**Benjamin Fernandez**

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**SUMMARY**

Highly motivated and hard-working mixed media artist and college bachelor’s graduate, with a strong desire to pursue a career in museum curating. Emerging knowledge and experience in gallery directing and curating, art history, and studio art (mixed media). Works well both independently and collaboratively.

**EDUCATION**

**Aug 2020 – Dec 2024** B.F.A. in Studio Art (Mixed Media Concentration); Minor in Art History  
 3.99 GPA; *summa cum laude*  
 Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**May 2024 – present** Alum Curator (formerly Student Curator)  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Jan 2024 – present** Self-Directed Employee (Part-time)  
 Public Partnerships, LLC

**May – Jul 2024** Intern as Assistant to the Gallery Director  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**May 2023 – Jan 2024** Intern as Assistant to the Gallery Director  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Aug 2015 – Apr 2020**  Videographer, Photographer, Graphic Designer  
 Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County 4-H; Bridgewater, NJ

**Jul 2019** Graphic Design Intern  
 Spectrum Works; Secaucus, NJ

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**May 2025** Title TBD  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Jan 2025** *Be Still*  
 Bernardsville Public Library; Bernardsville, NJ

**Dec 2024** *Culmination*  
 Visceglia Arts Center, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Sep 2024** *Be Still*  
 Manville Public Library; Manville, NJ

**Jul 2024** *Be Still* (nature photography series)  
 Bernards Township Library; Basking Ridge, NJ

**Jun 2024** *Inner Spirit*  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Feb 2024** *Be Still*  
 Roseland Free Public Library; Roseland, NJ

**Jan 2024** *Imagine*  
 Bernards Township Library; Basking Ridge, NJ

**Dec 2023** *Be Still* (nature photography series)  
 With Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Aug – Sep 2023** *Be Still*  
 Warren Township Library; Warren, NJ

**Aug 2023** *Imagine*  
 Montgomery Library; Montgomery, NJ

**May 2023** *Transcendence*  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Apr 2023** *Imagine*  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Oct 2022** *Imagine*  
 Peapack and Gladstone Library; Peapack and Gladstone, NJ

**Jul – Aug 2022** *Imagine*  
 Warren Township Library; Warren, NJ

**May – Jun 2022** *Flying Solo II*  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Sep – Oct 2021** *Flying Solo*  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater NJ

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**Feb – May 2025** *3[three]: the exhibit*  
 Nails in the Wall Gallery, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church; Metuchen, NJ

**Feb 2025** *Connexum: Caldwell University Kappa Pi 2025 Alumni & Student Exhibition*  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Sep – Dec 2024** *Peace/Conflict*  
 Nails in the Wall Gallery, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church; Metuchen, NJ

**May 2024** *Manville Arts Council (MAC) 2024 Expo* Manville Public Library; Manville, NJ

**Apr 2024** *Transfiguration*  
 Senior B.F.A. thesis exhibition  
 With *Seasons* by Mikayla Bush & *Bifrost* by Yara Attia  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Mar 2024** Student/faculty showcase for tenured professors ceremony  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Aug 2019** Sol Studio 2019 Closing Reception  
 Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (ESKFF) Gallery, Mana Contemporary;  
 Jersey City, NJ

**CURATED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**Apr 2025** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 Chester Library; Chester, NJ

**Jan 2025** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 West Caldwell Public Library; West Caldwell, NJ

**Aug 2024** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 Hunterdon County Library; Raritan Township, NJ

**Feb 2024** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center; Bridgewater, NJ

**Dec 2023** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 With *Be Still* (nature photography series)  
 Bridgewater Library; Bridgewater, NJ

**Jun – Jul 2023** Isabella Neufeld solo exhibition  
 Bridgewater Township Senior Center; Bridgewater, NJ

**CURATED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**Feb 2025** *Connexum: Caldwell University Kappa Pi 2025 Alumni & Student Exhibition*  
 (Among the exhibiting artists, as an alumnus of Kappa Pi)  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**PRIVATE COLLECTIONS**

**Oct 2019 – present** *Reaching for Inclusion*  
 Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (ESKFF) NEST; Woodstock, NY

**Aug – Sep 2019** *Reaching for Inclusion*  
 Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (ESKFF) Gallery, Mana Contemporary;  
 Jersey City, NJ

**RESIDENCIES**

**Jun – Aug 2023** Visceglia Arts Center  
 Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Aug 2019** Sol Studio; Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation (ESKFF),  
 Mana Contemporary  
 Jersey City, NJ

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Feb 2025** Series of six wall texts  
 *The Circuit Unseen*  
 A solo exhibition by multimedia artist Sarah Canfield  
 BrassWorks Gallery, The Bravitas Group; Montclair, NJ

