

Curriculum vitae

Sabine Kussmaul

tel. 01625 820003

mobile 07941 348502

sabine@sabinekussmaul.com

I am a visual artist with a background in fashion design and illustration, with a recent PhD from developing and investigating creative practices in the outdoor world, and a teaching practice in further education.

www.sabinekussmaul.com

<https://www.instagram.com/sabinekussmaulvisualartist/>

Education and qualifications

August 2025	PhD, <i>Artmaking in the outdoor environment: negotiating experiential and material complexities</i> , University of Chester
2018	MA Fine Art, University of Chester
2001	Postgraduate Certificate in Education, Sunderland University & Tameside College
1991 - 1992	Postgraduate studies at Pratt Institute and Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA
1991	Degree in fashion design (Dipl. Fashion Designer (FH)), University Pforzheim, Germany
1989	Internship in the fashion industry with Givenchy and Jin Abe, Paris, France

Scholarships by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation

1991-1992	Scholarship for post-graduate studies
1987-1991	Scholarship for undergraduate studies

Additional qualifications

2008	<i>Level 2 Certificate in Learning Support, Pathway 2: Numeracy</i> , Liverpool Community College
------	---

2008	<i>Modelling the climate</i> , The Open University
2007	<i>Using Mathematics</i> , The Open University
2000	<i>Certificate in Health & Safety</i> , Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Teaching experience and employment

Teaching in Further Education

- Drawing, painting and creative practice skills for learners of all levels
- Fashion drawing and illustration

Since 2019	The Guild for Lifelong Learning, Wilmslow
Since 2018	Private workshops in fashion drawing/illustration and life-drawing
2004 - 2008	Liverpool Community College, Liverpool
2001 - 2002	Tameside College, Ashton-under-Lyne
2000	HM Prison Wakefield (Beverley College)
1992 - 1998	Balthasar-Neumann Schule II, Bruchsal, Germany

Teacher Training

2018	<i>Drawing, colour techniques, documenting the creative process</i> , Fallibroome Academy, Macclesfield
------	--

Teaching in Higher Education

2023	Workshop <i>Moving on common ground</i> for students of BA Creative Expressive Arts, Health, and Wellbeing, University of Derby - with Gemma Collard-Stokes and Scott Thurston
2022	Tutoring MA Fine Art students, University of Chester
1997	Fashion Drawing, Pforzheim University, Germany

Curriculum Development

1992 Essential contribution to the development of *Fashion Drawing and Illustration Curriculum*, *Fashion Design Assistant* qualification pathway, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Free-lance designer/artist

Since 1998 Commissions of wall-hung artwork for private collectors or commercial indoor environments

1994 - 2016 Illustrator for print and digital media: packaging, books, magazines, company reports and educational resources, e.g. for *Medienwerkstatt Mühlacker*, Germany.

1992 - 1994 Designer for sportswear and knitwear

Projects and collaborations

Since 2021 *Our common ground*, interdisciplinary collaboration on Bakestonedale Moor - with Gemma Collard-Stokes (choreographer) and Scott Thurston (poet/movement practitioner)

2021 Figurative drawing and yoga - with Deborah Graham (yoga therapist)

Musical improvisation with guitars – with Simon Ross (musician)

2015-2016 Multi-media performances – with Mark Sheeky (multi-media artist)

2014 *Ghosts in the machine*, a project that explored the community of musicians in the Macclesfield area: we conducted and published interviews, produced photographic documentation of the project, produced our own original artwork, and compiled a final exhibition of all materials – with Sara MacKian (geographer/visual artist)

Exhibitions and public engagement

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 ***Bakestonedale Moor: wind, weather and a mobile artmaking kit***, exposition of doctoral research project, CASC in the Grosvenor Centre, Chester
- 2022 ***Unpredictable, particular, and ... lots of mud***, Kingsway Campus, University of Chester
- 2022 ***Outdoor arts practice: marks and artefacts***, University of Chester
- 2021 ***Exhibition of artwork of current PhD studies***, University of Chester
- 2020 ***Mobile working kit, charcoal on site***, University of Chester
- 2020 ***Articulations***, University of Chester
- 2016 ***Drawn together***, Charles Roe House, Macclesfield
- 2013 ***Exhibition at Sefton Lodge***, Liverpool
- 2012 ***Sabine Kussmaul***, Gallery at Bank Quay House, Warrington
- 2012 ***Fragmented views***, MerseyBio, Liverpool
- 2012 ***Transfigured spaces***, Barnaby Festival, Macclesfield
- 2011 ***Canvas, thread and steel***, The Arts Centre, Bollington
- 1997 ***Zeichnung***, Restaurant Himmlisch, Rastatt, Germany

