



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

Dear Friends of the LUX,

With your help, the LUX has grown to serve as Nebraska's largest and best source of private arts instruction, offering almost 300 classes per year, and serving students from every zip code in Lancaster County. In our five galleries, we offer more exhibitions than any other institution in Nebraska.

Even as we dealt with lower class enrollments across the board for most of 2020-21, we were able to have safe, sold-out summer camps in the Summer of 2021. We thank Lincoln parents for trusting us with their children, knowing that they would receive safe care and the best arts instruction in Nebraska.

Despite the pandemic that seems to go on forever, you will read in this report how the LUX has been able to navigate this all-new terrain and find ways to bring meaningful arts experiences to Lincoln families and artists, despite the challenges.

As we near the 45th Anniversary of the LUX in 2022, it's still all about community.

Since its inception, the LUX Center for the Arts was meant to be a cultural hub in Northeast Lincoln and a major part of planned University Place revitalization efforts that have been ongoing since 1977.

That's why this past year, we've tried to create outdoor events that have turned our focus back to University Place, where it began in 1977.

Mayfest was a Spring clay event that celebrated music, food, art activities and ceramic art just as our community was getting vaccinated.

Then, by creating seven new murals and one art installation this past summer, we invited people outside to look anew at University Place and what it has to offer. Our neighbors around the LUX came out in large numbers to celebrate these new murals, giving them a chance to see how art can be transformative in their lives and in the life of a neighborhood.

We've already seen a notable surge of visitors to University Place but we're aiming for more! We're creating a map of these murals that we will distribute to Visitor's Centers across Nebraska.

We're also working with our partners at Nebraska Wesleyan, First UMC Church, and the City of Lincoln to create a 'University Place Arts District' – part of a newly

created program by Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska State Legislature to encourage arts districts across the state.

And we're still striving to show how arts can transform lives – this past year, working with VR Nebraska, we started the Art Academy – a career exploration program for youth with disabilities. We trained twelve youth in the Spring and three stayed on as paid summer interns and two of those have continued as interns this fall.

With all if this going on, we strengthened our staff, adding a new Associate Director, to assist in running the LUX and a part time Ceramics Center manager to manage our increasingly busy Ceramics Center. At the same time, we invested in staff, artist, and intern pay to build retention and resiliency.

We are so grateful for your support which makes all of this possible. Please consider a gift to continue to make arts education in all its forms accessible and available to all at luxcenter.org/donate.

With your help, we're reaching out to our community in new ways, continuing to expand arts education to new audiences, bringing new artists and exhibitions to Lincoln, and creating new initiatives to bring art to our neighborhood and community.

Joe Shaw
Executive Director



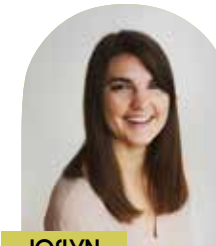
LINDSEY CLAUSEN
Associate Director



GWENDOLYN LOPEZ
Education Director



KATELYN FARNETH
Exhibition + Gallery Shop Director



JOLYN SCHMUTTE
Communications Director



SUSAN SORIENTE
LUX Museum Curator



KATIE CRAMER
Programs + Administrative Coordinator



NEIL CELANI
Ceramics Center Manager

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Staff News

LUX Center for the Arts promoted Programs Director Lindsey Clausen to the position of Associate Director beginning in May. Lindsey has served as Education Director and later as Programs Director since 2014.

"Lindsey has expanded and improved our classes, camps and programs while overseeing our Education efforts and our Artist-in-Residence program," said Executive Director Joe Shaw. "Promoting Lindsey to Associate Director allows her to use her entrepreneurial thinking to strategize and plan for the future of the LUX Center for the Arts."

She has already helped to raise more than \$200,000 in grant funding since she began.

Lindsey Clausen has built a lifetime of experiences with the LUX. She grew up in Lincoln just blocks from the University Place Art Center, now known as the LUX Center for the Arts. She was a student and volunteer at the LUX throughout her youth. While studying to get her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln she continued her involvement by becoming an education intern and later a teaching artist. After she received her BFA, Lindsey continued to work exclusively for local art and education non-profits. Now, after almost 7 years overseeing the educational programs of the LUX, she has transitioned to more fundraising and development work.

