

Whitney Johnson-Lessard

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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
Following Water, Muse Gallery, Morton, IL
- 2023** *kind in the right stomach*, Project 1612, Morton, IL
three handfuls of pennies, Lease Agreement, Bloomington, IL
- 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, Normal, IL
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

PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025** [Botanical Readiness, Vol. 3. Spring unto Summer](#)
DeGreef, Kelsey, "Whitney Johnson-Lessard"; Normal Roots
"Whitney Johnson-Lessard, Held Between the Rocks and Dust"; River Styx Magazine
Heintzman, John, Video Interview; Peoria Art Guild
"Meet Whitney Johnson-Lessard"; Bold Journey
- 2023** "Whitney Johnson and Hannah Songer: kind in the right stomach"; The Visualist
Warnecke, Lauren, "Hello and goodbye to Bloomington's Lease Agreement — a pop-up gallery that'll be gone in a few days"; WGLT Bloomington
- 2022** "blossom soup, blossom salad"; Northwestern University
Holtz, Judy, "Project 1612 presents upcoming exhibition 'kind in the right stomach' in backyard Morton location"; WCBU Peoria
- 2017** Schlink, Lyndsie, "Organic forms, compositional rhythms, layering techniques combine for Sensing Synonyms"; Illinois State University News
- 2016** Waxman, Lori, "60 WRD/MIN Art Critic"; University Galleries

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