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Selected Exhibits

“Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art” juried exhibit at the LuXun Academy of Fine Arts, Shenyang, China. Art exhibit and Cultural Exchange with the International Women’s Caucus for the Arts. Juror: Alma Ruiz, Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. (2014)

“Cabinets of Curiosity” juried exhibit, Muse Gallery, Longmont, CO (2014)

“Text, Context, Subtext” exhibit at the Tychman Gallery of the Sabes Jewish Community Center, St. Louis Park, MN (2013)

“Dream-Carriers” lifesize figures of youth commissioned by International Labour Office for Global Youth Forum and International Conference on Youth Employment. ILO headquarters and United Nations conference hall, Geneva, Switzerland (2012)

“Water Stories” community art map, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN (2012)

Women and Water; Concerning Water, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI (2012)

Dreams & Cultural Diversity, International Association for the Study of Dreams, Rolduc, the Netherlands. (2011)

Healing Waters, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. (2011)

Geography of Home, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Mendota Heights, MN (2011)

“The Life Story of Petroleum” 415 foot installation in “Shedding Light: Art Explores Science”, the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI. (2010)

Portrait of Mayor Rybak, Fine Arts Pavillion, Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, MN. (2010)

WARM Mentorship Exhibition, Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, MN (2010)

Foot in the Door Show, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN. (2010)

Talking Suitcases, Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. (2009)

Geography of Home, Map Show, the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN (2009)

Ordinary/Extraordinary: the Art and Life of Stories, the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI (2009)

Geography of Home, Mayor’s Office, Minneapolis, MN. (2008)

Moving Experiences: Immigration in Minnesota, The Minneapolis Foundation, Minneapolis, MN (2008)

WARM Mentor Show, Hennepin History Center, Minneapolis, MN. (2008)

Spirit of the Dream, International Association for the Study of Dreams, Sonoma State University, Sonoma, CA. (2007)

Global Unity, “Geography of Home” at MOSAIC Festival of the Arts, Minneapolis, MN. (2007)

Open Door, Rosalux Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (2007)

Encountering Racial Justice through Art, Hamline University, Minneapolis, MN. (2007)

House/Home, Weisman Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. (2006)

Talking Suitcases (Immigrant Status), Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN. (2006)

Israel/Palestine: A Home Divided, Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, Winona, MN (2006)

Prism of Longing, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI. (2006)

Mythic Geographies (solo show), Winona Center for the Arts, Winona, MN. (2005)

Pictures at an Exhibition, Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, MN. (2005)

Mythic Geography (solo show), the Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, MN. (2005)

St. Paul Art Crawl, Minnesota State Arts Board exhibit, St. Paul, MN (2004)
GEMS, Catherine G. Murphy Gallery, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN (2004)
Spiritual Geographies, United Theological Seminaries, New Brighton, MN (2004)
MOVE, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN (2004)
Pictures at an Exhibition, Tuscarawas Center for the Arts, New Philadelphia, OH (2004)
Talking Suitcases, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN. (2004)

The Text Show, Elements, the Artco Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (2003)
MIA Slides into Art-a-Whirl, Minneapolis Institute of Arts slide presentation. (2003)
Pictures at an Exhibition, the Sheldon Theater, Red Wing, MN (2003)
9/11, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN. (2002)
Invitational Shows, Anderson Center for the Arts, Red Wing, MN. (2002)

Curatorial Projects

Project Director, Curator, Shedding Light: Art Explores Science, group show of 6 artists using a range of media to explore aspects of science. (The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI, 2010)
Curator, with Joyce Lyon, Talking Suitcases, group show of mixed media story objects and art suitcases from more than 80 community members of diverse backgrounds from projects that I led. (Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 2009)
Project Director, Curator, Ordinary/Extraordinary: the Art and Life of Stories, group show of artists from Japan, Russia, Liberia and the U.S, showcasing a range of approaches to narrative art in many mediums. (The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI, 2009)
Project Director, Prism of Longing, group show of artists of Jewish, Arab & Christian backgrounds connecting across difference. (The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, Wisconsin. (2006)
Originator and Lead Artist for Talking Suitcases™, community art & story-telling project. Focused on immigration with Intermedia Arts(2003-6). Curated exhibits in 2003 and 2006.
Project Director, Curator, Pictures at an Exhibition. Curated & developed this traveling show of Minnesota artists' work relating to Mussorgsky's music. Exhibits in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio, and electronically Utah and Colorado.

