

MARIEKE MICHELLE DAVIS

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SUMMARY

Award-winning artist/writer interested in continuing career as an art entrepreneur, illustrator, graphic novelist, comic strip creator, children’s literature author, and teacher specializing in the interdisciplinary audio production of visual art and accessibility for the blind and visually impaired.

EDUCATION

MFA Visual Arts, Columbus College of Art & Design – <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Spring 2023
Thesis: <i>Lily, the Blind Unicorn, a Children’s Book</i>	
BFA Drawing, Minors in English Literature, Women’s & Gender Studies, Certificate in Creative Writing	Spring 2017
Arizona State University – <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> – 4.00 Cum. GPA	

EMPLOYMENT

Feature Cartoonist and Illustrator for <i>LivAbility Magazine</i> , published quarterly online and in print (ability360.org/livability)	Fall 2019-20
ARDG Grant Recipient – Creating <i>Ember Black</i> – Ch. 2 in dual formats	Jan. 2018-Mar. 2019
Art Entrepreneur, including creator of web comic, “Life is Blurry”(@lifeisblurry)	2017-Present

HONORS & AWARDS

WINNER, Accessible Comics Collective First Annual National Competition	Spring 2023
WINNER of Lighthouse Guild Graduate School Scholarship - \$10,000 award to create my MFA Thesis Project in print and audio formats	June 2022
WINNER of National Federation of the Blind-Ohio (NFB-OH) Jennica Ferguson Memorial Scholarship - \$1500 award to produce my MFA Thesis Project	Nov. 2021
GRANT AWARDEE – Arizona Commission on the Arts 2018 Research and Development Grant - \$5,000 Grant to Create Chapter 2 of Graphic Series, <i>Ember Black</i> in Print and Audio - Project Completed: March 31, 2019	Dec. 2017
VSA EMERGING YOUNG ARTIST AWARD—One of 15 Artists Chosen Nationally, Sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center	August 2017
AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD, Herberger Institute IDEA Showcase	April 2016
FIRST PRIZE, Phoenix Sister Cities International Art Competition for Artists with Disabilities	Fall 2014
FIRST PLACE, <i>ChoiceMagazineListening.com</i> National Poster Contest, Providing Alternate Reading Formats for the Visually Impaired	Spring 2014

EXHIBITIONS, & PRESENTATIONS

- MFA Thesis Exhibition, Beeler Gallery, Columbus College of Art & Design **Mar.-Apr. 2023**
 Accessible Comics Collective Zoom Forum Presentation with technical team
 From Wichita State University, produced by Prof. Nick Sousanis (SFSU) and
 The Longmore Institute on Disability **May 5, 2023**
- Chroma Best of CCAD Art Festival, celebrating art from current and former
 Students **May 12, 2023**
- “We Exist: A Collection of Mixed Media Works from Disabled, Chronically
 Ill, and Neurodivergent Artists” – Byers Gallery, CCAD **Feb. 2023**
- ACLU of Arizona Traveling Exhibit, “In This Together: An Art Exhibition on
 the Disability Rights Movement” – Tempe History Museum. I participated
 as an art exhibitor and a panelist during the Oct. 25th opening reception,
 presenting the topic of disability discrimination in education. **Oct.-Dec. 2019**
<https://action.aclu.org/webform/az-inthistgether-tempe> ; and, for the panel:
<https://youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=tghJcMrmxSE&feature=youtu.be>
- Phoenix Fan Fusion Presentation and Panel, “Creating *Ember Black – Chapter 2*
 in Print & Audio” – Audio and PowerPoint Presentation, followed by Q&A
 panel discussion with five of our voice actors **May 26, 2019**
- Phoenix Comic Fest Panel, “The Philosophy of *Rick & Morty*” and Presentation,
 “So Funny, It Hurts: Introducing the Autobiographical Comic Strip,
Life is Blurry, and Other Comics Created By and About the Disabled” **May 25-26, 2018**
- VSA Emerging Young Artists Program, Curated Exhibition at the Rayburn House
 Office Bldg. (Washington, DC) and at VW Headquarters (Hearndon, VA).
 Entry: Excerpts from autobiographical comic strip, “Life is Blurry.”
 Inauguration of year-long national tour **Oct. 24-27, 2017**
- Phoenix Comicon Presentation & Panel, “Creating *Ember Black: Prologue/Ch.1*” **May 2017**
- BFA Senior Art Exhibition, “Tell-Tale Art: An Exhibition of Narrative Art,”
 Featuring My Graphic Series, *Ember Black*, in Print and Audio **Fall 2016**
- Phoenix Sister Cities International Competition for Artists with Disabilities (ICAD)
 First Place for “An Extended Hand,” On Permanent Exhibition at Warehouse 1005,
 Phoenix, AZ (Theme: “Breaking Barriers ... Opening Doors”) **Fall 2014**
 Exhibitor, Arizona Opera Company Showcase **2013-14**

