

Biographical Narrative

I was born in Vienna, Austria, where I spent my formative years and became interested in art. After my general education in Vienna, my formal art training took place in America.

I earned a BFA from Syracuse University, College of Visual and Performing Arts, in Sculpture and Painting. I received an MFA in Sculpture and Film from the Rhode Island School of Design.

I have spent my professional life in the art field as artist, exhibition designer, curator, and teacher at various museums and universities.

As an artist, I am primarily concerned with ontological and epistemological issues and the conventions of image making. I am not interested in the social Universe. I have an active exhibition record. Highlights include: One-person exhibitions in France, Germany, and Slovakia as well as various cities in the United States; Significant curated exhibitions at the Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York, the Pickled Art Center, Beijing, China, The Everson Museum, Syracuse, New York, as well as various museums and galleries across North America.

As a curator and museum practitioner I am committed to the highest professional standards. I am interested in the advancement of art and its relationship to society with a particular focus on contemporary art. I have curated numerous exhibitions in many genres. My main interest, however, is the 'idea' of art as a phenomenon that has its roots in the Western intellectual tradition, and is being transformed in the context of an emergent global culture.

As a teacher of Studio Art I am interested in the development of the individual from simple visual literacy to connoisseurship, and the understanding and appreciation of the elements and principles of art and design.

As a teacher of Museum Studies I am keen to give students a deep understanding of the dynamics of the art world and the professional standards and practices by which great art institutions operate.

Robert Thurmer