

Morgan Thomas Shankweiler
Instagram: @morganthomasshankweiler

Bio:

Morgan Thomas Shankweiler splits her studio time between the Philadelphia suburbs and the coast of Maine. She graduated with sociology and studio art majors from Williams College (Massachusetts) and studied Mughal miniature painting with Ajay Sharma in Jaipur, India. Her background in sociology informs her work, which is a study in time, memory, community, and the commonalities of human experience. Shankweiler's work was featured in the 2020 online archive of AI39, on the MuralArts Philadelphia webpage, and has been shown in galleries in Boston, New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

Artist Statement:

“My work has changed with the world over the past year. In response to isolation and limited connection through technological/impersonal means, I have pivoted to a creative focus on community and the small, common connections between humans that exist only when we interact with each other rhythmically. Simultaneously, I have found myself drawn to a meditative mark-making practice of drawing ropes and a playful practice of experimenting with the connection of rope and knot segments in two-dimensional ‘puzzles’. Form and mark-making meet in the work. The ropes are lines themselves but also have a dimensionality built from repetitive texture-building and rule-following. Physically, the ropes are bound by natural laws, but on paper, these laws can be challenged, and the ropes can take on any form.

Ropes are imbued with meanings of their own; they are a tool for security and safety, they are a tool for holding something down against its will, and when connected they take new form and tension through their interaction; safety nets, networks, internets, a metaphorical fabric of society. Ropes can be unions, but they can also enforce boundaries. Knots can secure or be an obstacle to untangle. The line-work of the individual threads making up each cord, the cords making up a rope, the rope reaching out and looping with another, knotting, tying, to make a form or a net, compounds a physicality to the image and the rope becomes more than itself. The drawings and paintings are not just still-life, but a map of human connectivity; hands holding, sustained eye contact, a casual conversation about the weather, joined protest, embrace. The nets become a community, each knot or loop indicating a human connection that holds a 'net'work of people together. It is the humanity of these connections and the tapestry created through deliberate mark-making that draw me to this work.”

Education:

Williams College , Williamstown, MA	Class of 2007
BA in Sociology/Anthropology BA in Studio Art	
Awarded the Frederick H. Robinson '20 Scholarship for Excellence in Music	

School for International Training , Jaipur, India	Spring, 2006
Cultural Studies Concentration Miniature Painting Apprenticeship with Professional Artist Ajay Sharma Batik Workshop with Udaipur-based Apollo Artisans	

Continuing Education and Residencies:

Penland School of Craft , Penland, NC	
“A Place for Tools”, Sewing workshop with Leigh Anne Hilbert	2019
School of Visual Arts , New York, NY	2019
Five week residency: “Illustration and Visual Storytelling: Art and Industry”	
PaFA , Philadelphia, PA	2014
Renaissance Painting Techniques	

Featured Shows and Commissions:

Works on Paper 2021, Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences June-July, 2021
Juried by Lanka Tattersall, Senior Curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints at MoMA

Violent Devotion, Hamilton Street Gallery, Bound Brook, New Jersey May, 2021
Curated by Christy E. O'Connor

HOME, Duke Gallery at Wallingford CAC, Wallingford, PA February, 2021
Juried exhibition

CFEVA Philadelphia 2021 & 2020 Member's Juried Exhibitions 2020,2021
Exhibition and online gallery

Tender Buttons, Commission/Collaboration with composer Jordan Nelson 2019-20

Two Illustrations included in the online archive of American Illustration 39

Illustrations from this project were long-listed for the AOI World Illustration Awards 2019

Performance History (with projections):

- Diana Newman and Viano Quartet with Stephen Perkyns; Colburn Contemporary Ensemble in concert -

April 4, 2019; Zipper Hall, The Colburn School, Los Angeles, CA

- Vicentia Geraldine, Ru Huang, Emily Thebaut, and musicians from the USC Thornton School of Music;

USC Graduate Students in Vocal Performance - March 2, 2019; Boston Court, Pasadena, CA

Let's Connect, Philly's Artists take on The Barnes 2018
Sponsored by the Barnes Foundation and MuralArts

MuralArts, <https://www.muralarts.org> March 2021
Online Gallery Featured Artist

Participating Artist for: 2017

NFL Draft - Live Painting 2016

Donkeys Around Town 2016

Listed Professional Assistant for:

"A Jury of Your Peers", Philadelphia City Hall 2018

"The Stage", InterAct Theatre 2019

"Daniel Sweeney Memorial", Fox Chase Rec Center 2019

Theatrical Set Design:

Lincoln Center, NYC - Scrim Painting for FIRE IN MY MOUTH by Julia Wolfe 2019

Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, PA 2012-present

Set design, painting and instruction to Production Director and High School students. Strath Haven High School productions: Godspell (2012), Grease (2013), Anyone Can Whistle (2014), Seussical (2015), Almost Maine (2016), Rent (2016), Sweeney Todd (2017), Little Women (2018), Les Miserables (2018), Laramie Project (2019), Legally Blonde (2019), Chicago (2020)