PUBLICATIONS

- *Lily, the Blind Unicorn* – A Children’s Illustrated Parable - in print, with Braille
 overlay, and with Audio Companion (mariekedavis.bandcamp.com) **March-July 2023**
- *Ember Black – Chapter Two: Searching for Emily* – Continuation of
 Graphic Series, In Print and Audio **March 2019**
- *Ember Black – Prologue/Chapter One: Ignite!* In Print and Audio **Aug. 2016**
- One-Act Play, “Disappearing Act,” in *Canyon Voices* **Spring 2016**
- Publication of Five Original Drawings in ASU anthology, *Marooned* **Fall 2015**
- Short Story, “The Onlookers” in *Marooned* **Fall 2014**

Authored and Copyrighted Short Stories: “The Shift,” “Cracked,” “The Onlookers,” “The Toll,” “True Colors,” and Eight Poems

2012-16

ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, & FEATURES

- “Blindness No Roadblock for Gilbert Artist,” by Paul Maryniak. *Gilbert Sun News*, Oct. 5, 2023. <https://digitaledition.gilbertsunnews.com>
- “Lily the Blind Unicorn and the Value of Inclusion,” by Rachel Pulver, The Phoenix Foundation for Blind Children, Aug. 21, 2023. https://seeitourway.org/lily-the-blind-unicorn-and-the-value-of-inclusion/?fbclid=PAaaS9YmJbn0TZUISkVb8jr1NC0b25B2s9xT442xaGXSkKrl3CM8dZSU3tiCees_aem_AcOirVlu0Cn1wgAMRjqp7Q5sy-IK-mIJt705IFFsLRG-svcGRIiwBvejZ-ma3w6fpk
- Reprint of “Life is Blurry, #25” in zine “To Be Young (And Disabled),” Vol. 1, May 2021. <https://fliphtml5.com/rmyc/qwmo>, pgs. 22-23.
- “A Different P.O.V. - #3: ‘In the Cave of Hoarders,’” @ability360 (Facebook), May 1, 2020
- “Taking a Humorous Approach – Because Life is Blurry,” a blog by Marieke Davis, #MyBlindStory (March 18, 2020), https://blindnewworld.org/taking_a_humorous_approach_because_life_is_blurry/
- “A Different P.O.V. (Point of View), by Marieke Davis,” *LivAbility Magazine*, ed.19, Winter 2020. <https://ability360.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-01-LivAbility-Magazine-Edition-19.pdf>
- “‘Life is Blurry’ Comic Strip #25 – Comic Strip by Marieke Davis,” *LivAbility Magazine*, ed. 18, Fall 2019. <https://ability360.org/livability/art-livability/life-is-blurry-comic-strip-number-25/>
- “Marieke Davis and ‘Ember Black’: Creating an Artistic Vision Accessible by All,” by Kira Assad. *Accents of the Department of English at Arizona State University*, Vol. 22, June 13, 2019. <https://english.asu.edu/node/2798>
- “Marieke Davis/Blind Beauty Issue 43,” *Bold Blind Beauty*, June 28, 2018, <https://boldblindbeauty.com/2018/06/28/marieke-davis-blind-beauty-issue-43/>
- Interview with Monica Garcia, KPNX Channel 12, May 24, 2018, <https://www.12news.com/mobile/video/news/entertainment-news/comic-fest-blind-artist/75-8139070>
- “The Passion of Narrative Art,” *DIVERSEability Magazine*, Spring/Summer 2018, www.diverseabilitymagazine.com
- Interview with Attie Murphy, “Coloring Outside the Lines,” *State Press Magazine*, Vol 17, Issue 5, March 1, 2017, www.statepress.com/article/2017/03/spmagazine-coloring-outside-the-lines-blind-cartoonist-thrives-at-asu
- Interview with Chris McCrory, “ASU Student Shows Off Superpower: Creating Comic Books,” *State Press*, Nov. 10, 2016; www.statepress.com/article/2016/11/spcampus-ember-black-comic
- Interview with Dr. Lorraine Festa for her show, “Lifestyles with Lorraine” on *AZ State Talking News*, recorded for the blind, June 6, 2016
- Interview with Jimmy Jenkins, KJZZ (91.5 FM) “The Show,” May 16, 2016 <https://theshow.kjzz.org/content/306880/ember-black-graphic-novel-drawn-artists-unique-perspective>

