

BIO: Reni Gower is a Professor in the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2014, she was honored to receive the College Art Association's Distinguished Teacher of Art Award, as well as Virginia Commonwealth University's and VCUarts' Distinguished Teaching Awards. In 2008, she received an Award of Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Service from VCUarts and in 2007 she was recognized by the Southeastern College Art Conference with an Award of Excellence in Teaching. In addition to her teaching and painting practice, she curates award winning traveling exhibitions. One of her current project *Papercuts* (2011 – 2015) received SECAC's Award for an Outstanding Exhibition and Catalog of Contemporary Materials and traveled to eleven national / one international venues.

Her art work has been showcased at international and national venues for over 40 years, including the American Embassy in Vatican City, Rome, Italy; Total Gallery, Dubai, UAE; Landford120 Gallery, Melbourne, Australia; Galeria ICPNA Miraflores, Lima, Peru; Kimball Art Center, Park City, UT; Tinney Contemporary, Nashville, TN; Taubman Museum, Roanoke, VA; Noyes Museum, Hammonton, NJ; Villa Terrace Museum, Milwaukee, WI; Hunter Museum, Chattanooga, TN; and The Painting Center, New York, NY. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards including a NEA / SECCA Southeastern Artist Fellowship and several Virginia Commission for the Arts Project Grants. Her work is represented in various collections including the Library of Congress Print Collection; Tweed Museum of Art; Pleasant Company / Mattel, Inc; the American Embassies in Lima, Peru and Osaka, Japan; Capital One, Inc; Media General, Inc; and the Federal Reserve Bank. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University, a Master of Arts degree from University of Minnesota-Duluth, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.