

# Alexander A. Martin (she/her, they/them)

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## PROFILE

I am a fine artist (sculpture/paint/textiles/printmaking/installation) and performer (drag/ritual/performance art) with a deep passion for community life and transformative learning. My work illuminates themes of Blackness/mixedness, sexual/gender identity, queer community, sexual health, wellness and spirituality. I continuously make, exhibit, speak, teach, perform, coach and consult in order to ignite moments and spaces of healing for myself and others.

## EDUCATION

- 2014-2017 MFA Studio Art - Printmaking, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014-2015 MA Studio Art - Printmaking, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2010-2014 BFA Studio Art - Printmaking, West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
  - Magna Cum Laude
  - Minors in Art History and Japanese2012 Language & Culture Intensive Program, Kinki University (Osaka, Japan)

## TRAINING

- 2019 HIV Test Counselor Training, Illinois Department of Public Health

## PROFESSIONAL ARTS ENGAGEMENT

- 2022-current **Instructional assistant professor**, Illinois State University (Bloomington-Normal, IL)
  - Printmaking (Intaglio)2020-current **Founding member & board member**, Peoria Guild of Black Artists (Peoria, IL)
  - Founded in response to #BLM movement, to nurture local black artists and generate meaningful professional opportunities
  - Design organizational structure & procedures, collaboratively formulate organizational vision & goals
  - Liaison with community & media contacts on behalf of membership
  - Facilitate small- & large-group work sessions to fulfill project contracts2020-current **Board member**, ArtsPartners (Peoria, IL)
  - Chair, Sky Art Committee2019-current **Contributing writer**, *Sixty Inches From Center* (Chicago, IL)  
2017-current **Adjunct arts faculty**, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)
  - Develop and deliver curriculum in art technique and art history, with special attention to diversity and equity topics2015-2017 **Member**, Backspace Artist Collective (Peoria, IL)  
2015-2016 **Photography intern**, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014-2016 **Instructor, assistant & visiting artist** at Art Garage Studio & Gallery (Peoria, IL)  
2014-2016 **Gallery assistant**, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014-2016 **Teaching assistant**, Art History Department at Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014-2016 **Book repair technician**, Cullom-Davis Library (Peoria, IL)  
2013-2014 **Founding president**, West Virginia University Printmaking Club (Morgantown)  
2013 **Intern**, Artists Image Resource (Pittsburgh, PA)

- 2012-2014 **Ad designer & production department foreman** for *Daily Athenaeum*, student newspaper at West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
- 2012 **Conference volunteer**, Designing for the Divide, West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)

## CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 *Cut From the Culture*, new work by Peoria Guild of Black Artists (Peoria, IL)
- 2020 *Our Lives, Our Stories*, a Black History Month exhibition (Peoria, IL)
- 2020 **Art director** for public art installation *Remember Her, Peoria!* (Peoria, IL)
- 2019 *Terrain Biennial*, featuring artist Jessica Bingham (Springfield, IL)
- 2019 @606, 606 W. Main Street (Peoria, IL)
- 2018 *Proximities*, Hartman Gallery, Bradley University Galleries (Peoria, IL)
- 2017 **Program manager & gallery director-in-residence**, Prairie Center of the Arts (Peoria, IL)
- 2017 *Whiskey City Pride* (Peoria, IL)
- 2015-current **Co-founder & curator**, *Project 1612* (Peoria, IL; [www.jessicabinghamart.com/1612-about](http://www.jessicabinghamart.com/1612-about))
- Regional partner, *Sixty Inches from Center* (arts publication)
- 2015 *Postcards for Barbara*, Women in Art Symposium, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- 2022-current **Board chair**, Soulside Healing Arts (Peoria, IL)
- 2020-current **Test counselor & case manager**, Central Illinois Friends (Peoria, IL)
- Administer tests and counsel clients regarding life-altering test results
  - Cultivate familiarity with and provide referrals to pertinent resources
- 2018-2020 **Outreach coordinator & educator**, Central Illinois Friends (Peoria, IL)
- Strategize and implement inclusive multimedia outreach campaigns
  - Conduct in-person trainings and provide media appearances
  - Organize and execute large-scale promotional events including fundraisers and performances
- 2015-2017 **Board member**, Renaissance Park Community Association (Peoria, IL)
- 2015-2016 **Member**, Peoria Proud, local LGBTQ community organization (Peoria, IL)

