - 2019 *Everything Has Changed*-Agitator Gallery, Chicago, IL
  - 2019 *Envisioning Justice* – Sullivan Gallery, Chicago, IL
  - 2018 *Community Quilting Retrospective* – Nichols Tower, Chicago, IL
  - 2018 *Beyond Stitches* – Kirschman Arts Space, New Orleans, LA
  - 2018 *Do Not Resist? 100 Years of Chicago Police Violence* – Hairpin Arts Center, Chicago, IL
  - 2017 *Self Care: a Group Show on Living Beyond Depression* – Ford Gallery, Portland, OR
  - 2017 *Gone But Not Forgotten* – The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago, IL
  - 2017 *Bon Marche* – Ann Gallery, Newburgh, NY
  - 2017 *United States of Incarceration* – Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Chicago, IL
  - 2017 *Gone But Not Forgotten* – Compound Yellow, Oak Park, IL
  - 2017 *Mutual Support* – Pelican Bomb Gallery X, New Orleans, LA
  - 2016 *Gone But Not Forgotten* – Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
  - 2016 *Gone But Not Forgotten (work in progress)* – Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
  - 2014 *Day of the Dead Offering to Santo* – Whitdel Arts, Detroit, MI
  - 2014 *No Selves to Defend* – Art in These Times, Chicago, IL
  - 2014 *Craft/Work* – Beauty and Brawn Gallery (artwork in collaboration with *El Stitch y Bitch* collective), Chicago, IL
  - 2012 *Hanal Pixán Food for the Souls: Dia de los Muertos* – National Museum of Mexican Art (artwork in collaboration with *El Stitch y Bitch* collective), Chicago, IL
- Curatorial Projects**
- 2014 *Craft/Work* – Beauty and Brawn Gallery, Chicago, IL
  - 2013 *Fun-a-Day Chicago*- Threadless, Chicago, IL
  - 2010 *AREA Chicago Art Show* – Yollocalli Art Reach, Chicago, IL
  - 2009 *AREA Chicago Art Show* – Orientation Center, Chicago, IL
  - 2008 *Son de Las Barricadas: Art and Resistance in Oaxaca* – Multiple locations, Chicago, IL
- Selected Lectures, Workshops, Publications & Residencies**
- 2021 Fuller Craft Museum, Presenter on *Craft in Art Therapy: Diverse Approaches to the Transformative Power of Craft Materials and Methods*
  - 2020 Project Nia artist in residence.
  - 2020 *Quilting Across Prison Walls*, chapter written with Savneet Talwar in *Craft in Art Therapy*.
  - 2019 Creating Justice, Oakton Community College – Panel organizer and presenter on *Radical Mending, Using Textiles to Address Community Trauma*.
  - 2018 Critical Pedagogies in Art Therapy – Presenter on *Radical Arts Therapies Pedagogy and Praxis: A Cross Disciplinary Dialogue*.
  - 2018 Imagining America – Panel organizer and presenter on *Sustaining an Abolitionist Art Practice*
  - 2018 School of the Art Institute of Chicago – Tower Artist Residency, Chicago, IL
  - 2017 A Studio in the Woods – Flint and Steel Residency, New Orleans, LA
  - 2016 Institute of Contemporary Art - ICA/Moore Lecturer, Philadelphia, PA
  - 2015 Southeastern College Art Conference – Presenter on *From a Spark to an Eruption: A Woman's Role During the Early to Mid-Twentieth Century Art*
- Grants**
- 2019 Integrity: Arts & Culture Association for *Inheritance Quilt*
  - 2018 Illinois Humanities, Envisioning Justice Community Grant for *Inheritance Quilt*
  - 2015 Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events individual artist grant for *Gone But Not Forgotten*
- Leadership**
- 2013 – 2016 **Co-Founder, Craft/Work**
    - Collaborated on the art quilt *His/Ours* and co-wrote the related publication.
    - Coordinated a successful \$3,500 Kickstarter campaign, organizing a bi-weekly artist talk and workshop series, and curating a gallery exhibit.
    - As a member of *El Stitch y Bitch*, created *Untitled (Homicide Quilt)*, a textile installation in the *Craft/Work* show which was the subject of extensive local and international news coverage.
  - 2009 – 2011 **AREA Chicago Advisory Board**
    - Strategic planning, editing, and fundraising.