Lindsey is passionate about helping others and making the arts accessible to people from all walks of life. Lindsey says, "I believe the LUX has built a vibrant community, and I am very excited to be a part of the leadership that will bring even more arts learning to Lincoln in the next few years."

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Gwendolyn Lopez joined the LUX as the new Education Director in May.

Gwendolyn now has a full summer of camps behind her and has prepared the next summer's offering of camps, which are now posted online. She is also working on some new educational programming that will bring more members of our community into the LUX.

Gwendolyn received her master's degree in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Denver and has a bachelor's degree in Art from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She volunteered at the LUX for over five years prior to moving to Denver in 2014. Since then, Gwendolyn has worked in several cultural institutions such as the Denver Art Museum, Clyfford Still Museum and the Arvada Center for the Arts in Colorado where she supervised and trained teachers, interns, and volunteers for summer camps, field trips and tours. She brings new and creative ideas that stem from her experience in a variety of organizations ranging from a staff of 10 to over 500.

Gwendolyn says, "I am very excited to bring my skills and past experiences to the LUX Center. I believe that art should be accessible to all and strive to offer programming that creates a welcoming environment for everyone in our community!"

Neil Celani was hired as the new Ceramics Center Manager starting in August 2021!

Neil will guide the day to day operations of the Ceramics Center, which has grown significantly since it opened in 2017. The growth in both the volume of classes, students, and in LUX fellows making work in the studio required a manager to make sure the studio runs smoothly.

Neil, fresh off of his LUX Artist-in-Residency will now oversee the studios in addition to continue to teach ceramics classes. He is also helping get the new LUX Gas Kiln up and running. Expect more ceramic opportunities to be available early next year.

Neil received his undergraduate degree from University Northern Colorado in 2007 and an MFA from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020. In 2016, Neil had the honor of being selected as a Ceramics Monthly Emerging Artist but still claims to be emerging. When out of the studio Neil likes to make pizza, flip on the disco ball and listen to records with his wife, Mallory, and dog, Reggie.

Neil says, "I am thrilled to be a permanent part of the LUX team and help contribute to the mission of providing art experiences and resources to the community. I have put down roots in Lincoln and I want to do all I can with my new position to make it a ceramic art destination. I see so much potential in what the LUX Ceramics Center can be, both locally and for the clay scene at large, and it is my privilege to be able to use my skills and experience to help the studio grow. Viva la LUX!"



MAYFEST

Clay and Community

Back in May 2021, the world seemed to be opening up. In response, the LUX teamed up with the UNL Clay Club to host Mayfest, an event to celebrate ceramics and Spring. There were art activities for families, music, food trucks and flowers!

LUX artists-in-residence created more than 100 pots to sell as a fundraiser (in lieu of our annual Art Auction, cancelled for second year in a row.) You could pick out an artist-made pot, fill it with a plant and you had a ready-made instant Mother's Day gift or just a spring-warming gift for yourself.

It was also a coming out day for the UNL Clay Club, who annually raise money for the Ceramics programs at UNL, but had been stymied as well by the pandemic. LUX was happy to host our clay partners outside and it was a great day for celebrating all the newly vaccinated.

More than 500 came out for this Spring celebration, a beautiful day of art-making and creativity.

Volunteer Spotlight – Patti French

Patti volunteers in the LUX gallery shop. You will see her most Saturday mornings.

Why do you volunteer at the LUX?

"I volunteer at the LUX because I love being around art. As someone who doesn't get to experience art in their everyday work life getting to spend time around the work of others fills me with joy and inspires my own creativity. It is hard for me not to bring another piece of work home with me each time I volunteer. Being able to experience art on my weekends recharges me after a long week."

What is the best part of the LUX?

The people! The staff, volunteers, fellows and interns, artists, and most of all the patrons and students. I love visiting with each person who comes into the art center. Hearing how people are connected to the LUX, whether a first-time visitor or someone who lives down the street and stops in often, it makes my day to hear about their experiences with the LUX. I particularly enjoy helping people find their finished artwork after they have taken a class. Seeing the excitement, of adults and children alike, as they find their finished pieces is heartwarming.

Patti French is a Medicaid social services lead worker for the State of Nebraska. A lifelong Lincoln resident, she attended Lincoln Public Schools, SCC, and UNL, earning a Bachelor of Science in Kindergarten to Twelfth Grade Art Education. Single mom to a 16-year-old young person, she stays busy with her child and their activities. She looks forward to continuing to take art classes and volunteer at the LUX for years to come.



