

Rebecca Fish Ewan, Associate Professor

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Education

Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing, Poetry Arizona State University, Tempe	2004
Master of Landscape Architecture University of California, Berkeley	1991
Teaching Credential, Mathematics San Francisco State University	1986
B.A. Mathematics University of California, Berkeley—With Distinction in General Scholarship	1985

Academic Experience & Teaching

I have been a teacher since 1981. I began as a part-time high school mathematics teacher while a college sophomore at Cal Berkeley. I've taught on a bicycle, while hiking, and even underwater in the Pacific Ocean as a scientific SCUBA instructor. More recently, I've been invited to offer sessions on drawing for writers, and I participate in the National Garden Club Landscape Design School, teaching history of landscape design.

I've taught numerous courses in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum, including sophomore, junior and senior landscape design studios, planting design, history and theory courses, seminars, the graduate traveling studio (co-taught), graphic communications, and writing seminars.

As an ASU educator I have developed six courses focused on understanding landscape through the literary and visual arts: (*Language of Place*, a graduate-level place-based writing seminar; *Language of the Built Environment*, an undergraduate design-based writing seminar; *Reading the Landscape*, a 2nd year studio; *Southwest Landscape Interpretation*, an elective seminar on visual and literary arts interpretations of landscape; *The Walkable Landscape*, a graduate-level seminar that included a mixed-genre walking autobiography; and *Natural Factors*, a graduate-level field seminar that examines natural influences on landscape design). I also teach the human factors sophomore studio, which emphasizes hand-rendering and the human connection to place.

Since I became a tenure track faculty member at ASU in 1994, I have mentored graduate students on their culminating projects and also did this with senior undergraduate students when the program offered this option. In addition, I have mentored LA Barrett Honor students with their final projects.

Associate/Assistant Professor , promoted to associate with tenure in 2003 Arizona State University, The Design School Landscape Architecture Faculty	1994-Present
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Faculty Associate Arizona State University, School of Planning and Landscape Architecture	1993-94
Associate Faculty Phoenix College, Department of Science and Technology	Spring 1993
Graduate Student Teaching Assistant University of Arizona, Tucson, College of Renewable Natural Resources	Fall 1992
Graduate Student Instructor University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design	1989-1991
Teacher/Administrator Maybeck High School, Berkeley, California	1981-1988

Other Courses Taught at ASU beyond those mentioned above

Undergraduate:

- Site Planning
- Site Design
- Planting Design
- Plant Materials
- Senior Final Project Studio
- Landscape Architecture History
- 20th Century Landscape Architecture
- Landscape Architecture Theory and Criticism

Graduate

- Natural Factors
- Theory Seminar
- Current Topics and Issues Seminar
- Sixth Year Traveling Studio
- Sixth Year Culminating Project Studio

Selected Publications

I am the sole-author on all the listed publications, except two articles noted in the specific citations

Books:

(forthcoming 2018). *By the Forces of Gravity*. Books by Hippocampus. An illustrated hybrid nonfiction work of cartoons and narrative free verse.

(2000). *A Land Between: Owens Valley, California*. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press. A work of creative nonfiction, an ecocultural landscape history that includes my photographs, poem, "Before the Sun, Moon at Zenith, Going Home," and two fictional vignettes.

- Finalist for the Longan Award for women writers in the Southwest.
- 2002 National American Society of Landscape Architects Award in Communication.
- Nominated for the Berkshire Conference First Book Prize
- Nominated for the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Award

Poetry:

“Night Dive off San Miguel Island,” in *Nowhere Else But Here: A Contemporary Anthology of Women and Place*, edited by Erin Elizabeth Smith, T.A. Noonan, Rhoda Lott & Beth Couture, Sundress Publications (2014).

“Silence Can Be A Plan,” on Hip Mama, September 2, 2016.

Hybrid Drawing/words:

“My Travels with Kafka,” Punctuate: A Nonfiction Magazine. This is a watercolor/pencil/text piece. Forthcoming in this print venue October, 2017.

