

## Jan Brown Checco



Resume • Master Artist, Teacher, Artistic Director and Arts Administrator  
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**Biographical Statement:** Jan is a Cincinnati-based studio artist who enjoys convening others to work collaboratively. Her international artist exchange projects include “Clay, Color and Fire,” an architectural handmade tile installation at of TM Berry International Friendship Park (2003). Nine international master ceramists and dozens of local apprentices, together, created 15,000 tiles for the colonnade of the Friendship Pavilion. She developed the concept for, and art directed, four master artists to create the “Black Brigade Monument” for Smale Riverfront Park (2012). Jan has created interview and selection processes for a variety of programs. Specializing in project design and direction of public artworks, Jan has 24 years of experience as an art administrator, and 45 years as a studio artist creating works for commissions.

### Processes, Materials and Technical Specialties

International Artists Exchange projects, designed and directed in North America, Cuba, Asia, Europe and Africa  
Design and direction of community-based public art projects, both temporary and permanent  
Planning, design, fabrication and installation of public artworks using handmade ceramic mosaics and paints  
Three-dimensional gallery installations and assemblages with found objects, fiber, wood and fired glazed clays  
Graphic design, illustration, presentation art using computer programs Photoshop, Illustrator & PowerPoint  
Figurative and symbolist paintings, with egg tempera, fresco, oil, acrylic, watercolor and drawing mediums

### Professional Experience & Awards

Art Administrator for the Cincinnati Park Board (2008 - 2013) providing research, conceptual design, workshop management of:  
*Butterflies of Morocco* show, Krohn Conservatory; design advisor and cultural orientation to design team (2012)  
*Butterflies of the World* Exhibition at Krohn Conservatory, co-designer and workshop leader (2012)  
*Carol Ann's Carousel* at Smale Riverfront Park, research, conceptual design and project launch (2012-13)  
*Smale Riverfront Park* paintings and limited edition prints for Cincinnati Parks Foundation (2012)  
*Black Brigade Monument* for Smale Riverfront Park, conceptual design, artist selection, art direction (2008-2012)  
*Butterflies of Brazil* Exhibition at Krohn Conservatory, co-designer and workshop leader (2011)  
*Butterflies of Japan* Exhibition at Krohn Conservatory, co-designer and workshop leader (2010)  
*Butterflies of India* Exhibition at the Krohn Conservatory, co-designer and workshop leader (2009)  
Establishment of *Cincinnati Park Board Artists Registry* (2009)  
*Liberty Garden* by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and Park Board in Eden Park, design team (2004 - 05)  
*Alpine Gardens*, Krohn Conservatory, guest artistic director for autumn floral & art exhibition (2007)  
*Cliftonfest*, a cultural arts event in historic Clifton, Cincinnati; founder, programming and art direction (2012-2014)  
*Award: Neighborhood Champion, Uptown Consortium* (2013)  
*Award: International Prize for Innovation* from Sister Cities International, *Triangular Drawings* project (2009)  
*Award: Winner of Floral Carpet Design Competition, A Butterfly Kite*, Fountain Square, Cincinnati, OH (2008)  
*Award: Distinguished Alumna Award*, Art Academy of Cincinnati (2007)  
*Award: Design Excellence Award: Cincinnati Garden & Mosaics Project*, BUGA 2005, Munich, Germany (2005)  
*Award: Regional Leadership Forum Greater Cincinnati Hall of Fame, "Outstanding Cultural Arts Program"* for “Clay, Color and Fire” at TM Berry International Friendship Park (2004)  
*Award: Winner of the Post Corbett Award for Artistic Excellence* for “Individual in the Arts” Achievement (2003)  
*Ohio Governor's Award for Community Development through the Arts*, nominee (2003 & 2004)  
*Award: Art Direction - Ohio Humanities Council/Ohio State Capitol Exhibition, "Ohio Builds a State"* (1993)  
*AIR-Artist in Residence* program for Finneytown Local Schools, founder and director (1991-96)  
Art Director for design firm *Forrec International*, for conceptual design of museum exhibits and theme parks (1988-91)

### Selected Projects

*"Paint Out – Plein Air Cultural Exchange"* with 20 Cincinnati & Chinese professional artists - organizer and lead artist (2019)  
*"Art Trivets"* a ceramic mosaics workshop project at Woodford Padeia Elementary School (August – December 2018)  
*Clifton Area Neighborhood School – graphic design and branding for school launch* (2017 - 19)

### **Selected Projects (cont)**

*"Bridges, Not Walls"* – invitational international artists' exchange between Cincinnati and Cuba (2018)  
Danone Nations Cup for World Youth Soccer, Newark NJ, Art Installation Crew (2017)  
*"Blue Ash Chalkwalks"* for Summit Park Earth Day Celebration; curator, artist and project manager (2017)  
*"A Place to Call Home"* Participant, invitational painting of fine art doors for benefit of People Working Cooperatively (2017)  
*"The Angel's Light,"* design, direction, fabrication of mosaic wall installation, Summit Country Day School, Cincinnati (2017)  
*"The Queen's Crown Jewels,"* permanent installation in Friendship Garden, LongTan Park, Liuzhou, China; curator, design direction and ceramic artwork fabrication for international artists exchange (2016)  
*"Stars in the Garden,"* design and fabrication of a ceramic floor mosaic for the Monastery Event Center restoration (2016)  
*"Friendship Bridge,"* Cincinnati/Liuzhou Friendship Garden, Liuzhou, China; design of 4 narrative copper panels (2012-15)  
*"Nature Calls!"* ceramic & glass mosaic art treatment of restrooms, Fitton Center, Hamilton OH (2015)  
*Blue Ash Chalkwalks* for Summit Park Dedication Celebration; curator, trainer, artist and project manager (2014)  
*Clifton Plaza Mural,* co-designer, project manager and crew member, Clifton, Cincinnati (2014)  
*Atrium Art Panels,* Junior Class legacy gift and artist residency, Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria, KY (2014)  
*"The Native Cincinnatians"* Metro Bus Shelter Art Treatment, Clifton neighborhood, Cincinnati, OH (2013)  
*"ReArt"* - International drawing exchanges with Kharkiv, Ukraine, and Baracoa, Cuba; lead artist (2012-13)  
*"OTR Flags Project"* cooperating with Tender Mercies and Nast Trinity Church, OTR (2012)  
*"The Unfolding Spirit"* *Tender Mercies Mosaic Mural* for Dana Building; designer, lead artist, workshop manager (2010)  
*"The Four Seasons"* Twin Lakes mosaic mural design and community-based workshop management (2010)  
*Homewood Suites Hilton Hotel,* two commissioned signature paintings, Florence, KY (2008)  
*Ceramic Mosaic Ground Inlay for Cin-Liu Friendship Garden Plaza,* LongTan Park, Liuzhou PR China (2008)  
*Ceramic Mosaic Plaza Inlay,* artwork for a public garden plaza, Riem, Germany (2008)  
*Eunice Bray Memorial Butterfly Garden,* Columbus, OH, commissioned sculpture for the (2008)  
Commissioned painting for Saint Elizabeth South Hospice, Northern Kentucky (2008)  
*"Triangular Drawings"* Lead Artist, international drawing exchanges w/Munich, Germany, and Liuzhou, PR China (2006-09)  
*Children's Hospital Burnet Avenue Building,* 100+ paintings, Lead Artist for community-based art program (2009)  
*International Children's Villages Mural Workshop* adult program, design and workshop direction, of Cincinnati, OH (2007)  
*"The Four Elements"* *Twin Lakes Garden Mosaics,* community-based project and workshop, Montgomery, OH (2007)  
*Smale Riverfront Park,* conceptual design phase, design team member for park planning, Cincinnati, OH (2006)  
*"Twin Lakes Fountain Mosaics"* community-based art project, design and workshop direction Montgomery, OH (2006)  
*Ceramic Mosaic Artwork for Cincinnati Garden Plaza,* BUGA 2005 Horticultural Expo, Munich, Germany (2004)  
*"Clay, Color and Fire"* international public art collaboration with ceramic masters; lead artist/project director (2001-03)  
*"Culture Crimes/Art Assassins"* public sidewalk chalkwork for opening of Aronoff Center, Cincinnati, OH (1995)  
*"Cincinnati Watercolors"* a widely marketed limited edition of seven art prints (1988-2016)  
Illustrator of five published books distributed in France (during residency 1980-85) and USA (1994)

### **Professional Service**

*Clifton Town Meeting Arts and Culture Committee founding member; establishment of "Gallery Off Ludlow" and "Ludlow Garage Mural" (2018-19)*  
*"Clifton Area Neighborhood School"* Advisory Group Member, for establishment of a new public school (2017 - 19)  
Founding Member of *Ludlow 21,* a citizens action group for revitalization of the Clifton business district (2014-17)  
Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee member, established *Cincinnati Arts Ambassador Fellowship* program (2012-16)  
Founder, Art and Programming Chair of *CliftonFest,* annual arts and music celebration (2012-2014)  
*Probasco Fountain Restoration Committee,* facilitated community engagement process for design (2012 - present)  
*Art in Cincinnati,* social media page for working artists, co-founder and moderator at Candidates Night for the Arts (2013)  
*Riverflora,* planning committee for a renaissance of Cincinnati Flower Show (2012)  
*Think Tank with WolfBrown,* hosted by ArtsWave, cultural arts community participant (2012-13)  
*Clifton Plaza on Ludlow Committee,* community co-chair, design and oversight of urban development project (2008-09)  
Steering and Review Committee member for *MuralWorks* program, administered by ArtWorks (2006-08)  
Organizer of international cultural exchange & collaborative projects for Cincinnati's Sister Cities (1999-2016)  
Advisory Board Member for WomanMade Gallery, Chicago IL (2003-2016)  
*SOS ART,* annual invitational exhibition, Steering Committee (2004-06)  
College Art Association International Committee member (2003-2006) and Conference Session Chair (2004)  
*Regional Cultural Alliance,* board member representing artist community, (1997-98)  
*Art on the Square Juried Exhibition* with Charlotta Kotik of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Project Director (1995)  
Founding board member of Pendleton Art Center, Cincinnati, OH (1991-93)

## Guest Speaker

OLLI classes University of Cincinnati (2014, 2015)  
Art Therapy, DAAP classes with Jenny Roesel Ustick and Sarah Lanman (2015)  
CliftonFest ArtCarpet chalk demonstration, WXIX news (2013)  
"The Black Brigade" interview for Black History Month, The List Show (Channel 9) (2013)  
"The Siege of Cincinnati" by Paige Malott, Digital Media Group (2012)  
Voices: WCET Oral Histories (2011)  
Story Corps/National Public Radio (2011)  
Making of the Black Brigade Monument Hamilton County Public Library and at Twin Lakes, Montgomery (2011)  
SOS Art Opening Commentary (2010)  
Xavier University Professional Artists Panel (2009)  
Xavier University Freshman Arts Students (2008)  
Graduating Seniors Seminar at Art Academy of Cincinnati (2008)  
Ohio Arts Council panel "Public Values" (2007)  
MuralWorks apprentices orientation to mosaics (2007)  
Community Based Art Lecture for Guangxi Arts Institute, Nanning, PR China (2006)  
Mayerson Foundation Artist in Residence, Cincinnati (2006)  
Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Public Art Programs (2006)  
Cincinnati City Hall Arts & Culture Committee Meeting (2004)  
International Session, College Art Association Conference, Philadelphia (2002) and Seattle (2004)  
Freshman Assembly, University of Cincinnati (2000, 1998) and Art Academy of Cincinnati (1997)  
Community Art Forum (1995)  
Community Art Forum, UC Raymond Walters College (1994)  
Cincinnati Art Club (1993)

