

Karen Sako

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Education

2001 BFA with Honors, Visual Communications, Illinois Institute of Art, Schaumburg, IL

2008 Certified Web Designer, Illinois Institute of Art, Schaumburg, IL

Teaching Experience

1997-2020 Art Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center Lake Zurich, IL

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2022 Above & Below, The Empty Corner, Arlington Heights, IL

2020 Hidden Layers, Epilogue Arts, Long Grove, IL

2019 Abstraction, Overland Gallery, Harvard, IL

2018 Featured Artist, Starline Factory, Harvard, IL

Artist in Residence

The Empty Corner, Arlington Heights, 214 E Grove St, Arlington Heights, IL

November 2022 - January 2023

Residency program which included monthly community outreach through, art critiques, demonstrations, art talks solo show and mentoring refugees with the Viator House of Hospitality. 1212 East Euclid Arlington Heights, IL

Selected Exhibitions

2023 *Backstory: The Artist's Process*, Guenzel Gallery, Fish Creek, WI (Invited Artist)

2023 *Art Comes Alive Spring*, ADC Fine Arts, Cincinnati, OH (Juror: Litsa Spanos, Owner ADC Fine Art, Cincinnati, OH)

2023 *Northern National Art Competition*, Nicolet Gallery, Rhinelander, WI (Juror: Juror/Judge F. Lennox "Lenny" Campello)

2022 *NOAPS Associate Member 2022 Exhibit*, National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society, Best Narrative (Juror: Ann Hardy)
<https://www.noaps.org/2022-member-on-line>

2022 *NOAPS Spring International Online Show*, National Oil & Acrylic Painters' Society (Juror: Tom Altenburg)
<https://www.noaps.org/2022-spring-on-line>

2022 *Northern National Art Competition*, Nicolet Gallery, Rhinelander, WI (Juror: Robert Kanyusik, Kanyusik created the Nicolet College Gallery and was one of the originators of the Northern National Art Competition.)

2022 *4th Fridays*, The Dole Mansion, Crystal Lake, IL, **People's Choice, 4th Core Team Award**

2022 *Large Works*, Antioch Fine Arts Foundation, Antioch, IL, **Honorable Mention**
(Juror: Carol Fink Sackschewsky, artist, Antioch, IL)

2021 *Art Comes Alive*, ADC Fine Arts, Cincinnati, OH, **Summit Award** (Juror: Litsa Spanos, Owner ADC Fine Art, Cincinnati, OH)

2021 *Abstract Symphony*, Naperville Art League, Naperville, IL, **Honorable Mention**

2021 *Water*, Lagunaart.com, The Shops at Mission Viejo, Mission Viejo, CA

2021 *Painting R' Town*, 1st Annual Plein Air Competition, Richmond, IL, **President's Choice Award**

2021 *Paint The Town*, Barrington White House, Barrington, IL, **People's Choice**

2020 *Exodus*, Aeon Gallery, Richmond, IL (Juror: Zmiya Mochoruk, artist, Wauconda, IL)

2019 *Emerging*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL

2019 *Rapture*, Aeon Gallery, Richmond, IL (Juror: Cheryl Ryan, Artist, Wauconda, IL)

2019 *Collage & Effect*, The Adler Arts Center, Libertyville, IL

2019 *Best of the Best Show*, Alliance of Fine Art, Oakbrook, IL

2019 *4th Fridays*, Starline Factory, Harvard, IL, **Best of Show**

2018 *Rapture, 'The Devil You Don't'*, Aeon Gallery, Richmond, IL (Juror: Cheryl Ryan, Artist, Wauconda, IL)

2018 *Bits & Pieces*, Midwest Collage Society, **Best In Show**

2018 *Carmel on Canvas*, Paint the Town Plain Air Event, Carmel IN, **First Place**

2018 *Paint The Town*, Barrington White House, Barrington, IL, **Second Place**

2018 *Contemporary Nature*, Union Street Gallery, Chicago Heights, IL

2018 *Hidden Detail*, Naperville Art League, Naperville, IL **Best In Show**

2018 *Creative Insights*, Addison Center for the Arts, Addison, IL, **Honorable Mention**

2018 *Annual Juried Exhibition*, Gallery on 16th, Racine, WI

2018 *4th Fridays*, Starline Factory, Harvard, IL, **Honorable Mention, Nancy Merkling Choice Award**

2017 *It Figures*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL

2017 *Art In Nature Plein Air Competition*, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills, IL, **Best in Show**

