

Laura S. Brown

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Education: University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, and M.F.A. Sculpture 1995
Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA, B.F.A. Sculpture 1993

Teaching: Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA,
3 D Department Faculty, 1996 - Present
Massachusetts College of Art, International Study Programs
Mexico - Maya Expedition, Co-Leader / Lecturer, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997
Poland - Documenting Historic Wooden Architecture
Co-Leader / Lecturer, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009

Grants / Awards: Distinguished Alumni Award, Mass College of Art and Design 2010
Fulbright Senior Specialist
Visible Republic Planning Grant
Helen Blair Crosby Sculpture Award
Dondis A. Dondis Travel Fellowship
Naomi I. Becker Scholarship
Maggy Krebs Gift
Ford Foundation Grant

Professional:

Handshouse Studio and Educational Activities

Co-Founder and Director, Handshouse Studio, Inc. a nonprofit educational organization that initiates adventurous hands-on projects as a way to explore history, understand science, 1999 – 2007.

Handshouse Studio Activities: 1999 – 2011

2012

Making / History – Wooden Synagogue Replication Project film, Produced film about the 2011 Gwozdziec synagogue project and workshops in 4 cities in Poland: Sanok, Rzeszow, Krakow and Wroclaw.

Museum of the History of Polish Jews - Gwozdziec Synagogue Roof and Painted Ceiling Project

Making History Travel Programs, Developed and led 5 travel programs to participate in the Gwozdziec Synagogue Roof and Painted Ceiling Project as a CI with Mass Art PCE program and through Mass Art GEO program.

Cooperating Institute with the Mass College of Art and Design Professional and Continuing Education Program

Medfield Public Library Lecture Series, Medfield, MA – *Making / History – Wooden Synagogue Replication Project*.

South Carolina Governors School for the Arts and Humanities, Greenville, SC, Raising the Obelisk presentation.

Buttonwood Park and Zoo and Mass College of Art, Toys for Elephants course with 3-D Department.

2011

Museum of the History of Polish Jews - Gwozdziec Synagogue Roof and Painted Ceiling Project

Making History Travel Programs, Developed and led 7 travel programs to participate in the Gwozdziec Synagogue Roof and Painted Ceiling Project as a CI with Mass Art PCE program.

Cooperating Institute with the Mass College of Art and Design Professional and Continuing Education Program

University of Georgia Lamar Dodd School of Art: WILLSON CENTER Visiting Scholar Program grant, The Bimah Project -A Hands-on Learning Workshop

Timber Frame Guild 2011 Eastern Conference, Presenter: *Making / History – Wooden Synagogue Replication Project*

Haystack School of Arts and Crafts Symposium: Creativity and Ingenuity, Invitational, Studio Leader

Buttonwood Park and Zoo and Mass College of Art, Toys for Elephants course with 3-D Department.

2010

PBS's NOVA "Riddles of the Sphinx" - Carved a 65% scale model of the lost Sphinx nose in limestone and researched and demonstrated ancient Egyptian carving tools and techniques. Aired January, 2010.

Sanok Bell Tower and Cast Bell Project - researched and constructed a full scale replica of a 17th century wooden bell tower and cast a 300 pound bell through a workshop associated with Massachusetts College of Art.

2009

Exhibition "Wooden Synagogues of Poland – Recovering History through Art and Architecture – Oberlin College Gwozdziec Synagogue Painted Ceiling Project - constructed and painted a 1/2 scale replica of the NW and NE pendentives of the vaulted painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue through classes and workshops associated with Massachusetts College of Art

Gwozdziec Ceiling Painting Oberlin College Winter Term Project constructed a 1/2-scale replica of the SW and SE pendentives of the vaulted painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue in a 10-day workshop.

Poland Ukraine Travel Program -- in association with the Massachusetts College of Art developed and led a 3-week travel program to document two 17th century wooden churches, Ulucz in Poland and Drohobych in Ukraine.

2008

Washington University Sam Fox School of Architecture and Design - "Recovering History Through Art" and *Reconstruction of Blmah, First Submarine, Pharaoh's Obelisk.* Lecture, St. Louis, MO.

Zabludow Door Workshop / MassART Timber Frame Club,- constructed a full scale model of the section of the 1637 Zabludow synagogue log wall, door jamb, door and forged hinges, using only traditional tools.

Gwozdziec Synagogue Project – Handshouse Studio built a detailed large-scale model of the Gwozdziec wooden synagogue through workshops with the classes at Massachusetts College of Art.

2007

Vassar College, Maurice Sitomer Lecture and film, ""Resplendent Edifice: Reconstructing the Lost World of Polish Wooden Synagogues." *Reconstruction of Blmah*, Poughkeepsie, NY.

Marie Curie Sklodowka University, Lublin - Department of American Literature, lecture and films - "Recovering History Through Art" and *Reconstruction of Blmah, First Submarine, Pharaoh's Obelisk*, Lublin, Poland.