- Interview with Marshall Terrill, “Reimagining the Comic Book Genre,” *ASU Now*, May 2, 2016
<https://asunow.asu.edu/20160502-creativity-reimagining-comic-book-genre>
- Interview with Eric Mungenast, “Partially Blind Gilbert Resident Earns Accolades for Talents in Visual Arts,” *East Valley Tribune*, June 18, 2014;
www.eastvalleytribune.com/local/gilbert/articles_09faabb2-f356-11e3-990e-001a4bcf887a.html
- “Adversity Doesn’t Prepare Teen for Gun Tragedy,” Guest Op-Ed & Political Cartoon, *The Gilbert Republic*, June 2, 2012

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Venture Scholarship, Columbus College of Art & Design, to Pursue MFA in Visual Arts - \$25,000/yr.	2021-23
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi – Induction	Spring 2016
Dean’s List, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, ASU	2012-17
The J. Russell & Bonita Nelson Art Scholarship for Outstanding Senior	2015-16
Golden Key International Honour Society membership invitation	2015
ASU School of Art Talented Artist Scholarship	2012-13, 2014-15
ASU Alumni Association/Medallion Scholarship	2012-16
ASU New American University (NAMU) Dean’s Award	2012-16
John W. Lutrell/Children’s Cancer Network Scholarship	2012-16
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Scholarship	2013-14, 2014-15

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (scbwi.org)	2023
Accepted invitation from Prof. Darren Defrain at Wichita State University to Join its Vizling/Voice Over Advisory Board to Develop Accessible Comics for the Blind	2023
Accessibility Consultant for the Columbus Museum of Art	2022-23
Member, American Foundation for the Blind/American Council of the Blind	2022
Member, National Federation of the Blind - Ohio Chapter (NFBO)	2021-Present
Volunteer, Thurber House - Columbus, OH	2021-Present
ASU Medallion Scholarship Program – Application Reviewer & Interviewer	Jan.-Mar. 2021
ACLU of Arizona Panel Presenter, “In This Together: An Art Exhibition on the Disability Rights Movement”; Topic: Disability Discrimination in Education	October 2019
Motivational Presentation to 15 High School Seniors at The Schools for the Deaf & Blind – Tucson, AZ: “My Journey as a Visually Impaired Visual Artist”	Oct. 17, 2018
Presented Session on Creating Comics for “Badge Bonanza” – An Event for Local Girl Scouts to Earn Badges – Glendale Community College	Sept. 2018
Planned Parenthood Safety Escort	2017 - present
ASU Medallion Scholarship Service Projects, Including Pat’s Run and ASU Cares	2012-16
Children’s Cancer Network Volunteer, Assisting with Events such as Cancer Awareness Fair, Holiday Party, & Spring Fashion Show	2013-16
Foundation for Blind Children, Helping Children Create Audio Comics	Sept./Oct. 2015