

# Rachel Simmons

## Artist-Educator

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www.rachelsimmons.net

Based in Orlando, Florida, US

## Biography

Rachel Simmons began teaching printmaking and book arts at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida in 2000 after completing her MFA at Louisiana State University in 1999. She currently serves as the Faculty Director of the Rollins Book Arts Collection and Vice Chair for Meetings for CBAA The Association for Book Art Education. Through her installations, artist's books, comics, prints and zines, Rachel explores tensions between individuals and societies as we navigate the impacts of globalization, technology, species decline and climate change. Rachel often collaborates with scholars and communities to create her work. In her ongoing socially engaged art project, *Flock*, Rachel invites community participants to explore both birdwatching and printmaking to examine our relationship with birds.

## Education

MFA, Painting and Drawing, Louisiana State University 1999

BA, Honors Program, Studio Art Major, Rollins College 1997

## Teaching Expertise

- + Printmaking & Book Arts
- + Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research
- + Socially Engaged Art
- + Community Engagement in Higher Education

## Educational Experience & Current Positions

**PROFESSOR OF ART, DEPARTMENT OF ART & ART HISTORY  
ROLLINS COLLEGE, WINTER PARK, FL 2000-PRESENT**

Responsible for a minimum of six courses per year, including those suited for both majors and non-majors.

**FACULTY DIRECTOR, ROLLINS BOOK ARTS COLLECTION, ROLLINS COLLEGE, 2018-PRESENT**

- Founded and developed an interdisciplinary teaching collection of artists books in collaboration with the Department of Art & Art History, Olin Library and the Rollins Museum of Art
- Co-curated inaugural public exhibition of the collection in Fall 2021 at RMA with Dr. Deborah Prosser
- Managed the Rollins Book Arts Collection advisory committee and annual acquisitions for the collection, contributing to the collection's digital archive

#### **DIRECTOR, THE BOOK ARTS GUILD OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, 2021-2024**

- Developed and managed the guild's mission/vision and public presence on social media
- Managed the guild's website, archive, membership, dues, budget and public programming with assistance from membership
- Organized the guild's annual members exhibition in 2021 & 2022

#### **CBAA THE ASSOCIATION FOR BOOK ART EDUCATION**

Vice Chair for Meetings & Member of the Board of Directors, 2022- present

- Working with committee members to plan national symposia, meetings and conferences
- Co-hosting "Critical Reading" National Meeting in 2024 at Rollins
- Co-curating "critical Reading: Book Art in Dialogue with the Collection at Rollins Museum of Art, June 2024
- Stewarding the organization through participation in board meetings

## **Selected Group & Juried Exhibitions, Portfolios & Fairs**

### **2024**

Participating Artist, *Traces*, Field Projects Gallery, NY, NY (Apr-May)

Participating Artist, *St. Pete Zine Fest*, organized by Print St. Pete, St. Pete, FL (Feb)

Participating Artist, *TYPE OUT LOUD*, Co-curated by Ashley Taylor & Dori Griffin, University of Central Florida, SVAD Gallery, (Jan-Feb)

Participating Artist, *In This Moment: The Book as Witness*, The Environmental Design Library, curated by Julie Chen, UC Berkeley, CA (Feb)

### **2023**

Participating Artist, *Degrees of Commitment: Climate, Ecosystems and Society*, Sandra Blain Galleries, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN (Sept-Dec)

Participating artist and co-organizer, INKY FINGERS Printmaking & Zine Fest, The Space Station, Orlando, FL (Oct)

Participating Artist, B.L.E.H. Zine Expo, Orlando, FL (Oct)

Participating Artist, *New Editions*, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, Minneapolis, MN (Oct)

Participating Artist and Third Place Award Winner, *The Book As Art Vol. 11 Myth & Magic*, Presented by Decatur Arts Alliance and the Georgia Center for the Book, Dekalb County Public Library, Decatur, GA (Sept-Oct)

Participating Artist, *The Art of the Book & Paper 2023*, Rochester Public Library, Rochester, NY (Sept-Jan)

Participating Artist, *Dreams: An International Juried Exhibition of Book Art*, Presented by 23Sandy Gallery and the University of Puget Sound, Collins Memorial Library, Tacoma, WA (August-November)

Participating Artist, *Magnifying Voices*, Book Arts Guild of Central Florida, Winter Park, FL

Participating Artist, *New Impressions 2023*, Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum, Two Rivers, WI

Participating Artist, *Faculty Biennial Exhibition*, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, FL

Participating Artist, *Parkside National Print Exhibition*, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, WI

Participating Artist, *Vox Populi Print Collective @ Print Santa Fe*, Santa Fe, NM

