

Whitney Johnson-Lessard

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www.whitneyjohnson-lessard.com

EDUCATION

- 2022** MFA, Art Theory and Practice, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 2017** BFA, Painting, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
BS, Art Education, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 2014** AA, Illinois Central College 2014 East Peoria, IL

RESIDENCIES

- 2025** Alderworks Alaska Writers and Artists Retreat, Skagway, AK
- 2023** Project 1612, Morton, IL
- 2020** Prairie Center for the Arts, Peoria, IL

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** *Held within the Rocks and Dust*, Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, IL
- 2023** *kind in the right stomach*, Project 1612, Morton, IL, [The Visualist](#)
three handfuls of pennies, Lease Agreement, Bloomington, IL, [WGLT Bloomington](#)
- 2022** *Whitney Johnson and Hannah Songer*, Open Space Art Gallery & Studios, Ottawa, IL
- 2019** *Decade's End*, The Portal, Peoria, IL
- 2017** *Sensing Synonyms*, Heartland Community College, [Illinois State University News](#)
Part and Parcel, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL
- 2016** *5th anniversary of the Cometogetherspace*, 209 E Fell Street, Normal, IL
- 2015** *Thresholds and Boundaries*, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** *title tbd*, curators Holly Cahill & Melissa Oresky, University of Illinois Springfield, Visual Arts Gallery, Springfield, IL
- 2025** *Foaming at the Mouth*, Color Club, Chicago, IL
Home, Azalea Arts Community, Boston, MA (online)
Birds of a Feather, Peoria Public Library, Peoria, IL
Électricité: Illuminating Perspectives, Peoria Women's Club, Peoria, IL
Faculty Art Exhibition, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL
- 2024** *Members and Friends 2024*, Galesburg Community Arts Center, Galesburg, IL
phone, wallet, KEYS, Coco Hunday, Tampa, FL
The Old and the New: Envisioning Peoria History in New Ways, Peoria Riverfront Museum, Peoria, IL
- 2022** *blossom soup, blossom salad*, Block Museum of Art, Evanston, IL
- 2019** *Fairfield Collects*, ICON Gallery, Fairfield, IA
- 2018** *A Practice in Permanence*, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
The Randon and Abby Gettys Collection, Project 1612, Peoria, IL
- 2017** *Student Annual 2017*, University Galleries, Normal, IL, Juror: Claire Ashley
- 2016** *The First Show*, Extraordinaryspace, Normal, IL
Student Annual 2016, University Galleries, Normal, IL, Juror: Karen Reimer

Force of Nature, Transpace Gallery, Normal, IL
89th Annual Amateur Art Exhibition, McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, IL
Jurors: Dawn Gettler and Joshua Cox, 1st place in Painting (University)
ABBRVTN, Figure One Gallery, Champaign, IL
Multiplicity, Rachel Cooper Gallery, Normal, IL

2015 *Works from Around our State*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

2017 University Galleries, Illinois State University

2016 Milner Library, Illinois State University

Normal Editions Workshop, Illinois State University

Quote / Unquote, Illinois State University

PUBLICATIONS

2025 *Held Between the Rocks and Dust*, River Styx Magazine, St Louis, MO

Meet Whitney Johnson-Lessard, Bold Journey, Culver City, CA

2022 *blossom soup, blossom salad*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

2016 *Lori Waxman's 60 WRD/MIN Art Critic*, University Galleries, Normal, IL

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024 Creative Catalyst Grant, Illinois Arts Council

Arts Dollars Grant, Arts Partners of Central Illinois

2022 Paschke Grant, Northwestern University

2017 Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University

Friends of the Arts Grant, Illinois State University

2016 Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University

1st Place in Painting, McLean County Arts Center, *89th Annual Amateur Art Exhibition*,

Jurors: Dawn Gettler and Joshua Cox, 1st place in Painting (University)

2015 Larry and Patricia (Hunkler) Stagen Endowed Teaching Scholarship, Illinois State University

2015 Irving S. Tick Award, Illinois State University

2014 Friends of the Arts Grant Recipient, Illinois State University

School of Art Tuition Waiver, Illinois State University

2013 Honors Program Tuition Waiver, Illinois Central College

TEACHING

2024 - present Adjunct Professor, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL

2023 - present Affiliate Professor, Bradley University, Peoria, IL

2022 - 2023 Instructional Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

2022 - present Teaching Artist, Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, IL

2021 - 2022 Visiting Artist Coordinator, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

2016 - 2017 Woodshop Assistant, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

2016 Teaching Assistant, Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI