**Benjamin Fernandez**

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**SUMMARY**

Highly motivated and hard-working mixed media artist and bachelor’s graduate, with a strong desire to pursue a career as a museum curator. Emerging knowledge and experience in gallery directing and curating, art history, and studio art (mixed media). Works well both independently and collaboratively.

**SKILLS**

| * Strong work ethic | * Research and analysis |
| --- | --- |
| * Self-starter | * Effective oral and written communication skills |
| * Reliability | * Interpersonal skills (leadership and collaboration) |
| * Adaptability; quick learner | * Public speaking and presenting (in front of large groups) |
| * Attention to detail | * Creating multimedia presentations |
| * Time management | * Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint |
| * Critical thinking | * Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro |

**EDUCATION**

**Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ**

**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art (Mixed Media Concentration); Minor in Art History**

**Aug 2020 – Dec 2024 | 3.99 GPA; *summa cum laude* | Honors**

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Program Aide (Part-time)**

**Therapeutic Recreation Department, Somerset County Park Commission; Bridgewater, NJ**

**Mar 2025 – present**

* Assisting the program coordinators with activities during programs for participants with developmental disabilities
* Working directly with participants, alongside fellow program aides, while supporting or redirecting them as needed
* Helping with setup before programs and cleanup afterward

**Self-Directed Employee (Part-time)**  
**Public Partnerships, LLC**  
**Feb 2024 – present**

* Support person for an individual with special needs

**Alum Curator (formerly Student Curator)**

**The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ**

**May 2024 – Mar 2025**

* Curated and organized all aspects of a group exhibition featuring former and current members of the Iota Epsilon chapter of Kappa Pi, the international art Honors society, at Caldwell University
* Facilitated all communications and materials with the gallery director, exhibiting artists, university administration, insurance company, and facilities department
* Collaborated with archives librarian at Caldwell University on gathering info about alumni contacts
* Worked with historian of Kappa Pi on gathering materials for an informational presentation video about the history of the Honors society, to be shown in the gallery space
* Media writer (for press releases)
* Graphic designer of promotional materials (including flyers and digital invitations)
* Created insurance spreadsheets and data sheets; collected loan agreements from artists
* Organized exhibition binders
* As an alumnus of the Caldwell chapter of Kappa Pi, participated as an exhibiting artist

**Intern as Assistant to the Gallery Director**

**The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ**

**May – Jul 2024**

* Conducted a studio visit and interview for an exhibiting artist
* Wrote an essay that was published in the catalog of the artist’s solo exhibition
* Media writer (for press releases on both this artist’s exhibition and a group exhibition)
* Collaborated with an archives librarian at Caldwell University on gathering names of alumni to reach out to for interest the exhibition

**Intern as Assistant to the Gallery Director**

**The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ**

**May 2023 – Jan 2024**

* Worked with the gallery director, exhibiting artists, office of news and media relations, web design team, insurance company, facilities department, and media services team on preparations for a group faculty exhibition and two solo visiting artist exhibitions
* Titled the faculty exhibition: *Inspire 2023*
* First student selected to facilitate artist talks at the gallery (for group and solo exhibitions)
* Supervisor of gallery assistants and work study students, as well as opening receptions
* Collaborated with artists and gallery personnel on the installation and deinstallation of artwork
* Media writer (for press releases)
* Graphic designer of promotional materials (including flyers and digital invitations)
* Created insurance spreadsheets and data sheets; collected loan agreements from artists
* Organized exhibition binders
* Installed vinyl lettering

**Videographer, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Arts Clubs Representative**

**Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County 4-H; Bridgewater, NJ**

**Aug 2015 – Oct 2020**

* Created several promotional and instructional videos for Somerset County 4-H
* Designed various promotional materials (including logos, T-shirts, posters, and book pages)
* Worked with the marketing dept on T-shirt designs and sales, for a fundraiser benefitting the 4-H arts clubs
* Spoke on behalf of the 4-H arts clubs during various events and interviews

