

Michael Burton

Assistant Professor

Dept. of Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design

Fellow - Center for Digital Research in the Humanities

Research Affiliate- Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools

Director – Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery

University of Nebraska Lincoln

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Education

2007 MFA: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 2000 BFA (cum laude): Green Mountain College

Grants

Total: \$323,570.00

External: \$237,700

Institutional: \$85,870

2023 Funded- UNL Research Council: Layman Grant – *Animating History; Using Film as an Educational Tool to Tell Stories of Enslaved Families Who Sought Freedom through the Law - Media Production* \$10,000
Principle Investigator | William Thomas co-pi and Kwakiutl Dreher co-pi

2022 Denied- Nebraska Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship- Filmmaking - \$5,000

2022 Funded- UNL Research Council: Interdisciplinary Research Grant – *Animating History Lab - Media Production* \$20,000
Principle Investigator | William Thomas co-pi and Kwakiutl Dreher co-pi.

2022 Funded- UNL Convocations Grant – *Kendra Benson – This Woman’s Work – Exhibition and lecture in the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery-* \$1,000

2021 Funded- Kitty M. Perkins Foundation NU Foundation - *The Bell Affair finish costs for distribution* \$20,000
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2021 Funded- Bridge Funds - CEHS Audrey Newton Innovation and Excellence fund– *Animation Innovation staff for Animating History Lab* - \$12,000

2021 Funded –GAP Funding – Office of the EVC - \$2,000

2021 Denied – Better Angels Society Ken Burns Prize – *finishing funds for distribution* \$200,000
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2021 Denied – Just Films Ford Foundation funding for *distribution and education* \$200,000
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2020 Funded – CEHS Technology Innovation Grant – *Motion Capture for Animation* \$7,370
Principle Investigator | Sandra Starkey co-pi.

2019-2022 Funded - National Endowment for the Humanities - *Media Production grant* \$200,000
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2019-2021 Funded – Maryland Humanities Major Grant – *Media Production grant* \$8,400
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2018 Funded - UNL Cather Project \$8,000

2018 Denied - National Endowment for the Humanities - *Media Production grant* \$200,000
Co-pi with William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher

2016 Funded - Hatchfund.org Crowd-funding support for *Ann[a]* \$4,300

2016 Funded – UNL Arts and Humanities Research Enhancement Program Grant - *Media Production* \$10,000
Principle Investigator | William Thomas and Kwakiutl Dreher co-pi.

2016 Funded - Project support from Hixson Lied Dean’s Office \$2000

2013 Funded - NE Arts Council *Distinguished Film Maker Award* \$5,000

2013 Denied - National Endowment for the Humanities - *Media Production grant* \$200,000
Co-pi with Guy Trainin

2013 Funded - “Vault” Video Tutorial Database; *CEHS Technology Innovation Grant*, \$13,500

2013 Denied - National Endowment for the Humanities - *Media Production grant* \$200,000
Co-pi with Scott Winter_

Awards

Total awarded: 8

Nominated: 2

Honorable Mention: 1

2022 Won Best Animation (Best in Category) Prince George’s Film Festival
 2022 Won NUtech Creative Works Award

Bowie, MD
 Univ. of Nebraska

2022	<u>Nominated</u> Silk Roads Film Awards – Nominated – 1.) Best Experimental Film 2.) Best First-Time Producer in Experimental Film	Cannes, France Amsterdam, NL
2022	<u>Won</u> Art Stream International Film Festival - Monthly Award March- April 2022	
2019	<u>Won</u> Dudziak Prize for Legal History	
2019	<u>Won</u> CEHS Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award	University of Nebraska
2018	<u>Won</u> Best Animation, New Media Film Festival, James Bridges Theater	Los Angeles, CA
2018	<u>Hon. Men.</u> Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Creativity - Utopia Film Festival,	Greenbelt, MD
2014	<u>Won</u> Distinguished Filmmaker Nebraska Arts Council	Omaha, NE
2008	<u>Won</u> Best In Show, Sioux City Art Center 61 st Exhibition	Sioux City, IA

