

# Laura E. Sapelly

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## EDUCATION

- 2004 University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth, MFA, Artisanry- Fibers
- 1994 Harvard University, ALM (Master of Liberal Arts), History
- 1989 Massachusetts College of Art, BFA, Fashion Design

### Advanced studies & seminars

University of Messina, Sicily, Italy, *Independent Study in Painting*, Mediterranean Summer Studies Program; University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, June 2003

Nantucket School of Art and Design, Nantucket, MA; *The Stitched Drawing*, June 2003

Suffolk University, Boston, MA; *Curriculum and Instructional Design* graduate course, Spring 1998

PENDING: Approval, Massachusetts Teacher's Certification, Visual Art, June 2009

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Teacher, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA  
Conducted Shibori and Dye, a collaborative course between Stonehill College undergraduates, students from Plouffe Elementary School in Brockton, MA, and high school students from Boston's Artist for Humanity. Students created stitched, clamped, and corn dextrin 'resists' on cloth to create original hand dyed designs. Selections of student work will be exhibited in Brockton Town Hall during May 2009.
- 2008-09 Teacher/Artist-in-Residence, Gilmore Academy, Brockton, MA  
Taught mixed media art elective Roomful of Stories to inner-city public school students, grades 6-8. Using watercolor paper, cloth, magazine and newspaper clippings, ink, paint, beads, fiber, and other materials, students created collaged postcards, and larger compositions based on hand tracings, profiles, and footprints. Selected samples from each students' portfolio will be featured in the Art Aspire exhibition at the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA, in June 2009.
- 2009 Instructor, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA  
Taught Stitched Narratives, a seminar based on historical and modern embroidery techniques. Inspired by painter Tabitha Vevers' work in the exhibition *Narrative Bodies*, adult students created samples of hand and machine embroidery. Making work that drew upon personal themes, students experimented with a wide array of untraditional materials such as soluble stabilizer, silk organza, and printmaking.

- 2008 Instructor, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA  
 Taught Dimensional Fabric Sculpture, a seminar focused on creating three-dimensional forms to adult students. Using cloth, batting, stuffing, and other materials, students experimented with traditional sewing techniques such as gathering, pleating, tucking, and quilting to create small sculptural works. Students studied examples from Colette Wolff's *Manipulating Fabric* and created small studies, finished work for critique, and shared ideas upon how they could integrate their new skills into their present work.
- 2008 Instructor, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA  
 Taught Thread as Line, a seminar for adult students that explored hand and machine stitching on water-soluble stabilizer, silk organza, muslin, and cotton batiste. Readings included a selection from *A Complete Guide to Creative Embroidery*, by Jan Beaney and Jean Littlejohn. Students created small studies by building up layers of color and stitching using a variety of threads, thread colors, and stitch types. By referring to drawings, photos, clippings, or memories of a particular time and place, students created finished work for critique and discussion.
- 2006 Instructor, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA  
 Taught The Art of Knitting, a seminar focused on teaching different methods of constructing knit and purl stitches, and casting-on/binding-off techniques, to adult students. Inspired by Debbie New's experimental approach in *Unexpected Knitting*, students discussed leading sculptural knitters Karen Searle and Katharine Cobey, while they knit simple scarves and shrugs.
- 2005 Visiting Artist, Department of Textile Design/Fiber Arts  
 University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth, New Bedford, MA  
 Conducted seminars for undergraduate textile design students on machine embroidery and garment construction. Topics included basic sewing machine operation and care, how to sew straight and curved seams, stitching leather and other heavy fabrics, how to read and alter a pattern, and experimenting with water-soluble stabilizer and other interfacings.
- 2004 Instructor, Department of Textile Design/Fiber Arts  
 University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth, New Bedford, MA  
 Taught the undergraduate seminar Concepts in Design: The Art of Quilting, which focused on traditional machine and hand piecing, and collage quilt construction. Students created samples, experimenting with surface embellishment and surface design techniques using metallic, variegated, and other unique threads and fibers. Inspired by Robert Shaw's *The Art Quilt*, students studied and discussed the work of leading quilters Anna Torma, Judith Content, Judith and Michael James, and Michael Olszewski. Finished works were critiqued by the class and the instructor.
- 2002-03 Assistant Academic and Student Life Advisor, Department of Fine Arts and Design,  
 University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth, New Bedford, MA  
 Met one-on-one with freshmen art majors regarding their adjustment to on-campus life and college-level studies. Created a website for students to access homework assignments, museums, galleries, and appropriate campus links.
- 2003 Instructor and Software Trainer, The Fabric Studio, Swansea, MA  
 Taught students how to create sample embroidery designs and transfer them to the embroidery module using Bernina Artista® Embroidery CAD software. Students were encouraged to experiment, and learned how to create their own embroidery designs.

- 1995-96 Instructor, Brookline Adult and Community Education Program, Brookline, MA  
 Conducted the seminar American History through the Eyes of Women, which explored how a diverse group of unknown women shaped American history from antebellum to the twentieth century. Students read and discussed excerpts from Gerder Lerner's *Growing up Female in America*, the writings of early civil rights activist Ida B. Wells and writer/playwright Lorraine Hansberry. Participants researched and shared their own interests, such as the female victims of the Salem witch trials and the writings of Abigail Adams.
- 1994-95 Instructor, Roxbury Community College, Roxbury Crossing, MA  
 Conducted the following seminars for undergraduate students during the Fall/Spring semesters and Summer sessions:  
Introduction to Humanities studied selected writings of Achebe, Camus, and Hesse. Students wrote essays about the author's lives and discussed themes covered by each author.  
Human Conduct and Values focused upon selected writings of Hannah Arendt. Students wrote papers exploring ethical, moral, and personal choices in the workplace, at home, and in the world at large. Discussions centered around society's stereotypes and prejudice toward African-Americans.  
World History focused upon African-American and Native American experiences throughout history. Students wrote papers and discussed such topics as the impact of Columbus's discovery of America, the early relationship between Native Americans and the English, and the colonization and rule of the Belgian Congo.
- 1993-94 Instructor, Winsor School, Boston, MA  
 Taught courses in a private school setting for female students, grades 9-12:  
Advanced Placement U.S. History seminar focused on topics covered in the AP U.S. History exam. Students researched and wrote papers and discussed assigned readings.  
Latin American History seminar focused on pivotal events shaping South America and Cuba, and their impact upon U.S. economic and foreign policy.
- 1993-94 After-school Program Leader, Winsor School, Boston, MA  
 Designed and taught the arts and crafts after-school program for female students in grades 5-8.

#### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Art Instructor, Rosie's Place, Boston, MA  
 Teach art and textile-related crafts classes to homeless women.
- 1989-90 Residential social worker, Oxford Cyrenian Community, Oxford, England  
 Worked in halfway houses serving primarily men suffering from alcoholism and mental illness.