

Saul Villegas

(b. 1984, US)

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Curriculum Vitae

Research Interests

Practice as Research-based (PaR) experimentation with traditional image-making practices to merge digital technologies to develop strategies for bridging the arts and sciences—photography, video, and colorimetric aesthetics through image manipulation and enhancements through archival processes.

Academic History

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art Practice, *Degree Awarded June 2021*

- **GPA 3.98**
- **Summa Cum Laude**
- Phi Beta Kappa Induction 2021
- Honors in the major

MFA Graduate Program, Digital Arts & New Media, *Future Stages Cohort, Degree Awarded June 2024*

- **GPA 4.0** (2nd Year)

Professional Experience

Lecturer | Art & Art History Department San Jose, CA

San José State University *August 2024 - Present*

Instructed (Synchronous) Zoom online course, **ART 75**. Designed and orchestrated a comprehensive 16-week online module focusing on the principles and elements of the design of Video editing. Structured the course to include live demonstrations, reading assignments, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities. Placed a strong emphasis on the foundational knowledge required for students to organize their moving media images effectively. Adobe Premier Pro, After Effects, and Photoshop were the primary programs aligned with the learning outcomes to harness the potential of altering the digital moving images in their art practices using editing software. An emphasis was placed on bridging historical and cultural ground for digital storytelling.

Associate Instructor Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz *July - August 2024*

Instructed (Synchronous) Zoom online course, **DANM 52**. Designed and orchestrated a comprehensive 5-week online module focusing on the principles and elements of design. Structured the course to include live demonstrations, reading assignments, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities. Placed a strong emphasis on the foundational knowledge required for students to organize their media images effectively. Adobe Photoshop CC was the primary program aligned with the learning outcomes to harness the potential of altering the digital image in their art practices using editing software. An emphasis was placed on bridging new generative AI applications.

ASE Professional Reader Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz July - August 2024

Supported final grade proposals and final research paper submissions through reading and grading through rubrics for the **History of Television, FILM 136B course** taught by Peter Limbrick.

ASE Professional Reader Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz July 2024

Supported final grade submissions through reading and grading through rubrics for the **Environmental Art in the Expanded Field, ART 80E course** taught by Elizabeth Stephens.

Teacher's Assistant Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz April- June 2024

Instructed (2) sections and office hours for **ART G 25 course Games as Activism**. Worked closely with the instructor to design discussions through various prompts. Guided undergraduate students in developing research strategies using Google Drive, Slides, and Canvas to create presentations for final projects. Readings, class discussions, and homework assignments were assigned. A strong focus on DRC assistance strategies was implemented, and an online community was built through discussion-led extension to course material.

Graduate Student Instructor Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz July - September 2023

- Instructed (Synchronous) Zoom online course, **DANM 52**. Designed and orchestrated a comprehensive 5-week online module focusing on the principles and elements of design. Structured the course to include live demonstrations, reading assignments, interactive discussions, and hands-on activities. Placed a strong emphasis on the foundational knowledge required for students to organize their media images effectively. Adobe Photoshop CC was the primary program aligned with the learning outcomes to harness the potential of altering the digital image in their art practices using editing software.

Teacher's Assistant Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz September- December 2023

- Instructed (Asynchronous) (2) sections and office hours for **ART G 30 course Games as Activism**. Worked closely with the instructor to design discussion readings through various prompts. Guided undergraduate students in developing research strategies using Google Drive, Slides, and Canvas to create presentations for final projects. Readings, class discussions, and homework assignments were assigned. A strong focus on DRC assistance strategies was implemented, and an online community was built through discussion-led extension to course material.

Teacher's Assistant Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz April - June 2023

- Instructed (Asynchronous) (2) sections and office hours for **THEA 80 N 1-course Walt Disney: An examination of Walt Disney's creation of the American vision of family entertainment**. Guided undergraduate students to develop research strategies using Google Drive, Slides, and Canvas to create presentations for final projects. Readings, class discussions, and homework assignments were assigned. A strong focus on DRC assistance strategies was implemented.