Animated Films Produced and in Production

Total Produced 8

In-production 1

- 2022 ***The Diary of Michael Shiner*** - Animated short film about the story of Michael Shiner. Shiner was an enslaved man who worked for the Washington D.C. Navy Yard both as an enslaved and a free man. Shiner wrote an exhaustive diary that spanned more than 60 years. He wrote about politics, astronomical events, and day to day life in the mid 1800's. Our story focuses on three remarkable days where Shiner worked to free his wife Phillis and their children by using his keen knowledge of the law and his network of powerful friends.
- Responsibilities: Art director** – All visual elements of the film developed and completed by me and my post production team. **Supervising Producer** - pre-production coordination of all vendors and sub-contractors, contracts for all vendors (production company, music manager, and cg artists), all of the film's financial management, supervising all aspects of production, and distribution planning. **Co-Executive Producer** – Role shared with my co-PIs (Dreher and Thomas).
- Funding provided by** an Interdisciplinary Grant s of \$20,000 offered the Office of Research and Economic Development at the University of Nebraska
- 2019 – 2021 ***The Bell Affair*** – the feature length animated feature film that tells the story of Daniel and Mary Bell, an enslaved family in Washington D.C. (1832-48) who sued for their freedom, then lead one of the largest escape attempts in American history. (completed Dec 2021) the film is the result of the interdisciplinary collaboration of scholars/ writers/ artists William G Thomas III (Professor of History) and Kwakiutl Dreher (Associate Professor of English) and Michael Burton (Assistant Professor Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design). The film makes visible the stories of marginalized and enslaved families by telling their stories and connecting them to the larger historical narrative of American history via the medium of animation. The entire production was filmed and produced virtually because of Covid-19.
- Responsibilities: Art director** – All visual elements of the film developed and completed by me and my post production team. **Supervising Producer** - pre-production coordination of all vendors and sub-contractors, contracts for all vendors (production company, music manager, and cg artists), all of the film's financial management, supervising all aspects of production, and distribution planning. **Co-Executive Producer** – Role shared with my co-PIs (Dreher and Thomas).
- Completed** in December 2021, the film took three years to produce.
- Shared responsibilities with co-PIs** include grant proposal development, film development, community outreach, and distribution.
- Funding provided by** the National Endowment for the Humanities, Maryland Humanities Council, Kitty M Perkins Foundation , and the UNL Office of Economic Development.
- Film Website: animatinghistory.com/bellaffair/**
- 2018- 2019 ***A Gold Slipper*** - Animated short film and fine art exhibition based on the short story written by Willa Cather 1920.
- Responsibilities: Director** – All visual elements of the film developed and completed by me and my post production team. **Producer** - pre-production coordination of production vendors and sub-contractors, contracts for all vendors (production company, music manager, and cg artists), all of the film's financial management, supervising all aspects of production, and distribution planning.
- Completed** in April 2020, the film took one year to produce.
- Funding provided by** The UNL Cather Project
- Film Website: michaelburtonart.com**
- 2016-2018 ***Anna***- Animated short film about the story of Ann Williams, an enslaved woman who, in 1815, jumped for her freedom from a 3rd story building in Washington D.C. rather than be sold to a Georgia planter and taken from her family. She later sued for her freedom and Francis Scott Key was her attorney.
- Responsibilities: Director** virtually direct actors who filmed with a hired production team in Richmond Virginia. Also direct actors filmed in Nebraska. **Art director** – All visual elements of the film developed and completed by me and my post production team. **Supervising Producer** - pre-production coordination of all vendors and sub-contractors, contracts for all vendors (production company, music manager, and cg artists), all of the film's financial management, supervising all aspects of production, and distribution planning. **Co-Executive Producer** – Role shared with my co-PIs (Dreher and Thomas).
- Completed** in December 2018, the film took two years to produce, won two awards, and was screened in seven film festivals.

Shared responsibilities with co-PIs include grant proposal development, film development, community outreach, and distribution.

Funding provided by the UNL Office of Economic Development.