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2023 Speaker, facilitator, and performer for Apple Inc. Virtual Pride Extravaganza, an event for Apple's work-from-home employees
- 2023 Panelist on Sustainability, Outreach & Coordination at Midwestern Energy Efficiency Alliance Conference (Chicago, IL)
- 2023 Guest Speaker at "Business of Art" speaking on portfolio basics and building, "Business of Art" (Peoria, IL)
- 2022 Panelist, "Upgrading Holistic Health for Transgender & Non-Binary Individuals: Meaningful Involvement, Intersectionality, and Health Equity", Midwest AIDS Training & Education Center (MATEC, Chicago, IL)
- 2022 Panelist, "Artist-Run as Community Engine", Futures: National Artist-Run Spaces Symposium (Dayton, OH)
- 2021 Guest speaker and discussion facilitator, "Equity & Representation in the Workspace", Public Relations Association of Central Illinois (Peoria, IL)
- 2021 Guest lecturer, "Acts of Decentering", art history course at Illinois State

- University (Bloomington, IL)
- 2021 Panelist, "Making Our Space" gallery exhibition at University Galleries (Bloomington, IL)
- 2021 Guest speaker, "Art in Real Life: Diverse Perspectives On Living and Sustaining a Creative Life", virtual lecture for University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)
- 2021 Panelist, "Countering Unconscious Bias: Gender and Identity as Action in the Arts", virtual forum for Gallery 621 (Tallahassee, FL)
- 2020 Panelist, "Trans-Inclusive Healthcare", University of Illinois-Peoria (Peoria, IL)

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Gemstones*, group exhibition, UIS Galleries, University of Illinois-Springfield
- 2023 *Pantheon*, solo exhibition and performance, Performing Arts Center, Illinois Central College (Peoria, IL)
- 2022 *Bacchanalia*, solo exhibition, PGOBA Guild Space (Peoria, IL)
- 2022 *Sanctuary/Sanctum*, solo installation/performance, Our House Peoria (Peoria, IL)
- 2022 *Pink Sugar Heart Attack*, performance at Spring Pentaculum, Arrowmont School (Gatlinburg, TN)
- 2022 *Liberated*, collaborative exhibition with Peoria Guild of Black Artists, Foster Gallery (Peoria, IL)
- 2021 *Making Our Space: Members of the Peoria Guild of Black Artists*, collaborative exhibition with the Peoria Guild of Black Artists, University Galleries (Bloomington-Normal, IL)
- 2021 *Carving Our Space: New Kids on the Block*, collaborative exhibition between the Peoria Guild of Black Artists and Normal Editions at University Galleries (Bloomington-Normal, IL)
- 2021 *Terrain Biennial*, collaborative piece by Peoria Guild of Black Artists (Springfield, IL)
- 2021 *Black Art Matters*, group exhibition featuring the Peoria Guild of Black Artists, Mainstreet Public Library Branch (Peoria, IL)
- 2020 *New Renaissance*, collaborative exhibition with the Peoria Guild of Black Artists Peoria Art Guild (Peoria, IL)
- 2020 *Plays Well with Others*, Alliance for the Arts (Fort Myers, FL)
- 2020 *Home*, virtual showcase, Gender Unbound (Austin, TX)
- 2019 *Stability*, ritual and performance at Soulside Healing Arts (Peoria, IL)
- 2019 *Akins, Bingham, Martin, Nesbit & Perry*, collaborative exhibition at Downtown Public Library Branch (Peoria, IL)
- 2019 @606, 606 W. Main Street (Peoria, IL)
- 2019 *The Human Stain*, The Real Tinsel (Milwaukee, WI)
- 2019 *TWOgether*, Jan Brandt Gallery (Bloomington, IL)
- 2019 *Kingmaker*, The Neon Heater Art Gallery (Findlay, OH)
- 2019 *Magnetism*, collaborative exhibition with Ken Hoffman, Lee County Alliance for the Arts (Fort Myers, FL)
- 2018 *Catharsis*, ritual and performance at Soulside Healing Art (Peoria, IL)
- 2018 *Garden View*, Contemporary Art Center (Peoria, IL)
- 2018 *For Affection and Protection*, ritual and performance at Soulside Healing Arts (Peoria, IL)
- 2017 *Silver Lining*, Expose Art House (Montgomery, AL)
- 2017 *Boys Will Be Boys*, M.F.A. thesis exhibition, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)
- 2017 *Cry, If I Want 2*, collaborative show with Jessica Bingham (Peoria, IL)
- 2017 *Remembering our History & Making Our Own: A Collaborative Show of Black Artists in Their Twenties*, Art Garage Studio and Gallery (Peoria, IL)

