

SARAH A. UYS

Conceptual Eco-Artist | Educator | Community Arts Advocate

Tampa Bay, Florida

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EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Petersburg College – Photography and Videography Certificate Program
Currently enrolled (2026–present)

Informal Mentorship– Linda M. Ramunno, printmaker (May–July 2025)
Career guidance, portfolio review, and professional development from internationally-exhibited artist

Ongoing professional development through workshops, peer learning, and self-directed study
(including workshops taken at West Pasco Art Guild and Pasco Fine Arts Council in 2024-2025)

University of South Florida – Project Management Certificate (2024)

Eco-Dyeing with Plants Workshop – Brandi Pellerito, Tarpon Springs, FL (2019)
Intensive study in plant-based dyeing methods, mordants, modifiers, and fabric preparation

Bachelor of Arts, General Studies – Anthropology and English Literature
University of South Africa (UNISA) (2012)

Advanced Art Curriculum – DFM High School, Cape Town, South Africa (1998–2003)

Tygerberg Art Center Youth & Teen Art Program – Cape Town, South Africa (1987–2003)
Intensive multi-year foundation in traditional and experimental art practices

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & RECOGNITION

Invited Exhibition – Wesley Chapel Library Gallery Opening Event (upcoming 2026)

Juried Exhibition – Face Value, Dunedin Fine Art Center, FL (January–March 2026)
Battle-Weary, Secondhand Account

Merit Award – The Source, Dunedin Fine Art Center, FL (2025)
Reclamation

Juried Exhibition – STRATA III, Verum Ultimum Gallery, Oregon (2025)
Battle-Weary

Juried Exhibition – Self Portrait, Art Center Sarasota, FL (2025)
Battle-Weary

Best in Show – Pasco Perspectives, National Arts Program, Pasco County, FL (2024)
Old Growth

Group Exhibition – Pasco Perspectives, National Arts Program, Pasco County, FL (2023, 2025)

Graduate Exhibitions – DFM Matric Art Exhibition & Tygerberg Art Center, Cape Town, South Africa (2003)

Merit Award – SAAPA Contest, ArtsCape Annual Exhibition, Cape Town, South Africa (1990)

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PRACTICE & PUBLIC ART

Summer Reading Challenge: Enchanted Florida Garden
Community art installation, public engagement program, and adult education initiative
Pasco County Library System (Summer 2025)

Summer Reading Challenge: Adventure Begins at Your Library
Community art installation, public engagement program, and adult education initiative
Pasco County Library System (Summer 2024)

Integrated Community Project: Mandala Window Installation
Pasco County Library System (Summer 2023)

Free Art Closet Community Resource Initiative
Pasco County Library System (founding member and current manager; 2023–present)

Permanent Installation
Stilt House Brewing Company, Palm Harbor, FL (2016)

Multiple Private Commissions
Fiber art, painting, and mixed media (2003–present)
Works in private collections (US and international)

TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Adult Art Instructor – Adult Art Lab
Pasco County Library System (2026–present)
Focus on artistic literacy and skill development through experimentation

Adult Art Fundamentals Instructor – Learn to Paint and Draw (Better)
Pasco County Library System (2023–2025)

Workshop Facilitator – West Pasco Art Guild (2024)
Learn to Draw People (Better) (full-day workshop)
Procreate for Traditional Artists (full-day workshop)

Video Instruction Series
Pasco County Library System YouTube Channel (2023–present)

Elementary Art Educator
Season Arts & HESS International Schools, Taichung, Taiwan (2012–2016)

Private Art Instruction
Multiple media, all skill levels (2000–present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator II – Makerspaces
Pasco County Library System (2023–present)

- Oversees art studio operations and evaluates external programming partnerships
- Networks with regional arts institutions; coordinates visiting artists and instructors
- Curates rotating gallery exhibitions and manages art supply procurement
- Recruits and oversees adult volunteers supporting programming initiatives
- Designs and evaluates curricula for workshops and ongoing programs
- Promotes art-related initiatives to public through strategic communications
- Designs and facilitates large-scale collaborative art projects for county-wide employee participation

Owner/Creative Director – Earthchild Adornments (2017–2023)

- Developed and sustained a recognized brand creating conceptually-driven wearable art and ritual objects from ethically-sourced materials
- Created original designs functioning as symbolic sigils, combining material associations to create meaning through form
- Produced hundreds of unique pieces including hand-dyed dreamcatchers, hand-tooled leather goods, and macramé work with original patterns
- Established wholesale and retail presence at Retrograde (St. Petersburg), Celestial Circle (Palm Harbor), and curated markets including Indie Flea, Safety Harbor Market on Main, Orange Blossom Jamboree, and Royal Palm Night Market
- Directed photography, styling, and visual identity for brand marketing; coordinated photoshoots with models and photographers
- Cultivated commission-based practice through market presence and social media
- Collaborated with outside vendors to produce designs in additional media (silver jewelry)

Elementary Art Educator

Season Arts & HESS International Schools, Taichung, Taiwan (2012–2016)

SPEAKING & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Speaker

Tampa Bay Library Consortium Conference (2025)

"The Importance of Art in Library Spaces" – Building institutional partnerships and making art accessible

Juror

West Pasco Art Guild Member Exhibition (2024)

Web Designer & Board Advisor

West Pasco Art Guild (2023–2025)

Digital strategy and online presence development

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Creative Director & Lead Artist

The Refuge Independent Arts Collective, Taichung, Taiwan (2013–2015)

- Led volunteer teams creating large-scale installations for dancefloor and stage design
- Developed costume design and visual identity for international musicians
- Managed costume and décor production for multi-day events serving 500+ attendees

Art Crew Member
Music Festivals, South Africa & Taiwan (2008–2015)

- Designed and constructed site-specific immersive environments for underground music festivals
- Notable festivals include: Arabian Nights, Roots, Origin (Cape Town region); Taiwan Burn (Yilan); The Refuge events; Luv Stock (Daken Mountains, Taipei, Taichung)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Surface Design Association (2026)
- Tampa Bay Surface Design Guild (2026)
- Dunedin Fine Art Center – Member (2026)