

SARA BLAKEMAN

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OBJECTIVE

Dedicated professional in the art gallery/museum and fashion industries. Seeking an opportunity to return to the exciting world of retail, and to reconnect with my passion for creativity and design in visual merchandising and marketing.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017 - Present **GALLERY MANAGER - Wasserman Projects, Detroit, MI**
- Co-curated and produce large-scale project-based exhibitions
 - Coordinated community-driven programming and events
 - Managed logistics, installation, documentation, database and accounting, social media
 - Educated visitors and clients to drive sales and produce client proposals
- 2015 - 2017 **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI**
- Co-curated and produced exhibition calendar
 - Oversaw transportation, handling, installation, documentation of artwork while maintaining inventory records with a custom database
 - Directed content strategy for gallery marketing and social media channels
 - Managed artist correspondence, interacted with gallery visitors and developed client relationships
- 2013 - 2015 **CREATIVE MANAGER OF VM - ICICLE Fashion Group Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China**
- Directed creative visual merchandising concepts for retail display designs and promotional brand activations
 - Led a team of designers and worked closely with C-level executives to realize brand values and vision
- 2009 - 2013 **SENIOR VISUAL MERCHANDISER - ICICLE Fashion Group Co., Ltd., Shanghai, China**
- Worked directly with product merchandisers to design visual concepts for windows, in-store displays, and pop-up store environments
 - Led a design team on seasonal brand display proposals and was hands on in developing retail props from idea and prototype to production and roll-out
- 2007 - 2009 **GALLERY MANAGER - M97 GALLERY, Shanghai, China**
- Managed sales and daily operations for contemporary photography gallery
 - Co-curated solo and group exhibitions, facilitated client relations, and coordinated framing of limited edition prints

2004 - 2007 GALLERY MANAGER/ART PREPARATOR - *Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, MI*

- Managed daily operations, co-designed, and installed exhibitions
- Handled art installation, packing, logistics, accounting, and archiving
- Supervised gallery interns, produced opening receptions and private client viewings
- Assisted announcement and website design

2006 - 2007 MUSEUM STORE DIRECTOR - *MOCAD Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI*

- Led research and development for the museum's retail/publication space
- Coordinated and selected proposals for store design, artist editions, and publications
- Directed product layout and signage design

EDUCATION

2004 MFA, Ceramics, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI
2002 Post Baccalaureate, Art History, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
1999 BFA, Ceramics, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office
- Filemaker Pro, QuickBooks
- Wordpress
- Languages: Fluent Spoken Mandarin
- Ceramic arts & fabrication
- Karaoke
- Perfect eggs over medium