“I Stand Against the Wall,” Hip Mama, November 15, 2016. The original pencil/text piece hung in the show and sold in the Phoenix Nasty Women Planned Parenthood Art Fundraiser, Grand ArtHaus, 1501 S. Grand Ave. Phoenix.

“A Cartoonist Interprets Her Own Poetry,” was given Honorable Mention in the Hip Mama/Unchaste Readers 2015 Writing Contest. It was then published in *Hip Mama*, Issue 57, 2015.

Print Text Essays

“Directions to My House,” in *Under the Gum Tree*, a creative nonfiction literary and visual arts quarterly, forthcoming October, 2017.

I.T Post, a bi-annual print fashion magazine published by Enwell Limited. I was invited by the Editor-in-Chief, Kwannum Chu, to contribute topical essays to the publication.

- “Inspiration Comes in Waves,” a two page essay that includes an excerpt, the first-kiss scene between the main character and his boyfriend, from *Hold My Hand*, one of my unpublished completed *Love Lines* series, in the 25th Anniversary issue (Fall/Winter 2013).
- “The Perseverance of Trees,” a one-page essay on the bristlecone pines in Eastern California (Spring/Summer 2013).

Lyric Memoir:

“The Geography of Motherhood,” in Hip Mama, April 21, 2017.

“Physics in the Car,” in Hip Mama, December 22, 2015. With my photograph.

“The Quiet of Trees,” for *The New Nature*, September 7, 2012, Lyric memoir piece with my photograph in the online venue devoted to writing about nature in London, England.

“The Moth,” memoir piece in *Brevity*, an online literary journal of concise creative nonfiction (Issue 35, January 2011).

Essay:

“Walking Downtown Phoenix’s Streets is Like Walking with Dead People, September 29, 2015,” Phoenix New Times online. My imagined stroll through the streets in 1915 after I perused Sanborn Maps of the downtown.

Guest Blog Posts:

Illustrated NonfictionNow 2017 Roundup for Brevity: The Sagas of NonfictionNow 2017, June 6, 2017.

Illustrated NonfictionNow 2015 Roundup for Brevity: "Eating Nonfiction in Flagstaff," November 2, 2015.

NonfictionNow 2015 Session Review for Assay Journal: Assay@NFN15: "It's a Family Affair: The Exciting/Perilous Task of Writing About our Relations" with Mieke Eerkens, Hope Edelman, Lucas Mann, Honor Moore and Maggie Nelson, October 31, 2015.

"Making Love in Public: Part One of Poets & Writers ((LIVE)) San Francisco". With sketches from my notebook. Brevity, January 13, 2015.

"Making Love in Public: Part Two of Poets & Writers ((LIVE)) San Francisco." With sketches from my notebook. Brevity, January 14, 2015.

"Is Writing Better Than Sex?" with sketches from my notebook. Brevity, November 22, 2012.

"Writing the Moth from Memory" Brevity, Feb 21, 2011.

Book Reviews:

Primahood, graphic memoir by Tyler Cohen, Hip Mama, March 29, 2017

The End of Eve, memoir by Ariel Gore, Brevity, March 20, 2015

The Memory Palace, memoir by Mira Bartók in *Brevity* (Issue 37, Fall 2011)

Selected Magazine Articles: for *Landscape Architecture*

(2005). "Uncovered Landscape," *Landscape Architecture*, 95(2): 88-93. Article on the Arizona Falls Project (feature).

Ewan, Joseph, Rebecca Fish Ewan (2004). "Walking in the Whispers of Children's Footsteps: How Much Should an Urban Park Say About Its Site's Ugly History?" *Landscape Architecture*, 94(4): 121-129 (feature). Article on the Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix, Arizona.

(2002). "Window on the World: Seeing landscape in black and white," *Landscape Architecture*, 92(7): 66-73, 93 (feature). Article on photography and landscape architecture.

(2002). "Creating a 'There' There: Two takes on placemaking along the Arizona Canal in Phoenix," *Landscape Architecture*, 92(4): 84- 91, 109(feature).

Ewan, Joseph, Rebecca Fish Ewan (2002). "How Life Was—Planting Memories at the Elias-Rodriguez House: Images of a Mexican-American Community's Lush Past," *Landscape Architecture*, 92(9): 24-28, 94-95 (plants dept.).

