

DEAN KESSMANN | Smith Hall of Art, 801 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC, 20052 | www.deankessmann.com

Lives and works in Washington, DC

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

William Shearburn Gallery, St. Louis, MO

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Dean Kessmann: Light Years, Chemical Days, Digital Seconds*, VisArts, Rockville, MD
- 2020 *Meandering with Purpose*, The Photography Gallery at Riley Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
- 2018 *Details: Utilitarian Abstraction*, William Shearburn Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2015 *Utilitarian Abstraction*, Arlington Arts Center, Arlington, VA
- 2014 *A Layered History of Art: From Semitransparent to Opaque*, Furthermore, Washington, DC
- 2010 *Architectural Intersections*, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
Art as Paper as Potential, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
- 2009 *Architectural Intersections*, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
Plastic on Paper, Humanities Center Galleries, California State University, Chico, CA
- 2007 *Cover to Cover*, Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, VA
Plastic on Paper, White Flag Projects, St. Louis, MO
- 2006 *Fragmented Information & Consumer Byproducts*, Regina Gouger Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
Interstate Landscapes, Gallery FAB, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
Plastic on Paper, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
Cover to Cover, Gallery 1101, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 2005 *Interstate Landscapes*, B.F.A. Gallery, California State University, Chico, CA
- 2004 *Cover to Cover*, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
- 2003 *Interstate Landscapes*, William Shearburn Fine Art, St. Louis, MO
The Spaces In Between, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD
- 2000 *Transubstantiation: Bread & Wine, Body & Blood*, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO
- 1999 *Altered Landscapes*, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO
Abandoned Spaces, New Wagner Gallery, Edwardsville, IL
Questions of Faith, Texas Women's University, Denton, TX
- 1997 *Questions of Faith*, Society for Contemporary Photography, Kansas City, MO
Questions of Faith, A.R.C. (Artists, Residents of Chicago), Chicago, IL
- 1996 *Questions of Faith*, Douglass Gallery, Murphysboro, IL
- 1995 *Construction/Destruction*, Mitchell Museum at Cedar Hurst, Mount Vernon, IL
- 1994 *Construction/Destruction*, Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO

TWO AND THREE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Robin Assner-Alvey (St. Louis) and Dean Kessmann (Washington, DC)*, Duet, St. Louis, MO
- 2014 *Paper & Light: Photographic Perspectives by Three Regional Educators*, Cade Art Gallery, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD
- 2007 *Wellbound: Dean Kessmann & Mickey Smith*, Ellen Curlee Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Simple, Dumb Objects, 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA
Simple, Dumb Objects, School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD
In and Out of Space: Jill Downen and Dean Kessmann, Curris Gallery, Murray State University, Murray, KY
- 1992 *Photographs by Dean Kessmann and David Hanlon*, University City Public Library, St. Louis, MO

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Continuum: Figuration and Abstraction*, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
DC Art Now 2025, DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, Washington, DC
- 2023 *DC Art Now 2023*, DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, Washington, DC
- 2022 *This Road Is the Heart Opening*, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
- 2021 *Fall Selections: Building a Collection*, Brady Art Gallery, Washington, DC
Quiet Isn't Always Peace, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
Poster Show, but, also, Washington, DC
- 2020 *Surface to Source*, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
Art Now: Photography, Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (online due to COVID-19)
- 2019 *Arlington Art Center's 2019 Regional Biennial*, Arlington Art Center, Arlington, VA
All Together Now, De Novo Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2018 *Highlights from the Permanent Collection*, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
The National: Best Contemporary Photography 2018, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2017 *Reflect: Photography Looking Forward, Looking Back*, Brady Art Gallery, Washington, DC
VEIWFIND, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2016 *Art and Resolution: 1900 to Today*, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
Black/White, William Shearburn Gallery, St. Louis, MO
The Tranwick Prize Exhibition, Gallery B, Bethesda, MD
Summer Group Show, William Shearburn Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Recent Acquisitions, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
Art Now: New Directions in Contemporary Photography, Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2015 *Absence/Presence: Selected Contemporary Photography*, Brady Art Gallery, Washington, DC
Exposure 2015, The Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA
Photowork '15, Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY
Through the Lens, Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
The Wheaton Photography Biennial: Photography Beyond The Frame, Wheaton College, Norton, MA
- 2014 *Visual Arts Exhibition*, Gallery at 200i, Washington, DC
Sondheim Semi-Finalist Exhibition, Meyerhoff Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD
The Neighbors, American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington, DC
Thresholds, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
SLU Invitational, McNamee Gallery, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
- 2013 *Broad Spectrum*, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE
Sondheim Semi-Finalist Exhibition, Meyerhoff Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD
- 2012 *Disposable Culture*, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC
The Tranwick Prize Exhibition, Gallery B, Bethesda, MD (3rd Place)
Sondheim Semi-Finalist Exhibition, Meyerhoff Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD
- 2011 *Building Bridges, Not Fences*, Strathmore Fine Art, North Bethesda, MD
Sondheim Semi-Finalist Exhibition, Meyerhoff Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD
An Exchange with Sol LeWitt, MASS MoCA/Cabinet, North Adams, MA/Brooklyn, NY
- 2008 *GALLERY ARTIST: recent work*, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
Pursuit of the Spirit, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
Hidden and Revealed, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD
'FRESH': Gallery Selections 2008, Cerasoli Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 *Ad | Agency*, The Photographic Resource Center, Boston, MA
Botanica, Carroll Square Gallery, Washington, DC
ArtDC, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
Radius 250, Artspace Gallery, Richmond, VA
- 2005 *Proof*, The Fine Arts Gallery, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
The Tranwick Prize, Creative Partners Gallery, Bethesda, MD (2nd place)
1460 Wall Mountables, District of Columbia Arts Center, Washington, DC
Sounds from the Underground, Washington University Public Sculpture Series, St. Louis, MO
Photospina 2005, George A. Spiva Center For The Arts, Joplin, MO