ART ACADEMY GROWS THE LUX COMMUNITY

Expanding Art Career Opportunities to Young Adults with Disabilities



This year LUX Center for the Arts partnered with Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Nebraska for a new program called The LUX Art Academy. Nebraska VR helps people who have any type of disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs.

In the Spring of 2021, we received funding from VR Nebraska to administer this holistic program with a goal to expand VR students' knowledge of jobs in the creative field while simultaneously improving their soft skills for employment readiness.

During the first six weeks, ten students explored jobs in creative careers - meeting artists, touring the art center, learning about how it operates behind the scenes, and doing hands-on art lessons to understand how our camps and classes are structured.

The final eleven weeks were hands-on paid job training in the classroom for three students, all of whom worked alongside our summer camp teachers. The three students were chosen because of their interest in arts-based careers and their salaries were paid by VR Nebraska. These three students grew a lot over the summer and we heard a lot of positive feedback from both students and parents.

"My daughter participated in the LUX Art Academy last summer and it was an amazing experience. She was selected for the paid work experience program, and it was the first time she had a chance to be in a paid position," said Becky Gould. "In addition to learning basic job skills, her self-confidence grew along with her love of art and helping other people create art. What I appreciate most about the program is how it made my daughter feel. The people at LUX always encouraged her, included her, and accepted her and the unique talents and abilities she has to share."

All work-based learning students showed improvements in workplace readiness skills throughout the summer. Most notably in professionalism, communication, and effort. Significant growth was also apparent in their self-confidence. Two students really stood out in their helpfulness and classroom management skills over the summer. LUX staff enjoyed working with them so much that we kept them on as employees for at least the fall, even after our ability to pay them through the VR grant expired.



LENNON

What was one of your favorite moments/highlights of LUX summer camp?

"Working with kids in general, but if I had to choose just one (highlight), it would be the paintbrush fight that I got into with a student. It was completely random, I was helping him paint his piece, and then there was paint flying. It was a sweet moment."

What has the LUX internship experience meant to you/ what have you learned?

"It has meant a lot to me. I feel like I'm good with kids + I'm good at art, and it makes me happy to know that I can put both of those skills together and to good use."

How do you feel that you've grown being an intern/ member of the LUX family?

"I feel like a part of my personality has grown. Out of the branches that make up my personality, I feel like the art/ kid friendly branch of myself has grown with the help of people I've met during camp, being only one of the many branches of me to grow."



BAILEY

What was one of your favorite moments/highlights of LUX summer camp?

"I have to say that one of them, the very first day or week of my work was when I got to meet everyone, I got to meet two girls who had the same interest as me. Another highlight I would also say was going out to snack and seeing everyone have fun and running around, it makes me really happy. Another highlight is the people like Lindsey and Amanda and all the instructors. They are really nice to me and really good people. I will definitely miss seeing them when I go back to school."

What has the LUX internship experience meant to you/ what have you learned?

"I do definitely think that I have grown in so many ways. The first way being maturity, because I have a job that I am committed to and so I need to get up and make sure that I am on time and that I do my best and it really adds a lot of maturity to me, because back in middle school I was not very mature but with this job I have grown and become more capable and it has helped my job skills along with my social skills so that I am better at interacting with people, whether students, instructors, or people picking up their kids or clay pots. I have also grown in art as well because they have shown us how to do multiple techniques whether with watercolors or oil pastels, it's just so nice. I have become a much more better person because of the LUX."

How do you feel that you've grown being an intern/ member of the LUX family?

"I have never volunteered before I got the LUX intern opportunity. I loved this job, holy smokes, if you compare it to all the other jobs kids have at my age, it's perfect. I would in a heartbeat do it again."

SUMMER ART CAMPS

Sold-Out Camps find Youth Immersed in Hands-On Learning

During 2020, the LUX cancelled our Summer Camps, which was a difficult decision, but we believe the right one.

In the beginning of 2021, we talked with our artists/teachers and decided to hold Summer Camps with smaller camp sizes of six, while continuing to follow all social distancing and mask requirements to protect our students and our teachers.