## Selected Exhibitions

2019 *"Paint Out – Plein Air Cultural Exchange" with 20 Cincinnati & Chinese professional artists - organizer and lead artist*  
*"MindGarden"s invitational at CAZA Sikes, showing ceramic sculpture "Woodland Lullabye"*  
*"Because I Said So" juried exhibition at Kennedy Heights Art Center, showing an encaustic painting "The Penitent"*  
*Gallery Off Ludlow Grand Opening Invitational, showing a watercolor painting "Clouds over the Camino"*

2018 *"Moving Forward" – Clifton Cultural Arts Center invitational, showing ceramic wall piece "Flora"*  
SOS Art Annual Exhibitions, Cincinnati, Ohio, curated by Saad Ghosn  
*"Inspirado" group exhibition at CAZA Sikes, curator and lead artist*  
*Golden Ticket Juried Exhibition – CCAC at Trailside Nature Center, showing a ceramic fountain "The Spirit of Water"*

2017 *"Mi Casa Es Tu Casa" Participant in the invitational painting exchange with Havana, Cuba, with 50 artists*  
SOS ART Annual Exhibitions, Cincinnati, Ohio, curated by Saad Ghosn

2015 Kennedy Heights Art Center invitational exhibition curated by Saad Ghosn (2015)

2014 *"Modern Landscapes" Daniel Brown's invitational exhibition at Covington Arts (2014)*

2013 *"ReArt Cincinnati/Baracoa, Cuba" exhibition at Clifton Cultural Arts Center & Pendleton Art Center, Middletown, OH*  
*"The Human Face" invitational exhibition, AEC Gallery, sculpture exhibited, Covington KY*  
*"Angels" invitational exhibition, Carnegie Arts Center, sculpture exhibited, Covington, KY*  
*"Artists as Activists" Northern Kentucky University; sculpture exhibited*  
*"50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement" at Cincinnati YWCA Gallery; sculptural installation, Cincinnati, OH*

2011 *"Outside America" exhibition, curator and exhibitor for WomanMade Gallery, Chicago IL*  
*"Cincinnati Dreams Italy" – invitational exhibition around Lytle Park, Cincinnati*  
*"Artists as Activists" – invitational exhibition, Covington Arts, Covington, KY*

2009 *OBACHT, 5 ceramic artworks in Group Exhibition in Munich, Germany*  
*Triangular Drawings, Goethe Institute, Munich, project exhibitions in Cincinnati, Munich and Liuzhou; project designer, lead artist*