**Graphic Design Intern**

**Spectrum Works; Secaucus, NJ**

**Jul 2019**

* Designed various promotional materials (including cards, folders, and flyers)

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Art Exhibitions and Curatorial Experience**

* Work featured in Manville Arts Council 2024 and 2025 Expos, statewide juried group exhibitions [5/2024-25]
* Work featured in two group exhibitions at Nails in the Wall Gallery at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Metuchen, NJ: *Peace/Conflict* [9-12/2024] and *3[three]: the exhibit* [2-5/2025]
  + Presented on my work during the opening reception for *Peace/Conflict* [9/2024]
  + Sold one of my exhibited pieces following *Peace/Conflict* [12/2024]
* Senior B.F.A. thesis exhibition at the Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University: *Transfiguration* [4/2024]
  + A series of mixed media installation works; scholarly paper, defense, and artist talk
  + Hosted a special private presentation and showing for the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell
  + Hosted a virtual presentation for an art class at Saint Dominic Academy in Jersey City, NJ
* Curated solo exhibitions of an artist’s work at community venues throughout N.J. [6/2023 – present]
* Self-curated over fifteen solo exhibitions at community venues throughout N.J. [9/2021 – present]
* Work in group show at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City, NJ, following studio residency [8/2019]
  + Work sold following the exhibition; on permanent display at Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (ESKFF) NEST, an artist retreat center in Woodstock, NY [10/2019 – present]

**Art and Writing Achievements/Recognition**

* Wrote a series of five wall texts for *The Circuit Unseen*, a solo exhibition by multimedia artist Sarah Canfield at the BrassWorks Gallery in Montclair, NJ [2-4/2025]
* Work featured in multiple publications, most notably:
  + Multiple issues of the *Catholic Spirit* (the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen) [2023-24]
  + The 2023 and 2024 issues of *Calyx* (Caldwell University literary journal) [5/2023, 5/2024]
  + The front cover of the 2023 issue of *Presence* (Catholic poetry journal) [4/2023]
  + *Under One Sky: Leaping Letters* (distributed to Rwandan schoolchildren) [12/2019]
* N.J. Teen Media Contest: 2nd Place, Digital Art; awarded at N.J. State House in Trenton [5/2019]
  + Work featured in N.J. Department of Human Services 2020 Calendar [Fall 2019]
* N.J. Future Business Leaders of America: 1st Place, Logo Design [3/2019]
  + Design featured on promotional materials (pamphlets, digital displays, and all trophies)
* Published author (press releases, articles, interviews, books, short stories, poems, etc.) [2013 – present]

**Public Speaking and Presentations**

* Scholarly paper on a work at the Montclair Art Museum; public presentation on site [Spring 2024]
* Sole designated student speaker at the Caldwell University Honors Recruitment Dinner
  + Roughly 200 people in attendance [12/2023]
* Caldwell U Honors Project: “Discovering the Spiritual in Contemporary Visual Art” [Spring 2023]
  + Scholarly paper accompanied by trilogy of art pieces**;** defense, multimedia presentation
  + Outcome: passed with distinction [4/2023]
  + Paper published on JSTOR [Summer 2023]
* Caldwell U Department of Visual Art & Design student ambassador [Spring 2021 – Spring 2022]
* High School Valedictorian (Class of 2020)**;** 8th Grade Valedictorian(Class of 2016)
* Four-time “Best in Room” award winner of Rutgers University – New Brunswick State Public Presentations competition [6/2016 – 6/2019]

**Special Caldwell University Awards**

* Saint Dominic Award [4/2025]
  + Awarded annually to a graduating student who demonstrates the Dominican pillars of prayer, study, ministry, and service
  + Additionally reflects a commitment to truth, wisdom, knowledge, professional excellence, integrity, and leadership
  + Inspired by the mission of St. Dominic de Guzman and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, the latter of whom founded the university
* B.F.A. in Studio Art Departmental Honor [4/2025]
  + For maintaining the highest GPA among all students graduating with a B.F.A.