Participation in group exhibitions

- 2024 ***Trails and tributaries***, artists from Twentysevenb studio collective exhibit their artwork, Teggs Nose Visitor Centre, Macclesfield
- 2023 ***Studio open at Twentysevenb***, Macclesfield
- 2022 ***Passage***, Twentysevenb studio collective, Teggs Nose Visitor Centre, Macclesfield

2021	<i>Studio open at Twentysevenb</i> , Macclesfield
2020	<i>Second Sight</i> , online exhibition as part of Barnaby Festival, Macclesfield
2020	<i>Nice to see you, to see you nice</i> , CASC 2020 staff and alumni exhibition, Grosvenor Shopping Centre, Chester
2019	<i>Ghost mills</i> , Stroud Valleys Artspace, John Street Gallery, Stroud
2019	<i>Incendiary: set on fire</i> , Landsdown Gallery, Stroud
2019	<i>This land is our land</i> , Paper Gallery, Manchester
2019	<i>Whisper of moths</i> , Macclesfield Heritage Centre
2018	<i>KINDoms</i> , FAB Fringe Art, Bath
2018	<i>The embodied experience of drawing</i> , Ocean Studios, Plymouth
2015	<i>Flashback</i> , Espacio Gallery, London
2014	<i>Ghosts in the machine</i> , Barnaby Festival, Macclesfield
2013	<i>Grosvenor Museum open exhibition 2013</i> , Chester
2013	<i>Warrington open contemporary art exhibition</i> , Warrington
2012	<i>Fabric of the land</i> , Geology and Petroleum Geology School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen

Prizes

2014	1 st prize, Cheshire open studios 2014, Funky Aardvark, Chester
2013	3 rd prize, Grosvenor Museum open exhibition 2013, Chester
2011	Prize winner for category <i>seasons</i> , Warrington contemporary arts festival

Performances

- 2017 ***Making up democracy***, Studio Kew, London - with Mark Sheeky
- 2016 ***The illusion of myth***, Espacio Gallery, London - with Mark Sheeky
- 2015 ***Anatomy of emotions***, Contemporary arts festival, Warrington - with Mark Sheeky and Tim Watson
- 2015 ***Sonata lost and found***, All Saints Church, Crewe - with Mark Sheeky and Sarah MacKian

Public talks

- 2020 ***From stitched artworks to a contemporary visual arts practice***, Altrincham Embroiderers' Guild
- 2020 ***Sabine Kussmaul, visual artist***, Cheshire Borders and Chester Embroiderers' Guild, Malpas
- 2019 ***Body, feeling and environment: defining a drawing practice***, Twentysevenb studio collective artist talks, Macclesfield
- 2019 ***Artist talk***, Incendiary: set on fire, Landsdown Gallery, Stroud - with Simon Ross
- 2018 ***Artist talk***, KINdoms, FAB Fringe Art, Bath - with Bridget Kennedy
- 2018 ***Artist talk***, Dartington Hall, Totnes - with artists from KINdoms

Curatorial activities

- Since 2024 Curation of exhibitions from learner artwork, The Guild for Lifelong Learning, Wilmslow
- Since 2017 Curation and organisation of artist talks, in collaboration with other members of Twentysevenb studio collective
- 2019 ***Noisewerks***, curation and organisation of live performances of improvised music, Mash Guru Bar, Macclesfield - with Simon Ross

2016 – 2019 **Improv Night**, curation and organisation of live performances with sound, video and drama, Mash Guru Bar, Macclesfield – with Mark Sheeky

2016 Curation of **Freak Show**, visual arts exhibition, Mash Guru, Macclesfield - with Mark Sheeky

Reviews/citations

2025 **Barnaby. Painting the town**, film by Mike and Danny Thorpe.