Film Website: Annwilliamsfilm.com

- 2013- 16 **On A Knife's Edge** by Normal Life Pictures – A feature length film about the coming of age story of a Lakota Sioux man and his family history.
Responsibilities: Animator: recreated 4 stories of Lakota Sioux Native Guy Dull Knife in painted animation format.
Funding provided by ITVS and VisionMaker Media
Distribution: Film Festivals and on America ReFramed - PBS
- 2011 **Demo and Do** for the Denver Art Museum: Live stop motion animation created with the public in the museum.
- 2010 **Where You Lost Yourself**; Animation for Musician Aaron Beaumont; Milan Records

Film Festivals (juried)

Total accepted:20

Total entered: 50

Total denied: 31

2023	Golden State Film Festival (juried) – February 2023	Los Angeles, CA
2022	Silk Roads International Film Festival (juried)- October 2022	Cannes, France
2022	Prince George's Film Festival (juried) – September 2022	Bowie, MD
2022	ArtStream Film Festival (juried) Mar-April 2020	Amsterdam, NL
2022	Oniros(juried) film festival April 2022	Online
2021	FlickFair (juried)	Online
2021	Toronto International Animation Festival (juried /cancelled by Covid-19)	Toronto, Canada
2018	Virginia Film Festival (juried)	Charlottesville, VA
2018	New Media Film Festival (juried)	Los Angeles, CA.
2018	Utopia Film Festival (juried)	Greenbelt, MD.
2018	Hampton Film Festival (juried)	Hampton Rds, VA
2018	Atlantic Selects Film Screening	Online
2018	Hip Hop Film Festival (juried)	Harlem, NY.
2018	Bronze Lens Film Festival (juried)	Atlanta, GA
2016	Anchorage International Film Festival (juried)	Anchorage, AK.
2016	Prairie Lights Film Festival (invited)	Grand Island, NE
2013	Gratitude Festival (invited)	So. Dartmouth, MA
2012	Buzzards Bay Film Festival (invited)	New Bedford, MA
2010	Videoholica International Juried Video Art Festival 2010 (juried)	Varna, Bulgaria
2010	Home Grown Juried Film Festival Bourbon Theater	Lincoln, NE.
2009	Building Bridges to the Homeland: An Evening of Short Films	New Bedford, MA.

Art Exhibitions (invited/solo/juried)

Total: 25

2023	Visions Seen in the Air – National Willa Cather Center (invited)	Red Cloud, NE
2023	Landscape- Kiechel Fine Art (invited) – January 2023	Lincoln, NE
2022	Art Struct – Vero Beach Museum of Art (invited) – Dec 2022	Vero Beach, FL
2022	The 15 th Annual Digital Graffiti (juried)– May 2022	Alys Beach, FL
2021	Floor of the Sky (solo) Kiechel Fine Art <i>This exhibition included 19 new paintings and a four-channel projected animation - created in the summer of 2021</i>	Lincoln, NE.
2021	A Gold Slipper (solo) Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery	Lincoln, NE.
2020	A Gold Slipper (solo) Kiechel Fine Art <i>This exhibition included 17 new paintings and a short, animated film</i>	Lincoln, NE.
2020	Nebraska Now; Anna (solo) Museum of Nebraska Art	Kearney, NE.
2020	A Gold Slipper (solo) Willa Cather Foundation Museum	Red Cloud, NE.
2015	Art Seen Joslyn Art Museum (juried)	Omaha, NE
2014	Currents Kimmel Harding Nelson Art Gallery (juried - solo)	NE City, NE.
2011	Blink! Light, Sound and the Moving Image Denver Art Museum RISD Museum invitation by Sabrina Locks	Denver, CO Providence, RI
2011	Digital Graffiti Juried Digital Art Festival	Alys Beach, FL
2010	Digital Graffiti Video Film Festival	Alys Beach, FL.
2010	Digital Works National Juried Exhibition Long Beach Island Foundation	

	for the Arts and Sciences	Love Ladies, NJ.
2010	Bemis Underground Regional Juried Exhibition	Omaha, NE
2010	Channel University of Nebraska Omaha, UNO Art Gallery	Omaha, NE
2010	TWEEN Fred Simon Gallery, The Nebraska Arts Council	Omaha, NE
2009	A-B(O)MB The Fallout: Artoconecto	Miami, FL.
2009	Athens Video Art Festival (Juried)	Athens, Greece
2008	A-B(O)MB Bakehouse Arts Complex	Miami, FL.
2008	61 st Juried Exhibition Sioux City Art Center, Best in Show	Sioux City, IA
2008	6 th National Juried Art Exhibition Rome Art Coterie	Rome, GA.
2007	Sheldon Connections 2; Evidence Sheldon Museum or Art	Lincoln, NE.

