

ESRA KANISICAK

(860)208-4717 | esrakanisicak@gmail.com | www.esraartstudio.com | Cincinnati, OH, 45249

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts

University of Cincinnati, School of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) | OH, USA | 2020-2024

- **Honors:** Outstanding Student Award, Dean's List (2020-2024, GPA: 3.98)

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey | Ankara, Turkey | 1992-1996

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BBA Advertising Agency - Istanbul, Turkey – Brand Representative (1996–1997)

- Served as the primary liaison between Metro AG, Real.-, and Bauhaus, (European hypermarket and DIY chain stores) ensuring brand needs and objectives were effectively communicated to the design team and management.
- Developed promotional strategies and materials for new store openings.
- Managed client relations and ensured timely execution of marketing deliverables.

Pile Jarse Textiles Manufacturing – Istanbul, Turkey

Administrative Coordinator & Import/Export Specialist (1997–1998)

- Oversaw customer orders, production schedules, and quality control across four plants.
- Managed import/export documentation and coordinated international shipments.
- Organized trade event logistics, international client meetings and maintained production records.

Marketing & Sales Representative (1998–2000)

- Represented the company at international trade fairs, promoting textile products to global buyers.
- Developed and designed promotional materials to enhance brand visibility.
- Built and maintained relationships with key clients, driving increased sales and export opportunities.
- Conducted market research to identify trends and expand the company's presence in European markets.

Enko Sourcing Ltd. – Istanbul, Turkey - Consultant & Startup Coordinator (2000–2001)

- Helped launch a textile sourcing company, connecting global fashion brands with local manufacturers.
- Represented the company at international conventions, securing business with brands like Andres Sarda and Nils.
- Sourced, negotiated, and coordinated sample development and large-scale export production.
- Managed end-to-end operations, including client relations, quality control, and order fulfillment.
- Built strong partnerships between manufacturers and brands to ensure seamless production and high standards.

Neptuno Dive Center - Dominican Republic – Master Scuba Diver Trainer (2001–2001)

- Trained and certified beginner to advanced-level divers, providing instruction in multiple languages.
- Achieved Master Scuba Diver Trainer rank, enhancing training quality and expanding course offerings.
- Led guided underwater excursions, ensuring safe and memorable experiences for hotel guests.
- Managed daily dive center operations, including scheduling, logistics, and equipment maintenance.
- Supervised and coordinated a team of divemasters and captains to maintain high safety and service standards.

Rixos Hotels – Bodrum, Turkey– Dive Center Director (2001–2002)

- Launched a new dive center, handling sourcing, purchasing, and acquiring dealerships for dive equipment, setting up a retail shop, dive school, and boat operations.

- Hired, trained, and managed dive center staff to ensure high safety standards and customer experience.
- Explored and mapped dive sites to create unique and engaging underwater experiences for guests.
- Developed marketing strategies to promote diving activities to hotel guests and boost revenue.
- Managed budgeting, pricing, and financial planning to maintain profitability and operational efficiency.
- Built strong relationships with hotel management and guests, ensuring seamless integration of the dive center with the resort's luxury offerings.

Scuba-Du Dive Center, Istanbul, Turkey - Owner/Manager/Instructor (2002-2003)

- Managed dive center operations, including marketing, vendor partnerships and staff hiring, logistics and budgeting.
- Organized and led group diving trips, certified divers, served as a staff instructor for PADI IDC instructor training.
- Sourced boat and transportation rentals, and designed teaching materials and retail spaces.

Career Break - CT and OH, USA - Family Manager and Caregiver (2004–2019)

After immigrating to the U.S. and while on a nonworking visa, I focused on family, immigration, and community service while developing key organizational and advocacy skills.

- Researched, developed, and prepared green card applications, coordinating with legal entities.
- Successfully advocated for neurodiverse children, securing IEP and 504 plans despite administrative challenges.
- Led PTO event planning committees, managing budgets, sourcing materials, and overseeing logistics.
- Developed and secured sponsorships for an "Outdoor Sensory Classroom" project for a preschool.

Esra Art Studio - Cincinnati, OH, USA - Independent Exhibiting Artist (2016 – Present)

- Established a professional art career, earning a BFA and creating a small business.
- Secured competitive exhibitions and funding, demonstrating research, application, and presentation expertise.
- Engaged communities through social media, art markets, and exhibitions, building entrepreneurial skills.