2020 **Seeing differently**, second sight.barnabyfestival.org.uk

2018 **Sabine Kussmaul - Artist of the month**, art-earth.org.uk

2017 **Marking movements**, expandeddrawingpractices.blogspot.com

Research

PhD

2025 **Artmaking in the outdoor environment: negotiating experiential and material complexities**, University of Chester.
A practice-based enquiry investigating how the relationship between the self and the outdoor environment might manifest in a creative practice: development of a new arts practice with drawing and installation in response to the landscape of the British Peak District and revealing the emerging dynamics between artist intentions, environment particularities and artmaking materials.

Publications

2024 **Drawing and installation on the British Peak District: Self, environment and a mobile working kit**, Drawing: Research, Theory, Practice. Volume 9. Issue Drawing and Knowledge

2022 ***Practice-based research and creative arts practice: intra-action, self and the other; drawing and installation in the British Peak District.***
International Journal of Creative Media Research. Issue 9.

Presentations at conferences and symposia

2025 ***Finding common ground***, workshop, with Gemma Collard-Stokes and Scott Thurston, Nature Connections Conference, University of Derby

2024 ***Drawing on the British Peak District: intra-action, self and a mobile working kit***, PG Research Symposium, University of Chester

2023 ***Working it out. Developing a visual arts practice as a practice-as-research approach***, presentation for MA Art & Design students, University of Chester

2022 ***Our common ground – an interdisciplinary collaboration with the open pastures of Bakestonedale Moor***, presentation with Gemma Collard-Stokes and Scott Thurston about our shared practice outdoors, Harnessing our Potential Symposium, University of Derby.

2022 ***Our common ground. Multi-disciplinary collaborative project.***
Presentation with Gemma Collard-Stokes and Scott Thurston about our shared practice outdoors, Sentient Performativities Symposium, Dartington Hall, Totnes.

2022 ***Practice-led research with creative arts: how do you do it? Enacting the dialogue between process and form in outdoor environments, creative practice and research***, PG seminar, University of Wolverhampton.

2021 ***Do the clouds know that I am drawing them? And, does this question matter?***, PG symposium, University of Chester.

2021 ***How can a temporary installation practice negotiate the relationships between self and natural outdoor environments?***, Conference of Irish Geographers, Trinity College Dublin

2021 ***How can a new materialist concept of interaction between materials provide structure for creative artmaking and practice-as-research?***, PG symposium, University of Chester

- 2021 ***How can embodied drawing practices negotiate the relationships between self and natural outdoor environments?***, PG symposium, Department of Drama and Theatre Arts, University of Birmingham
- 2020 ***Drawing environments, feeling space***, Beyond, online conference
- 2020 ***Embodied drawing practices and the relationships between self and environments: improvisation and two ways of performative writing***, PG symposium, University of Chester
- 2019 ***Feeling space: Investigating relationships between self, body and environment?***, CA2RE: conference for artistic and architectural research, KU Leuven, Ghent, Belgium
- 2019 ***How does the relationship between the motility of vision and the motility of the body impact on the way we draw?***, PG symposium, University of Chester
- 2017 ***Moving Lines***, screening of my video, In Other Tongues Symposium, Dartington Hall, Totnes

Avenues of practice-based enquiry

As a practice-based researcher, I use drawing, installation and engaging with materials to explore what appears unfamiliar or what tickles my curiosity in the context of 'not knowing things'. I believe that maintaining a continuous flow of work paired with reflective practice methods will always produce conceptual frameworks and practical making strategies.

I am interested to explore the space around us, find out how other beings contribute to its formation and establish the role that my artmaking plays within such processes. Dimensions of embodiment and the complexity and vulnerability of environments are particular concerns within these interests.

I understand the aliveness and vitality of the world from a new materialist viewpoint where artmaking materials and the environment have agency that impacts on the ways in which we experience the world.

My current research interests fall into several avenues of enquiry:

- Practical artmaking as participatory group activities outdoors that create community between individuals and other-than-human entities to foster wellbeing and care for the environment
- Using tools, wearing garments and engaging with artefacts as actions that create the experience of embodied space
- Visual arts practices, particularly drawing and installation, understood as non-verbal, performative engagement with 'the other'
- Drawing as a means to visualise and embody abstract concepts and support the coherence between thinking and feeling and past experiences and the emerging presence
- Producing drawings of the human figure as a process that connects own somatic experiences and embodied knowledge about using artmaking materials