As a result, our Summer Camps sold out by mid-May, even as we were able to schedule 12 weeks of camps, instead of the normal ten. As pandemic cases eased in the Summer, we opened camps to up to 8 children in July and August.

In total, we had 574 campers in camps this Summer. Here is some of the feedback we received from our weekly parent surveys:

"My daughter did a variety of day camps this summer and the LUX art camps were in her top two (zoo Camp is the other fave). I feel like the supervision, quality of instruction, and materials provided at LUX Camps are totally worth the tuition price."

"We appreciate all that the LUX is doing in providing wonderful summer programs AND in policies designed to create a safer place for our child, who isn't yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine."

"My daughter LOVED the camps she took. The skills she acquired far surpass those she learned in school. We will be back for more camps!"

"I FEEL LIKE THE SUPERVISION, QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION, AND MATERIALS PROVIDED AT LUX CAMPS ARE TOTALLY WORTH THE TUITION PRICE."

"WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT THE LUX IS DOING IN PROVIDING WONDERFUL SUMMER PROGRAMS AND IN POLICIES DESIGNED TO CREATE A SAFER PLACE FOR OUR CHILD..."

In the last two years, in response to parent surveys, we have made our camps more secure, and have tried to vary our artistic camp offerings. We also have added one intern to each camp to provide the teacher with a helper and to make the classroom experience better for our students.

In Summer of '22, we will have ten weeks of classes and are planning right now for class sizes of eight. If we feel it is safe, we will offer camp sizes of 12 when we get closer to summer. As always, sign up early, because there is a great chance we will fill our camps. In fact, we received our first camp enrollment for Summer 2022 in November 2021.

Enrollment now open for 2022 Summer Camp!
Register Online at LUXCenter.org/Camp



"MY DAUGHTER LOVED THE CAMPS SHE TOOK. THE SKILLS SHE ACQUIRED FAR SURPASS THOSE SHE LEARNED IN SCHOOL. WE WILL BE BACK FOR MORE CAMPS!"



EMERGING INTO A COMMUNITY REVITALIZED

One LUX Staff member had a vision and LUX staff and the community made it happen. That vision has translated into transforming a neighborhood and community.



Katelyn Farneth, LUX Exhibition Director had a vision of a community emerging from COVID-19 – and in turn helping local businesses, putting a spotlight on University Place and taking art into the streets where LUX neighbors could see the transformative effect of art.

A vision of ten murals turned into seven murals and an art installation (COVID didn't quite go away as planned, delaying two murals) - transforming University Place into a destination.

It was a monumental effort for a full-time staff of six, bringing world renowned and locally renowned artists to Lincoln, putting them up at the Cornhusker Hotel for ten days, and then letting them do their magic on the streets of University Place.

It took months of planning, meetings across the city with donors who made it possible financially and it ended after ten days of painting under the hot August sun on Labor Day Weekend.

Three days of events ensued: a Thursday night event for the Mural donors, First Friday night's public unveiling featuring a DJ, food trucks and a custom car show, and Saturday's Mural and Street Arts Festival featuring live music, art activities for the family, and murals!

Friday night's unveiling and custom car show was revelatory. Jess and Rich - LUX neighbors from two blocks away – stopped in at the LUX for the very first time and LUX staff met new people repeatedly on that night. Also something we haven't seen ever – groups of people walking up and down 48th Street – viewing the murals and seeing how a neighborhood can be transformed through art.

It came full circle. Elsie Hinrichs, 93, came to the LUX on her walker to see the murals and told us about donating her babysitting money to Gladys Lux to buy the LUX building. This night was the realization of Katelyn's vision – neighborhood people coming to the LUX, along with a community coming together around art. This is place-making, or what Artist Shawn Dunwoody calls 'Place Activation.'

Labor Day weekend was just the beginning. With a grant from the Lincoln Visitor's Bureau, we're creating social media advertising and a Mural map for distribution across the state through Nebraska's Visitor Centers. We also have launched well attended Mural tours on the second Saturday of each month. Our local businesses are also grateful for the increased foot traffic the murals bring.

Finally, the murals are the perfect back drop for a proposed 'University Place Creative Arts District.' Working with partners Nebraska Wesleyan, First United Methodist Church, and the City of Lincoln, we plan to apply to a new program started by the Nebraska Arts Council and funded by the state legislature. If we are successful in our bid, we will be able to access up to \$250,000 in grants for improvements and projects in the arts district.