Course Design & Delivery Certificate *April - June 2023*

- ❖ Structured syllabus to align Learning Outcomes to assignments. Completed training on equity, inclusion, trauma-aware practices, active learning, and engagement for instruction.

Graduate Student Researcher, Latin American & Latino Studies, Professor Lily Balloffet, Santa Cruz, CA, UCSC

GSR Fall/Winter Appointment *September 2022 -March 2024*

- ❖ Digital Archive using 360° camera, video, photography, drone footage, and digital design. Collaboration for the mixed project *American Venom: Snakes, Science, and Hemispheric Relations*.

Graduate Student Researcher, E.A.R.T.H. Lab SF, Professor Elizabeth Stephens, Santa Cruz, CA, UCSC

GSR Fall/Winter Appointment *September 2022 -March 2023*

- ❖ Website maintenance, archival methods digitizing, and organizing mixed media files using Google Drive. Promotional graphics, social media content, program design, and image enhancements.

Graduate Student Researcher, E.A.R.T.H. Lab, Professor Elizabeth Stephens, Santa Cruz, CA, UCSC

GSR Summer Appointment *June-September 2022*

- ❖ Development of contemporary web design aesthetic and printed materials. Website maintenance, archival methods to digitize files, and organizing mixed media using Google Drive.

Digital Image & Video Creator Team Costa Hanford, CA

Biodesign X Google Sprint 2021, Online/remote *October-November 2021*

- ❖ Assisted a team of emerging artists and designers in creating 3D graphics, illustrations, video, and branding for a product development device for sustainable solutions for technology-based hardware using biology and biotechnology.

E.A.R.T.H. Lab Assistant Santa Cruz, CA

Digital Arts Research Center, University of California, Santa Cruz *April 2021 – present*

- ❖ Web & Graphics designer for performance and art practice using archives with image editing software.

Digital Scholarship Commons Fellow Santa Cruz, CA

DSC University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz *February 2021 – June 2021*

- ❖ Research editing programs for 3D image materials for publication at the Spring Symposium.

Photo Editor & Designer Santa Cruz, CA

OpenLab Collaborative Research Center, University of California, Santa Cruz *October 2020 – June 2021*

- ❖ Design 3D objects with image materials for a public virtual Arts & Science exhibition *What makes us Human An Art + Genomics Convergence*.

Porter Fellow Santa Cruz, CA

University of California, Santa Cruz *September 2020 – June 2021*

- ❖ Organize digital photograph archives of film festivals and artist exhibitions for website and artist documentation.

Assistant Curator Santa Cruz, CA

Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History, University of California, Santa Cruz *July 2020 – June 2021*

- ❖ Design promotional materials for a public and virtual *Naturalists* exhibition.

Independent Study Santa Cruz, CA

Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz

March 2020 – December 2020

- ❖ Design educational material promoting the Arts & Marine Sciences for a public and virtual exhibition using digital video and image archives.

Summer STEAM Teaching Program & Community Outreach

Designed and taught the inaugural program for Art & Science teaching course for college preparation through design and research online instruction. Working with nonprofit organizations and city & art councils to raise funds to contribute programs and services to the public.

Science Internship Program Mentor Advisor, Astronomy Department, STEAM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2024*

Science Internship Program Mentor, Astronomy Department, STEAM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2023*

Science Internship Program Mentor, Astronomy Department, STEAM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2022*

Science Internship Program Mentor, Astronomy Department, STEAM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *July 2021*

Deep-Sea Coral, Seymour Marine Discovery Center & Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA *July 2020*

50th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner, Kings County Council of Mexican-American Women, Hanford, CA, *2018*

Kings County Job Fair, Human Services Agency, Hanford, CA *2016*

Painted Violin Project, Youth Orchestras of Fresno, Fresno, CA *2012-14*

Art-O-Rama, Kings Art Center, Hanford, CA *May 2011*

Carousel Restoration Project, Hanford Chamber of Commerce, Hanford, CA *April 2011*

28th Annual Great TV Auction, Valley PBS KVPT, Fresno, CA *November 2005*

Bounty of Kings Mural Project, Historic Downtown, Hanford, CA *May 2004*

Presentations & Live Art Demonstrations

Live demonstrations are implemented with Q & A sessions to teach the participants methods of painting, illustration, & research methodology through creative practice and portfolio building.

DANM 52 Photoshop Course Digital Presentation, The Learning Center (TLC) Teaching Symposium, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA, *February 2024*

Image & Perception in Virtual Worlds, Grad Slam Preliminary Rounds, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA, *March 2023*

Toxicity Virtual World Building, Latinx & The Environment Conference, UCR, Riverside, CA, *October 2023*

Keynote Presentation, Digital Scholarship Commons, University Library, Santa Cruz, *May 2023*

Kresge Transfer Student Successful Path to Research, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

Digital Scholarship Commons Presentation, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz, *May 2020*

Via Arté, Live Art Chalk Demo, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA, *October 2018*

Art Slideshow Presentation, KMPH FOX, Fresno, CA, *March 2018*

Live Art Painting Demo, The Painted Table, Fresno, CA, *March 2018*

Live Art Ink Illustration Demo, Arts Consortium, Visalia, CA, *May 2018*

Solo & Group Art Exhibitions

Community projects are curated and exhibited through collaboration— art exhibitions for physical and online spaces for public viewing, including municipal buildings, libraries, science centers, universities, and cultural centers.

Antídoto Digital Exhibition collaboration with Professor Lily P. Balloffet, Digital Scholarship Commons *VizWall & Science & Engineering Library*, UCSC, Santa Cruz - *January - April 2024*

EmergeNYC Virtual Flagship, *Analog Bodies and Virtual Activations*, BAX, Brooklyn, New York, *March - June 2023*

Futurescapes: Projects from the Coha Collective, Institute of the Arts & Sciences, Santa Cruz, CA, *June 2023*

DEEP-SEA CORAL III, Solo Virtual Art Exhibition & Design, New Art City Festival 2023: *MEMORY CARD*, *April 2023*

Night of Ideas Group Performance Happening, hosted by E.A.R.T.H. Lab SF, San Francisco Public Main Library, San Francisco, CA, *March 2023*

Winter Open Studios, Digital Arts Research Center, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA, *March 2023*

MODERNO MINDSCAPES, Solo Virtual Art Exhibition & Design, New Art City Festival 2022: Terms of Service: Architectures of Abundance, *April 2022*

FREAKOPHONE WORLD, Virtual Art Exhibition & Design for Madison McCartha, New Art City online platform, *February 2022*

At the Present Moment, Group Art Virtual Exhibition, Sesnon Underground Gallery, University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH), *February 2021*

What makes us Human, Group Art Virtual Exhibition, OpenLab Collaborative Research Center & Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery, University of California, Santa Cruz, *October 2020 - June 2021*

Retrospective, Solo Virtual Art Exhibition, University of California, Santa Cruz, *January 2021*

Deep-Sea Coral II, Solo Art Exhibition, Seymour Marine Discovery Center & Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, *December 2020*

Moderno Landscapes, Senior Online Exhibition, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

Pareidolia/Palinopsia, Solo Art Exhibition, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2019*

Faces of the Valley, Group Art Exhibition, Fresno Yosemite International Airport, Fresno, CA *2018*

Metamorphosis of the Sun, Solo Art Exhibition, Fresno County Public Library, Fresno, CA *2017*

Collection of Paintings & Illustrations, Solo Art Exhibition, Fresno State University, Fresno, CA *2017*

Moderno Landscapes, Solo Art Exhibition, Fresno City Hall, Fresno, CA *2013*

Moderno Collection, Solo Art Exhibition, Arte Américas, Fresno, CA *2011*

Voices of the Nativity, Group Art Exhibition, Episcopal Church of the Saviour, Hanford, CA *2010*

Honors & Awards

Projects received through proposals, grants, and acknowledgments of scholarship are highlighted.