Art Rosters

Minnesota State Arts Board Roster of Artists in Education. (2006-the present)
Art residencies in schools and communities throughout the state.
COMPAS Teaching Artists Roster (2002-the present)
Art residencies throughout MN: mapboxes, ancient civilization maps, collage boxes, talking suitcases, etc
Women's Art Registry of Minnesota (WARM), Mentor in Mentor/Protegee program. (2005-2010)
College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN, Mentor in the Teaching Artists program (2005-2010)

Work in Community and the Arts (Selected)

River Map Art projects. (2013-15)

- "River Stories" art exhibit and Community Storytelling Event, part of 175th Anniversary Celebration, (after Garrison Keilor's fundraiser for Marine Library)
Marine on St. Croix, MN (Nov.14-Jan 15).
- "Bend in the River" art exhibit and "Reading the River" public event,
at ArtReach St.Croix Gallery, Stillwater, MN. Sept 2014.
- Presentation of "Lac qui Parle River Map" to County Museum, Dawson, MN, July 2014
- River art and writing residencies in Dawson 3rd grade and high school, May 2014
- "Take me to the River" community storytelling event and hike, Lac qui Parle County Park,
Madison, MN, May 2014
- Community "River Stories" event at Lac qui Parle History Center. Nov. 2013.
- Interviews & story gathering with Lac qui Parle area residents. March-Nov 2013.
- Written interviews with 20 "Mississippi Green Team" youth, Mississippi Watershed Management

Organization, Minneapolis, MN 2013-4

- Interviews & story gathering with St. Croix River area residents.
Residency in Science Museum of MN St. Croix Watershed Research Station's
"Pine Needles" cabin, Summer 2013.

Talking Suitcases projects. (2012-14)

Urban Arts Academy, staff training. Minneapolis, MN
Peace Church, women's spirituality group, Duluth, MN
Freedom School, (Children's Defense Fund) literacy school, middle schoolers, Minneapolis, MN
Minnesota Veterans, with Kairos dance, Richfield, MN
House of Peace Women's Shelter, Minneapolis, MN
Homeless youth Story Project, Duluth, MN
University of Minnesota, Summer English Program, Minneapolis, MN

International Labour Office (ILO), United Nations, Switzerland. (2011-12)

Artist in residence; first art exhibition about the work and issues of the ILO; created 10 life-size
wood figures of youth for exhibit in the ILO gallery and United Nations conference hall. (2012)

Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. (2012)

With public, created giant map art piece: Water Stories from Here and Far.

Beth Jacob Synagogue, Mendota Heights, MN (2011)

Exhibited Geography of Home, led interactive event for community: what is compelling to you about your
community? Commission: 4' x 6' painting of an Israelite tent made of their words and responses.

Walker Art Center – guest artist -July 2010, for "Open Field" day. Designed and led public art event
creating giant 3-D lawn map of the Twin Cities beside the Walker.

Hmong-American Partnership, St. Paul, MN (2008-2010)

Talking Suitcases project. Led workshops for Hmong youth (2010), Hmong mothers and at-risk daughters
(2010) and Hmong and Vietnamese elders (08-09) to create and share art objects and stories about their
lives. Videos by Justin Schell document this work. (see "Publications" below)

West Bank Community Development Corporation, Minneapolis, MN, (2007-2008)

Talking Suitcases project: Community building through art and story. Led neighborhood workshops for
Somali, Oromo, Ethiopian, Vietnamese, Euro-American, and African American families creating & sharing art
and life experiences. Focus on safety issues. Funded by West Bank Community Development Corporation,
COMPAS Community Arts grant, and the Carolyn Foundation.

Korean Service Center, Minneapolis, MN, (2007-8)

Talking Suitcases project: Community building through art and story. Led workshops with Korean elders
creating art about their life stories. Funded by Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and Korean Services.

United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, MN, (2004-8)

Talking Suitcases Exploring Resilience, Hope and Loss through Art.: Week-long workshop,
with final public presentation and art exhibit. Interfaith workshop at the Islamic Center in Fridley, MN

Intermedia Arts, "Immigrant Status" Program, Project Artist, Minneapolis, MN (2003-7)

Residencies in Talking Suitcases art & storytelling at Southwest High School, El Colegio, Intermedia Arts,
WorkOpportunities Center, St. Paul Jewish Community Center, White Bear Alternative School, Hastings
Elementary, Hmong youth group. Immigrant and community artists, youth, elders, and the general public
attended workshops in making art about their life experiences. Also, performed "Talking Suitcase" art piece.

The Weisman Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Workshops for diverse youth featuring "Geography of Home" my map painting of the Twin Cities made of the
words and languages of people who live here. My art was featured on the cover of their writing anthology.
(2006) Guest artist for family days : 2006, 2001, 2000, 1999.

Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI. (2/06, 2/02)

Art-making residencies for Middle Schoolers: Talking Suitcases (on the Middle East) &
Pictures at an Exhibition (Art inspired by Music) relating to companion exhibits at the Arts Center.
(see Curatorial Projects)

Compleat Scholar Program, University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education, St. Paul, MN. (2004, 2003)

Music from Art; Art from Music; Explorations of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition with pianist Julia Elkina and Professor Michael Kac. Created this course and facilitated it. (2004)

MAX (Minnesota Arts eXperience) Workshop, (sponsored by the Perpich Center for the Arts & the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota.) Red Wing, MN. also Hamline University, Graduate School of Education. St. Paul, MN. (8/00-01)

Week-long workshop for teachers and teaching artists, "Geography of the Imagination" with Catherine Reid Day on creativity and using art for exploration and self-discovery.