Film Screenings, Presentations, Publications

Total Screenings: 10

Total Presentations: 19

Total Chaired Panel Presentations: 5

Total Publications: 1

2023	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair – CEHS Staff Council event	Lincoln, NE.
	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair – Remember the Pearl event	Washington D.C.
2023	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair – Old Greenbelt Theatre – PG County Hist. Society Feb 9 approx. 120 attended	Greenbelt, MD
2023	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair – Nickelodeon Theater – Benedict College (HBCU) March 14	Columbia, SC
2023	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair - 81st Annual College Language Association Convention, April 5-8, 2023	Atlanta, GA
2023	<u>Screening:</u> The Bell Affair – Westchester University	Westchester, PA
2023	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> The Bell Affair – The International Quilt Museum Humanities Nebraska Annual Patrons Board meeting - April 14 approx. 75 attended	Lincoln, NE
2022	<u>Co-chair and Presenter:</u> National Humanities Conference – approx. 20 attended session	Los Angeles, CA
2022	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> The Bell Affair – approx. 100 attended Prince George's County Memorial Library System and PGC Office of Human Rights	Maryland/ Online
2022	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> The Bell Affair Mary Ripema Ross Media Arts Center – approx. 80 attended	Lincoln, NE
2022	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> The Bell Affair North America Premiere – approx. 500 attended Publick Playhouse Theater	Hyattsville, MD
2022	<u>Presenter:</u> IGNITE <i>The Making of The Bell Affair</i> – Johnny Carson Center for New and Emerging Media	Lincoln, NE
2022	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> The Bell Affair – approx 50 attended Talent Plus	Lincoln, NE
2021	<u>Author:</u> Burton, M (2021).The Living Picture: Creating a Multimedia Adaptation of “A Gold Slipper”. <i>Willa Cather Review</i> 62(3), p.15-19 https://www.willacather.org/system/files/idxdocs/wcr_2021_62.3.pdf	
2021	<u>Screening and Presenter:</u> Virtual Author Series – 18 in attendance National Willa Cather Center	Red Cloud, NE / Online
2021	<u>Chair and Presenter:</u> NFT Open Forum – Kiechel Fine Art/ Lincoln Calling – September 22 nd , 2021 Description: NFT (Non-fungible token) is a non-interchangeable object or digital asset such as a file, image, or animation stored on a blockchain. The NFT can be bought and sold as an asset using cryptocurrency. The NFT itself is a value-based token because it's authenticity and provenance is recorded on a digital ledger (blockchain) with any transaction requiring authentication on the decentralized network (cloud). The panel discussion explored how NFTs have affected the art market and changed perceptions of the intrinsic and extrinsic value of art. Differing perspectives of value were discussed and the mystery of what an NFT is were decoded for audiences.	
2020	<u>Presenter:</u> <i>Un/Tethered; Cather on the Cusp of the 1920's</i> National Willa Cather Center,	Red Cloud, NE
2019	<u>Presenter:</u> <i>Teaching Studio Foundations using the Scientific Method</i> FATE Foundations in Art Theory and Practice Conference	Columbus, OH.
2018	<u>Co-Author:</u> <i>Anna</i> Directed by Burton, Michael and Lynn Dreher, Kwakiutl. https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/Anna .	
	<u>Chair and Presenter:</u> <i>Not your average Nine-head;</i> Mid America College Art Assoc.	Lincoln, NE
2017-2019	<u>Director:</u> <i>Cube Art Project</i> video art and animation festival	Lincoln, NE
2017	<u>Chair and Presenter:</u> <i>Make it, Save it, quick Update it; using gifs to teach foundation Concepts,</i> FATE Foundations in Art Theory and Practice Conference	Kansas City, MO.
2016	<u>Presenter:</u> New Media Workshop, Utah State University	Logan, Utah
	<u>Presenter:</u> New Media Workshop; Drake University	Des Moines, Iowa
2014	<u>Presenter:</u> <i>Animating the Petticoat Quilt,</i> International Quilt Museum <u>Juror:</u> University of Nebraska Omaha Annual Student Art Exhibition	Lincoln, NE
2013	<u>Presenter:</u> <i>Color Wheel or Color Won't</i> Posthaus, FATE Foundations in Art Theory and Practice Conference.	Savannah, GA.
2012	<u>Presenter:</u> University of Indiana Bloomington	Online
2011	<u>Presenter:</u> University of Nebraska Omaha <u>Presenter:</u> <i>Masters and Music</i> University of Nebraska Omaha <u>Chair and Presenter:</u> <i>This Place has Changed; Google Sketch Up and the Freeware</i>	Omaha, NE Omaha, NE

