

# Griz E Strüss

www.gstruss.com

## WRITER, THINKER, ARTIST, EDUCATOR

Griz (Christopher T. Dennis) is multi-talented, analytical and affable. He is a generous listener and is experienced in effectively leading in environments welcome to diverse backgrounds and abilities. Griz views art, writing, and work in general as opportunities to think while doing.

Some things of note in the list of experiences below are these marketable bullet points about Griz:

- Proficient in website and social media management, Microsoft Office, CAD, and a variety of databases.
- Working knowledge of Audacity, Anime Studio Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator and their open source equivalents
- Experienced in business start up, operations, administration, and guerrilla-marketing
- Enthusiastic instructor

## EDUCATION

**Master of Fine Arts**, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Chicago, IL — 2017

**Post-Baccalaureate Studies**, Adolescent Education, CSU Fullerton, Fullerton, CA — 2002-2003

**Bachelor of Science**, Biola University, La Mirada, CA, Dean's List, Emphasis in Painting and Drawing — 1997

## EXPERIENCE

**Educator**, 1996 to Present

- 2015-2016 TA, Contemporary Practices Core Studio I & II: Video, Figure Drawing, Processing, Installation, Wood Shop, Plaster (Trowbridge/Hulsebos-Spofford), SAIC, Chicago, IL
- 2015 Beginning Oil Painting & 20th C. Art History, Skye Telleen School, Freeland, WA
- 2013 Alternative Media Painting, Freelance Workshop, Langley, WA
- 2013 Beginning Acrylic Painting, Freelance Workshop, Langley, WA
- 2012 4th Grade Math Assistant, South Whidbey School District, Langley, WA
- 2012 Beginning Drawing, Freelance Workshop, Langley, WA
- 2010 Blogging and Social Media, Freelance Workshop, Clinton, WA
- 2008-2009 Home Community Leader, Imago Dei Community Church, Portland, OR
- 2004-2009 Ergonomics, Moda Health, Portland, OR
- 2003 High School Substitute Teacher, Los Angeles County School District, Los Angeles, CA
- 1997 Teaching Assistant, Contemporary Art Trends, Biola University, La Mirada, CA
- 1996 Drawing Tutor, 6th grade, Freelance, La Mirada, CA
- 1996 Elementary Arts Education, Sparrows Gate Orphanage, Valle de las Palmas, Mexico

**Production Manager**, Good's Fine Picture Framing, Evanston, IL — 2015 to Present

Quality Control, Trainer, Supply Coordinator, Archival Picture Framer, Cost & Materials Strategist

**Sawmill Operator**, Langley, WA — 2015

**Small Business Owner**, The Handsome Framer & The Queen's Buns, Langley & Mukilteo, WA — 2009 to 2015

Operations Administrator, Human Resources, Accounting, Custom Picture Framing, Design, and Conservation of Works, Website Management, Marketing, Exhibition Curator, Barista, Health Safety Administrator

**Facilities Coordinator**, Moda Health, Portland, OR — 2004 to 2009

Advisor to Facilities Director and Vice President of Operations, Safety Committee Chairperson, Access Control & Security Systems, Ergonomic Health Education Program Oversight, Facilities Growth and Reduction, Space Planning & Purchasing, Preventive Maintenance & Repair Coordinator for company headquarters and NW satellite branches, Oregon Food Bank Volunteer

**Merchandiser, Inventory & Sales Analyst**, Rogers Gardens, Corona del Mar, CA — 1998-2003

Large scale seasonal retail makeovers of 7 acre facility, Inventory, Database Maintenance, Yearly, Monthly, and Daily Sales Reporting to CFO and CEO, Safety Committee Member

## **PUBLIC WORK**

- 2014 Marine Mural, Soundside Marinelife Rescue Center, Mukilteo, WA  
1992 Pediatrics Department Murals, Oaknoll Naval Hospital

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2015 Bodies of Water, Mukilteo, WA; 2012 Resilience 2.0; Langley, WA; 2011 Resilience, Clinton, WA; 2010 Recent Work, Clinton, WA; 2009 Recent Work, Seaside, OR; 2007 Family, Gladstone, OR; 2006 Sabbath Sins, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID; 1998 The Dunkirk Series, Whittier, CA; 1997 Untitled, La Mirada, CA; 1997 The Dunkirk Series, Sausalito, CA; 1996 Metamorphosis, Biola University, La Mirada, CA; 1995 One Hundred Eighty Degrees, La Mirada, CA

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2016: Low//Impact, Chicago, IL, 2016: MFA Open Studios, Chicago, IL, 2015: MFA Open Studios; 2014 Whidbey Area Fair, Langley, WA; 2014 X 12 Show, Whidbey Island Continuing Education Center, Langley, WA; 2013 "Soil Yourselves" Video Installation, Bayview Cash Store, Langley, WA; 2012 Earth Day, Goosefoot/Bayview Cash Store, Langley, WA; 2013 Art of Farming, Goosefoot/Bayview Cash Store, Langley, WA; 2011 Island County Fair; 2011 DjangoFest, WICA Lobby, Langley, WA; 2009 Threads, Cannibals Gallery, Portland, OR; 2009 Hidden, Crossroads Community Church, Portland, OR; 2007 Recent Work, City Arts Gallery, Portland, OR; 2007 Voice, Living Stones Celebration Portland, OR; 2006 Resurrection, Imago Dei Community Church Portland, OR; 2006 Human Pixel Project, Three Columns Gallery, Harvard University Boston, MA; 2005 A Room of Conversations, 5th Ave. Suites Portland, OR; 1996 Untitled, Winged Heart Fullerton, CA; 1996 Annual Juried Student Show, Biola University La Mirada, CA; 1995 Annual Juried Student Show, Biola University La Mirada, CA; 1995 Untitled, Common Grounds La Mirada, CA

## **PUBLISHED WORK & READINGS**

- 2017 Rebroadcasting Benjamin, MFA Thesis, SAIC Flaxman Library  
2016 Excerpts from The Algorithm, Unfictional Reading Nights, June, July, August, September, Chicago, IL  
2014 Norm's Buttons, Sno-Isle Public Library Reading Tour  
2013 Norm's Buttons, Spirit of Writing 2013, Northwest Institute of Literary Arts  
2005 InPrint Zine Vol. 1 Fall 2005

## **CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2010-2015 Handsome Framers Galleries, Clinton, Langley Mukilteo, WA  
2006 Art Auction to Benefit the Oregon Food Bank, Portland, OR  
1994 Common Grounds, Biola University, La Mirada, CA

## **AWARDS**

- 2017 Walter & Esther Isaacs Scholarship, SAIC  
2015-2016 Laurel Mackie Memorial Scholarship, SAIC  
2014 Whidbey Area Fair, Superintendent Award  
2011 Island County Fair Mixed Media, Second Place  
1996 Artistic Excellence Award, Peter and Masha Plotkins Foundation Los Angeles, CA  
1988 Most Courteous, 8th Grade