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (1/01 and 10/01) Guest artist for family days.

Catholic Charities, Minneapolis, MN. With Catherine Reid Day.

Staff development workshops for community- and team-building; 2-D and 3-D image-making.

Talks and Conference Presentations

Art & Community: Bringing the River Alive through our Words. "What we need is here" environmental art group, the Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI, (14)

Water and Words: Creating a Geography of Home, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN (11)

Minnesota TESOL Conference, Pre-conference keynote "Talking Suitcases" MN (Fall 10)

Eastside Arts Council conference. "Talking Suitcases" presentation St. Paul, MN. (09).

Program in Peace Studies, "Talking Suitcases" presentation. Arcadia University. Philadelphia, PA. (09)

Minnesota Education Association (MEA) Conference. "Talking Suitcases" presentation with youth, St. Paul, MN (09)

Teaching Artist Conference. (keynote) Bloomington, MN (09)

Professional Artist Panel, College of Visual Arts, St. Paul, MN. (2008)

2008 Minnesota Council of Social Studies Conference, Mille Lacs, MN.

2007 ESL, Bilingual and Migrant Education Conference, Minnesota Department of Education and Hamline University, St. Paul, MN.

Education & Training

-Science Museum's St. Croix Research Station, 5-day art & science retreat with wildlife biologist Bonnie Ploger. (2012), Awarded 2-week Residency at Pine Needles (2013)

- Two Rivers Summer Institute: Art, poetry & the environment. Ft Snelling, MN. (2012, upcoming 2014)

- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN: Mentorship w/ Professor Joyce Lyon, (2003-4)

Studio & arts history courses, (1999-2002)

- Women's Art Institute, MCAD, Minneapolis, MN (Summer 2000)

WARM (Women's Art Registry of Minnesota) Mentorship with Maria Santiago, 1997-8.

- M.S. Linguistics/TESL, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

- B.A., Honors Comparative Literature, Brown University, Providence, RI.

Honors & Awards (selected)

Arts Legacy Fund, Lac qui Parle Historical Society Project: River Stories Map: The Lac qui Parle River. Southwest Minnesota Arts Council grant (2014)

Artist Initiative Grants (individual), Minnesota State Arts Board:

(2013) – to create mapwork that combines the physicality of the land and water with the stories of people, past and present, in three Minnesota river locations.

(2009) – to create a series of portraits of Twin Cities residents made of their own maps and writings.

(2004) – to create a map of the Twin Cities made of the words and languages of people who live there.

Artist Residency, "Pine Needles" cabin, Science Museum of MN, St. Croix Watershed Research Station cabin, Marine on St. Croix, MN (July 2013).

Minnesota Women's Press, "Changemaker of the Year" award for "Impact on the lives of women and

children” for Talking Suitcases project, (2008)
COMPAS, Community Arts grant for Talking Suitcases project with West Bank Community Development Corporation (2008)
COMPAS, Medtronic Arts Award for Talking Suitcases project with United Theological Seminary (2005)
Artist Residency at Anderson Center, Red Wing MN. (6/01)
Jerome Fellowship for the WARM (Women’s Art Registry of MN) Mentorship Program (1997-1998)
Cornell University Graduate Fellowship
Magna cum laude, Brown University

Art in Public Spaces

Science Museum’s St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Marine-on-St. Croix, MN
International Labour Organization headquarters, Geneva, SW
Beth Jacob Synagogue, Mendota Heights, MN
Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation headquarters, Edison, NJ
Minneapolis Mayor’s Office, City Hall, Minneapolis, MN (2011-14)
Bilingual Education Center, Northwestern University, IL.
Unity Church Unitarian, St. Paul, MN
Lake Country Montessori School, Minneapolis, MN

Published Images

Languages of Home (cover), Minnesota Writing Project Anthology, Minneapolis, MN. (06).
Blue Baroque Band (CD cover) , Schubert Club, St. Paul, MN.

Publications about my work

Schmid, Christina, “ The Edge of Reason” Shedding Light at The Phipps Center for the Arts in Quodlibetica, at www.quodlibetica.com. 2010.
Diane and Betty Farrell, Entering Cultural Communities: Diversity and Change in the Nonprofit Arts, Rutgers University Press, NJ (2008). Pp: 29-32
St. Martin, Michele “Talking Suitcases tell unique life stories” Minnesota Women’s Press,, May1, 2008.

Videos about my work

Schell, Justin videographer.
Talking Suitcases at Hmong American Partnership
Talking Suitcases – Hmong American Partnership
Talking Suitcases – Hmong Mothers and Daughters
Talking Suitcases – MN Veterans
Talking Suitcases at Southwest High School