The LUX has been part of the ideas of revitalizing Uni Place for all 45 years we've been here. We believe we're at the cusp of making the vision that began way back then come true now. It's all about community.

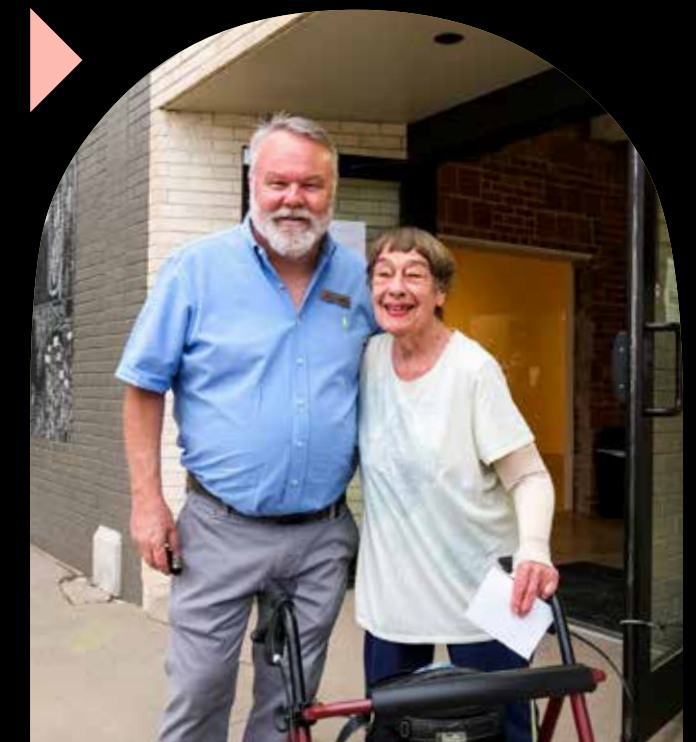
Big Mural Thank You's

Without help from Ayars and Ayars who provided the equipment and safety training – a boom lift and scissor lifts – as well as the Cornhusker Marriott, who put our artists up free of charge, this project would not have been possible.

Many others helped to provide financial support for this project – with special shout-outs to Rhonda Seacrest, Abel Foundation and Bold Nebraska, all \$5000 Mural Sponsors. Also thankful to Lancaster County and to Jeff Maul and the Lincoln Visitors Bureau for our Visitors Bureau Marketing Grant of \$5000.

We are also grateful to our Artist Sponsors: Lincoln Community Foundation, BNSF Foundation, Firespring, Union Bank & Trust, Cline Williams, Rivers Metal, UNANIMOUS and Ameritas. Our Community Sponsors: Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, Concorde Management and Development and the Lincoln Arts Council. Our Good Neighbor Sponsors: Darrin and Diana Good, Bison Inc., INSPRO, Bryan Seck and Janelle Walther, Adam Morfeld, Pinnacle Bank, Anne Pagel, and Elite Event Rentals.

Shannon Claire, events planner extraordinaire, THANK YOU! We couldn't have done it without your expert guidance and help.





(1) Ana Marieta's love of nature comes through with this monumental work featuring fierce great blue herons.



(2) Another paean to nature, Eder Muniz brought a little of Bahia to our little 'burb.



(3) Shawn Dunwoody's playful love letter to Lincoln and Uni Place.



(4) Nolan Tredway's quirky pop individualism marks the north end of the 48th Street murals.



(5) Watie White brought his mural of prints – part of the '100 People' series to Lincoln and we're glad he did.



(6) This electric mural by Lakota Artists Derek 'Focus' Smith is a trippy Black Hills vision – a vivid symbology of healing come to life.



(7) Oria Simioni's portrait of Amaya, a third generation French Guyanese immigrant, represents the children who experience the joy of creating art at the LUX.



(8) Jesse 'ishknits' Hemmons created this 'yarn bomb' celebrating resilience and fiber arts.

GALLERY DISPLAYS PAST + FUTURE

Celebrate our Artist Community

It was another exciting year for the LUX exhibitions program.

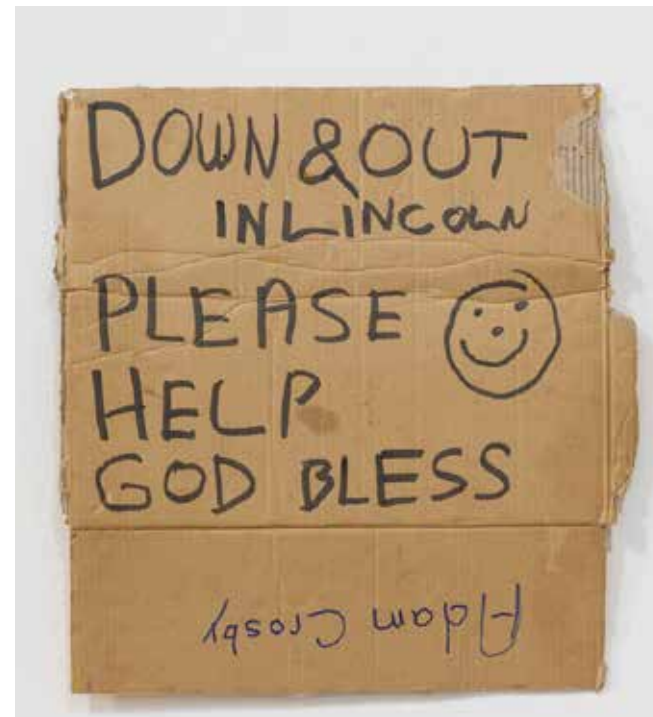
Although many plans needed to adapt this year due to the pandemic, we were able to feature artists when other spaces were closed and unable to do so. In mid-2020 at the height of the pandemic, we presented the inaugural Surface Impressions print exhibition, partnering with Constellation Studios and Karen Kunc. Surface Impressions also proved influential to the planning and development of other future projects, like Emerge LNK.

In early fall, the LUX joined with a range of other community partners to participate in Evicted, a city-wide project designed to draw attention to Lincoln's housing crisis. Our exhibition, Shortage, called attention to the housing crisis by featuring multiple artists and signs created by local community members struggling with housing stability. In addition, viewers were invited to help create change through a postcard campaign directed at policymakers encouraging them to respond to housing concerns in Nebraska.

The past year in the East Gallery was a blast from the past, featuring artists who have made an impact in Lincoln's art community in Lincoln over the years, including former LUX Gallery Director Bri Murphy, Bryon Hartley, Susan Dewsnap, and Roger Bruhn. Each of these artists proved to be a fan favorite, drawing people back to the galleries for First Fridays.

For the last three shows of the year, the Lux was proud to host impressive work by internationally known artists: Janis Mars Wunderlich's solo show Turbulence, Trey Hill and Ryan Crotty partnered for 'We'll Know More Tomorrow', and 'Ravel' by Judy Bales. We sought to highlight a variety of mediums in response to exhibition patrons evaluation surveys. This is an example of how our Exhibitions Program will strive to continue evaluating and responding to our community needs through meaningful exhibitions.

"Shortage" by Multiple Artists



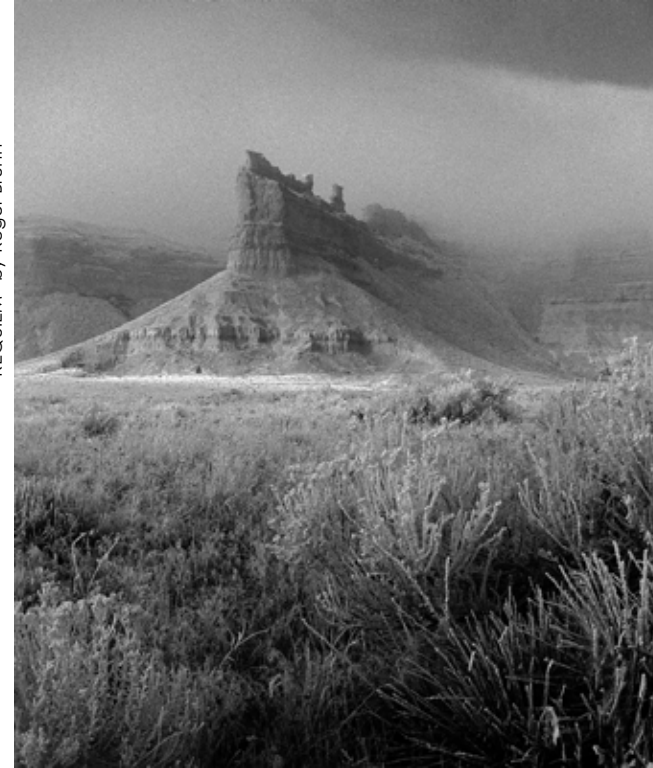
"We'll Know More Tomorrow" by Ryan Crotty + Trey Hill



