ESRA KANISICAK

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

CAREER SUMMARY

Environmental artist with experience organizing exhibitions, building community partnerships, fundraising, and managing creative projects. My career has taken me through entrepreneurship, education, and corporate operations, but I've always been happiest bringing people together around meaningful work. I enjoy building welcoming communities, solving problems creatively, and helping good ideas become reality.

EDUCATION

- **Bachelor of Fine Arts**
  University of Cincinnati, School of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP) | OH, USA | 2024
  Honors:
  - Selected Representative for UC School of Art Director Search Committee (2022)
  - Class of 2024 Outstanding Student Award
  - Outstanding Student Award, Dean's List (2020–2024, GPA: 3.98)
  - Robert Fabe/Cook-Trane Fine Arts Scholarship 2021
- **Bachelor of Arts in English Literature**
  Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey | 1997

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Upcoming Solo Exhibition: Off Ludlow Gallery (August 7, 2026)

Off Ludlow Gallery, OH	– Invited Group exhibition (2026)
ROY G BIV Gallery, OH	– Emerging Artist Exhibition (2025)
Kentucky Museum, KY	– *Juried* 'Equal Temperament' (2025)
FotoFocus Biennial, OH	– 'What Came Before' Xavier University (2024)
Summerfair Cincinnati	– *Juried* 'Regional Emerging Artist Exhibition' (2024)
Midsouth Sculpture Alliance, TN	– *Juried* 'MSA Select' (2024)
International Sculpture Center, NY	– Little Sculpture Show (2023)
NCECA Cincinnati, OH	– Window installation Indigo Hippo (2023)
Reed Gallery Cincinnati, OH	– NASAD accreditation exhibition (2022)
Ancient Art Museum, OH	– Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park Art and Earth Day (2022)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Exhibiting Artist - Esra Art Studio | 2021–Present

Running an independent exhibition practice from proposal to installation to sale, gaining firsthand insight into the artist's experience and what helps make a gallery welcoming and supportive.

- Secure acceptance into competitive juried exhibitions through strategic research, compelling applications, artist statements, and portfolio development

- Coordinate every stage of exhibitions from concept development through installation, transportation, promotion, public engagement, and artwork sales.
- Develop and maintain relationships with galleries, curators, artists, collectors, and community partners to support exhibitions and collaborative opportunities.
- Designed, built, and maintained artist website while creating social media content, exhibition graphics, and digital promotion to strengthen public engagement and professional visibility.
- Translate complex environmental issues into engaging visual experiences that foster dialogue and strengthen community engagement.

Production Planner - Procter & Gamble | 2025–Present

Coordinating cross-functional logistics and competing deadlines in a high-volume corporate environment, building the same operational discipline a gallery needs for scheduling, vendors, and facility management.

- Coordinate complex projects involving multiple stakeholders and competing priorities.
- Develop practical solutions while balancing deadlines, budgets, and changing operational needs.
- Build collaborative relationships across manufacturing, logistics, sourcing, and leadership teams.

Studio Assistant - Queen City Clay | 2023–2024

Supporting day-to-day operations at a community ceramics studio, gaining experience bridging exhibition preparation, artist support, and public programming for a broad audience.

- Planned and executed professional exhibition installations, including national NCECA exhibition.
- Supported artists, workshops, educational programming, and studio operations.
- Engineered and installed 2 permanent outdoor sculpture projects.
- Helped create a welcoming and organized environment for artists, students, and visitors.

Assistant Lab Manager - University of Cincinnati – DAAP Ceramics Lab | 2022–2023

Managing daily studio facility operations, including equipment, materials, and safety, gaining hands-on experience in the kind of facility oversight a gallery space requires.

- Managed ceramics studio operations, equipment, materials, and safety.
- Assisted faculty and students while maintaining an efficient and collaborative studio environment.
- Documented and built online database of glaze archives while formulating new unique glazes.

Community Fundraising & Advocacy Leadership - (Career Transition — Family Relocation to the U.S.) | 2004–2019

Fundraising, volunteer coordination, and advocacy efforts during a family transition period, building the donor relations, budget management, and stakeholder communication skills a gallery director draws on daily.

- Led volunteer-driven fundraising, program, and advocacy initiatives while transitioning to the U.S.
- Led grassroots fundraising and corporate sponsorship campaign that funded an Outdoor Sensory Classroom for a Montessori school.
- Designed and coordinated a school prom, managing budget, vendors, and event logistics from concept through execution.

