

Matt Becker

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Ceramics MFA Graduate from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) interested in finding a diverse & accessible meeting point between story, illustration, function, and the physicality of clay.

Education

- 2021 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, RI
MFA in Ceramics
Studied with Katy Schimert , Lesley Baker, Robert Brinkerhoff, Matt Katz, Jane Dillon, Anina Major, Nicole Cherubini, and Glenn Adamson.
Research Focus: Ceramic sculpture utilizing the collision of multiple visual languages such as sculpture, pottery, glaze chemistry, surface design, form experimentation, writing, and illustration.
Certificate in Collegiate Teaching
Studied with Nancy Friese & Nora Kahn
- 2015-19 **Manchester Community College**, Manchester, CT
Ceramics Courses
Studied with Susan Classen-Sullivan and Pat Carrigan.
Research Focus: Post BFA work exploring ceramics. Created work exploring the relationship of gestural and structural clay.
- 2014 **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**, North Dartmouth, MA
BFA summa cum laude in Illustration
BFA summa cum laude in Painting
- 2012 **Manchester Community College**, Manchester, CT
AA cum laude in Fine Arts
Studied with Richard Harden.
AA cum laude in General Studies

Awards

- 2021 **Third Place Award for Graduate Student Excellence,**
NCECA Juried Student Exhibition, DAAP Reed Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2019-21 **Graduate Teaching Assistantship,** Graduate Fellowships, RISD
- 2019 **MCC Foundation Purchase Award,** Manchester Community College, CT
- 2017 **Linda Percoski Memorial Award,** Piedmont Art Show, Somers, CT
- 2016 **MCC Foundation Purchase Award,** Manchester Community College, CT
Best In Show: Bill & Phyllis Baltaks Memorial Award,
Vernon Community Art Center, Vernon, CT
- 2015 **Grand Prize, Magic & Mischief Illustration Contest,** Anime Boston, Boston, MA
- 2014 **Third Place,** MCC Community College Art Show
- 2012 **Award for Student Excellence,** Manchester Community College
- 2011 **Daddy Grasso Award,** MCC Community College Art Show
- 2010 **Honorable Mention,** MCC Community College Art Show

Selected Art Shows & Exhibitions

- 2023 **Small Favors,** The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
LAST CALL VIII, Companion Gallery, Humboldt, TN
- 2022 **Elemental,** Featured in Ceramics Monthly's Annual Contest
- 2021 **RISD Graduate Exhibition,** Providence, RI
**National Council for the Education on Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Juried
Emerging Student Artist Show,** DAAP Galleries, Cincinnati, OH
Feminized Gelman Gallery, Providence, RI
Memories and How We Hold Them Gelman Gallery, Providence, RI
Small Favors, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA
Five Points Gallery 2021 Juried Exhibition,
Five Points Gallery Annex, Torrington, CT
- 2020 **RISD Ceramic Triennial,** Woods-Gerry Gallery, Providence, RI
- 2019 **Small Works,** Five Points Gallery Annex, Torrington, CT
- 2018 **Focus Under Forty,** Rowayton Arts Center, Rowayton, CT
Spectrum, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
10th Annual Hall of Fame, MCC Foundation, Bolton, CT
Affordable Art Upward Hartford, Hartford, CT
222, Dehn Gallery, Manchester, CT
The Gallery Management Class Presents, Loop Gallery, Manchester, CT
Hartford Art Space, OSH Group Show, Hartford, CT
- 2017 **Piedmont Art Show,** Somers Cultural Commission, Somers, CT
MCC Alumni Show, MCC on Main, Manchester, CT
- 2016 **Piedmont Art Show,** Somers Cultural Commission, Somers, CT
- 2015 **On Paper,** Vernon Community Arts Center, Vernon, CT
- 2014 **ArtWorks! Senior Painting Thesis Show,** New Bedford, MA
Senior Illustration Show, CVPA Gallery, North Dartmouth, MA
"Magic and Mischief" Art Contest, Anime Boston

Experience

5/2011-
Current

Matt Becker Art

Self-employed small business & design studio for selling illustration, ceramics, and other media which has exhibited at over 80 events.

- Included in The Mystic Art Fair 2018, 19, 21, 22 & 23 Roseland Cottage Art Fair 2019, 21,22 & 23, Flamecon (an LGBT ComiCon in NYC) 2016, 17, 19 & 22, Connecticon 2011, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22 & 23, the New England Christmas Expo 2021, 22 & 23, the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show 2023 & 2024, and the Wadsworth Atheneum Fine Arts & Flowers 2023.
- Extensive work in Adobe Photoshop & Adobe InDesign. Coordinated and produced merchandise & graphic design, and dealt with sales & use tax IDs.

6/2021-
Current

Pottery Instructor & Co-Founder

Mill Court Ceramics, Storrs, CT

Freelance instructor and co-founder of a small community ceramics studio.

- Coordinated and taught "Try It Nights": two hour beginner wheel throwing classes with 4-7 students focused on the introduction of basic wheel throwing and ceramic technique. Over 300+ Students as of 6/2023.
- Designed and taught recurring six-week courses focused on the basic process of pottery from beginning to end, as well as advanced classes in pottery, advanced production, and handbuilding.

9/2022-
3/2023

Pottery 101 Instructor

Junkpot Studio, West Hartford, CT

Freelance instructor for 8 week pottery class teaching basic pottery from start to finish.

9/2022-
12/2022

Adjunct Professor

Eastern State Connecticut University, Windham, CT

Taught Illustration III for the Fall 2022 semester.

- Class was focused around the combination of digital and traditional skills, while also highlighting different aspects of the Elements of Art & Design and how they could be used to create stronger work.
- Also a strong focus on building a portfolio of work & researching career options in the field.

- 1/2020-2/20 **Instructor of Record**
1/21-2/21 *Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI*
Courses Taught: Form and Surface 2020 and 2021.
- Wintersession 2021 was a fully remote 6 week, 3 credit course that took place over Zoom & Canvas, using alternative materials to investigate the making practices of the ceramic art form.
 - Designed and co-taught intensive 6 week, 3 credit course with fellow grad student over the 2020 semester. Students included undergrad and grad students from non-ceramics departments at RISD and Brown University students.
- 9/2019-5/21 **Teaching Assistant**
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
Object As Idea, Fall 2019, Figure Sculpting, Spring 2020, and Topics in Material Science Fall 2020, Pottery 01 Spring 2021
Helped instruct students when teacher unavailable. Assisted creating clay & glaze, helped critique individually and in groups.
- 9/2016- 5/19 **Kiln & Studio Technician**
Manchester Community College, Manchester, CT
Maintained and monitored studio space, processed student work for community college & summer program, general studio assisting.
- 1/2018- 5/18 **Gallery Assistant**
Dehn Gallery at Workspace!, Manchester, CT
Part of a course on Gallery Management at Manchester Community College. Assisted with conceiving show, jurying, curating, and creating print media.
- 9/2013-5/14 **Curatorial Intern**
New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks!, New Bedford, MA
Created print media & graphic design, such as the annual appeal and ads for exhibitions, helped design the new logo, and assisted in curating an interactive exhibit for children.