- 2004 *Faculty Show*, Dimock Student Gallery, GWU, Washington, DC
- 2003 *Seven (things we like)*, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC
- 2002 *SCC Invitational Art Exhibition*, St. Charles Community College, St. Peters, MO
Regarding Nature, Meramec Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2001 *Three Day Weekend*, Mad Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO
A Question of Faith, UNI Gallery of Art, Cedar Falls, IA
Exposure 4: The Spaces In Between, Park Avenue Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Highlights, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
Adjunct Faculty Exhibition, Gallery FAB, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- 2000 (BYOB) *Bring Your Own Brain*, A.D. Brown Building, St. Louis, MO
The First Artists of the 21st Century, Gallery FAB, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- 1999 *One Night Stand*, Critical Mass, St. Louis, MO
- 1998 *New Tools to Task*, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX
The Scratch-N-Sniff Show 1998, The New School Academy of Art, Grand Rapids, MI
ARTEXT, Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC
IN/FORM 5, Lemp Brewery Artists' Space, St. Louis, MO
Sacred Snapshots, Moreau Galleries, Notre Dame, IN
- 1997 *Digital Decisions*, Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
Fine Art Adjunct Faculty Exhibit, Gallery FAB, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
1st Annual National Juried Photography Competition, Open Space Gallery, Allentown, PA
5th Annual Photographic Exhibition, The Phillips Mill Community Association, Solebury, PA
Magie Silver 1997, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA
National Exposure IV, A.R.C. (Artists, Residents of Chicago), Chicago, IL
- 1996 *PADUCAH '96*, Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
Current Works '96, Leedy Voukos Gallery, Kansas City, MO
The Beauty of Silver, Gallery One, Boston, MA
Words 2, Art St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Artists Council National Juried Exhibition, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA
Beyond ... Two Dimensions, Art St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Positive/Negative 11, Slocumb Galleries, Johnson City, TN
- 1994 *Photospina 94*, George A. Spiva Center For The Arts, Joplin, MO
Summer Arts 1994, Art Gallery, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL
The Photographer's Eye, St. Louis Artists' Guild, St. Louis, MO
- 1993 *The Little Show*, Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Photographs, Harry Hendren Gallery, St. Charles, MO
Compassionate Response to AIDS, Art St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Tour de Force, Center for Contemporary Photography, St. Louis, MO
Emulsion Media: Pushing the Limits of Photography, Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1992 *In the City*, Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Black & White Photography, Utopian Loft Gallery, St. Louis, MO