- Advocated for children with diverse learning needs, securing IEP/504 accommodations through collaboration with multidisciplinary educational teams.
- Provided multi-year PTO leadership, managing volunteers, budgets, vendors, and event logistics.
- Built partnerships between families, educators, businesses, and volunteers to turn community ideas into lasting projects.

Owner & Operations Director - Scuba-Du Dive Center Istanbul Turkey | 2002–2004

Founding and running an independent, client-facing dive business, owning budgeting, vendor relationships, and partnerships end to end, gaining direct experience running an independent business.

- Managed staffing, budgeting, purchasing, retail operations, logistics, and marketing.
- Developed long-term relationships with an international clientele through exceptional customer service.
- Built a loyal client base through personalized service and long-term relationships rather than high-volume tourism.
- Built partnerships with resorts, vendors, and tourism organizations.
- Oversaw every aspect of daily business operations.

Dive Center Director - Rixos Hotels, Bodrum, Turkey | 2001–2002

Building a new hospitality dive center from the ground up, including sourcing, staffing, and marketing, developing the resourcefulness and self-direction the role calls for.

- Launched a new hotel dive center from the ground up: sourced equipment, secured dealerships, and built out retail shop, dive school, and boat operations.
- Managed budgeting, staffing, and marketing to grow revenue and integrate the center with the resort's guest offerings.

Business Development, Marketing & International Operations - Istanbul Turkey | 1997–2000

Developing marketing materials and managing client relationships across cross-cultural business settings, building early groundwork for the communications and public-facing work a gallery director does today.

- Built and maintained relationships with international clients, manufacturers, and business partners while coordinating marketing initiatives, trade events, and cross-functional projects.
- Managed client communications, promotional materials, sourcing, production logistics, and international order fulfillment in fast-paced, deadline-driven environments.

Professional Skills

Gallery & Arts Administration

Gallery Operations • Exhibition Planning • Exhibition Installation • Artist Relations • Curatorial Collaboration • Public Programming • Volunteer coordination • Community Partnerships • Art Sales

Development & Communications

Proposal Writing • Fundraising Support • Donor Relations • Content Development • Social Media • Promotional Materials • Graphic Design • Multilingual

Operations

Project Management • Strategic Planning • Process Improvement • Budget Management • Event Planning

Technical

Microsoft Office • Google Workspace • Adobe Creative Suite • Website Development • Website Management • SAP • OMP • DSLR Photography • Multimedia Fabrication

EXHIBITION HISTORY

- Off Ludlow solo exhibition opening date August 7, 2026
- 'Layers' group exhibition – Off Ludlow Gallery, Cincinnati, OH – Apr 2026
- 'Roy G Biv 2025 Emerging Artists' group exhibition – Roy G Biv Gallery Columbus OH – Nov 2025
- Kentucky Museum 'Equal Temperament' juried exhibition, Kentucky University KY – Apr 2025-Jun 2026
- 'Art in Action' charity exhibition – Off Ludlow -Cincinnati, OH – Jun 2025
- 'Feather, Fins and Fur' group exhibition – Martindell Gallery Cincinnati, OH – Mar 2025
- 'Pure Imagination' group exhibition – Off Ludlow Gallery Cincinnati OH – Jan, 2025
- Foto Focus Backstories Biennale – Xavier University Galleries, OH – Sep 2024
- BFA Thesis solo exhibition University of Cincinnati OH – Apr 2024
- Rodin and Response – juried exhibition Tabula Rasa Gallery, Cincinnati OH – Apr 2024
- DAAPWORX – Capstone group exhibition Reed Gallery, Cincinnati OH – Apr 2024
- Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park – Art and Earth Day – Apr 2024
- 'Waterworks' group exhibition – Off Ludlow Gallery, OH – May 2024
- 'Summerfair Cincinnati Regional Emerging Artist' group exhibition Clifton Cultural Arts Center, OH – Feb, 2024
- Midsouth Sculpture Alliance 'Select' juried 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' with UC Clay Club Cincinnati OH – Apr 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 lead, St. Leo's Food Pantry Cincinnati OH – Summer 2022
- 'Art & Earth Day' group exhibition Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park Cincinnati OH – Apr 2022
- Advanced sculpture group exhibition Ancient Art Museum, Pyramid Hill Cincinnati OH – Apr 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 – Apr 2021