University of Technology, Krakow - Institute of Historic Architecture and Conservation of Monuments, lecture and films, "Recovering History Through Art" and *Reconstruction of Blmah, First Submarine, Pharaoh's Obelisk*, Krakow, Poland

Galicja Museum, Krakow, Galicia Jewish Heritage Institute - lecture and film "Recovering History Through Art" *Reconstruction of Blmah*, Krakow, Poland.

The Borderlands Foundation, - lecture and film- "Recovering History Through Art", *Reconstruction of Blmah*, Sejny, Poland

Polish - US Fulbright Commission - lecture - "Recovering History Through Art", Warsaw, Poland

Tocnik Castle, lecture and film, "Recovering History Through Art" and *Pharaoh's Obelisk*, Tocnik, Czech Republic.

Gwozdziec Synagogue Painted Ceiling Project - constructed a 1/2 scale replica of the vaulted painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue through classes and workshops associated with Massachusetts College of Art

Poland - Czech Republic Travel Program - in association with the Massachusetts College of Art developed and led a 3 week travel program to document 17th /18th century wooden structures of Poland and work with traditional carpenter on a castle restoration in the Czech Republic

Orchard Cove, Hebrew Senior Life, Exhibition of a detailed large-scale model of the Zabludow wooden synagogue built by Handshouse Studio and architectural drawing, interpretative boards. Canton, MA

Striar Jewish Community Center, Exhibition of a detailed large-scale model of the Zabludow wooden synagogue built by Handshouse Studio and architectural drawing, interpretative boards, Stoughton, MA

Sharon Rotary Club, lecture and film, "Recovering History Through Art", *Reconstruction of Blmah*, Sharon, MA

2006

Timber Framers Guild Eastern Conference, Roanoke, VA *14th Century Medieval Human Powered Crane, Prague Castle and the 18th Century Gwozdzeic Synagogue Bimah*

Craft and Community: Sustaining Place – an invitational symposium at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts

Center for Art and Community Partnerships – *Gwozdziec Synagogue Zodiac – Recovering History Through Art* - exhibition Arnheim Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art

Vilna Shul, Boston MA, *The Wooden Synagogue Project and Education* presentation

Gwozdziec Synagogue Painted Ceiling Project - constructed a 1/2 scale replica of the vaulted painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue through classes and workshops associated with Massachusetts College of Art

Orchard Grove, Canton, MA *Wooden Synagogue Projects and Education* presentation

Striar Jewish Community Center, Stoughton, MA *Wooden Synagogue Projects and Education* presentation

Norwell Public Library *Wooden Synagogue Projects and Education* presentation

Gwozdziec Bimah workshop – an eight-day workshop in which professionals and students constructed a full-scale replica of the Gwozdziec bimah.

History of Prague Museum Presented Handhouse Studio projects lecture, Prague Castle, Czech Republic
The Tocnik Castle Medieval Human Powered Crane – participated with an international team to construct and demonstrate a full scale replica of a 14th century medieval human powered crane and presented Handhouse Studio replica projects at the “Crown of Bohemia” exhibition, Prague, Czech Republic

Continuity – Traditions in Jewish Art and Architecture Exhibition at The Vilna Shul, Boston Center for Jewish Heritage, Boston, MA

Gwozdziec Ceiling Painting Oberlin College Winter Term Project, Directed a 10-day workshop at Oberlin College to paint to south section of the Gwozdziec Synagogue ceiling.

2005

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Grant – awarded funds toward exhibitions of the wooden synagogues projects at Vilna Shul, Boston, MA and Brandeis University, Waltham MA.

Center for Arts and Community Partnership Workshop for high school teacher - preparation for integrating the Gwozdziec Synagogue painting project into High School art curriculum

South Shore Natural Science Center, lecture on Handhouse Studio educational projects

National Yiddish Book Center, *The Wooden Synagogue Project*, lecture

The Wooden Synagogues of Poland: A Lost World Revisited Exhibition, National Yiddish Book Center – Amherst, MA 2005-2006

Oberlin College Mudd Library - Zabłudow Synagogue Project and Gwozdziec Synagogue exhibition

Archeological Institute of America Conference, Boston, MA *Teaching Technology through Experimental Archaeology* workshop and lecture

ICOMOS, Ministry of Culture, Academy of Art and Architecture, and National Museum of Technology, Prague - *Teaching Technology through Experimental Archaeology* - lectures,

2004

Poland - Documenting Historic Wooden Architecture Developed educational travel program with Massachusetts College of Art to study and document 17th and 18th century wooden sacred architecture in Eastern Poland. – 2004 –2005

Gwozdziec Synagogue Painted Ceiling Project - constructed a 1/2-scale replica of the vaulted painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue through classes and workshops associated with Massachusetts College of Art. 2004 – 2005

Common Heritage: The Wooden Synagogues of Poland, exhibit Polish Center of Poland and University of Wisconsin,

Zabłudow Synagogue Project – Handhouse Studio built a detailed large-scale model of the Zabłudow wooden synagogue through workshops with the classes at Massachusetts College of Art, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and Wheelock College.

