

Leah R. Gallant-McFall

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Now in my 15th year of teaching and designing at the college level, I have served in administrative and leadership positions such as Division Head of Creative Arts and Communication and Faculty Council. My creative work/research is wide-ranging but centered on theatrical costume and set design as textile art/sculpture/storytelling. My work is closely tied to the unusual position I occupy as an MFA trained painter and textile artist, moving in the world of theatre and dance.

Education

2017 MFA in Textile Arts (studied costume design, lighting and set design, fiber arts, art history, drawing and painting) – Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
Thesis and Show Title: *Surface as Story: Tracing the Journey in Theatrical Design*

2006 MEd in Art Education (studied education, art history, fine art) – SIUE

1993 BA - Principia College, Elsah, IL - Studio Art and Art History majors (liberal arts)

1992 Boston University- Sea Education Association- Sea Semester (science and liberal arts)

Academic and Artistic Appointments and Service

2020-present Division Head, Creative Arts and Communication division- Principia College, Elsah, IL
2020-present Associate Professor/Theatrical Designer/Costume Director- Principia College, Elsah, IL
2019-2020 Chair, Committee on Committees
2018-2019 Faculty Promotion Committee
2018 spring Acting Division Head, CAC division- Principia College, Elsah, IL
2017-2020 Faculty Council representative for CAC division.
2016-2020 Assistant Professor/Theatrical Designer/Costume Director - Principia College, Elsah, IL
2014-2016 Visiting Faculty/Costume Director - Principia College, Elsah, IL
2009-2015 Costume Designer/Director - Principia College, Elsah, IL
2000-2023 Art Instructor - Principia Adult Continuing Education, Elsah, IL
2007-2009 After School Program Director and Asst. Art Teacher – Principia School, St. Louis, MO
1999-2007 Writing Program Coordinator/Institutional Research - Principia College, Elsah, IL
2004-2007 Art Instructor - Jacoby Arts Center
1994-2000 Executive Director, Theatre Producer, and Art Instructor- Creative Express, Alton, IL

Courses: Introduction to Theatrical Design, Theatre Costuming, Stagecraft, Theatre Crew, England/Scotland Arts Block Program, England/Scotland Abroad Courses: Field Research Journal, Designing for Theatre

Selected workshops and short courses: Drawing and Sketching, Watercolor Painting, Fiber Arts in Costuming, Landscape Painting, Exploring Fibers, Multi-Media Painting, Jewelry Design, Paper Arts/Bookmaking, Drawing with Bernard Maybeck, Nature Journaling, Silk Painting, Clay, Sculpture, Art Education, Faith and Fashion: Sustainability, Greek and Roman Costume

Service outside of Principia College:

2023 - Faculty Respondent for the Design, Technology, Management (DTM) Design Storm Region III, Kennedy Center -American College Theatre Festival (KC-ACTF)
Faculty Facilitator for Costume Event Tech Olympics, Region III, KC-ACTF

2022 - Faculty Respondent for the Design, Technology, Management (DTM) Design Storm Region III, Kennedy Center -American College Theatre Festival (KC-ACTF)

2021-present – Consultant on Costume shop operations, Principia School, St. Louis, MO

Costume Design Produced (design, shop direction, build)

Bankside Repertory Theatre, Alton, IL 2022 - world premiere- *We the People*, Geoff Calloway

Bankside Repertory Theatre, Alton, IL 2018 - *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, adap. J. Landry

Bankside Repertory Theatre, Alton, IL 2017 - *Euridice*, S. Ruhl

Insight Theatre Company, St. Louis, MO 2016 - *John and Jen*, Lipka and Greenwald

Bankside Repertory, Alton, IL 2016 - *Who am I This Time? (& Other Conundrums of Love)*, A. Posner

Principia College, 2009-2022

14 Faculty/Student Dance Productions. Guest choreographers inc. John Gardner and Meg Eginton

Principia College 2009-2022

Theatrical Productions including:

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare

You Make My Frame Shake, Luigi Jannuzzi

Cinderella Waltz, Don Nigro

Airness, Chelsea Marcantel

The Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare

Almost, Maine, John Cariani

The Wild Goose Circus, Russel Davis

Celebrating Morey and McVay: Retrospective and Renaissance, Erin Lane, Artistic Director

