

Brenda Leigh Baker

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Education & Employment

- 1992-present **Vice President of Exhibits, Facilities & Strategic Initiatives**, (former roles as Director of Exhibits, Exhibit Developer) Madison Children's Museum, Madison, WI
- 1990 **Master of Fine Arts**. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 1986 **Bachelor of Arts**. DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
- 1984 Austro-American Institute, Vienna, Austria
- 1984 Karl Marx University of Economics, Budapest, Hungary

Selected Exhibitions, Achievements & Commissions

- 2024 ***The Clothesline: Food, Fiber, Air & Soil***, The Wild Center, Adirondack Museum of Natural History, Tupper Lake, NY (*solo*)
- 2024 ***Land of 1,000 Eddies: Brenda Baker & Bird Ross***, Art + Literature Lab, Madison, WI
- 2024 ***5.10.100. : Five Years of Forward Prize Winners***, Watrous Gallery, Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters, Madison, WI
- 2022 ***CarbonEra Café (in collaboration with Beth Persche)***, Farm/Art D'Tour, Fermentation Fest, Denzer, WI
- 2021-2023 ***Women's Work***, Giant Jones Gallery, Madison, WI (co-curator)
- 2020 ***Harvest Train***, Farm/Art D'Tour, Fermentation Fest, Denzer, WI
- 2018 ***Being Forward***, Edgewood College/UW Madison Education Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2017 ***Euarca + 2017***, in conjunction with documenta 14, Zeigelimuseum, Kassel/Kaufungen, Germany
- 2017 ***Women Artists Forward Fund/Forward Art Prize***, co-founder, Madison, WI
- 2017 ***Capitol at 100***, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI
- 2016 ***Gleam, Gete-okosomin***, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI
- 2016 ***Big Tent***, ArtHelix Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 ***Big Tent***, UW School of Education, Madison, WI
- 2015 ***Logjam***, James Watrous Gallery, Overture Center, Madison, WI
- 2015 ***Monday is Wash Day***, Farm/Art D'Tour, Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg, WI
- 2015 ***Studio Relay, Take #2***, Goodman Community Center, Madison, WI
- 2014 ***A Show About Nothing***, Saskatchewan Craft Council Gallery, Saskatoon, SK, Canada
- 2014 ***At the WC***, Emma International Collaboration, Ness Creek, SK, Canada
- 2014 ***Studio Relay; The work of Brenda Baker, Derrick Buisch and Bird Ross***, Overture Center Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2014 ***Non-Stop***, group installation at former bus depot, Madison, WI
- 2014 ***Seed Pod***, Lyndon Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee, WI
- 2013 ***Seed Pod***, Monona Terrace Convention Center Promenade, World Ecological Society Commission, Madison, WI
- 2013 ***Untitled***, Little Monroe Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2013 ***Ossuary***, nationally traveling exhibit about bones, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin

- 2013 *Deuces Are Wild*, Isthmus Playhouse stage set & installation, Madison, WI
- 2012 *Crib*, Farm/Art D'Tour, Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg, WI
- 2012 *Lure*, Saskatchewan Craft Council, Saskatoon, SK, Canada
- 2011 *Common Ground*, Sauk City Art Center
- 2011 *Pause*, Wilson Art Center, Brookfield, WI
- 2010 *Lake Line*, installation with Bird Ross, John Nolen Drive, Madison WI
- 2009 *Conceal/Reveal*, James Watrous Gallery, Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, Madison, WI
- 2008 *Jamie Young, David Wells, Michael Velliquette & Brenda Baker*, Sundance Gallery, Madison, WI
- Brenda Baker: New Paintings*, Edenfred Gallery, Madison WI
- Painters Make Prints*, Crisp-Ellery Museum, St. Augustine, FL
- Forest Art Wisconsin Photography Exhibit*, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI; Dane County Regional Airport, Madison, WI
- 2007-2008 *When Water Was Here*, Vilas Park Walking Path, Madison, WI
- 2007 *International Forest Art Wisconsin*, Northern Highlands State Forest, Minocqua, WI
- Painters Make Prints*, Edenfred Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2006 *Spare Me!*, Promega Gallery, Madison, WI
- 2003 *Art on Site*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI
- The Stray Show*, Chicago, IL
- Last Blast*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI
- 2003 *Dark Spring*, Pilsen Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *Wallpatch*, Commonwealth Gallery, Madison, WI
- Wisconsin Triennial*, Madison Art Center, Madison, WI
- 2001 *Tell Me No Lies*, Galleria Catete, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- Whitecastle*, Lake Mendota, Madison, WI
- 2000 *Rising. Brenda Baker*, Museu da Republica, Rio De Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2001 *Brenda Baker: Drawings and Sculpture*, Robert Clements Gallery, Portland, Maine
- 1996 *Wisconsin Triennial*, Madison Art Center, Madison, WI
- Effigy*, Edgewood College, Madison, WI
- Fieldwork at Sasaki*, Sasaki & Associates, Watertown, MA
- 1995 *Shipping and Receiving*, University of Wisconsin-Memorial Union, Madison, WI
- What About Beauty*, Commonwealth Gallery, Madison, WI
- Sticheleien: Three Artists, Three Continents*
Ponte Cultura, Nuremberg City Hall & Cultural Center, Nuremberg, Germany
- Brenda Baker & Peter Flannery*, Water Street Gallery, Prairie du Sac, WI
- Fieldwork: Project Room/ A Year of Collaboration*, Madison, WI
- Brenda Baker & Edith Derdyk*, Emison Art Center, Greencastle, IN
- 1994 *Suturas. Grampos. Costuras.*, Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Pavilhão da Bienal, São Paulo, Brazil
- Fieldwork: Installations on the Square*, Madison Capitol Square, Madison, WI
- Fieldwork: Iced: Art on the Lakes*, Madison, WI
- 1993 *Fieldwork: Delta Storage*, Madison WI
- Suturas. Grampos. Costuras*, Red Mill Gallery, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
- 1992 *Schoharie National Small Works Exhibition*, Cobleskill, NY
- 1991 *Wisconsin Arts Board Award Recipients*, Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 1990 *The Wisconsin Triennial*, Madison Art Center, Madison, WI
- Art In the Big Ten*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 1990 *Brenda Baker: New Work*, Kemper Insurance Group, Long Grove, IL
- 1989 *The Wisconsin Biennial*, Rahr-West Museum, Manitowoc, WI
- 1988 *Continuum & Wisconsin Statements*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI

Collections/Commissions

Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Madison, WI
Appleton Public Library, Appleton, WI
Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society, Madison, WI
Bradley Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee, WI
County of Kassel, Kassel, Germany
Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL
Emison Art Center, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
Fermentation Fest, Reedsburg, WI
Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI
Jefferson County Courthouse, Jefferson, WI
Maxine Gordon, NY, NY
Guimaraes, Adriana & Sergio, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
Lyndon Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee, WI
Kemper Insurance Group, Long Grove, IL
Madison Art Center, Madison, WI
Ponte Cultura, Nuremberg, Germany
PS 151/207, New York Board of Education, New York, NY
Society for Ecological Restoration, Washington, D. C.
Salamandra Studios, São Paulo, Brazil
Saskatchewan Arts Council, Saskatoon, SK, Canada
The Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY
Wilson Art Center, Brookfield, WI
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Madison, WI

Awards and Honors

2023 **National Endowment for the Arts Grant**, *The Clothesline*, with the Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY
2023 **New York State Arts Council Grant**, *The Clothesline*, with the Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY
2021 **Women Artists Forward Fund/Forward Art Prize**, Grassroots Award, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Madison, WI
2017 **Euarca + 2017**, Selected artist from the United States for Euarca + 2017, in conjunction with documenta 14, Zeigelimuseum, Kassel/Kaufungen, Germany
2014, 2012 **Emma Unplugged**, International Arts Invitational, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
2013 **Blink Grant**, Madison Arts Commission, Seed Pod. Madison, WI
2012 **Noyce Fellowship**, Noyce Leadership Institute, San Jose, CA
2006-2007 **Project Grant**, Madison Arts Commission, *When Water Was Here*, Madison, WI
2004 **Blink Grant**, Madison CitiArts, Madison, WI
1996 **Outstanding Recent Alumni Award**, UW-Madison School of Education, Madison, WI
Fulbright Travel Fellowship, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1995 **National Endowment for the Arts, Individual Visual Artist Fellowship**, Sculpture, Washington, D.C.
Madison CitiArts Project Grant, *Fieldwork*, Madison, WI
Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission Project Grant, *Fieldwork*, Madison, WI
1994 **Creative Artist Fellowship**, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, Madison CitiArts & Madison Community Foundation, Madison, WI
1993 **Vermont Studio Center Residency & Fellowship**, Johnson, VT
1991 **National Endowment for the Arts, Regional Visual Arts Fellowship**, Sculpture, Arts