Joint College of the Fenway Lecture Brandeis University and Mass College of Art Joint Lecture

The Materials and Archaeology Lecture Series, MIT, Boston, MA *Technology and Culture*

The South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell, MA *The Turtle* presentation and demonstration

2003

Annihilated Heritage- Zabłudow Project International Workshop for Preservation of Historic Wood Building

Tradition, participated in conference to study the possibility of making a full scale replica of the Zabłudow Synagogue in Bialystok, Poland,

Discovery Channel Ancient Arsenals – First Submarine Researched, designed and directed the making of the full-scale working replica of David Bushnell’s wooden submarine from 1776 - 2003 - aired 2004.

Building the Replica of Denis Diderot T-Crane –organized workshop to construct a 30-foot human powered wooden crane in collaboration with Mass College of Art funded by the Davis Foundation Grant,

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio Raising *the Obelisk* presentation and demonstration

2002

Building the Replica of Jean Rudolph Perronet’s Pont d’Orlean Crane (a 50 foot human powered wooden construction crane) Directed project in collaboration with Mass College of Art, Wheelock College, Wentworth Institute of Technology funded by the Davis Foundation Grant and documented by National Geographic and WGBH Public Television.

2000 – 1999 Research, Travel and Documentation, Egypt NOVA In Search of Lost Empires Series - Pharaoh’s Obelisk WBGH Public TV - aired Feb 2000 Researched, designed and developed team which successfully raised Obelisk 3 in Chelmsford, MA through ancient Egyptian methods for the filming of *Pharaoh’s Obelisk*, 1999.

Lectures and Presentations: 1999: PBS Press Tour, Pasadena, CA,

Boston Museum of Science, Boston, MA, **Children’s Museum of Manhattan**, N Y, NY

Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA,

Elected Board Member The Timber Framers Guild – a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the craft of timber framing, 2003-2006.

Curator, *Living Room* - An outdoor sculpture exhibition for the City of Boston's ParkARTS, First Night 2000

Co-curator *The Complex Harbor, Refuge, Protection, Threshold* Outdoor site specific sculpture exhibition, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA 1998-99

Curatorial Assistant and Preparator, The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA, Designed and built specific elements for exhibition, directed the installation and lighting for exhibitions for contemporary art and archival objects, 1996-99

Partner, Morgan Payne Concepts, Inc., Residential design / build company, Brookline, MA 1985 –1995

Licensed Builder, Brookline, MA 1982 - 1995

Project Assistant, Measured Architectural Drawings for Palazzo Casali, Cortona, Italy. A historic preservation project for the City of Cortona and the University of Georgia Studies Abroad Program, 1984

Exhibitions:

Emese's Dream – International Sculptor Symposium in 2010 to the Museum of Tatabanya, Tatabanya, Hungary.

Is Good Ole Goodloe Gone – Artinplace Exhibition, Charlottesville, VA 2010

North River Arts, Marshfield, MA 2008

Foreman Gallery, Hartwick College, N.Y. *Born of the Mouth*, 2001

Boston Architectural Center Gallery, *Accidental Audiences*, Boston, 2001

Carelicum Museum, Joensuu, Finland, Permanent Collection, 2000

The Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA 1999 - 2000

Federal Reserve Building, Boston, MA 1997

The Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 1996

Centennial Sculpture Exhibition, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA 1995

Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL 1995

Federal Reserve Building, *The University of Massachusetts Sculpture Show*, Boston, MA, 1995

Huntington Gallery, *The Crossing / A Journey* Mass College of Art, Boston, MA 1994,

Hampden Gallery, *Imprint*, University of Mass, Amherst, 1994

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, *Axis Mundi - Earth, Air, Fire, Water*, Environmental Installation / Performance Deer Isle, ME 1994

Mass College of Art, *Haystack Show*, Boston, and MA 1994

The New Arts Center, *Temporal Systems*, Newton, MA 1994

The Bandiagara Escarpment, *Spreading the Dust of the Ancestors*, Environmental Installation / Performance Collaborative, Mali, West Africa, 1994

Helen Blair Crosby Award Exhibition, *Ancestors*, Mass College of Art, 1993

Visiting Lecturer, *Art as Journey*, The Humanities Department, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 1996

Visiting Lecturer, **Jacksonville** University, College of Fine Arts Lecture *Art as Journey*, Jacksonville, FL 1995

Visiting Lecturer, *Art and Mythology of the Dogon*, Afro-American Department, U Mass, Amherst, MA, fall 1993, spring 1994, fall 1994

Visiting Lecturer / Artist Environmental Installation / Lecture, Mass College of Art Haystack Program, Boston, MA Fall 1994

Visiting Lecturer, *Art and Mythology of the Dogon*, Critical Studies Department, Mass College of Art, Boston, MA Spring 1994

Research, Travel and Documentation, Mexico Yucatan, Chiapas and Quintana Roo, Mexico including the Ancient Maya sites as well as living Maya villages and culture, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997

Visiting Artist / Lecturer, Glasgow School of Art, Sculpture Department, Glasgow, Scotland, winter 1994