Fish Eye, Lucas Kavner

Blue Stockings, Jessica Swale

Urinetown: The Musical, Greg Kotis

The Shape of Things, Neil LaBute

Treasure Island, Bryony Lavery

Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare

7 Ways to Say I Love You, A. Scymkowicz

Godspell Schwartz and Tebelak
Pride and Prejudice, J. Jory
The Best of Everything, J. Kramer
Guys and Dolls, F. Loesser
Our Country's Good, T. Wertebaker
The Winter's Tale, Shakespeare
All in the Timing, D. Ives
Hush, an Interview with America, J. Still,
Titanic, the Musical, Yeston and Stone
Hiding in the Open, K. Obolensky
Rumors, N. Simon
Almost, Maine, J. Cariani
Pericles: Prince of Tyre, Shakespeare
A Tale of Two Cities, the Musical, J. Santorello
Tartuffe, Molière
Robin Hood, D. Nigro
Summer Brave, W. Inge

Scenic Design Produced (design: often including shop direction, decoration, painting)

Prism Theatre Company, St. Louis, MO 2022 – World premiere of *Bandera, Texas*, Lisa D. Feriend
Insight Theatre Company, St. Louis, MO 2019 - *The Revolutionists*, Lauren Gunderson

Principia College, Elsah, IL 2004-2022

Theatrical Productions including:

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakespeare – Nomination for Scenic Design from Kennedy Center
American College Theatre Festival, Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson, Vice Chair: "Delightful & creative use of the space; incorporated historical research, along with creative license. Beautifully constructed & painted."
You Make My Frame Shake, Luigi Jannuzzi
Cinderella Waltz, Don Nigro
Airness, Chelsea Marcantel
Almost, Maine, John Cariani
The Taming of the Shrew, Shakespeare
Eleemosynary, Lee Blessing
The Wild Goose Circus, Russel Davis
Rogues, Rebels, and Rock, A Musical Revue, Trish Brown, Artistic Director
Blue Stockings, Jessica Swale
Urinetown: The Musical, Greg Kotis
The Shape of Things, Neil Labute
The Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare
Godspell Schwartz and Tebelak
Pride and Prejudice, J. Jory
The Best of Everything, J. Kramer

The Winter's Tale, Shakespeare
Rumors, N. Simon
Dancing at Lughnasa, B. Friel

The Creative Express, Inc., Alton, IL 1994-2000

Theatrical Productions including: *Charlotte's Web*, *Snow White*, *In One Basket*, and *Blue Horses*

Theatrical property design and/or painting:

- 2022 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, **Set backdrop fiber art pieces**. Principia College
- 2021 *Airness*, **Scenic painting**. Principia College
- 2020 *The Taming of the Shrew*- **Scenic painting**. Principia College
- 2016 *Pride and Prejudice*- **Scenic painting and projection design**. Principia College
- 2014 *All in the Timing* – **Set pieces design and painting**, Principia College
- 2011 *Pericles: Prince of Tyre* – **Silk fabric prop painting**, Principia College
- 2006 *Eleemosynary* – **Set pieces design and painting, backdrop silk painting**, Moving Dock Company at the Victory Gardens Theatre, Chicago, IL
- 2001 *The Fourposter* – **Scenic painting**, Principia College
- 1998 *The Diary of Anne Frank* – **Scenic painting**, Principia College
- 1996 *Twelfth Night* – **Scenic sculpture**, Principia College

Other theatre projects:

- 2004-2008 **Web design** – The Moving Dock Theatre Company, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *WRENS* – **Dramaturgy, graphic art**: Principia College, Elsau, IL
- 2003 *Dancing at Lughnasa* – **Graphic art**: Principia College

Juried Exhibitions and Art Fairs

- 2017 Annual Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL– Graduate Textile Art Award
- 2016 Annual Graduate Art Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL
- 2014 Annual Graduate Art Exhibition, SIUE, Edwardsville, IL– Friends of Art Award
- 2007 "Awards of Excellence" Show, Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL
- 2006 Second Annual Juried Exhibition, Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL– Award of Excellence
- 2000 "Tiny Treasures", Springfield Art Assoc., Springfield, IL
- 1999 National Small Works Exhibition, S. C. Arts Council, Schoharie, NY
- 1999 Central West End Urban Art Fair, St, Louis, MO
- 1998 "Great Inspirations: Small Images," St. Louis Artists' Guild– Award
- 1998 Art Section Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1997 "All Things Considered" All Media Exhibit, St. Louis Artists' Guild– Award
- 1996 "At the Table" Art Section Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1996 Annual Watercolor Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1995 Annual Membership Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1995 Annual Watercolor Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild– Award

Conference and Symposium Presentations:

- 2023 "Sustainability and Theatre" – Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival- Region III
- 2023 "Seeing Through the Eyes of an Artist: Interdisciplinary Art and Theatre Study in the UK" Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival- Region III
- 2019 "Costumes as Textile Art" – Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival- Region III
- 2016 "Make it Magnificent: Spectacle and Politics in Early Modern Europe" – Annual Art History Symposium, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Awards, Grants and Commendations