### **Selected Exhibitions (cont)**

- 2007 *The Juror's Invitational Exhibition*, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago IL
- 2006 "A Change in Perspective", 180 drawings by 18 artists in cultural exchange with Munich, Germany, exhibited at Amerikahaus Fortieth Anniversary, and in Cincinnati at University Galleries on Sycamore  
SOS ART Select, invitational exhibition at DAAP Galleries on Sycamore, Cincinnati, OH  
"Days in Clay", solo exhibition, Guangxi Arts Institute in Nanning and Liu Gao School in Liuzhou, PR China
- 2005 "Empty Chairs, Painful Windows", group video/art therapy/installation art at YWCA Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2003 "Traditions," curator for international juried exhibition, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Installations and Performances at the Carnegie* - invitational group exhibition, Covington, KY
- 2002 "Transformations" - collaborative stage & gallery exhibition of CCM & DAAP, University of Cincinnati, OH  
"Wish You Were Here" - invitational group exhibition, Wood Street Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Matri Art" – *Masters Thesis* exhibition and performance, 840 Gallery, DAAP, University of Cincinnati, OH
- 2001 "Traditions" international art exhibition at WomanMade Gallery, Chicago IL; guest curator
- 2000 *Members Exhibition*, international juried exhibition, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Cincinnati Studio Artists Group at Heim & Handwerk 2000*, Munich, Germany
- 1999 "Eve: Living the First Life" - juried solo exhibition, Carnegie Arts Center, Covington, KY  
"Forty Mid-Career Women Artists" - juried group exhibition, University Club, Cincinnati, OH
- 1998 *Group Exhibition* - five egg tempera panel paintings at John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA  
"Morocco" – paintings from travels with Gail Morrison at Mullane's Parkside Cafe, Cincinnati, OH  
"Portrait" - international juried exhibition, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Invitational Group Exhibition" at 4222 Wabash Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1997 *Works by Artists in Residence* - group exhibition, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
"Figure 15" - juried group exhibition, Carnegie Arts Center, Covington, KY  
"Figure in Architecture", solo exhibition at Mullanes, Cincinnati, OH  
"Home Seen" - solo exhibition at Wellage and Buxton Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 1996 "Works from Summer Studies" - group exhibition, Parsons New School, Paris, France  
"Figure 10" - juried group exhibition, Carnegie Arts Center, Covington, KY  
"NUDE '96" - Lexington Art League, national juried exhibition, Lexington, KY
- 1995 "Florentine Nudes" - solo exhibition, Over-the-Rhine Artists Gallery, Cincinnati, OH  
"Grande Exhibition 1995" - national juried exhibition, Akron Society of Artists, Akron, OH  
"Holy Baloney" - national juried exhibition, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1994 "Ohio Womens Caucus for the Arts Annual Exhibition", juried state exhibition, Toledo, OH  
"Fresh Art" - plein air exhibition at Berringer Crawford Museum, Covington, KY (first prize award)  
"NUDE '93" - Lexington Art League, national juried exhibition, Lexington, KY (award)  
"International Art Exhibition" - Florida Museum of Hispanic & Latin American Art, Miami, FL

### **Teaching Experience**

- "Art Trivets" a ceramic mosaics workshop residency project at Woodford Padeia Elementary School (August – December 2018)  
"The Angel' Light" a residency project at Summit Country Day School, for ceramic wall mosaic project (2017)  
*Bishop Brossart Junior Class 5-month Workshop for "Three Legacy Panels", Mayerson Service Learning Grant (2014)*  
*Totem Making Workshops* for Procter and Gamble World Designers Meeting, Clay Street Think Tank (2012)  
*Mural Painting Workshops* for Procter and Gamble World Design Meeting at Westin Hotel, Cincinnati, OH (2007)  
*International People's Project Murals Workshop*, for Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Cincinnati, OH (2007)  
*Art Roundtables Workshop* at P&G Clay Street Think Tank, Cincinnati, OH (2006)

### Teaching Experience (cont)

Designer and lead artist for *A Friendship Tapestry*, Camp SEE/Cin-Liu Sister City Program, Liuzhou, China (2006)  
Artist in Residence at Twin Lakes Community, ceramic community-based mural, Montgomery, OH (2006, 2007, 2010)  
Art Director, Mayerson Foundation's *Our Daily Bread Murals*, ten high school art teachers and their students (2006)  
Art Director for *Vine Street Murals & Can-Paign*, with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (2005)  
Artist in Residence, "Dreambuilders" at Summit Country Day School, for seven-month architectural mosaic project (2004-2005)  
Adjunct faculty member, Figure Drawing 301, College of Mount Saint Joseph, Cincinnati, OH (2004)  
Instructor of record, Life Drawing II, School of Fine Art, University of Cincinnati (2001)  
Instructor of record, Basic Drawing I & II, School of Fine Art, University of Cincinnati (2000-01)  
Adjunct faculty member for Foundations Drawing, School of Design, DAAP, University of Cincinnati (1999)  
Teacher of elementary students, special grants programs at the Art Academy of Cincinnati (1996)  
Designer of arts educational materials for the Cincinnati Art Museum (1992-97)  
Technical Advisor, restoration of Memorial Hall painted wall decorations, and design of print materials (1990-92)  
Teacher of college level illustration and design courses, Ohio Visual Arts Institute, Cincinnati (1980)