DAAP Ceramics Lab University of Cincinnati, OH, USA - Assistant Lab Manager (2022-2022)

- Tested and formulated 100+ glaze recipes and manufactured custom clay bodies.
- Operated advanced kilns, including the BLAUUW gas kiln and updated online database.
- Organized studio spaces and created systems for improved material management.
- Supervised and trained students in lab setup, procedures, and pottery techniques.

Queen City Clay - Cincinnati, OH, USA - Studio Assistant (2022–2023)

- Organized and maintained schedules for workshops and public events.
- Coordinated exhibits, including gallery preparation for the NCECA national conference.
- Developed streamlined inventory and materials management processes.
- Provided expert guidance on tools, materials, and creative techniques to members.
- Assisted classes, mixed large batches of shop glazes, and engineered four public sculpture installations.

Procter & Gamble Co. - Cincinnati, OH, USA – Production Planner (2025–current)

- Drive 97.5%+ service and <1% allocation via proactive supply planning.
- Manage transitions and inventory to prevent IDE and excess.
- Streamline and execute planning processes through risk reviews and automation

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Outstanding Student Award, Class of 2024
- Summerfair (2024) Roy G. Biv (2025) Emerging Artist Exhibitions
- Selected Representative for UC School of Art Director Search Committee (2022)
- Robert Fabe/Cook-Trane Fine Arts Award (2020–2021)

SKILLS

- **Technical:** SAP, Microsoft Office Suite, Teams, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Lightroom
- **Creative:** Welding (Stick, MIG, TIG), pottery, woodworking, lost wax casting, moldmaking, DSLR photography
- **Languages:** Fluent in Turkish, English, and German

LIST OF EXHIBITIONS

- Roy G Biv Gallery emerging artists 3 person show - Columbus OH – Nov 2025
- Kentucky Museum 'Equal Temperament' group show Bowling Green KY-April 2025
- Eisele Gallery 2 person show – Cincinnati OH – Fall 2025
- Off Ludlow 'Art in Action' charity group show -Cincinnati, OH – Jun-Jul, 2025
- Martindell Gallery 'Feather, Fins and Fur' group show- Cincinnati, OH – Mar-Apr, 2025
- Off Ludlow Gallery 'Pure Imagination Cincinnati OH -Jan-Mar, 2025
- Fotofocus Backstories Biennale – Xavier University Galleries, OH -Sep 2024
- BFA Thesis solo show University of Cincinnati OH– April 2024
- Rodin and Response – Juried exhibition Tabula Rasa Gallery, Cincinnati OH – April 2024
- DAAPWORX – Capstone Group Exhibition Reed Gallery, Cincinnati OH – April 2024
- Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park – Art and Earth day -April 2024
- 'Waterworks' Group exhibition – Off Ludlow Gallery, OH -May 2024
- Summerfair Cincinnati - Regional Emerging Artists - Clifton Cultural Arts Center, OH - Feb, 2024
- Midsouth Sculpture Alliance Select Exhibition – MTSU Todd Art Gallery, TN -Feb, 2024
- 'ISC 2023 little Sculpture Show' International Sculpture Center Jersey City, NJ -Oct 2023
- 'Echoes of the Anthropocene' Group exhibition Cincinnati OH -Aug 2023
- 'In Bloom' Group exhibition Trish Martindell Gallery Cincinnati OH -May 2023
- 'DAAPWorks' Show and Sale, UC Clay Club Cincinnati OH -April 2023
- Window installation Indigo Hippo NCECA Cincinnati OH -Mar 2023
- Public art installation Imagination Alley NCECA Cincinnati OH -Mar 2023
- Permanent Outdoor sculpture Queen City Clay Cincinnati OH -Mar 2023
- 'Rough Edges' group exhibition DAAP Courtyard Cincinnati OH -Oct 2022
- 'Learning Curve' group exhibition Tabula Rasa Gallery Cincinnati OH -Sep 2022
- 'Deeply Rooted Deeply Held' group exhibition 1628 Ltd Gallery Cincinnati OH -Oct 2022
- 'Loaves and Fishes' Mural team member for St. Leo's Food Pantry Summer 2022
- 'Art & Earth Day' group exhibition Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park Cincinnati OH -April 2022
- Advanced sculpture group exhibition Ancient Art Museum, Pyramid Hill Cincinnati OH -April 2022
- NASAD accreditation exhibition Reed Gallery DAAP Cincinnati OH -Mar 2022
- 'Midnight Oil' group exhibition Meyers Gallery Cincinnati OH -Nov 2021
- 'Sharing Space' selected group exhibition UC Wolfson Gallery Hall DAAP -Summer 2021