(2001). "Ecology Denied." *Landscape Architecture*, 91(5): 131-132. Critique of the Tempe Town Lake, Tempe, Arizona.

Work in Print Zines (not my own)

Illustrations: “Siren with Laryngitis” and “Tired Echidna, Mother of All Monsters” in *Mythological Maladies*, brainchild of Nathan Smith, 2017.

“Questions for my first and worst Therapist,” poem in *Survivor Zine II*, published by Feminism Static, 2016.

“The Etymology of Survival,” Graphic Poem in *Survivor Zine II*, published by Feminism Static, 2016.

Photograph in *Femme Fatale*, Volume II, June 2016, on relationships, created by Briana Noonan, Charissa Lucille, Kit Abate & Sirrena Griego.

Awards and Recognition

Profile in the Phoenix New Times Best of Phoenix 2015, written by Robrt Pela

“America is for Lovers,” long-listed for Fish Publishing (Ireland) Short Memoir Prize 2015 (780 submissions, 197 long-listed)

National ASLA Merit Award for *A Land Between* (published 2000, awarded 2002)

ASLA Arizona Chapter, Honor Award for “Writing Arizona: the state of the state as seen through the lens of *Landscape Architecture* magazine”, a series of articles published in *Landscape Architecture* magazine focused on the landscape architecture in Arizona (the submission included 3-lead authored and 1 co-authored articles, and 1 sole-authored byline) American Society of Landscape Architects, Arizona Chapter, 2003.

Fish Ewan, Rebecca (2003). “These Poppies in the Tall Grass”
Second Place in the Arizona Writer’s Life Poetry Contest

Fish Ewan, Rebecca (2001). “Thoreau’s Roof,” Poem.
Selected by Poet Gary Snyder for Honorable Mention in the Arizona Poetry Contest.

Exhibits

A selection of my watercolored cartoons and photographs hung in *Desert Dwellers Art Show* Fundraiser for PHX Zine Fest, show at The Hive Gallery, Phoenix, July 2017.

“*I stand Against the Wall*,” as noted, hung in *Nasty Women Art Show*, January 2017

“*Imagining my Son as a Grown Man*,” comics poem in watercolor and pencil hung in the Spring 2016 Art Show at the premier community jazz club, The Nash, Phoenix.

“*My Feet Are Like a Story*,” cartoon and prose piece exhibited in The Museum of Walking at Arizona State University, October 6-26, 2015, in the show *Talking Walking*.

Temporary Reclamation: Installation in the Ceramic Research Center at ASU, as part of the exhibit *Native Confluence: Sustaining Cultures*. Collaborative piece.

PLANTAE IN URBS, Changing Hands Bookstore, January 2009

A collection of images of plants discovered within the urban landscape, where there exists an abundance of beauty and life that often goes undetected, phytoplankton hidden within the larger drab ocean of human-scale Metropolitan Phoenix.

9-11 Tile Project, Hayden Plaza, November 2-16, 2001

9-11 Tile Project as part of *Reflect, React, Remember* collection of creative responses to the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nelson Fine Arts Museum, December 9, 2001

Selected Readings and Presentations

I spoke on cartoon/verse hybrid form on the panel ‘All Fun and Games?’ – visiting the dark side in graphic memoir, comics, interactive video gaming, and other word/image juxtapositions,” NonfictionNow 2017, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 1-4, 2017.

This prompted two invitations to present on drawing for writers and graphic hybrid form:

- Nonfiction Writers Conference, HippoCamp, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, September 8-10, 2017
- Writing Retreat hosted by Ariel Gore, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 5-9, 2017

Bar Flies: Take a Walk. Read from the scroll I made of cartoons and prose at the Crescent Ballroom in Phoenix, Arizona, as part of the *Take a Walk* event sponsored by the Phoenix New Times, Scottsdale Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Walking. September 30, 2015.

“Mixed Media Memoir,” NonfictionNow 2015, October 28-31. A panel I developed on the use of multiple media/genres in memoir. With Amy Silverman and Deborah Sussman.