### Articles, Interviews, Publication

"Angel to shine at Summit Country Day" by Forrest Sellers, Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2017  
[cincinnatiquirer.oh.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=16e3f3d9d](http://cincinnatiquirer.oh.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=16e3f3d9d)  
AEQAI 6/13 "A Letter From Munich – Jan Brown Checco" about Cincinnati Park Board Treehouse Exchange  
<http://aeqai.com/main/2013/06/a-letter-from-munich/>  
AEQAI 4/13 "Art for a Better World – Jan Brown Checco" by Saad Ghosn; [aeqai.com/main/2013/04/art-for-a-better-world-4/](http://aeqai.com/main/2013/04/art-for-a-better-world-4/)  
*ReArt/World Garden*, art exchange/Kharkiv Ukraine, by Alan Brown 2012; <http://www.blurb.com/b/3194032-reart-world-garden>  
"Voices" WCET documentary interviews, June 2010 <http://watch.cetconnect.org/video/1565826864/>  
"Gardening Abroad" by Michelle Taute, Cincinnati Magazine, March 2009  
*Triangular Drawings Exhibition Opening*, Liuzhou Daily Press, November 2008  
"A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words" by Jan Brown Checco, Pulse Downtown, August 2008  
"Judges Fly with Butterfly Design," Sara Pearce, Cincinnati Enquirer, 9/07  
*World Contemporary Public Ceramic Art*, two-page story in survey book; by Zhang Yushan, PR China 9/06  
"One-Way Ticket to Paradise," review of CSAG exhibition in Munich, *Sueddeutsch Zeitung*, Germany 4/8/06  
"Clay, Color and Fire and the work of Vladimir Shapovalov," in *Mockba - a Russian art review*, no. 5, 2005  
"Putting People on the Palette," tutorial about Summit Dreambuilding Mosaics for *Pottery Making Illustrated*, 2006  
"Melancholy Suits the Mockbee," report about SOS ART 2005 by Sara Pearce, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 5/1/05  
"Clay, Color & Fire: Making Tiles and Peace," 3300-word article for *Ceramics Monthly*, Summer 2004  
"Clay, Color & Fire," 32-page booklet with CD enclosure; JBC author and art director, 2004  
*Arts Exploration Journal, Issue 4, from Guangxi Arts College*, "Clay, Color & Fire: A Successful Public Art" 2003  
"Excellence in the Arts" - Post Corbett Awards – article in the Cincinnati Post, 11/18/03  
"Focus: Clay, Color & Fire," 30-minute television interview produced by Joanne Grueter for *CET Cincinnati*, 9/03  
"Mosaics Make Magic," report about Clay, Color and Fire by Marilyn Bauer, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 7/3/03  
"Ideal World Ohio," review of CSAG exhibition in Munich, *Sueddeutsch Zeitung*, Germany, 12/8/00  
"Renaissance Now," review of solo exhibition at Interiors, Cincinnati, *City Beat*, 1/98  
"Nudes," review of group exhibition at the Carnegie Arts Center, Owen Finsden, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 9/96  
"A Revealing Body of Work," interview with Jonathan Kamholtz, *City Beat*, 11/96  
"Florentine Nudes," review of solo exhibition in Cincinnati, *Antenna Magazine*, 11/95  
"Culture Crimes," report about public venue performance piece in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 10/95  
"Conversations with Irma," television interview with Irma Lazarus, *WCET Public Television Cincinnati*, 10/93  
"Modern Day Michelangelo," interview about Laurel Court ceiling decoration, *Cincinnati Post*, 11/85

### Education

Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture, College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, OH (2002)  
Vermont Studio Center, two-week residency working with Gregory Gillespie (1997)  
Parsons New School in Paris, France; painting and drawing (summer session 1996)  
Studio Art Centers International (SACI) Florence, Italy; painting and art history (1995)  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Academy of Cincinnati, *summa cum laude*; painting and drawing (1992 - 93)  
Independent studies in drawing & painting while working in design & illustration, Paris, France (1980 - 85)  
Bachelor of Fine Arts work at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; illustration and design (1970 - 73)