

Whitney Johnson-Lessard

whitneyjohnson@gmail.com

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 *To See Like You*, Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL

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 *Terrain Biennial*, The home of Lisa Nelson-Raabe and Burt Raabe, Peoria, IL

FELT, Glassell Gallery, Baton Rouge, LA

Kinhouse 2025, Kinhouse Gallery, Fort Wayne, IN

Archive the West, MidwestNice Art, Aberdeen, SD (online)

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; Erik Brown
Kinhouse Exhibition 2025, Kinhouse Gallery; Kaylan Buteyn and Dana Caldera
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

- 2025** Arts Dollars Grant, Arts Partners of Central Illinois
- 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

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

- 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