



*Ohio Arts Council's*  
RIFFE GALLERY

***Poetics of Pattern***

Artist Biographies

**Laurie Addis**

Laurie Addis, a painter and weaver, was born in Northern Ireland in 1949 and currently resides in Kent, Ohio. She received a BA in Fine Art from Newcastle Polytechnic, an MA in fine art, BIAD in England and an MFA in textile art from Kent State University. She has exhibited her weavings in numerous group exhibitions including: *Come Together*, Screw Factory, Cleveland; *Binary Fiction, Digital Weaving*, Lincoln, Neb.; *Paisley: Exploding the Teardrop*, PM Gallery and House, London, England; and *Side by Side*, MOCA, Cleveland, Ohio. She presented a solo exhibition of her work at the Massillon Museum in 2008.

**Gianna Commito**

Gianna Commito was born in 1976 in Sea Level, North Carolina. She currently lives in Kent, Ohio where she is an Associate Professor of Art at Kent State University. Commito received her MFA from the University of Iowa and her BFA from Alfred University in New York. Her paintings have been exhibited primarily in New York, where she is represented by the Rachel Uffner Gallery. She received an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant. She was also recognized through the awarding of artist residencies in France, Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Nebraska.

**Dragana Crnjak**

Dragana Crnjak was born in Bosnia in 1977 and lives in Boardman, Ohio. She received her MFA in painting and printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University and her BFA from the University of Akron. She is a recipient of the Virginia Museum of Fine Art Professional Fellowship in Drawing and Individual Excellence Awards from Ohio Arts Council for 2008 and 2011. In 2012, she was awarded a Research Professorship and University Research Council Grant from Youngstown State University, where she is a professor of art. She has exhibited her work extensively and has work included in the Slide Registry at the Drawing Center in New York.

**Nancy Crow**

Nancy Crow was born in 1943 in Loudonville, Ohio and has been making quilts for more than 30 years. She maintains a large studio and teaching facility on her 105 acre farm in Baltimore, Ohio. Crow has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally, including solo shows at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Arts and Design in New York; the Cultural Arts Museum in Konstanz, Germany; and the Auckland Art Museum in New Zealand. Her work has been recognized with numerous Individual Artist Fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and she was named an American Craft Council Fellow in 1999.

**Kristine Donnelly**

Inspired by historical ornament and pattern, Kristine Donnelly creates large-scale cut paper sculptures. Her work is the result of a painstaking laborious process. Using a simple blade, she hand cuts intricate designs onto patterned paper.

Born in 1981, Donnelly lives in Cincinnati, Ohio and received her MFA from the University of Cincinnati. Exhibition highlights include the Carl Solway Gallery in Cincinnati; the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati; the 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky; and the Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center in Covington, Kentucky. Donnelly was the recipient of a Summerfair Cincinnati Individual Artist Grant and also received a Wolfstein Travel Fellowship from the University of Cincinnati. This enabled her to attend an artist residency in Prague, Czech Republic.

**Robert Geyer**

Robert Geyer is an assistant professor and head of the glass area at Bowling Green State University School of Art. He completed his MFA at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, focusing on glass, sculpture and installation. He earned his BFA from the Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, Canada, where he studied mixed media sculpture. In 2006, Geyer received the Tyler School of Art, Rome Art and Culture Fellowship, which enabled him to further his art and ideas relating to the Arte-Povera movement and critical theory. From 2005 -2007, Geyer was the operator and curator of the Barber Shop Gallery in Philadelphia, which exhibited work by faculty and graduate students from the Tyler School of Art.

**Susan Li O'Connor**

Susan Li O'Connor was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1974. Her work deals with the accumulation of everyday objects and the transformation of them into sculptural forms and installations. While the transformation of the mundane is the first thing a viewer sees, O'Connor is also entertaining ideas of identity, consumerism and consumption within our culture. O'Connor holds a BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design and an MFA from The Ohio State University. Her work is exhibited nationally. She lives and works in Columbus, Ohio.

**Danielle Rante**

Danielle Rante was born in Canton, Ohio in 1980 and currently resides in Columbus. She is an assistant professor of printmaking and drawing at Wright State University, and received her MFA in printmaking from the University of Iowa in 2006.

Her work has been exhibited extensively national and internationally, including the International Print Center in New York; the Hudson D. Walker Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts; Shanxi University Art Gallery in China; and is represented by K. Imperial Fine Art in San Francisco, California. She received an Ohio Art Council Individual Artist Fellowship and has attended residencies at The Headlands Center in Sausalito, California, Nes Artist Residency in Iceland, and Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

**Judith Salomon**

Judith Helen Salomon born in 1952 in Providence, Rhode Island, currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio, where she is a professor and head of ceramics at the Cleveland Institute of Art. She received her BFA from the School for American Craftsmen, Rochester Institute of Technology and her MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred. She has exhibited her work widely and has pieces in the permanent collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Art Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, to name a few. Her work has been recognized with Individual Artist Fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Douglas Sanderson**

Douglas Sanderson was born in 1942 and lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He received his BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and MFA in painting from the University of Texas at Austin. After moving to New York City in 1970, Sanderson exhibited his work at the Paula Cooper Gallery, John Weber Gallery, Jack Tilton Gallery and other distinguished venues in Paris, Munich and Stockholm, as well as numerous group exhibitions nationally. Sanderson teaches at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Kent State University. His work is represented by the William Busta Gallery. He received the Cleveland Arts Prize Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in 2009.

**Audra Skuodas**

Audra Skuodas is a visual artist whose studio is located in a converted warehouse in Oberlin, Ohio. She was born in Lithuania in 1940 and lived for six years in a displaced persons camp in Germany before coming to the U.S. in 1949. She became a U.S. citizen in 1961 and earned a BA and MA at Northern Illinois University. She has taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, the Cleveland Institute of Art and Oberlin College. In the past decade, Skuodas has had two one person shows in New York, was reviewed in *Art in America*, and in 2010 received the Cleveland Arts Prize Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts.

**Casey Vogt**

Casey Vogt grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado and spent seven years after high school working in the Rocky Mountains in Winter Park. He currently resides and maintains a studio in Akron, and received his BFA from the University of Akron in 2004 and his MFA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 2009. Since then he has exhibited his work extensively in the United States and is represented by the Tria Gallery in Chelsea, New York. His work was recognized with an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council in 2007.

**Carly Witmer**

Carly Witmer grew up in Troy, Ohio and earned her BFA in painting from Ohio University in 2005. She has spent many years traveling, living for extended periods of time in Australia, Germany and Ecuador, where she studied with Ecuadorian painter Oswaldo Viteri under the auspices of the Fulbright Grant. Her work has been exhibited throughout Ohio (Troy, Dayton, Columbus and Cincinnati); nationally (Michigan, Tennessee and Maryland); and internationally (Berlin, Germany and Quito, Ecuador). She was awarded the Hoffberger Fellowship in 2010 to attend the Hoffberger School of Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where she earned her MFA in 2012.