ART FAIRS & BENEFIT AUCTIONS

- 2023 *WPA Collectors' Night* (Washington Project for the Arts Fundraiser), Washington, DC
Invincible Visible (Transformer Silent Auction), Katzen Center at American University, Washington, DC
- 2022 *WPA Collectors' Night* (Washington Project for the Arts Fundraiser), Washington, DC
- 2021 *Hickok Cole Art Night* (Washington Project for the Arts Fundraiser), Washington, DC
- 2020 *Transformer's Artists Sustaining Artists*, Addison/Ripley Gallery, Washington, DC
- 2019 *Transformer Silent Auction*, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Washington, DC
- 2018 *Transformer Silent Auction*, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, Washington, DC
- 2017 *Seattle Art Fair*, William Shearburn Gallery, CenturyLink Field Event Center, Seattle, WA
- 2016 *Expo Chicago*, William Shearburn Gallery, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
Art Aspen, William Shearburn Gallery, Aspen Ice Garden, Aspen, CO
WPA Auction Gala, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC

- 2012 *Select*, Washington Project for the Arts Auction/Exhibition, Washington, DC
- 2010 *Cream*, Washington Project for the Arts Auction/Exhibition, Katzen Arts Center, Washington, DC
- 2009 *NEXT 2009*, Conner Contemporary Art, The Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Pulse Miami*, Conner Contemporary Art, SoHo Studios, Miami, FL
- 2005 *PULSE New York*, Conner Contemporary Art, 69th Regiment Armory, New York, NY
Aqua Art Miami, Bank (Los Angeles, CA), Aqua Hotel, Miami, FL
- 2004 *7th Annual Editions and Artists' Book Fair*, Conner Contemporary Art, New York, NY
Scope New York, Conner Contemporary Art, Hotel Gansevoort, New York, NY

COLLECTIONS

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
 Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
 The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
 Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
 Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
 Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
 Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
 Light Work, Syracuse, NY
 Art Bank Program, District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC
 Portable Works, Arlington County Public Art Program, Arlington, VA
 Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis, MO
 A.G. Edwards Corporate Art Collection, St. Louis, MO
 The George Washington University Art Collection, Washington, DC

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- Dean Kessmann: *Light Years, Chemical Days, and Digital Seconds*, Exhibition Catalogue (Essays by Kristen Hileman, Joshua Gamma, and Molly Springfield), September 3, 2021.
- Jenkins, Mark. "In the galleries: All Together Now." *The Washington Post*, December 7, 2019.
- Assembly 2019* Exhibition Catalogue, Arlington Center for the Arts, Arlington, VA, September 2019.
- Waste360 Staff. "Recycling Trucks Wrapped with new Art Hit the Streets of Washington, D.C." *Waste360*, Sept. 25, 2018.
- Mittal, Sumridhi. "Revamped recycling trucks feature artwork from professor, local artist." *The Hatchet*, August 30, 2018.
- Franklin, Sydney. "Washington, D.C., turns recycling trucks into art." *The Architects Newspaper*, August 2, 2018.
- Wecker, Menachem. "The Careful Aesthetic of Happenstance." *GW Magazine*, Spring 2017.
- Szot, Amanda. "ART NOW: New Directions in Contemporary Photography." *Pulp*, April 27, 2016.
- Hodges, Michael H. "Abstract, figurative photos at Ann Arbor Art Center." *The Detroit News*, April 7, 2016.
- "The Phillips Collects: Dean Kessmann." *The Phillips Collection*, Spring 2016.
- Jenkins, Mark. "In the galleries: Fall Solos." *The Washington Post*, December 11, 2015.
- Jenkins, Mark. "In the galleries: Where did all the humans go?" *The Washington Post*, November 6, 2015.
- Feeney, Mark. "At the PRC, 13 ways of looking at the world." *Boston Globe*, June 28, 2015.
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- Rousseau, Claudia. "Bright ideas are focus for Trawick Prize exhibit." *Bethesda Gazette*, September 19, 2012.
- Jenkins, Mark. "Trawick Prize." *The Washington Post*, September 13, 2012.
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Brown, Leslie. "Ad | Agency." *in the loupe*, Volume 32, Number 1, December | January | February 2008.

Cook, Greg. "Waste Management." *The Phoenix*, January 7, 2008.

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Dumbadze, Alexander. "Simple, Dumb Objects." Exhibition Essay (School 33 Art Center, Baltimore, MD), 2007.

Hileman, Kristen. "What the Bag Might Hold: Dean Kessmann's Plastic on Paper." Catalogue Essay (White Flag Projects, St. Louis, MO), 2007.

Bonetti, David. "Kessmann Finds Art in Crumpled Plastic Bags." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 25, 2007.