Midwest, Minneapolis, MN
1992, 1991 **Development Grants**, Wisconsin Arts Board, Madison, WI
1991 **Project Grant**, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, Madison, WI
1989, 1986 **Alpha Chi Omega Foundation Fellowships**, Indianapolis, IN
1986 **Emison Art Fellowship**, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN

Project Websites

The Clothesline, The Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY 2024
<https://www.wildcenter.org/visit/clothesline/>

The Women Artists Forward Fund, 2017-present
<https://www.womenartistsforwardfund.org>

Selected Articles/Books/Reviews/Videos/Podcasts

North Country Public Radio, Story of the Day, Farmers' clothes, as art, 7/2/2024,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2ze5rF16SY>

French, Tom. Adirondack Explorer, Wild Center's 'Clothesline' shines a light on the people behind the farms, July 28, 2024
<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/wild-centers-clothesline-highlights-sustainable-agriculture>

Art + Literature Lab, *Brenda Baker & Bird Ross: Land of 1,000 Eddies*, exhibition overview, December 28, 2023

<https://artlilab.org/events/brenda-baker-and-bird-ross-land-of-1000-eddies>

Moe, Todd, North Country Public Radio, podcast and interview, *Using a clothesline in Tupper Lake to connect flannel, denim and us to the land*, December 13, 2023

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48955/20231213/using-a-clothesline-in-tupper-lake-to-connect-flannel-denim-and-us-to-the-land>

Lezberg, Sharon, *Engaging Conversation Through the Arts: The CarbonEra Café*, Dane County Extension, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October, 2022

<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/2022/10/06/climateart/>

Johnson, Amy & Kevin, Captivate Films, with Madison Community Foundation, *Leaving a Legacy for Women Artists*, video interview with Brenda Baker, Dean Gore, Bird Ross & Tom Loeser, Summer 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1oVn74SeCU&t=2s>

Link to full list of articles about Being Forward Project, Women Artists Forward Fund, and the Forward Art Prize, articles 2017-present

<https://www.womenartistsforwardfund.org/press>

Nelson, Erica, Americans for the Arts Publication, *Public Art Resource Center: Grassroots Growth of Creative Cultures: Programming Public Art for Rural Areas*, page 14, (photograph, Monday is Wash Day installation)

https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/2.21%20AFTA_PublicArt_Essay2_web%20.pdf

Wills, Emily, AFP Greater Madison Magazine, *Women's History Month: Brenda and Bird's inspiring "Forward" progress*, March 25, 2022

[Women's History Month: Brenda and Bird's inspiring "Forward" progress](#)

Ginsberg, Maggie, On Wisconsin Magazine, *Women on a Pedestal*, June 2020

[Woman on a Pedestal](#)

Linfield, Tom, Madison Community Foundation, *The Recipe for a Successful Capital Campaign*, (Women Artists Forward Fund), August 2019

<https://www.madisongives.org/blog/recipe-for-a-successful-campaign---tom>

Taylor, Martha, Madison Community Foundation, *Women and Philanthropy*, 2019

<https://www.madisongives.org/blog/martha-taylor-women-and-philanthropy>

Fields, Gionifer, Chipstone Radio interview, WUWM 89.7 Milwaukee, *Being Forward*, November 11, 2017

["Radio Chipstone: Being Forward"](#)

Worlund, Gayle, Wisconsin State Journal. *Fund created to move women artists 'Forward,'* November 5, 2017 (photo)

[Fund created to move women artists 'Forward'](#)

Jones, Laura. Isthmus, “*Creative Force: Karin Wolf is a tireless advocate for art*,” May 26, 2016, (discussion of Brenda Baker’s work and photo)

<http://isthmus.com/arts/karin-wolf-is-a-tireless-advocate-for-art/>

Worlund, Gayle, The Wisconsin State Journal, “*Ideas flow through artist’s work for ‘Logjam’*,” September 6, 2015

http://host.madison.com/wsj/entertainment/arts_and_theatre/ideas-flow-through-artist-s-work-for-logjam/article_daa90174-8c5e-581c-b22a-f0c5a3010285.html

Christians, Lindsay, Capital Times 77 Square. “*Artwork We’ll Miss: Seed Pod: Brenda Baker*,” April 9, 2014 (photo)