Selected Press Coverage

Total Press (not all listed below): 38

Total Local: 33

Total National: 5

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- 2023 Deanna Dawson, *The Bell Affair Brought Local History to the Screen*, Greenbelt News Review, February 16, 2023
 Research and Economic Development, *17 faculty earn Layman Awards for research*, Nebraska Today, June, 20, 2023
 Dan Moser, *2023-24 Layman Awards recipients named*, Research and Economic Development, June 20, 2023
- 2022 William Ford, *Animation Documentary Tells Story of Enslaved Family Who Fought for Freedom*, Washington Informer, June 2, 2022
- 2022 Sheilah Kast, The Searing Story of the Enslaved Family's Fight for Freedom, *On The Record*, May 14, 2022
<https://www.wypr.org/show/on-the-record/2022-05-19/the-searing-story-of-the-enslaved-bell-family-s-fight-for-freedom>
- 2022 Deann Gayman, New film, 'Bell Affair' explores freedom suits in America, *Nebraska Today*, April 4, 2022
- 2022 Nelson, August UNL Professors Create Film Celebrating Black-led Emancipation, *Daily Nebraskan* Feb 23, 2022
- 2022 Kiechel Fine Art Center showcases NFTs by local artists, *Nebraska News Service*, April 2, 2022
- 2021 Nebraska Quarterly Magazine, *Professor earns kudos for history of freedom suits*, p34, Fall 2021
- 2021 Willa Cather's 'A Gold Slipper' adapted for exhibition, *Nebraska Today* Dec 3, 2021
- 2021 L Kent Wolgamott, NFTs, The Hottest New Product in the Art Market, come to Lincoln, *Lincoln Journal Star* Sep 6, 2021
- 2021 Kiechel features Burton's Nebraska-inspired artworks, *Nebraska Today*, August 30, 2021
- 2021 Magic Alchemy; Artists Talk about Inventing the NFT and Digital Art at Kiechel Fine Art, *Customs BMX.com*, August 2021
- 2021 Friday Live radio program, *Nebraska Public Media: Discussing The Bell Affair*
- 2021 Deann Gayman, Thomas Earns Lynton Prize for a 'Question of Freedom', *Nebraska Today*, March 26, 2021
- 2020 L Kent Wolgamott, A Gold Slipper Illustrates and Illuminates Cather Short Story, *Lincoln Journal Star* Jan 23, 2020
- 2020 Rick Brown, MONA to host 'Collection Connection' program Jan. 22, *Grand Island Independent*, Jan 8, 2020
- 2020 Rick Brown, UNL professor Michael Burton tells Anna's story of escaping slavery in 12-minute animated film *Kearney Hub*, Jan 16, 2020
- 2019 John Tolley, A Nebraska Team Brings to Life the Story of "Anna", *Big Ten Network Live Big*, February 26, 2019
<https://btn.com/2019/02/26/a-nebraska-team-brings-to-life-the-story-of-anna-btn-livebig/>
- 2018 Deann Gayman, Nebraska-Produced 'Anna' Collects Top Animation Prize at Festival, *Nebraska Today*, June 22, 2018
- 2018 Deann Gayman, Nebraska-Produced 'Anna' Selected for Festivals, *Nebraska Today*, May 3, 2018
- 2018 Emily Buder, "A Slave Who Sued for Her Freedom", *The Atlantic*, May 1, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/559364/ann-williams/>
- 2017 Leslie Reed, 'Anna' Team Combines to Tell Slave's Story Through Innovation, *Nebraska Today*, April 24, 2017
- 2017 Mel Lucks, "Anna Brings Together a Diverse Team to Spark an Innovation on Campus", *Silicon Prairie News*, March 2, 2017