“The Instawalkable Project,” Walk21 Vienna, October 23-25, 2015. A round table discussion about using social media to encourage walking and evaluate walkability.

“Walk Write,” Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, March, 2015, Manhattan, Kansas. A presentation on the integration of writing and walking in landscape architecture education.

Mothers Who Write annual readings at the Scottsdale Museum of Modern Art and Changing Hands Bookstore, 2010-present. I read one memoir or essay piece each year focused on motherhood.

“Earth Laughs in Flowers,” SHADE conference, August 8-9, 2013, Glendale, Arizona. A presentation on the design of stress-reducing gardens.

“Writing in Place,” NonfictionNow 2012 conference, November 21-24, Melbourne, Australia, focused on the methods of field writing.

“Urban Voices Writing the New Western Landscape,” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association conference, Oct 7, 2011, Scottsdale, Arizona.

“The Taming of the Shrub: the Poetics of Women, Eros, and Landscape Architecture.” Presented at three conferences hosted at UC Berkeley, ASU and The Norwich School of Art and Design in England. 2002- 2003. On the application of women’s erotic poetry to garden design.

“Writing in Place” American Women Nature Writers Conference, Castleton, Vermont. June 8-11, 2000. Specifically focused on my book, *A Land Between*, which was released in 2000.

Selected Continuing Education

Book Manuscript Workshop and Personal Essay Workshop through Literary Kitchen, online, summer 2015 and Fall 2016

Virginia Piper Creative Writing Center, two 4-week courses on writing for the Young Adult with Bill Koningsberg and Michelle Parker-Rock (2013 and 2014)

Rising Stars Desert Nights Writing Conference with classes in poetry, fiction and nonfiction, 2013, 2012, 2009, 2004

Virginia Piper Creative Writing Center Online Poetry Course, 4 weeks in 2011

Creative Nonfiction Master Class with Gretel Ehrlich, 3 days in 2011

Memoir Workshop with Dee Dees, May 11, 2011

Mother’s Who Write Workshop with Amy Silverman and Deborah Susser, 2010

From Memory to Memoir Workshop with Amy Silverman, July 1, 2010

Macro Photography Class at the Desert Botanical Garden, 4 weeks 2009

Fiction Workshop, 4 weeks in 2005

Desert Writer’s Workshop in Moab, nonfiction with Ann Zwinger, 3 days 1999

Selected Grants

Just noting grants on which I was PI

Herberger Center for Design Excellence, 1999 & 2003

Minigrants, Funding: \$1025.00

Funding to attend the Desert Writers Workshop to work under Ann Zwinger and to travel to cemeteries for research. These funded travel grants culminated in an essay on the cultural underpinnings of the cemetery landscape and an essay about sagebrush. While on the 2003 trip, I also wrote poems incorporated into my MFA manuscript, *Silence Can Be a Plan*.

Graham Foundation 1996

Land Between. Field research for book on the Owens Valley, California.

Principal Investigator, Funding: \$7,200.00

Possibly the only Graham Grant ever awarded for field work requiring pack mules.

Selected Service

Discipline

- External reviewer for a P & T case for another university, 2016 cycle
- Review abstracts for CELA conference presentations
- Reviewed journal article submissions: *Geographical Review*, *JPER*, *Landscape Journal*, *Land Use Policy*, 1995-2014
- Juror for Arizona Chapter ASLA Professional Awards 2008
- Past faculty liason for the AZASLA, included writing ASU LA updates in *Mesquite Journal*

Institute

- HIDA Personnel Committee Chair (2016-2017) & member (2013-2015)
- The Design School Director search committee member, 2011

School and LA Program

- LA Program Coordinator, 2012-2013
- Lead author for the LAAB Accreditation Self Evaluation documents for both the BSLA and MLA (initial and full) programs, 3 documents total.
- Lead author on the MLA Request for Implimentation, including curriculum development
- LA FHA for Barrett Honors Students, 2012-2016
- Student Scholarship Committee, 2007-present
- The Design School LA Faculty Search Committee member
- Review applications for MLA program
- Write letters of recommendation for students pursuing graduate studies