Chicane Latine Year-End Ceremony (CLYEC) Graduate Student English Speaker, El Centro, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2024*

University of the Future Now!, Arts Dean's DEI Fund, DANM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *January 2024*

Dean's Fund for Excellence & Equity, DANM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *December 2023*

Best Presentation of the Arts Division, Graduate Symposium, McHenry Library, UCSC, *May 2023*

Arts Research Institute Graduate Student Fellow, ARI, University of California, Santa Cruz, *September 2022*

Florence French Art Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *April 2023*

Coha-Gunderson Creative Workshop Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *January 2023*

Dean's Student Leadership Board Grant, University of California, Santa Cruz, *December 2022*

Dean's Fund for Excellence & Equity, DANM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *December 2022*

Porter Fellowship, DANM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2022*

Catalyzing Change BIPOC Fellowship, DANM, University of California, Santa Cruz, *April 2022*

Coha-Gunderson Prize in Speculative Futures Award, University of California, Santa Cruz, *May 2021*

Natural History Student Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *March 2021*

Irwin Scholar Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *February 2021*

Eduardo Carrillo Memorial Scholarship Award, University of California, Santa Cruz, *February 2021*

Dean's Undergraduate Research Award, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2020*

Dean's Honor List, GPA 4.0, Winter '20, Spring '20, Fall '20, University of California, Santa Cruz

OpenLab Fellowship, *What makes us Human An Art + Genomics Convergence*, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

Irwin Project Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

Christopher Stephen Fisher Memorial Endowment Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

California Relief Fund for Artists & Cultural Practitioners Grant, Center for Cultural Innovation, *September 2020*

Porter Fellowship, University of California, Santa Cruz, *August 2020*

District 14th Inaugural Recipient, *Central Valley Dream Scholarship Program*, California State Senate, *July 2020*

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, University of California, Santa Cruz, *July 2020*

UCEAP Promise Award, University of California, Santa Cruz, *July 2020*

Nancy Paschal Field Study Scholarship, University of California, Santa Cruz, *June 2020*

Irwin Project Award Recipient, University of California, Santa Cruz, *November 2019*

Young Latino Americans in the Central Valley Award for *Philanthropy*, Valley PBS, Fresno, CA, *September 2013*

Sabin Gray Award in Art, College of the Sequoias, Visalia, CA, *April 2013*

Best Student in the field of Art, Hanford West High School, Hanford, CA, *April 2002*

Art Scholarship, California State Summer School for the Arts, CalArts, Valencia, CA, *June 1999*

Skills & Certifications

- ❖ Strong attention to detail with DSLR and mirrorless Cameras & Video equipment
- ❖ Adobe Creative Cloud
- ❖ Google Drive
- ❖ Photoshop & Photoshop Beta
- ❖ Premiere Pro
- ❖ After Effects
- ❖ Principles and Elements of Design
- ❖ 10+ years in Color Theory and Painting practices
- ❖ Interdisciplinary Art & Science creative projects
- ❖ Cosmetologist Certification, *April 2006, active license exp. 2026*

Publications

Leonardo | International Society for Arts + Sciences + Technology, LGA, *August 2024*

Inquiry Magazine: Adaptable Academics, UC Santa Cruz Research Magazine, *November 2021*

Persephone: The Harvard Undergraduate Classics Journal, Harvard University, *March 2021*

Senior Show, University of California, Santa Cruz Art Department, Santa Cruz, *November 2020*

Pomona Valley Review, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona *July 2017-20*

Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Santa Cruz, *July 2020*

Matchbox Magazine, University of California, Santa Cruz, *July 2020*

Kopi Sotiropulos, Interview, KMPH Fox 26 Station, Fresno, CA, *March 2018*

Marc Blake, Interview, Jewel FM Station, Fresno, CA, *May 01, 2018.*

The Fresno Bee, Article, MODERNO Solo Exhibition at Arte Américas, *February 06, 2011.*

Educational Employee Credit Union, Quarterly Newsletter Issue No. 7, *April 2011*