Participating Artist, *Vox Populi Print Collective @ Print Austin Print Expo*, Austin, TX

Participating Artist, *PhotoBookWorks 2023*, Abecedarian Gallery at Spark Gallery, Denver, CO

Participating Artist, *The Corridor Project*, (public billboard and exhibition), Downtown Arts District, Orlando, FL

## **2022**

Participating Artist and First Place Award Winner for *Fractured Fathers* with Benjamin D. Rinehart, *The Book As Art, Vol. 10, Transformation*, Decatur Library, Decatur, GA

Participating Artist, *Things Unseen*, Gainesville Fine Arts Association, GFAA Gallery, Gainesville, FL

Participating Artist, *Contemporary Exhibition*, Trout Museum of Art, Appleton, WI

Participating Artist and First Place Award Winner for *BASED ON YOUR CURRENT TRAJECTORY*, *The Art of the Book & Paper 2022*, Rochester Public Library, Rochester, NY

Participating Artist and Curator, *2022 Members Exhibition*, Book Arts Guild of Central Florida, Winter Park, FL

Participating Artist, *Found, Reclaimed, Reformed Portfolio*, Mid America Print Council Conference, Kent State University, Ohio

Participating Artist, *Boundless: Artist's Books Exhibition*, Bainbridge Museum of Art, Puget Sound, WA

Participating Artist, *A to Zine*, Bainbridge Museum of Art, Puget Sound, WA

Participating Artist, B.L.E.H. Zine Expo, Orlando, FL

Participating Artist, Grandma Party Bazaar, Orlando, FL

Participating Artist, Orlando Zine Fest, Orlando, FL

#### **2021**

Participating Artist, *UNSEEN: An International Juried Exhibition of Book Arts*, 23 Sandy Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

Participating Artist and Curator, *Resistance and Resilience*, Members Exhibition, Book Arts Guild of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Participating Artist, *2021 Faculty Biennial Exhibition*, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, FL

Participating Artist, *Reclamation: Artists Books on the Environment*, San Francisco Center for the Book and San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA. Organized under the umbrella of the The Codex Foundation's call to action "EXTRACTION: Art on the Edge of the Abyss."

#### **2020**

Participating Artist, *Quarantine Public Library*, [www.quarantinepubliclibrary.com](http://www.quarantinepubliclibrary.com)

Participating Artist, *ENVIRONMENT: A Print Exchange for 2020 between members of the Mid/Southeast Region of the College Book Art Association*, organized by Sarah Bryant

Participating Artist, *Intersections: Book Arts as Convergence*, College Book Arts Association Members' Juried Exhibition, New Orleans, LA

#### **2019**

Co-organizer and participant, *Collaborative Print Portfolio: ABSURD*, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI and Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

#### **2018**

Participating Artist, *Faculty Biennial*, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

Co-organizer and contributor, *Collaborative Print Portfolio: YOURS & MINE*, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI and Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

Co-organizer and contributor, *Sinkhole Fever, Issue One*, co-curated with Lemon Press, Orlando, FL

**2017**

Participating Artist, *Lawrence University Artists Book Collection Exhibition*, curated by Benjamin D. Rinehart, Lawrence University Gallery, Appleton, WI

Participating Artist, *Precipice* (with Lee Lines, Dawn Roe & Dana Hargrove), *Deiglan Gallery*, Akureyi, Iceland

Participating Artist, *Steady Observation: At the Intersection of Inquiry, Art & Life*, curated by Amy Galpin, Orlando Science Center, Orlando, FL

Co-organizer and contributor, *Portfolio Exchange*, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI and Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

**2016**

Participating Artist, *Transference*, co-curated by Dina Mack and Rachel Simmons, Galloway Foundation Community Gallery, Winter Park Welcome Center, Winter Park, FL

Participating Artist, *The Encounter: Baalu Girma and Zora Neale Hurston*, co-curated by Eric Gottesman and Yulia Tikhonova, UCF Art Gallery, School of Visual Art and Design, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Participating Artist, *Faculty Biennial*, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

**2015**

Participating Artist, *Bubble Up*, Portfolio organized by Karla Hackenmiller from Ohio University, exhibited at Southern Graphics Council Conference, Knoxville, TN

**2014**

Participating Artist, *Living Matter(s)*, curated by Catherine Bergman, Dunedin Center for Fine Art, Dunedin, FL

*Faculty Biennial*, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

**2013**

Participating Artist, *Telarian*, curated by Marjorie Vecchio, Illges Gallery, Corn Center for the Visual Arts, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA

**2012**

Participating Artist, *Beneath the Surface: Rediscovering a World Worth Conserving*, curated by Beatrice Schmitter, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.

