

Kay Westhues

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Education

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, MA in Folk Studies, 2017

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, MS in Instructional Systems Technology, 1998

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, BS in the Individualized Major Program, 1995

Rhode Island School of Design, Photography Major, 1980-82

Academic Positions

Department of Communication & Creative Arts, Purdue Northwest, Hammond, IN

Visiting Instructor, 2022 – 2023

Taught Web Design, Typography, Photography, Art Appreciation, Visual Communication Design I, II, III, IV

University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN

Adjunct Faculty, 2020-2021

Taught Web Design, Advanced Web Design, and Web Design and Multimedia

Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN

Associate Faculty, 2012-2021

Taught Point and Shoot Photography

Solo and 2-Person Exhibitions

Journeys Home: Bernadine Rais and Kay Westhues, 20 North Gallery (Toledo, OH) upcoming 2027

Explorers: Views From the Road, Photographs by Kay Westhues and Craig Kilgore, Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley (South Bend, IN) 2026

Mostly Indiana, Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan (Buchanan, MI) 2025

Journey Through Indiana: The Photographs of Kay Westhues & John Bower, Midwest Museum of American Art (Elkhart, IN) 2022

The Specialness of Springs, Moreau Art Galleries, Moreau Center for the Arts, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN) 2021

The Portage Path: Returning to Our History, Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN) 2016

This exhibition consisted of a portfolio of twelve images and a limited edition artist book commissioned by the Snite Museum of Art to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the City of South Bend, IN.

Well Stories, South Bend Museum of Art (South Bend, IN) 2011

A Sense of Place: Rural Indiana Narratives, Noyes Cultural Arts Center (Evanston, IL) 2010

Fourteen Places to Eat: A Narrative, Pictura Gallery (Bloomington, IN) 2010

Fourteen Places to Eat: A Narrative, Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN) 2009

Everyday Mysteries: Photographs by Kay Westhues, Lubeznik Center for the Arts (Michigan City, IN) 2008

Invitational and Juried Exhibitions

82nd Wabash Valley Exhibition, Swope Art Museum (Terre Haute, IN) upcoming 2026

Midwestern Vernacular: Jesus Salome Arriaga, Jonathan Borton, and Kay Westhues, Chesterton Art Center (Chesterton, IN) 2026

Seeing Cuba, Feeling Cuba, I Fell Gallery (Bloomington, IN) 2026

LENS 2026, Perspective Gallery (Evanston, IL) 2026

Hear Our Voices: Recent Work from the Indiana Women's Caucus for Art, South Bend Museum of Art (South Bend, IN) 2025

Salon Show, South Shore Arts (Munster, IN) 2025, 2026

Looking Out: A Connected Perspective, Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, GA) 2025

A hybrid juried exhibition presented by the Women's Caucus for Art

Politics & Religion: Artists Speak Out, Midwest Museum of American Art (Elkhart, IN) 2025

Verde Variants, Union Street Gallery (Chicago Heights, IL) 2024

30th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Art Barn School of Art (Valparaiso, IN) 2024

Elkhart Juried Regional, Midwest Museum of American Art (Elkhart, IN) 2021-25, 2019, 2018, 2006-04

American Portraits: Identity, Persona, & Power, Midwest Museum of American Art (Elkhart, IN) 2023

Mark My Words, Chesterton Art Center (Chesterton, IN) 2022

Reciprocity, Woman Made Gallery (Chicago, IL) 2021

Alone Together: Visual Stories of the Pandemic, South Haven Center for the Arts (South Haven, MI) 2021

Politics and Religion, Midwest Museum of American Art (Elkhart, IN) 2020

Gaia Weeps: Featuring Frederica Armstrong, Isabella La Rocca González, Carolyn Monastra and Kay Westhues, Aegon Gallery, Centre College (Danville, KY) 2019

Laundry Days, Colfax Cultural Center (South Bend, IN) 2018

Stephen Takics and Kay Westhues, Krempp Gallery (Jasper, IN) 2016

MAN + LAND + WATER, Rutledge Gallery, Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) 2015

South Bend Selfie, South Bend Museum of Art (South Bend, IN) 2015

The Blue Library, Press Street's Antenna Gallery (New Orleans, LA) 2014

An exhibition of photozines held as part of PhotoNOLA | New Orleans Festival of Photography.

Portfolio Showcase: Rural Culture, Davis Orton Gallery (Hudson, NY) 2014

Water: A Universal Human Right, Robert Morris State Street Gallery (Chicago, IL) 2014

Surface Tension: The Future of Water, Science Gallery, Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland), Eyebeam Art + Technology Center (New York, NY), and THE MUSEUM (Kitchener, Canada) 2011-2014

Salon Show, South Shore Arts (Munster, IN) 2012, 2009, 2007

The Project, Woman Made Gallery (Chicago, IL) 2011

Water / Rock / Wood, 2739 Edwin (Hamtramck, MI) 2011

Take a Look: A Selection of Recent Photography Acquisitions, Snite Museum of Art (Notre Dame, IN) 2010

Grand Prix Fotofestiwal 2009, Eighth International Festival of Photography, (Lodz, Poland) 2009

Focus: Midwest, Midwest Museum of Contemporary Art (Indianapolis, IN) 2008

The Rockford Midwestern, Rockford Art Museum (Rockford, IL) 2008

Oral History Projects

The Spring at Small Farms, Schurz Library Archives & Special Collections, Indiana University South Bend, (South Bend, IN) 2022

<https://iusbarchives.omeka.net/exhibits/show/spring-at-small-farms/>

Kentucky Springs: Narratives on Localized Water Knowledge, Community and Stewardship, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries, (Lexington, KY) 2017

<https://kentuckyoralhistory.org/ark:/16417/xt72ng4gqd7b>

Grants and Awards

DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award, IndyArts Council, 2026

Exchange Lab & Micro-Support Grant, Indiana Arts Commission, 2026

Merit Award, Salon Show, South Shore Arts, Munster, IN, 2026

Merit Award, 30th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Art Barn School of Art, Valparaiso, IN 2024

Merit Award, Photography, 45th Elkhart Juried Regional Exhibition, Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN, 2023

Women of IU South Bend Grant, 2021

Indiana University South Bend's Center for a Sustainable Future Sustainability Fellow, 2019-20

Indiana Arts Commission Arts in the Parks Grant, 2019, 2020

Indiana Humanities Action Grant, 2019

Associate Faculty Merit Status, Indiana University South Bend, 2019

Kentucky Oral History Commission Project Grant, 2016

Puffin Foundation West Project Grant, 2013

Indiana Arts Commission Individual Artist Project Grant, 2013, 2010, 2007

Helen V. Surovek Memorial Award, Salon Show, South Shore Arts, Munster, IN, 2012

Past President's Award, Salon Show, South Shore Arts, Munster, IN, 2009

Best 2-D, The Rockford Midwestern, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, IL, 2008

Publications

Westhues, Kay. "Mostly Indiana." *Hi, Have We Met?*, edited by Maggie Borota, [Zine]. 01. Chicago, IL. 2026.

Westhues, Kay, "Six Pieces." *The Glacier*, edited by David Dodd Lee and Austin Veldman, Indiana University South Bend, 2023, <https://theglacierjournal.com/issue-two/>

Westhues, Kay. "The Spring at Small Farms." *The Gary Anthology*, edited by Samuel Love, Belt Publishing, 2020, pp. 86-94.

Westhues, Kay. "Flowing Well Park: Localized Water Knowledge, Community, and Stewardship as Expressed in Community Springs." *Southeastern Geographer*, vol. 57 no. 2, 2017, pp. 107-109.

Westhues, Kay, *Family Faith Food*, edited by Shaun H. Kelly, STRANT, 2016, pp 11, 30.

Professional Presentations

A Happening: Art • Land • People, Environmental Humanities Congress: Indiana Dunes, Calumet Region & The Great Lakes, 2025

Communal Places and Neglected Spaces: Exploring Indiana's Roadside Springs, Indiana Humanities *Unearthed* Speakers Bureau, 2021-22

The Specialness of Springs, artist talk, Moreau Center for the Arts, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, 2021

Everyone's Water: Exploring Indiana's Roadside Springs, Indiana Humanities *INseparable* Speakers Bureau, 2020

The Spring at Small Farms, a virtual presentation for the Calumet Heritage Partnership's Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2020

Beliefs and Practices Related to Community Water Sources: "The Specialness of Springs." Paper presented at the International Oral History Association Congress, Jyväskylä, Finland, 2018

Photography and Fieldwork: Creativity and Reciprocity in Visual Documentation. Paper presented at the annual conference of the University of Kentucky's Political Ecology Working Group, Lexington, KY, 2017

The Portage Path: Returning to Our History, artist talk, Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2016

Well Stories: Practices Related to Localized Water Knowledge, Community, and Stewardship. Paper presented at the 2016 American Folklore Society and International Society for Folk Narrative Research Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, 2016

Surface Tension: The Future of Water, artist panel, Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 2011

Visiting artist, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY, 2011

Well Stories, artist talk, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN, 2011

Fourteen Places to Eat, artist talk, Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2009

Permanent Collections

Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN

City of Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Press Street's Antenna Gallery Reading Room, New Orleans, LA

Indie Photobook Library, Washington, DC

Press

PAN-O-PLY, Story & Art Michiana, Winter Release 2022, <https://www.flipsnack.com/panoplymichiana/pan-o-plywinter-22.html>

Westhues, Kay. *Art on The Air*, interview by Larry Brechner and Ester Golden, Lakeshore Public Radio, Valparaiso, IN, 30 October, 2020.

Westhues, Kay. "Kay Westhues | The Portage Path, Returning to Our History." *YIELD Magazine*, Issue 02, April 2016, <http://002.yieldmagazine.org/>

O'Keefe, Peter, director. *Dreaming in Public*. Vimeo, produced by Grass Roots Media, 26 June, 2015, <https://vimeo.com/119558418>.

Kelly, Shaun H. "Featured Work: Family Album by Kay Westhues," *STRANT Magazine*, Volume 004, Issue 001, 19 February, 2015.

Kelly, Shaun H. "Featured Work: Fourteen Places to Eat by Kay Westhues," *STRANT Magazine*, Volume 003, Issue 005, 28 August, 2014.

Hariman, Robert. "Photographer's Showcase: A Sense of Place," *No Caption Needed*, 3 September 2010, <http://www.nocaptionneeded.com/?p=6502>.

Eckholm, Erik. "Bubbling Up From the Earth, A Cool, Clear Gift," *New York Times*, 7 June 2010, A10, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/us/07indiana.html>.

Westhues, Kay. *Up All Night*, interview by Rhod Sharp, BBC Radio 5 Live, London, United Kingdom, 7 June 2010.

Professional Memberships

Ecoartspace

Women's Caucus for Art

Women Eco Artists Dialog

Community Service

Treasurer, Indiana Women's Caucus for Art, 2025-2026

Board Member, Fire Arts Inc., South Bend, IN, 2018-2026, 2009-2015

Juror, Scholastic Art Awards, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN, 2021-2020, 2014-2011, 2009

Advisory Panelist, Indiana Art Commission Individual Artist Project Grants, 2012, 2010, 2007

Advisory Panelist, Indiana Art Commission Arts Operating Support Grants, 2013, 2012