

Amy Kan

She/They · 312-358-6777 · kanamy@grinnell.edu

EDUCATION

Grinnell College

Grinnell, IA

Bachelors of Arts, Art History

August 2023 - May 2027

- GPA: 3.95/4.0
- Relevant Coursework: Surrealism, The Camera and the Body, Edo to Istanbul, Madness & Moving Image, Black Art and Visual Culture

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

Chicago, IL

High School Diploma

September 2019 - June 2023

- GPA: 3.98/4.0
 - Relevant Coursework: AP Seminar and AP Research, AP 2-D Art and Design
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Basement Gallery

Grinnell, IA

Curator

November 2024 - Present

- Managed social media content creation and poster design to promote events, achieving 7,000 views and 250 interactions, significantly increasing community engagement.
- Coordinated logistics for unique exhibition openings, such as interactive pizza-making events, fostering connections between artists and attendees.
- Named and branded exhibitions, including "Enflocking It" and "Time on Our Hands," ensuring cohesive themes and creative resonance.
- Took documentation photographs of events and exhibitions to preserve visual records and support future promotional efforts.

The Grinnell Review

Grinnell, IA

Layout Editor

August 2024 - Present

- Designed layouts and ensured a cohesive flow of the bi-annual magazine using Adobe InDesign, unifying diverse written and artistic submissions.
- Took the magazine in a more experimental creative direction, introducing innovative layouts and themes to push artistic boundaries.
- Contributed to editorial decisions regarding writing and art submissions, maintaining high-quality publication standards.
- Organized and planned magazine release parties, fostering a vibrant community celebration and boosting engagement.

Social Media Coordinator

January 2024 - May 2024

- Designed eye-catching posters and graphics to publicize events, including study breaks, release parties, and featured works, ensuring strong visual appeal and social media presence.
- Managed social media accounts to promote events and engage with the campus community, increasing attendance and participation.
- Posted throwback content highlighting the publication's history, leveraging its legacy to deepen engagement and attract a broader audience.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Grinnell College Print and Drawing Study Room Collections Assistant

Grinnell, IA
Sept 2023 - Present

- Assisted in the routine handling of diverse artworks for class visits and special events.
- Independently led cataloging projects, including organizing and documenting Egyptian artifacts and materials by Edith Alice Sternfeld in Gallery Systems, demonstrating strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Worked with a variety of mediums and archival material, ensuring accurate documentation and preservation practices.
- Contributed to 3D scanning of objects within the collection using the Creaform Academia 50 handheld 3D scanner, aiding in digital preservation and accessibility efforts.
- Facilitated class visits and alumni events, providing logistical support and enhancing visitor engagement with the collection.
- Conducted independent research on artworks by Swiss-American artist Sonja Sekula in the collection, utilizing archival materials to provide historical context and insights.

Edith Renfrow Smith '37 Gallery Exhibiting Artist

Grinnell, IA
November 2024

- Conceptualized and executed highly experimental work exhibited in the space with Regann Fishell, pushing creative boundaries and challenging traditional norms.
- Developed and finalized a detailed artwork proposal through independent research and brainstorming sessions.
- Designed promotional materials, including posters and social media content, to effectively market the exhibition and attract attendees.
- Managed installation and deinstallation processes, utilizing power tools and painting walls to create a professional and cohesive display environment.
- Independently funded the project, showcasing strong budgeting and resource management skills.
- Organized and ran a successful opening event, fostering meaningful engagement with attendees and creating a dynamic experience around the work.

Grin Cupola Visiting Curator

Grinnell, IA
July 2024 - Oct 2024

- Collaborated with student artists to select works for inclusion, conducting studio visits and engaging directly with their creative processes.
- Designed promotional graphics and authored a compelling exhibition statement utilizing Georges Bataille's concept of the informe to articulate the show's vision and attract attendees.
- Managed logistics for installation and deinstallation of artwork, ensuring smooth operations and proper handling of pieces.
- Provided on-site staffing during the event, fostering a welcoming atmosphere and facilitating interactions between attendees and artists.
- Partnered with student musicians to provide a live performance at the opening, enhancing the audience experience.
- Organized a successful opening event with 40–60 attendees, fostering a dynamic community dialogue around the artworks.