2017 *Curious Discoveries*, Midwest Collage Society, Downers Grove, IL

2017 *Abstracts Matter*, 311 Gallery, Raleigh, NC

2017 *Best of the Best Show*, Alliance of Fine Art, Oakbrook, IL

2017 *Seeing Red*, ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL

2017 *4th Fridays*, Starline Factory, Harvard, IL, **Honorable Mention**

2017 *4th Fridays*, Starline Factory, Harvard, IL, **Best of Show, People's Choice, 4Core Team Award**

2016 *Continuing the Tradition 4*, Iannelli Studio Heritage Center, Park Ridge, IL

2016 *Beyond Rosie the Riveter: Women & Work*, Koehline Museum of Art, Des Plaines, IL (catalogue)

2016 *The Collective Muse*, Aurora Public Art Commission, Des Aurora, IL, **Third Place**

2015 *Something About the Color Red*, Long Grove Artist Guild, Long Grove, IL, **Best of Show, People's Choice**

Workshops

- 2023 "Oil & Cold Wax Medium for Beginners," Instructor, Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI, Oct. 3-6.
- 2023 "Mixed Media Design," Instructor, Antioch Fine Arts Foundation, Antioch, IL, Aug. 11.
"Youth Abstract Mixed Media Design," Instructor, Antioch Fine Arts Foundation, Antioch, IL, Aug. 25.
- 2023 "Going All Out, Intermediate Cold Wax & Oil," Instructor, Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI, June 13-16.
- 2023 "Abstract Mixed Media Design," Instructor, FOUCS on the ARTS, Highland Park High School, Highland Park, IL
- 2022 "Oil & Cold Wax Medium for Beginners," Instructor, Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI, July 27-30.
- 2021 "Abstract Landscapes in Oil & Cold Wax," Instructor, Peninsula School of Art, Fish Creek, WI, Sept. 13-16.
- 2021 "Abstract Mixed Media," Instructor, Brushwood Art Guild, Janesville, WI, April 29.
- 2019 "Sketching" Instructor, Aeon Gallery, Richmond, IL
- 2019 "Mixed Media," Instructor, Fine Line Creative Art Center, St. Charles, IL
- 2019 "Abstract Mixed Media," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2019 "Perspective," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2018 "Mixed Media," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2018 "Mixed Media Madness," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2017 "Mixed Media Techniques," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2017 "Abstract Mixed Media," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2017 "Mixed Media for Teens," Instructor, Mainstreet Art Center, Lake Zurich, IL
- 2017-19 "Mixed Media Collage," Instructor, Odyssey, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL
- 2016-19 "Mixed Media Collage," Instructor, Visual Arts Day School District 214, Arlington Heights, IL

Collections

Elke Velez, Velez Orthodontics, Bayamon, Puerto Rico | Kristiina Sillanpaa, Kangasala, Finland

Publications

"Meet Karen Sako." Canvas Rebel April 10, 2012 <https://canvasrebel.com/meet-karen-sako/>

"New Empty Corner Art Gallery Brings More Culture in Arlington Heights," Daily Herald, Christopher Palcek. 11/3/2022
(<https://www.dailyherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?avis=da&date=20221103&category=entlife&lopenr=221109814&ref=ar>)

Blink Art Resource 2021/2022 Page 178

"5 Things To Do For \$5 (Or Less) This Week In The Suburbs Scott C. Morgan 5/1/2019
(<https://www.dailyherald.com/entlife/20190501/5-things-to-do-for-5-or-less-this-week-in-the-suburbs>)

"Bays Sako Tackles Unconventional Art," Lake Geneva News, Sami Wendling, (Lake Geneva, WI: Lake Geneva Regional News, 2017)
https://www.lakegenevanews.net/news/geneva_lake_west/bay-s-sako-tackles-unconventional-art/article_edaa3734-0e73-11e7-a7ab-47899620b92d.html

Exhibitions Judged

- 2023 *IACS JH Art Tournament*, Marquette Manor Baptist Academy, 333 75th Street, Downers Grove, IL,
- 2023 *IACS High School Art Tournament*, Schaumburg Christian School located at 200 N. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL
- 2022 *33rd Annual Prairie Arts Festival*, Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts, Schaumburg, IL
- 2019 *Members Show*, Lake County Art League, Waukegan, IL
- 2017 *56th Annual Art Show*, Palasides Art League, Savanna, IL
- 2014 *Celebrate the Arts*, Arts Unlimited Art & Writing Contest, Daily Herald, Arlington Heights, IL

Professional Organizations

National Oil And Acrylic Painter's Society (NOAPS)
North Shore Art League, Winnetka, IL
Suburban Sketchers, Long Grove, IL

Gallery Affiliations

ADC Fine Art, Cincinnati, OH
Aeon Gallery Richmond, IL
Epilogue Arts, Long Grove, IL
Mainstreet Gallery Lake Zurich, IL