Clowes, Jody, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, “*Seed Pod Invades Frank Lloyd Wright in Madison*,” January 8, 2014, (photo)

<http://archive.jsonline.com/entertainment/arts/seed-pod-invades-frank-lloyd-wright-in-madison-b99176957z1-239104881.html>

Glass, Stephen, Wingra Springs: A Project of the Urban Restoration Ecology Lab, *Brenda Baker’s Seed Pod Now at Monona Terrace, October 14, 2013 (photo)*

<https://wingrasprings.wordpress.com/2013/10/14/brenda-bakers-seed-pod-now-at-monona-terrace>

Stemmer, Kim, Brookfield Patch, September 18, 2011; *Hidden River Art Festival Celebrates Wisconsin Artists*

<https://patch.com/wisconsin/brookfield-wi/photos-hidden-river-arts-festival-celebrates-wisconsin-artists>

Greverus, Dr. Ina-Maria & Ute Ritschel, Aesthetics & Anthropology: Performing Life-Performed Lives, LIT-Verlag Publisher, 2009, Berlin, Germany (Photo)

Walkup, Erica and Kerry G. Hill, *Ritschel takes art into Wisconsin’s Northwoods*, Campus Connections, UW Madison, Fall 2007, p. 13-14 (Photo)

<http://esl.cmswiki.wikispaces.net/file/view/2007fallcc%5B1%5D.pdf>

Laskin, Tom. “*Surprised by Art*,” Isthmus, January 11, 2008, p. 17 (Photo)

<http://isthmus.com/arts/arts-beat/surprised-by-art/>

- Smith, Jennifer, "A New Leaf: 'Art on Site' transforms Olbrich Botanical Gardens," Isthmus, July 9, 2004, p. 20 (Photo)
- Lynch, Kevin, "Outdoor Art: Contemporary art finds a place at Olbrich Botanical Gardens," The Captial Times, June 2, 2004, p. 1D & 6D (Cove Photo)
- Killiam, Brad, "Shipping and Receiving, Site I: Project Room," Memorial Union Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Madison, New Art Examiner, April 1996 (pg. 50) (Photo)
- Stoddard, Leah, "Brenda Baker, Edith Derdyk: Emison Art Center, DePauw University," New Art Examiner, Chicago, IL, November 1995 (pgs. 42-43) (Photo)
- "Art on the Edge: Fieldwork tests limits of creative process," Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, WI, p.1F-4F, September 17, 1995. (Photos)
- "Eine Kulturbrücke aus „Sticheleien," Nürnberg Frei Papel, Nürnberg, Germany, Sept. 6, 1995
- Zachow, Bernd. "Ein Langer Weg: Die Kunstaktion „Sticheleien“ auf dem Nürnberger Hauptmarkt" Kunst und Kritik, Nürnberg, Germany, August 25, 1995
- "MAC Costura Semelhanças Entre Artistas: Museu exhibe em conjunto obras da brasileira Edith Derdyk e da americana Brenda Baker," O Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, sexta-feira, 18 de novembro de 1994 (Photo)
- "Artes Plásticas," Folha de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 18 de novembro de 1994 (Photo)
- Laskin, Tom. "Eyes on the Prize: Two Sculptors Have Big Plans for Grant Money." Isthmus, Madison, WI, p. 36, January 7, 1994 (Photo)

Catalogs

- Big Tent, Curator, Barry Carlson, UW-Madison/ Art Helix Gallery, New York, 2016
- Forest Art Wisconsin, Curator, Ute Ritschel, Darmstadt, Germany, 2007
- The Wisconsin Triennial, Madison Art Center, March 2002, Madison, WI
Essays by Stephen Fleischman, Sara Krajewski, and Sheri Castelnovo
- Rising: Brenda Baker, Museu da Republica, October 2000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
essays by Paulo Reis and Maureen McQuirk
- Suturas. Grampos. Costuras.: Brenda Baker & Edith Derdyk, Museu de Arte Contemporanea, São Paulo, Brazil and Emison Art Center, Greencastle, IN. essays by Terry R. Myers, Los Angeles, CA and Annateresa Fabris, São Paulo, Brazil
- High Visibility 1991, Arts Midwest, Minneapolis, MN
- The Wisconsin Triennial, Madison Art Center, September 1990, Madison, WI
essays by Katie Howarth Ryan, Rene Paul Barilleaux, David Berreth