Studio Assistant

July 2024 - Oct 2024

- Assisted artist Joe Tuggle Lacina by applying plaster gauze to sculptures, contributing to the realization of large-scale works.
- Organized and maintained the studio space, ensuring efficiency and cleanliness for ongoing projects.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

The Wrong

Remote

Pavilion Curator

May 2023 - March 2024

- Conducted extensive online outreach and communication to promote the exhibition, engaging a global audience and maximizing visibility.
- Collaborated closely with twenty-five internationally acclaimed Chinese artists such as Snow Yunxue Fu, Yasmine Anlan Huang, and Huang Jieyuan, to develop Speculative Sinofuturisms, a cutting-edge digital exhibition for The Wrong's 6th Biennale.
- Gained proficiency in common.garden, an innovative online exhibition platform, managing technical aspects to ensure a seamless digital experience.
- Organized and facilitated an artist talk and exhibition event in partnership with the Grinnell College Museum of Art in conjunction with the William Villalongo: Myths and Migrations show, attracting a diverse audience and fostering dialogue on contemporary art themes.

Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art

Chicago, IL

IntuiTeens

July 2024 - August 2024

- Developed an understanding of outsider art and its cultural significance through immersive workshops and collaborative projects.
- Partnered with local teens, professional artists, and community organizations such as the National Museum of Mexican Art to design and lead arts-based workshops, fostering creativity and engagement.
- Co-created and contributed to the IntuiTeen Zine, a community-focused publication showcasing artistic voices and collaborative projects.

Museum of Contemporary Art

Chicago, IL

21Minus Artist

June 2023

- Created 人性画 (Humanity's Portrait), an innovative artwork blending Google Maps imagery with traditional Chinese hand scroll format, exploring the theme What Was, What Is.
- Collaborated with the TCA (Teen Creative Agency), enriching the thematic dialogue of the exhibition through shared creative and cultural perspectives.

Marwen

Chicago, IL

Exhibiting Lab Artist

September 2022 - June 2023

- Created a series of abstract paintings centered on the themes of personal grief and temporality, exploring emotional landscapes and the passage of time.
- Engaged in discourse with mentor artists, refining artistic vision and gaining valuable insights into creative development.
- Wrote artist statements to provide context and deepen the audience's understanding of the work.
- Visited various artist studios at Mana Contemporary, expanding artistic perspective and learning about different creative processes and techniques.
- Exhibited work in a culminating group show, where the pieces were on display for four months, inviting introspective engagement from a diverse audience.

PRESENTATIONS

- Exhibition Talk: Speculative Sinofuturisms – Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, IA, 2024
- Exhibition Talk: Sonja Sekula's Revisionist Zen – Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, IA, 2025

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LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Co-President, Pride versus Prejudiced

Grinnell College, 2023 - Present

- Led a book club dedicated to exploring literature from writers beyond the Western canon, fostering discussions on diverse cultural perspectives.
 - Organized and facilitated meetings, ensuring inclusive and engaging dialogue among members.
 - Coordinated book selections, logistics, and promotional efforts to increase club participation and visibility on campus.
 - Provided members with free, accessible copies of books to ensure inclusivity and encourage engagement.
 - Secured funding from the Center for the Humanities to organize a talk by renowned Meskwaki poet Ray Young Bear, connecting students with an influential voice in contemporary Indigenous literature.
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PUBLICATIONS

- "All-ways": Sonja Sekula's Revisionist Zen (in preparation, title subject to change)
 - *Subclinical Insomnia Summer* – The Grinnell Review, Fall 2024 Edition
 - *(Chinese) American Grotesque* – The Grinnell Review, Spring 2024 Edition
 - *IMPUDENCE!* – Grinnell Underground Magazine, Fall 2023 Edition
 - "Painting a Clearer Picture: Gender in Visual Art" – Journal of CPS Capstone Research, 2023
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AWARDS

- Dean's List, 3 Semesters
 - Founder's Scholarship, 2023 - 2027
 - Renaissance Scholar, 2023 - 2027
 - Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy, 2023
 - AP Scholar with Distinction, 2023
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PRESS AND FEATURES

- "Grinnell's Underground Art Scene: 'Basement Gallery'" – The Scarlet & Black, December 9, 2024
 - "Art in the Heartland: Students to Debut 'Hodgepodge' Exhibit in Grinnell Cupola Corn Crib" – The Scarlet & Black, October 10, 2024
 - "Digital Exhibition by Amy Kan '27 Presents 'Experimental and Bizarre' Contemporary Art" – The Scarlet & Black, March 1, 2024
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LANGUAGES

- Mandarin Chinese (fluent)
- German (beginner)