



Photo: Ulysses Curry

Esther Ervin

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine, BS
American University of Beirut, Lebanon
California State University, Long Beach, MFA
Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA

CONTACT

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Seattle, WA

<https://www.seattlemetalsguild.org/memhip/member-profiles/#!biz/id/53bec5ce93f754813e8b45d8>

PROFILE

I am an interdisciplinary artist, with a lifetime of experience in carpentry, ceramics, illustration, drawing, graphic design, collage, metal-work, print-making, sewing, jewelry, book-binding, photography and painting; enabling creation of work that may be historically based, site-specific or exploratory.

LANGUAGES

English - Native
Spanish - Pretty fluent
French - Basic

STATEMENT

With ceramic clay as the primary medium, I have demonstrated in an abstracted manner on hollow vessels several examples of oppression and exploitation of black and brown people.

I chose to use ceramic clay because it comes from the earth in natural colors from white to black, as we do. Vessels, whether they are functional or not, are an ideal form to contain and exhibit what I see as the development and effects of institutionalized racism.

The vessels are hand-built with Vashon and Maple Valley clays using coils and slabs.



Photos: Al Doggett

Public Art

- Sept-Dec 2021 Shunpike Storefronts Program 2021 Artist. Theme: "Do Black Lives Matter?" Medium: ceramic and mixed media, South Lake Union area.
- Aug. 2020 Pavilion Marketplace, 14 x 4' steel panel titled "Cowrie Cloth," Jackson Street, near 23rd Avenue, Seattle, WA.
- Aug 2019 Arts in Parks temporary art installation titled "Windows to the Life of Al Larkins," installed in Al Larkins Park, Seattle, WA.
- March 2019 5 round concrete and tile benches with Ipe wood tops installed on Union Street and Courtyard at Liberty Bank building, Seattle, WA.
- Jan, 2019 3 bronze Salmon and 4 Glass panels at Liberty Bank building, Seattle, WA.
- July 2015 Temporary Public Art Commission-Arts & Culture, Art Interruptions, the Little Art Supply Depot, 230 art supply packages distributed, Seattle, WA.

Solo Exhibitions

- Sept 2022 "Partners: Jim Crow and Katrina the Dame of Death." WaNaWari's Walk the Block, installation including woven steel curtain, life-sized skeletal Katrina and Crow, miniature skulls, marigolds, varied mediums
- Nov 2019-Jan "Politics on Textiles," Southeast Seattle Senior Center, Seattle, WA.
- July 2017 "Social Fabric in Tatters," largely fiber art, M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery, Seattle Central College, Seattle, WA.
- April 2017 "Looking at US," reflections on social and climate issues, Dendroica Gallery, Capitol Hill, Seattle, WA.
- Nov. 2015 Reflections on Social Issues, ceramic and fiber, Carco Theatre, Renton, WA.
- Apr. 2014 "We Wear the Mask," Form/Space Atelier, ceramic and mixed-media, self-curated, Seattle, WA.

Residencies

- 2023 Black and Indigenous Peoples Book Arts Residency at Seattle Print Arts in partnership with Editions Studio. To create artist' books, broadsides, posters and other works on paper.
- Sept.-Dec 2021 Artist in Residence at Amazon. Project: Bring Back the Light, stainless steel wire pictorial hanging curtain against gun violence., 3' x 4'.

- March 2020 Artist in Residence at James and Janie Washington Foundation. Project: examination of stereotypes of seven different ethnic groups. Medium: montage on 26" x 16" linen panels. Completed Sept. 2020.
- May 2009 Artist in Residence, 2 months, James W. Washington Jr. and Janie Rogella Washington Foundation, Seattle, WA
- July 2007 PONCHO Artist in Residence 2007-2008, metalsmithing and welding Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA.

Selected Media

- June 2022 Black Arts Legacies by Cascade Public Media, documenting the complexities of being a Black artist in Seattle
<https://blackartslegacies.crosscut.com/articles/esther-erwin>
- Oct 2019 "About Liberty Bank," interview by Dr. Georgia McDade for radio KVRU, Seattle, WA.

Selected Exhibitions

- Nov-Jan 2023 Pluralism, member exhibit, 3 works in fabric and felt, Center on Contemporary Art, CoCA gallery Seattle, WA.
- Apr-Jul 2019 Seattle Metals Guild Biennial, WA State Convention Center, Seattle, WA.
- Sept. 2018 "Ramybes" gallery, mixed-media brooch, Palanga, Lithuania.
- May 2018 Legnica Jewellery Festival SILVER, mixed-media brooch, Legnica, Poland.
- Mar. 2018 Vilnius Academy of Arts author Jewellery Gallery, "Argentum", mixed-media brooch, Vilnius Lithuania.
- Mar. 2018 Amberif Jewellery Show 2018, mixed-media brooch, Gdansk, Poland,
- Mar. 2018 XV International Baltic Amber and Jewellery Show, Amber Trip, mixed-media brooch, Litexpo Exhibition Center, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Nov. 2017 Beijing International Jewelry Exhibition, 2 necklaces, Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, Beijing, China.
- Jan. 2016 2 person show in the Women Painters of Washington's gallery; with Naoko Morisawa, 3rd fl., downtown Macy's, Seattle, WA.