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ARTISTS DISCUSS HOW TO BUILD A CAREER

DUBUQUE, Iowa, July 31, 2023—This first weekend of August, celebrate our creative community and the connections and conversations it inspires. To augment DBQ Fest, DuMA will host a free panel discussion among professional artists about how to build a career on Saturday, August 5 at 3pm at the Museum and online.

Artists: Becoming and Being is a free panel discussion among present and past [Biennial artists](#) as well as current [Iowa Artist Fellows](#) about the choices they made and/or wished they made about their education, their approach to earning a living, and their experiences with museums and galleries. Louise Kames, a DuMA Biennial 2023 artist and Director of Clarke University's the Art + Design Program moderates this panel discussion. Confirmed participants include Peter Xiao, a DuMA Biennial 2023 artist and art professor at Augustana College; Stina Henslee a DuMA Biennial 2023 artist and graphic designer; David Zahn, a DuMA Biennial 2023 sculptor; Erin Dragotto, a DuMA Biennial 2017 artist and VP of Development & Operations for the Museum of Art & Light opening in Kansas next year; and Steffany King, art educator at Dubuque Senior High School.

This event is made possible by Dupaco Credit Union and Hirschbach Motor Lines sponsors of the [DuMA Biennial 2023](#). This discussion will also be livestreamed on DuMA's [Facebook page](#).

Artists: *Becoming and Being* is just one element in a special Dubuque weekend of firsts. . Before and after the panel, the conversation spills out into Washington Park where guests can visit with more than 65 [DBQ Fest 2023](#) artists and purchase work to take home or take a break and refresh with [Key City Beer Festival](#) who reminds us that craft brewing is another art form that binds us. First Friday (August 3) will include the unveiling of Art on the River – Dubuque as well as an opening at Voices Studios of the pop culture-inspired paintings of Amy Carani who is featured in the DuMA Biennial 2023 and photographs by Becky Sisco who was part of the DuMA Biennial 2007.

Artists on the DuMA panel include

Erin Dragotto: Born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas, Erin Dragotto earned a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, and a Minor in Art in 1999. She received a MA in art education from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago in 2006. Erin has held positions at the Adler Planetarium in the Education Department, and as the Executive Director of the Chicago Council on Science & Technology (C2ST). In 2014 Erin assumed the position of Director of Development for the National Mississippi Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

As current Vice President of Development & Operations for the Museum of Art + Light (MoA+L) in Manhattan, Kansas, Erin is now able combine her professional and creative attributes to build an art museum from scratch. Erin's work was featured in the DuMA Biennial 2017.

Stina Henslee: Stina is a Dubuque, Iowa based artist and designer. She has shown at Heaven Gallery, Drive Thru Gallery, Ugly Stepsister Gallery, and Mother Gallery. Most recently she has shown at Studio Oh Gallery, had a solo show at Ampersand Gallery, and was featured for all the marketing materials for the DuMA Biennial 2021. Henslee's spray paint, ink, collage and acrylic work Tension II can be seen in the DuMA Biennial 2023. www.stinajoydesign.com

Louise Kames-Moderator: Louise Kames holds an MFA degree in drawing and printmaking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a MA degree in Art History from the University of Illinois, and a BA degree in studio art and art history from Clarke University in Dubuque. She is a professor of art at Clarke University where she is the Director of the Art + Design Program. Kames serves on the City of Dubuque's Art of the River Committee, StudioWorks Board and is a past member of the Dubuque Arts and Culture Affairs Commission. She was selected as a 2021 Iowa Artist Fellow by the Iowa Arts Council. Kames was awarded the purchase Prize at DuMA Biennial 2021 for her screenprint, I Don't See Anything That's Not Beautiful, The Veils. Her pastel and charcoal work I Don't See Anything That's Not Beautiful can be seen in the current Biennial. louisekames.com

Steffany King: King has a BFA in Art with emphasis in Graphic Design, Photography and K-12 Art Education certification from the University of Northern Iowa, 1990. Since graduation she has a year experience as a substitute teacher and 32 years with the art department at Dubuque Senior High School teaching great young people Photography, Art 2D and Art 3D. She continues creating art as an artistic photographer and has brought other skills together as Dubuque Senior Color Guard Director where she creates performance art opportunities for her students which involve visual, movement and drill design as well as designing the performance space. She also works with color guards and directors across the state as a choreographer and judge and designs drill for the Dubuque Senior Marching Band. Her newest adventure is working as seamstress at Hills & Dales here in Dubuque which is putting her creative problem-solving skills to work.

Peter Xiao: A native of Beijing, China, Peter T Xiao came to Iowa in 1980 and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Coe College with majors in fine arts and English. After earning a MFA in painting from Temple University, he worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, taught in the museum affiliated Fleisher Art Memorial School and Trenton State College, and showed in Philadelphia and New York City. Since 1989 he has been on the art faculty at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and has shown his work regionally and internationally. Xiao's oil painting *Rumor Tree with Lightning* was awardee first prize by juror Pamela Hugdahl. Xiao's work can be seen at <https://artworldchicago.com/peter-xiao>

David Zahn: David Zahn lives and works in Moline, Illinois. Originally from the /Chicago area, he has been creating art works for many years. David creates imaginative sculptures, and is known for his bronze and ceramic pieces. Works by David Zahn can be found in public, private and corporate collections in Iowa, Illinois and other locations. Zahn's cast aluminum sculpture *Symmetry* was awarded the Inaugural Collection Prize and was purchased for DuMA's Permanent Collection. dzahnsculpture.com

The Iowa Arts Council honored five artists as 2022 Iowa Artist Fellows, an annual award that recognizes Iowa artists who are taking bold new steps in their careers and leading the way in building creative communities.

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About the Dubuque Museum of Art

The Dubuque Museum of Art (DuMA), founded in 1874 and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2004, is Iowa's oldest cultural institution. Named a national affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2016, DuMA's mission is to create engaging art experiences that excite, inspire, and connect our community. The Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 1pm to 4pm. More information can be found at dbqart.org.