"Turbulence" by Janis Wunderlich



"REQUIEM" by Roger Bruhn



"Unfounded" by Bri Murphy



UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS IN 2022

You won't want to miss what we have planned for 2022 at the LUX! Ben Venom has been shaking up the textile world with his quilts, and his exhibition is first up in January 2022.

In April, Joseph Cavalieri, a talented painter and stained-glass artist will be on exhibit in the East Gallery. Once you see his show, you can dive deeper into his work by attending a lecture or a workshop

The LUX will celebrate 45 anniversary years in 2022 and we're planning two exhibitions to show the impact our organization has had over the last four and half decades.

The first will feature more than 30 of our past artists-in-residence. During our March opening reception, we hope to have many of our past AIRs with us to recall old memories and see how much the LUX has grown!

Our second anniversary exhibition will feature works from founder Gladys Lux. Visitors will be able to see paintings that have been part of the LUX family's collection for years. We're hoping to have a reunion of people touched by Gladys and her legacy.

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Impacting our Community: Spreading Joy, Creativity & Love of Art

LUX Artists-in-Residence are at the heart of our mission. The LUX Center for the Arts' four artists-in-residence create, inspire and teach. We believe that no one can inspire and create a passion for art more than working artists, motivated to spread the joy of the creative process. The work our AIRs do as teachers and artists has an immeasurable impact on the thousands of youths and adults they encounter, spreading an appreciation for art and creative endeavors throughout Lincoln. Our Artists-in-Residence program is supported this year by the Acklie Foundation, The Woods Charitable Fund, and the Sherwood Foundation.

"I am originally from Northeast Ohio, near the Youngstown area. I received my BFA from Youngstown State University in 2015. I majored in Graphic Design and Minored in Printmaking. I was part of the Southern Graphics Council and Mid America Print Council groups all throughout undergrad. I received my MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020 with a major in Printmaking. I am currently an adjunct instructor for the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



AMANDA DURIG
Printmaking

My artwork tends to evolve as I finish specific bodies of work. The ideas typically remain the same but the subject matter, materials and process change over time. My main focus the past few years has been on memory, how fragile it is, and the longing that comes with them. I suppose you could say that nostalgia is also part of the work. I use images that I take with my phone while out and about and more recently have been using old family photos.

What I like best about Lincoln is the tight-knit art community. There wasn't anything like this back home. There are always gallery and networking opportunities easily accessible to the young artist here. My goal(s) for my residency were to make work without restrictions. What I mean by that is to put all of the preconceived notions from graduate school to the side and make the work that makes the most sense to me. I would say that I am achieving that during my time as a resident at the LUX."

"I make realistic, time-based paintings and drawings that explore self, body, and femininity. The detailed works follow the things happening in my life but are meant to be widely relatable. For example, since November of 2018, I have been painting my birth control pill every day before taking it; this practice reflects control over my body, daily reflection, and the 28-day cycle.



JULIA LEGGENT
Painting + Drawing

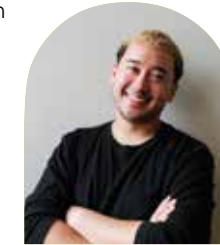
grew up in a small town in Kansas called Norton. From there, I moved to Hays, Kansas, to get my bachelor's degree in painting at Fort Hays State University. I received my BFA in Fall 2017, and in 2018, I moved here to Lincoln, Nebraska, where I received my master's in painting and drawing from The University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2021. Currently, I am a resident and The LUX Center for the Arts, and I teach classes at UNL.

I really enjoy the art community in Lincoln, Nebraska, and also the food; there are great restaurants here.

My first few months as a resident at LUX have been spent learning how to teach community classes and work with children successfully, and I've enjoyed becoming part of the LUX community in that way.

My big goal for this residency is, of course, to create an engaging solo show. But some other goals are to learn a bit about ceramics and become part of a wonderful community."