- 2022 Excellence in Scenic Design from Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival
- 2017 Barbara Dyck Memorial Textile Art Award – Annual Exhibition – SIUE
- 2017 Research Grant for Graduate Students -- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- 2014 Friends of Art Award - Graduate Art Exhibition – Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- 2006 Award of Excellence - Annual Juried Exhibition – JAC, Alton, IL
- 2004 Competitive Graduate Award – Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- 1998 Honorable Mention, "Great Inspirations: small images" – St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1997 Ila Bruns Annual Memorial Prize- "All Things Considered," St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1995 Honorable Mention- Annual Watercolor Exhibition, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1993 Mabel Axey Dominick Art History Award – Principia College
- 1992 Katherine Cogswell Maule Art Award – Principia College
- 1994-1999 Numerous Illinois Arts Council and Madison County Arts Council Grants for Creative Express Creative & Performing Arts, Alton, IL as Executive Director and grant writer

Selected Exhibitions, Group Exhibitions, Art Fairs & Invitationals

- 2022 Principia College Alumni Association Art Show, Elsah, IL
- 2016 "Riverwork" fiber arts installation, St. Louis Artists' Guild, Clayton, MO
- 2015 "Riverwork" fiber arts installation, Alton Riverfront
- 2006-8 Representation by- Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL
- 2005-6 ArtEAST Studio Tour Show, Jacoby Arts Center, Alton, IL
- 2002 ArtEAST Studio Tour Show, Towata Gallery, Alton, IL
- 2000 ArtEAST Studio Tour Show, Mudd Gallery, Alton, IL
- 1996-9 Representation by- Towata Gallery, Alton, IL
- 1999 Fine Art & Crafts Show, St. Louis Artists' Guild
- 1997 Wildlife Art Show for National Audubon Society, Grafton, IL
- 1998 "The Span of the Earth," Maybeck Gallery, Elsah, IL
- 1996 Regional Photographers Exhibition, Mudd Gallery, Alton, IL

Solo Exhibitions

- 1999 "Landscapes on Paper and Silk", Three Sinks Gallery, St. Louis ,
- 1996 "A Visual Journey," United Missouri Bank, Kirkwood, MO

1994 "Holiday Show," Maple Leaf Garden House, Elsah, IL

Development and Research (outside of production work)

- 2023 Reflective Writing for Agency, Equity, and Community – The Bard Institute for Writing and Thinking
- 2023, 2021, 2017 United States Institute for Theatre Technology Conference
- 2023, 2019, 2013 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region III- workshops, productions, including bringing a participating production for a night of scenes.
- 2022 Research in the UK: interdisciplinary arts UK Abroad program: London, Edinburgh, Cornwall, Wales, Bath, Stratford-Upon-Avon. Workshops, productions, and research at the Edinburgh International Arts Festival, Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, British Library, Bath Fashion Museum, Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Fashion Museum of London, Minack Theatre.
- 2022 Museum research and creative practice in Paris: The Louvre, Versailles, Giverny, Bayeux museums, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- 2022 Faculty development series led by Dr. Winnie Needham on Unlearning: Changing your Beliefs and Your Classroom with UDL
- 2021 Franklin Covey Conference: Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Ignite Everyone's Intelligence
- 2021 Franklin Covey Conference: Leading at the Speed of Trust
- 2019 Research for Principia Abroad program: Edinburgh, Lake District, Bath, London, UK
- 2017 Research in England: Workshops, productions, and library research at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Research at Bath Fashion Museum, Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Fashion Museum of London
- 2014 Research in England: Workshops and productions at the Globe Theatre, London, Costume design research at the Victoria and Albert Archives and Museum.

Corporate Collections/Clients

- Strauss Peyton/ Frontenac Plaza, Ladue, MO - mural
- McCarter and Greenley Law Firm, St, Louis, MO - fine art collection
- First Church of Christ, Scientist, Elsah, IL - murals and interior design
- First Church of Christ, Scientist, Kirkwood, MO - murals
- Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association, Carrollton, IL – illustration
- Principia Corporation – painting award collection, murals in College Science Interpretive Center and Dining Services, graphic art for WTPC, Media Services & Parents' Association, photography for Publications, Archives, and Cox Cottage nursing facility
- Maple Leaf Cottage Inn, Elsah, IL - murals, fine art, illustration
- St. Louis Symphony Association - murals for show home
- Lindy's Salon, Alton, IL – mural
- Prairie Dog Pet Grooming - mural