**Fall 2024** *Special Dust* catalog  
 Catalog essay  
 For *Special Dust*, a solo exhibition by artist Nick Lamia  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Apr 2023** *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*, 2023 issue  
 Artwork *Awaken* (top portion) on foot cover, with bio and artist statement inside

**Jun 2020** *Art Meets Alphabet*  
 Book featuring a series of digital media works

**Dec 2019** *New Jersey Department of Human Services 2020 Calendar*  
 Artwork *Love Gives Us Wings* featured  
 For receiving 2nd Place state award in Digital Art in N.J. Teen Media Contest

*Under One Sky: Leaping Letters* Artwork *L is for Leaf* featured  
 Created during Sol Studio summer residency  
 Book distributed to Rwandan schoolchildren

**PRESS**

**Feb 2025** “Art Honors society works on display through March 1 at Caldwell University’s  
 Mueller Gallery”  
 *The Progress* (serves western Essex County, NJ)

“‘Connexum’ Kappa Pi Group Exhibition Opens at the Mueller Gallery at  
 Caldwell University with Artists’ Talk and Reception”  
 Caldwell University website

**Jan 2025** Bernardsville Public Library website  
 Press release for *Be Still*, with artist bio/statement

**Sep 2024** “Bridgewater Resident Showing Solo Art Show in Manville”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**Jun 2024** “Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell important influence for student artist”  
 *The Catholic Spirit*, Diocese of Metuchen

“Bridgewater Resident to Host 6th Exhibition at Bridgewater Township Library”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**May 2024** *Calyx 2024*; Caldwell University literary magazine  
 Artwork featured

**Apr 2024** “Bridgewater Resident to Exhibit Senior Thesis Project”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**Feb 2024** “Mixed Media Art by Ben Fernandez on Display at Roseland Library”  
 *Caldwells Patch*

**Jan 2024** “Bridgewater Artist Hopes to Spark Imagination at Bernards Township Library”  
 *Bridgewater Patch*

“Artist Hopes to Spark Imagination at Bernards Township Library”  
 *Basking Ridge Patch*

**Aug 2023** “Local Artist Holding Second Art Exhibit at Warren Township Library”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**Jul 2023** “Local Artist to Exhibit at Warren Library”  
 *TAPintoWarren*

**May 2023** “Student’s work graces cover of college’s annual publication”  
 *The Catholic Spirit*, Diocese of Metuchen

*Calyx 2023*; Caldwell University literary magazine  
 Artwork featured

“Bridgewater Resident Holding Fourth Art Exhibit at Township Library”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**May 2022** “Bridgewater Resident Holding Second Art Exhibit at Township Library”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**Sep 2021** “Bridgewater Resident Holding First Art Exhibition at Town Library”  
 *Bridgewater-Raritan BReeze*

**ADDRESSES**

**Feb 2025** Artist talk facilitator  
 *Collective: Caldwell University Kappa Pi 2025 Alumni & Student Exhibition*  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Jan 2024** Artist talk facilitator  
 Steve Rossi (with Robbie Wing): *Prior Appropriation*  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Dec 2023** Sole designated student speaker  
 Caldwell University Honors Recruitment Dinner  
 Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ  
 Note: 200+ people in attendance

**Sep 2023** Artist talk facilitator  
 *Inspire 2023: Caldwell University Department of Visual Art & Design  
 Faculty Exhibition*  
 The Mueller Gallery, Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**Apr 2021 – Mar 2022** Caldwell University Department of Visual Art & Design Student Ambassador  
 Representative/speaker at various functions

**Jul 2015 – Oct 2020** Speaker/facilitator at various functions as a member of  
 the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County 4-H

**Jun 2020** High School Valedictorian  
 Commencement address

**Jun 2016 – Jun 2019** Four-time “Best in Room” award winner  
 Rutgers University State Public Presentations  
 Rutgers University – New Brunswick; New Brunswick, NJ

**Jun 2016** 8th Grade Valedictorian  
 Commencement address

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

**Apr 2023** Pass with Distinction  
 Caldwell University Honors Project  
 “Discovering the Spiritual in Contemporary Visual Art”  
 Scholarly research paper; series of three art pieces; defense/presentation  
 Caldwell University; Caldwell, NJ

**May 2019** 2nd Place State Award, Digital Art  
 New Jersey Teen Media Contest  
 New Jersey Department of Human Services  
 Received during a ceremony at New Jersey State House; Trenton, NJ  
 Selected artwork, *Love Gives Us Wings*, featured in the New Jersey  
 Department of Human Services 2020 Calendar

**Mar 2019** 1st Place State Award, Logo Design  
 N.J. Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference

**Jun 2016** Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition  
 Signed by United States Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman