

Sarah Jane Semrad

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Profile

Sarah Jane Semrad is an artist, social entrepreneur and community organizer committed to cultivating creativity in Dallas. After producing art shows independently around Dallas for some time, Semrad founded Exposition Park's IR Gallery in 2004, exclusively representing emerging Dallas artists in all media. She went on to co-create Pigeon-Stone Project in 2005, connecting local artists with new collectors in businesses' public spaces. PSP earned Semrad a mention in the Dallas Observer's 2005 "Best Of" issue as "Best Art Invasion". She is the co-founder and trusted consigliere for all things Art Conspiracy (est. 2005) – a non-profit dedicated to connecting artists and musicians with each other for the benefit of the local art economy. In 2006, Semrad co-founded La Reunion TX, a non-profit organization creating an arts residency program on 35 acres in Oak Cliff. Sarah Jane and her husband – musician Paul Semrad – live in Oak Cliff with their two children. Semrad holds a BA in chemistry from the University of Dallas.

Experience

2006-present *Co-founder, Executive Director* - **La Reunion TX dot org**

Currently creating an arts residency program on a 35 acre property in Oak Cliff. The vision is to build an environmentally friendly facility to house artists from around the world to experience Dallas and give back to our community. 'Make Space for Art' is an international architecture program designed to generate ideas for this future space with 68 entries from 19 countries.

2005-present *Co-Founder, Board President* — **Art Conspiracy dot org**

Art Con has created events featuring over 300 local artists and 13 local bands, attracting more than 2200 people at three historic Dallas venues to raise more than \$32,000 for the Children's Health Fund, La Reunion TX and St. Anthony's Community Center in Dallas.

2006 *Producer* — **Yaris Works dot com**

Created and implemented fun art and music events all over the city to stimulate creativity in the target youth market for the subcompact Toyota Yaris car.

2003-2006 *Founding Curator* — **Magnolia Bar Gallery**

Installed and sold local artists' work in Dallas' premiere independent art house theatre. Named '*Best Gallery that's not a Gallery*' in D Magazine's 2004 'Best of Big D'. Still functioning under new curatorial management.

2004-2006 *Co-founder, Director* — **Pigeon-Stone Project**

Connected developing collectors to emerging community artists through local businesses in Deep Ellum, Knox-Henderson, Exposition Park, Downtown, and the West Village including more than 80 artists at 10 venues in 16 months. Named '*Best Art Invasion*' in Dallas Observer's 2005 'Best of Dallas'. RIP.

2004 - 2005 *Founder, Director* — **City Gallery**

1000 square foot gallery featuring emerging Dallas artists in all media in a church setting. RIP.

2004 - 2005 *Founder, Director* — **IR Gallery dot net**

400 square foot gallery featuring emerging Dallas artists in both traditional and new media. RIP.

1999 - 2004 *Front Office Manager* — **Birth and Women's Center**

Managed women's health clinic specializing in out-of-hospital birth with certified midwives.

Education

University of Dallas, BA. 1998. Chemistry.

Center for NonProfit Management + SMU, certificate in non-profit leadership. 2007.

Hoffman Institute. 2007.

Selected Independent Curatorial Projects

April 2008. *Nancy, George and Bess*. All women show in a funky Deep Ellum warehouse commissioned by the Deep Ellum Foundation and Deep Ellum Association.

March 2008. *Called to Create*. National conference in New Orleans showing how churches can use art in their ministry.

Sept 2007. *Art for Peace and Justice*. Artizen donated space and 'Hope for Peace and Justice' commissioned an exhibit.

Aug 2007. *The Alpha Exhibit*. Private gallery setting featuring artists who use recycled or found materials in their work.

Nov 2006. *Primer*. 10,000 square foot warehouse converted into an art space featuring installation artists. 500 attendees.

Juror Experience

2008 *Texas Visual Arts Association* competition for High Schoolers. 1400 entrees. Richardson, Texas

2006 *Sur del Trinidad* — Ice House Cultural Center. Dallas, Texas

2006 *On My Own Time* — North Texas Business for Culture and the Arts. Dallas, Texas.

Speaking Engagements

2008 Gallery Management Class - University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, Texas

2007 Graduate Art Student Lecture - University of Dallas. Irving, Texas

2007 Gallery Management Class — University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, Texas

2006 "Art in the City" — Emergent Church Conference. Dallas, Texas

2006 Gallery Management Class — University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, Texas

2005 Graduate Art Student Lecture — University of Dallas. Irving, Texas

Volunteer Experience

2008 (September) Mission trip to Kazakhstan with Acton United Methodist Church

2008 Member of the *Quality of Life Committee* for the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce

2006-2007 *Leader* — Troop 2976 Girl Scouts of Tejas Council

1998 Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas.