

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS  
& GROUP SHOWS

SOLO

- 2014, Getting Ready for Travel, Emy Frentz, Mankato, MN
- 2013, Cultivate It, Taylor Library, North Mankato, MN
- 2013, Cultivation, South Central College, North Mankato, MN
- 2010, Here Comes the Moon, Jones & Magnus Mankato, MN

GROUP & JURIED

- 2014, Alumni, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN
- 2014, Dormancy, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
- 2014, Inspiration, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
- 2011, Your Hair is Your Limitation, 410 Project, Mankato, MN
- 2010, Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN
- 2003, Mankato Group, Breiter Art Cellar Mankato, Minnesota

DONATIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2014, Midwest Art Catalyst, Mankato, MN (auction)
- 2014, Bella Notte, Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN (auction)
- 2013-ongoing, Squared Collaboration, founder & facilitator
- 2009, Secret Sale, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, New York, (three pieces)
- 2008, Secret Sale, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, New York (two pieces)

COLLECTIONS

- 1999, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN (five pieces for collection)
- 2010, South Central College, North Mankato, MN (three pieces for collection)



EDUCATION

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN

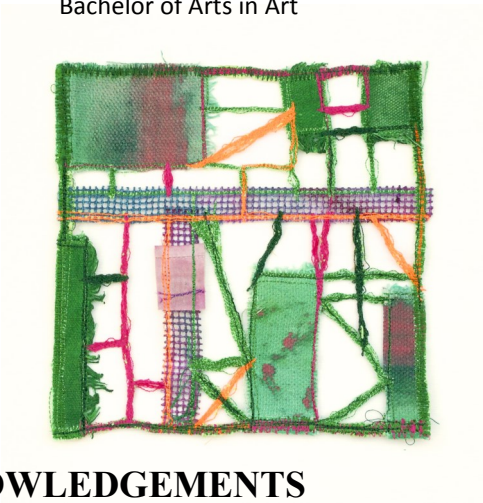
2014 Master of Art, Visual Arts

2002 Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN

1998 Bachelor of Arts in Literature/Creative Writing

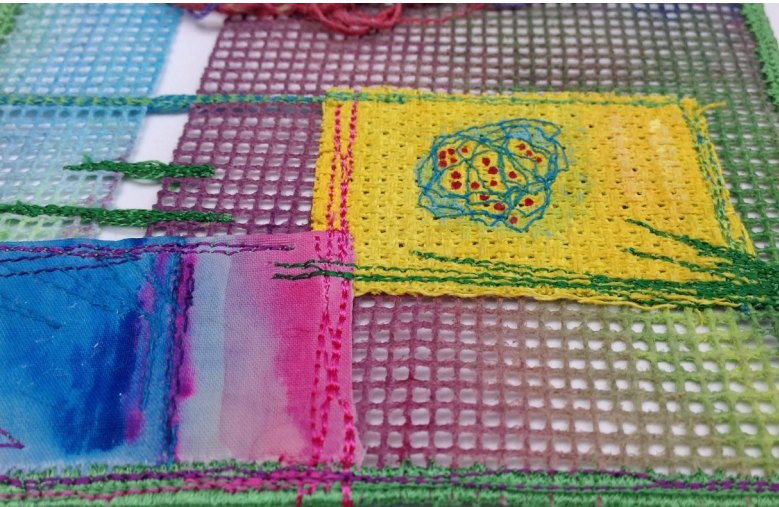
1997 Bachelor of Arts in Art



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all of my professors, friends, and loved ones. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged me to grow as an artist and writer. In particular, thanks mom.

AND THE ROAD WILL TAKE YOU THERE:  
WHAT THE CARTOGRAPHER SAID



CASSANDRA SHARRI LABAIRON

A thesis submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Arts,  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
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# ARTIST STATEMENT

To create the mixed-media pieces in *The Cartographer* series, I combine, with stitches and rough lace work, miniature acrylic paintings, weavings, and various other elements. The materials come from three different spheres: traditional fine art materials, such as canvas and paint; handiwork materials, such as cross-stitch or needlepoint; reclaimed materials, such as burlap, wire, or string. Thread is used to both draw and connect. Stitches not only lock each element in place, they create links and relationships between painted pieces, thread, and empty space.

The mixed-media pieces were made in conjunction with chapbook of poetry titled, *And the Road Will Take You There*. The art and the poetry in the collection consider the impact of context and relationship as well as the dynamic between resources, assumption and expectation. Each piece in *The Cartographer* series is a visual poem. Each element in the square is like a stanza in a poem with its own organic connections to the other elements, working to create a whole. The titles for the art work, come from the chapbook. The title poem in the chapbook also serves as an artist statement.



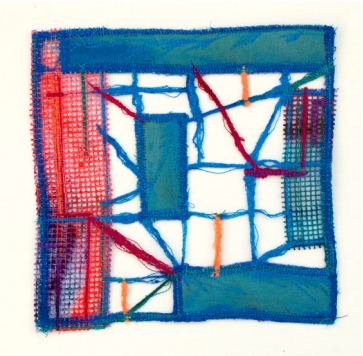
## The Cartographer

The cartographer collects canvas, corduroy, and lace. Finds a place for felt, tarp and fragile fabrics that tear when pulled. She saves every fiber; even clipped string is stored in glass jars once used for raspberry jam. Every piece a potential territory, city or countryside.

Her needles—crewel, tapestry, tatting, sharps and straw—transform thread into secret routes, walking trails, and highways. Thread, the road that keeps distinct regions connected. The cartographer follows no mentor’s instructions. She cares nothing for map makers who came before. She buried her compass in the back yard

and planted a lilac bush on its grave. She listens only to lectures given by her solar plexus or lungs. A telepathic raceway winds its way through the hallways between her organs. Each map patched with stitches like Morse code. As she works, shapes emerge, the Milky Way, a cowboy boot, clock face, corsage. Every line a signature of matter and air

punctuated by fingerprints. This is why she knows the value of memory, when to cut away or cut apart, when to overlap terrain or leave empty space. She understands how to mark a boulevard, a steep ditch, a bridge over a flooding river. The lay of the land is breathing, kismet, love. She knows where she is going and the road that will take her there.



# EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

**Quest:** Minnesota spring, mother left the car on gravel road

**Choose One of the Following and Play**

**Allegory:** A road can trick the traveler

**Philosopher Part One:** She finds him in a cave

**Migration:** Yesterday, someone new to town

**Village:** Winter mornings farmers gathered

**Choices:** At the end, she asked this

**Dormant:** Farmers grow watermelons

**Minnesota:** Here we all walk on water

**Lover:** she tries to find him, sends out Morse code

**Prairie Homecoming—The Storm**

16 six inch squares

26 twelveinch squares

**Aspiration I-IV**

4 six inch squares

**Redemption:** In his next life

**Conception:** When the first garden began to breathe

**Self-Actualization:** She craves to expose her hip

**And When You Nap:** Tie a hammock to your front door

**Context I-IV**

4 six inch squares

**Phenomena:** Mama says, *little one listen*

**Or This:** Inhale vocabulary and movement

**Epistolary:** Imagine, the woman at the post office

**Restoration:** I offer: box elder, open sky, milkweed

**And the Road Will Take You There**, Chapbook