**2010**

Participating Artist, *59th Annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition*, curated by Linda Norden, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton

Participating Artist, *25th Annual Positive Negative National Juried Art Exhibition*, curated by Julien Robson, Slocumb Galleries, East Tennessee University, Johnson, TN

Participating Artist, *Without a Trace: Artists Contemplate the World Without Us*, curated by Ginger Gregg Duggan, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL

Participating Artist, *International Artists Biennale Miami*, Art Miami, curated by Nina Torres, Nina Torres Gallery, Miami, FL

**2008**

Participating Artist, *Digital '08: Imagination on Behalf of Our Planet*, curated by Cynthia Pannucci, New York Hall of Science, NY, NY

**2005**

Participating Artist, *SCHOOL DAYS: Cafeteria Plan*, Portfolio organized by Benjamin D. Rinehart, Center for Book Arts, NYC

## Selected Solo & Collaborative Exhibitions

**2022**

Rachel Simmons: *Flock*, Herðubreið Community and Culture House, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland

**2021**

Rachel Simmons: *The Language of Watching + Flock*, Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL

**2019**

Rachel Simmons: *Flock, Central Print*, St. Louis, MO

Rachel Simmons: *The Language of Watching*, Alt\_Space Gallery, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL

**2017**

Rachel Simmons: *Mass Migrations*, PORTSPACE Gallery, Gulfport, FL

**2015**

Rachel Simmons: *Artist-in-Residence*, Constellation Studios, Lincoln, NE

Rachel Simmons: *The Language of Watching*, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Denton, NE

**2013**

*The Aesthetics of Scale*, Rachel Simmons and Lee Lines, The Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL

**2012**

*Rachel Simmons: Wonders of the Sea*, Gallery Western, Los Angeles, CA

*Rachel Simmons: Wonders of the Sea*, Art Center, Sarasota, FL

**2009**

*Rachel Simmons: Wonders of the Sea*, Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL

*Rachel Simmons: Art in Chambers*, Chamber of Commerce, Winter Park, FL

## Curatorial Projects

**2024**

Co-Curator with Gisela Carbonell, *Critical Reading: Artists' Books in Dialogue with the Collection*, Rollins Museum of Art, Winter Park, FL (May-December)

**2021**

Co-Curator with Deborah Prosser, *Common Ground: Selected Works from The Rollins Book Arts Collection*, Rollins Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Winter Park, FL

**2017**

Co-curator with Julian Chambliss, *Art in Odd Places Orlando*, a performance and visual art festival founded by Ed Woodham in NYC. Responsible for identifying and defining Orlando's 2017 theme (NOISE) and for selecting participating artists.

## Collection Record (updated 4/24)

Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology (MIT)

Parsons School of Design Library

Savannah College of Art &

Design Library

George Washington University

Carlton College

Iowa State University

Northeastern University

Bucknell University, Special Collections, Bertrand Library

Pennsylvania State University Libraries

Evergreen State College Library, Special Collections

University of Connecticut Library, Archives & Special Collections  
The Newberry Library, Special Collections  
University of Chicago Library, Special Collections  
William & Mary Libraries, Special Collections  
University of Richmond, Boatwright Library, Special Collections

Bowdoin College, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives  
Scripps College, Denison Library, Special Collections  
Harvard University, Pusey Library, Map Collection  
CalPoly, Kennedy Library, Special Collections  
Rhode Island School of Design, Fleet Library Collection  
McEwan University, Haar Library, Special Collections  
University of Utah, Marriott Library, Special Collections  
Wesleyan University, Olin Library, Special Collections  
Tufts University, W. Alan Clark, Jr. Library, Special Collections  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Wells Library, Art & Architecture Collection  
Yale University, Haas Family Arts Library, Special Collections  
The Berkeley Environmental Design Library, University of California, Berkeley  
Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Cynthia Sears Collection  
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Kohler Art Library, Special Collections  
University of Puget Sound Collins Memorial Library, Special Collections  
University of Miami, Richter Library, Special Collections  
The Artist's Book Collection at Paper Machine, New Orleans  
The Robert Vorhoff Collection at the Newcomb Institute of Tulane University  
Baylor University, Central Library, Special Collections  
UCLA Biomedical Library, Special Collections  
University of Central Florida Book Arts Collection  
DePaul University Richardson Library, Special Collections  
Lawrence University, Special Book Collection

## Professional Organizations

Vox Populi Print Collective, 2022-2023

College Book Art Association, member since 2018, Board Member & Vice Chair for Meetings from 2022-present

Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum 2018-present

The Book Arts Guild of Central Florida, Director 2021-present

## Selected Grants/Awards/Fellowships 2008-23

Gloria Anzaldúa Research Excellence Award, University of Central Florida, Awarded 2024

Finalist, 2023 Helen M. Salzberg Book Arts Residency, Jaffe Center for Book Arts, Boca Raton, FL

Critchfield Research Grant, Residency in Iceland, Rollins College, Awarded in 2020

Rollins International Grant, Denmark & Sweden, Rollins College, Awarded in 2020

United Arts of Central Florida, *Future Bear*, Artists-In-Communities Grant, 2014

Associated Colleges of the South, Faculty Development Grant for Blended Learning, 2013

Professional Development Grant, United Arts of Central Florida, 2012

Service-Learning Faculty Award for the State of Florida, Florida Campus Compact, 2009

Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement, Rollins College, 2008-2012

McKean Award for Contributions to Teaching and Scholarship at Rollins College, 2008

## Selected Media Coverage & Reviews

Work featured on web series “Artists’ Books Unshelved” Episode titled “Somewhere in the Universe” hosted by Yuka Petz and produced by the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, April 2023

“Book Arts Guild creates art from books,” by Nick Georgoudiou, *The Community Paper*, Vol. 33, Ed. 10, June 2022

“Rollins Museum of Art’s ‘Common Ground’ exhibit explores the visual delights and heavy concepts of book arts,” by Kyle Eagle, *Orlando Weekly*, December 7, 2021

“Visible Climate: Postcards from America’s Changing Landscapes,” *Artists’ Book Reviews* <https://artistsbookreviews.com/2020/11/16/visible-climate/> November, 16, 2020

Artist-of-the-Month, *College Book Arts Association*, September 2019

“Return Engagement: Why Seven Alumni Professors Flocked Back to Rollins to Pay It Forward”, by Robert Stephens with photos by Scott Cook, *Rollins Magazine*, Summer 2019

“Craft Commune” by Luke Woodling, *Rollins 360*, May 24, 2018

“Pictures: 2017 Art in Odd Places: ‘Noise’” by Red Huber, *Orlando Sentinel*, November 10, 2017

“Spotlight : Art in Odd Places Returns to Orlando,” by Crystal Chavez, *WMFE*, November 10, 2017

“Art in Odd Places brings the ‘Noise’ this year, takes over downtown this weekend” by Richard Reep, *Orlando Weekly*, November 8, 2017

“Complete Art in Odd Places: Orlando 2017 Artist and Installation List,” by Brendan O’ Connor, *The Bungalower*, October 17, 2017

"Rachel Simmons, To a Certain Degree" by Nick Georgoudiou, To a Certain Degree Podcast, June 15, 2017

"Rachel Simmons" by Vanessa Andrade, Artborne Magazine, October 2, 2016

"Stunning images from Rachel Simmons' art book, *The Namibians*, and photos from the trip that inspired the work" Orlando Weekly, January 9, 2015

"Rachel Simmons' work explores the economy and ecology of independence" by Yulia Tikhonova, Orlando Weekly, January 7, 2015

"Future Bear wants to save the world" by Richard Reep, Orlando Weekly, April 16, 2014

"Rachel Simmons Named a Top Female Professor in Florida," by Luke Woodling, Rollins 360, April 5, 2013

"Q & A with artist Rachel Simmons" by Marty Fugate, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, July 29, 2012

"Art Review: Rachel Simmons looks under the sea" by Marty Fugate, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, July 29, 2012

"AAAS exhibition captures an undersea world worth conserving", by Liza Lester, Ecological Society of America, Ecotone Blog, November 22, 2011

"Professors Get Their Own Study Abroad Programs," The Chronicle Review, November, '08

"Water Colors," End Paper, The Chronicle Review, December 14, 2007

### **Workshops & Residencies**

Artist-in-Residence, Edition/Basel, Basel, Switzerland, July-August 2024

Artist-in-Residence, Springtide Press, Tacoma, WA, July 2023

Artist-in-Residence, In Cahoots Artist Residency, Petaluma, CA, July 2023

Artist-in-Residence, Skaffell Center for Visual Art, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland, August 2022

Instructor, Visual Journals, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN, June 2022

Visiting Artist Workshop, Central Print, St. Louis, MO August 2019

Artist-in-Residence, Winter, Letterpress Studio, Penland School of Craft, NC, January 2018

Visiting Artist, University of Tampa, Tampa, FL, October 16-17, 2017

Visiting Artist, Paper Fox Printmaking Workshop, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, October 2016

Artist-in-Residence, Constellation Studios, Lincoln, NE, July 2015