Guttmann, Kristy. "Reduce, Reuse, Make Art." *Riverfront Times*, February 22, 2007.

Installation Photograph Reproduced. *WHITE NOISE*, March 2007.

Photograph Reproduced. "The Quiet Life Camera Club—Volume 2." 2007.

Shaw, Kurt. "Sights & Sounds." *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, December 7, 2006.

Rader, Ross. "Clutter, Bags and Compost Comprise Gallery Exhibit." *The Pitt News*, December 4, 2006.

Scruggs, Danielle. "Plastic On Paper. Exploring Consumerism in Society." *The Liberator*, Vol. 5.2, July/August 2006.

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Jenkins, Mark. "Dean Kessman: Plastic on Paper." *Washington City Paper*, Vol. 26, No. 2, January 13, 2006.

Miller, Jen A. "Paper or Plastic." *DC Style*, January/February 2006.

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Padgett, Jonathan. "Trawick Prize Winners." *The Washington Post*, Thursday, September 8, 2005.

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Dawson, Jessica. "Dean Kessmann's Colorful Coded Messages." *The Washington Post*, Thursday, March 18, 2004.

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Silva, Eddie. "Words Unspoken." *The Riverfront Times*, May 29, 1996.

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Bellos, Alexandra. "Emulsion Media: Pushing the Limits of Photography." *The Riverfront Times*, August 18, 1993.

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Duffy, Robert W. "It All Comes Together in Kessmann's Images." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, March 10, 1992.

RESIDENCIES

2009 *Light Work Artist-In-Residence*, Light Work, Syracuse, NY

AWARDS

2025 *Art Bank Program Grant*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2024 *Arts and Humanities Fellowship*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Art Bank Program Grant, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2023 *Arts and Humanities Fellowship*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2022 *Arts and Humanities Fellowship*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2021 *Arts and Humanities Fellowship*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2020 *University Facilitating Fund Award*, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Humanities Facilitating Fund Award, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2019 *Arts and Humanities Fellowship*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2018 *Designed to Recycle Project Grant*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Humanities Facilitating Fund Award, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Art Bank Program Grant, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Art Matters Grant, Nominated, Art Matters, New York, NY.

2017 *Franz and Virginia Bader Fund Grant*, Franz and Virgini Bader Fund, Philadelphia, PA.
Arts and Humanities Fellowship, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Art Bank Program Grant, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
University Facilitating Fund Award, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2016 *Artist Fellowship Program Grant Award*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Dean's Research Chair, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2015 *Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Dean's Research Chair, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2014 *Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
Dean's Research Chair, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2013 *Artist Fellowship Program Grant Award*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.

2012 *Artist Fellowship Program Grant Award*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards (third place), Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, Bethesda, MD.

2011 *Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2010 *Columbian College Facilitating Fund Award*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2009 *Faculty Research Grant*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.

2008 *Columbian College of Arts and Sciences/University Facilitating Funds Award*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
2008 Baum Award for Emerging American Photographers, Nominated, The Baum Foundation, San Francisco, CA.

- 2006 *Artist Fellowship Program Grant Award*, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC.
Junior Scholar Incentive Award, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
No Strings Foundation Grant, Nominated, No Strings Foundation, Studio City, CA.
- 2005 *Faculty Research Grant*, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC.
The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards (second place), Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, Bethesda, MD.
- 2001 *Visiting Critics Series*, Dr. Beate Kemfert, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO.
- 2000 *Project Room Grant*, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO.
Visiting Critics Series, Ivy Schroeder, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO.
- 1996 *Fellowship Award*, “Current Works,” Society for Contemporary Photography, Kansas City, MO.
- 1995 Professional Achievement Award, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.
- 1994 *City Photo Prize*, “The Photographer’s Eye,” St. Louis Artists’ Guild.
- 1992 *Dr. R.A. Koetting Purchase Award*, “Art St. Louis VIII,” Art St. Louis.

EDUCATION

- 1996 Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, M.F.A.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2020 to Present Professor of Photography
The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Fall 2017 to Present Program Head, Studio Arts Program, Corcoran School of the Arts and Design
The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Fall 2008 to Spring 2020 Associate Professor of Photography
The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Fall 2010 to Summer 2013 Chair and Associate Professor of Photography, Department of Fine Arts and Art History
The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- Fall 2002 to Spring 2008 Assistant Professor of Photography, Coordinator, Photography Program
The George Washington University, Washington, DC