"I am a first generation Korean-American from Colorado. I grew up in and around Denver and Colorado Springs, and went to the University of Colorado Boulder where I got my BFA in Studio Art, as well as a BA in Psychology. I wanted to do art therapy for a while, but did not feel ready to pursue the intense path of psychotherapy and research. Instead, I continued down the path of a professional artist and recently completed my MFA from the University of Arkansas in Studio Art, where my main concentrations were in ceramics + photography.



ANTHONY PARK KASZAK
Ceramics

I am interested in exploring my identity and personal relationships through ceramics and photography, and focus on methods such as abstraction, installation, and working between 2D and 3D. I love ceramics and the way that it preserves our touch, as well as the way that glaze can make a piece pop with color. I also like to use my own photographs as ceramic decals that are fired directly onto glazed surfaces.

Currently, I am casting my own candles to go with my ceramic pieces. I like the reference to time, ritual, and warmth that a candle brings, and it adds an interesting touch of functionality to my ceramic pieces. My partner and I moved to Lincoln in late July 2021 from Northwest Arkansas and really enjoy it. We adopted a very cute basset hound/lab mix named Bonzu, who is sometimes in the studio at the LUX with me. I really enjoy the affordability and ease of living in Lincoln, and am excited that there are so many Asian markets in the area so that I can make food that my mom taught me while growing up.

I teach a lot of classes at the LUX and make my own work in the Ceramics Studio. I plan to have exhibitions in Lincoln, Omaha, and surrounding area, and will apply to national grants to continue to work ambitiously in the studio."

"I am from Philadelphia, PA. Besides art making and my total obsession with ceramics - I love to cook, ride bicycles and forage for mushrooms. I earned my BFA in Ceramics along with a K-12 Teaching Certificate of Art Education from Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. I moved to Nebraska to pursue my graduate degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and I graduated with an MFA from UNL in 2020.



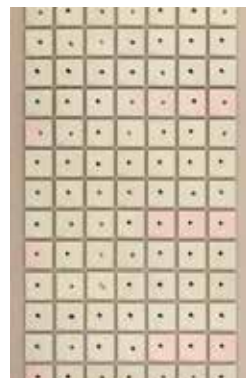
PJ HARGRAVE
Ceramics

My art practice focuses on joy and optimism through playful sculptures and ceramic objects. I am inspired by folk art and historical craft objects, particularly wood, textiles and ceramics that depict representations of nature. My work often presents itself as a variety of colorful trees, landscapes and imagined environments.

Lincoln is great because it has a lot of big city amenities like ethnic food stores and great restaurants to quality parks and public lands. At the same time Lincoln is an awesome small community, especially in the arts, and provides a nice place for young artists to exhibit work and be an active member in the art scene.

My first few months at the LUX were different from previous years, I imagine because the pandemic was severe when I first started. I felt safe working at the LUX and I was so appreciative to still be guaranteed a job and have some income, even though we were not teaching as many classes. LUX found tasks and things for us to do while also keeping our studio open. This combination afforded me the great privilege of not being set back tremendously by COVID 19 as an artist.

During my residency I set out to hone my teaching skills while creating new bodies of work in the studio for future exhibitions and academic job applications. A year into my residency I am accomplishing a lot of my goals, having solo exhibitions in Omaha and partaking in group exhibitions throughout the country. In addition to my professional goals, I have gained lifelong friends and amazing memories working with students, fellow residents and staff members at the LUX."



GRATITUDE

This report covers our fiscal year from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Stats
2020/2021

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Art Safari : 1500
Mayfest: 500
Art Scholars: 50

Total Event Attendance: 2050

ART CLASSES

Adult + Child Classes,
Workshops: 784
Outreach Students: 114
Private Lessons: 163

Total Students: 1061

SCHOLARSHIPS

Art Scholars
Awarded: 47
Art Scholars In Use: 19
Need-based
Scholarships: 7

Total Scholarships: 54

EXHIBITIONS

Gallery Visitors: 3550
First Friday Visitors: 711

Total LUX Attendance: 6661

ARTISTS

Gallery Shop: 233
Professional Exhibitions: 149
Student + Community Exhibitions: 175

Direct Payments to Artists: \$126,122

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We are a community of art lovers providing education through art classes, artist in residency programs, gallery exhibitions, and community outreach. We believe the LUX can help people make meaningful connections to art regardless of who they are.

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