- 2017 *No History*, Slayer Gallery (<https://www.slayergallery.com/no-history>)
- 2016 *I Witness: Activist Art and Social Movement Politics*, Heuser Art Gallery, Bradley University Galleries (Peoria, IL)
- 2016 *Word+Text+Number*, St. Louis Art Guild (St. Louis, MO)
- 2015 Solo exhibition, Project 1612 (Peoria, IL)
- 2015 *They Ask Why*, MA thesis exhibit, Bradley University Galleries (Peoria, IL)
- 2015 *Spookeh 3*, Jan Brandt Gallery (Bloomington, IL)
- 2015 *Works From Around Our State*, Evanston Art Center (Evanston, IL)
- 2015 *6x6x2015*, Contemporary Art Center (Rochester, NY)
- 2015 *Bradley International*, Peoria Art Guild (Peoria, IL)
- 2015 *Eat, Sleep, Make, Repeat*, Bradley University Graduate Student Show, Access Gallery, University of Illinois-Springfield
- 2014 *Revival Exchange Show*, "Print City" MAPC 2014 Conference, Corktown Studios (Detroit, MI)
- 2014 *Old Hat*, collaborative exhibition with Samuel Boehm, Artist Image Resource (Pittsburgh, PA)
- 2014 *BFA Student Exhibition*, West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
- 2014 *Impressions 2014: National Juried Printmaking Exhibition*, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus Art Department (Rockville, MD)
- 2013 *Student Juried Exhibition*, West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
- 2013 *Clarion University Exhibit and Exchange*, Clarion University (Clarion, PA)
- 2013 *Trajectories*, Zayed University (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

## PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2022 "The Daily Aesthetics of Alexander Martin" documentary featured in PBS short film festival, Summer 2022
- 2022 "Moving parts for more diverse arts", interview in *Community Word*, May 2022 (<http://thecommunityword.com/online/blog/2022/05/31/moving-parts-for-more-diverse-arts/>)
- 2021 "Experiencing Alexander Martin", profile in *Peoria Magazine*, May 2021 (<https://www.peoriamagazine.com/article/experiencing-alexander-martin/>)
- 2020 "Alexander Martin", award recipient profile in *Peoria Magazine*, November 2020 (<https://www.peoriamagazine.com/40-leaders-under-40/40-leaders-under-forty-class-2020/alexander-martin/>)
- 2020 "A shared experience of systemic racism unites members of the Peoria Guild of Black Artists", profile in *Peoria Journal Star*, November 2020 (<https://www.pjstar.com/story/entertainment/arts/2020/11/19/peoria-guild-black-artists-change-arts-scene/3763981001/>)
- 2020 "Making a Peoria Renaissance", profile in *Peoria Magazine*, September 2020 (<https://www.peoriamagazine.com/article/making-peoria-renaissance/>)
- 2020 "Art installation asks Peorians to 'Remember Her'", profile in *Peoria Journal Star*, February 2020 (<https://www.pjstar.com/story/news/2020/02/15/art-installation-asks-peorians-to/1692566007/>)
- 2020 "Dresses left in the weather will represent missing or murdered Peoria women", profile in *Peoria Journal Star*, February 2020 (<https://www.pjstar.com/story/news/2020/02/01/dresses-left-in-weather-will/1692618007/>)
- 2019 "Teaching empathy through the art of drag", profile in *Peoria Journal Star*, November 2019 (<https://www.pjstar.com/story/entertainment/2019/11/09/teaching-empathy-through-art-drag/2328820007/>)
- 2017 Profiled in *Expose Art Magazine*, December 2017
- 2017 Profiled in *Future States*, Slag Mag, Vol. 3 Issue 2, a publication of the Old Furnace Artist Residency

## RESIDENCIES

- 2021-2022 *Making Our History*, virtual residency at University of Illinois-Springfield  
2021 *Spring Pentaculum*, residency at Arrowmont School (Gatlinburg, TN)  
2017 Program & gallery coordinator-in-residence, Prairie Center of The Arts, (Peoria, IL)  
2017 *T.H.I.Studios*, artist in residence (Tottenham Hale, London, UK)

## AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2023 Rising Stars In Marketing, shared award with Peoria Guild of Black Artists, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance conference (Chicago, IL)  
2022 Appalachian Visions Scholarship, full funding for *Pentaculum* residency at Arrowmont School (Gatlinburg, TN)  
2020 Recipient, *Peoria Magazine's* "40 Under 40" (Peoria, IL)  
2019 Drag title-holder, national pageant system, *Miss Gay Illinois USofA*  
2016 Funded panelist, "Alternative Exhibition Spaces", Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)  
2016 Student Travel Award, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2016 Honorable mention, St. Louis Art Guild (St. Louis, MO)  
2015 Special Emphasis TEC Grant: Faculty Student Engagement for exhibition of *Postcards for Barbara*, Women in Art Symposium, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2015 Funded Graduate Gallery Assistantship, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2015 Funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014 Funded Graduate Gallery Assistantship, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)  
2014 Funded Art History Graduate Assistantship, Bradley University (Peoria, IL)