Dr. Rebecca “Becky” Bilbo:

As the art historian of the department Professor Bilbo provides the historical and theoretical component to the art program as well as providing a variety of courses for the University’s core curriculum. She began her art studies in art education and earned a teaching certification for art k-12 in New York State. Her major area of study has been in American and Twentieth-Century Art especially the Gilded Age, Early Modernism and the History of Photography. American Studies and African, Caribbean and Oceanic Art have been a minor focus. She completed additional studies at Syracuse University, Montana State University and the Institute of Western Studies in Cody, Wyoming. She has given various gallery talks at the Cincinnati Art Museum and delivered conference papers on, Winslow Homer in the Bahamas, The Academic Teaching Tradition in a Post-Modern World, Evangelicalism and the Museum, The Art Patronage of Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and Portraiture in American Art. She is the Art Editor of the Northern Kentucky Encyclopedia.

To enrich the art history courses at the University Professor Bilbo has organized yearly student trips to New York, Boston or Chicago and has worked with the Foreign Language Department and lead course related summer studies in Paris and in various cities throughout Spain.

Rebecca Bilbo has served as chair of the art department and worked with the team of faculty who brought the FYS program to campus. She was named Outstanding Part-Time Faculty of the Year in 1996.

**Courses**

• History of Art I
• History of Art II

• 20th Century Art

• History of Photography

• American Architecture

• American Art in the Gilded Age
• Modern Art Cincinnati Art at the Cincinnati Art Museum

• Critical Examination of the Work of Winslow Homer & Thomas Eakins

**Degrees**

MA in Art History

University of Cincinnati

PhD in Art History

Indiana University

**Contact**

bilbob@thomasmore.edu

859-344-3419

Elizabeth “Betty” Bone:

Betty joined Thomas More University’s Creative and Performing Arts Department in Fall of 2015. New to teaching, she brings a real-world work ethic to all her classes as well as a passion about the importance and impact of design and branding in every industry.

She has worked as a professional graphic designer for over 13 years with experience in package design and corporate identity. Her first position was at one of the foremost design firms in the world: Landor Associates. While at Landor, she worked on billion-dollar consumer brands like Febreze, Always and Tide. Working with these brands gave her the opportunity to build designs that link to huge business strategies and needs. It also gave her the opportunity to test designs and design understanding across the globe—London, Paris, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Moscow.

Her work at Landor and later at LPK also gave her the opportunity to move away from mass consumer goods into corporate identity and service branding. The brands she worked on are businesses in wildly different industries…Biltmore Estate, Children’s Miracle Network, PG Beauty, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, International Bird Rescue and REDI Cincinnati.

Owner of Betty Bone Designs, LLC, she which works with local business to develop their branding strategy and design, their environmental graphics and their product design. Some of her clients include Taste of Belgium, the Breathing Room, HESCO, Garretson Resolution Group, Mercantile Library, and Check Your Genes.

**Courses**

• Light/Color/Design

• Design Tools

• Text and Type I–II

• Visual Communications

• Design Systems

• Package Design

• Motion Graphics
• UX Design Principles
• Web Design
• Package Design

• Senior Seminar

• Intro to Photography

• Powerpoint Design

**Degrees**

BA in Art,

Georgetown University

MFA in Graphic Design,

Savannah University
of Art and Design

**Contact**

bonee@thomasmore.edu

859-344-3419

Elizabeth “Liz” Neal:

Elizabeth was born in Southern California and spent most of her formative years there before moving with her family to the Midwest. Much of her color and design sensibilities are rooted in the diverse west coast culture. Torn between having to choose between her two loves, commercial and fine art, Elizabeth focuses on art making instead of the category in which it may belong. Her varied interests in West Coast surf culture, graphics, Chicano mural art, landscape painters juxtaposed against those derived from the fluctuating seasonal landscapes and extreme weather conditions found in the Midwest evoke a unique artistic dichotomy in her art-making. Her work includes commercial logo design and illustration for companies such as The International Wine Festival, American Association of University Women, Huff Realty, CTG, and fine art painting and drawing.

Her other professional interests and work include researching the history of Illustration and Design, the origins of folklore and fables, and paintings and drawings influenced from these and in investigations into her own personal genealogy.

She teaches art by mentoring and challenging students to find their own creative and aesthetic sensibilities which are rooted in their own conceptual growth, practical application of skills and self-investigation.

She has exhibited internationally, nationally and regionally, and her work is held in several private collections. She has served as a juror for several regional art competitions, was the Director and Volunteer Coordinator for Kentucky chapter of the Wyland Foundation, Ocean Challenge and is currently the Gallery Director of the Thomas More University’s, Eva G. Farris Gallery.

**Courses**

• Light/Color/Design

• Drawing I-IV

• Illustration I-IV

• Painting I-IV

• Beginning Drawing for Non-Majors

**Degrees**

BFA in Graphic Design and Illustration,

Art Academy of Cincinnati

MFA in Painting,

Miami University

**Contact**

neale@thomasmore.edu

859-344-3419

Kirk Mayhew:

The ceramic sculpture of Kirk Mayhew is tactile, architectonic and challenges the viewer’s awareness of scale and perspective. The figurative elements and invented architectural forms are realistic but purposefully abstracted through the specific handling and surfacing of material. Hands, feet, and faces are enlarged becoming environs for miniaturized ruins. Found objects and performance work also make their way into his portfolio. Kirk is interested in materials specifically for their malleability but even more so by their potential for repurposing or recycling.

Kirk is the director and head designer of the ongoing “Sculpting Spaces Project” on campus. Looking forward to next semester, he will be coordinating a team of art and biology students in the transformation of the some
of the outdoor spaces.

Kirk is a vital part of greater Cincinnati ceramic community both as exhibitor and teacher. Large installation works with his group, Thin Air Studio can be found in Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and in various locations in the Greater Cincinnati area. His personal work can be found in private collections in Charlotte, North Carolina, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, New York City, Cincinnati, and Nancy, France. He is the facilities manager and head of the sculpture department at Queen City Clay in Cincinnati and he has taught both privately and for the community. Kirk has is a co-curator at 1305 Gallery in the heart of OTR in Cincinnati, Ohio. The gallery mounts monthly exhibitions and is helping to begin a second decade
of immerging and professional arts representation.

**Courses**

• Ceramics I-IV

• Sculpture I-IV

• 3-Dimensional Design

• Cartoon Design

• Scene Design

**Degrees**

BA in Art,

Coe University

MFA in Ceramic Sculpture,

University of Cincinnati

**Contact**

mayhewk@thomasmore.edu

859-344-3419

Kate Rowekamp:

Kate swapped out her student hat for an instructor hat when she returned to Thomas More to teach in 2014 while finishing out her final year of graduate school at Miami University. After earning her master’s degree, Kate continued to teach at Thomas More, influenced to stay by her team of enthusiastic art department colleagues.

As you can see on page 12, Kate’s art has a lot to do with zoological science and human behavior. Additionally, her artwork is strongly influenced by pop culture imagery and themes found in cartoons, graphic novels, horror films, video games, and tabletop games. She seeks to help each student create their own unique cannon of historical and contemporary references from which to draw inspiration. Her teaching style places heavy emphasis on precision craft and solid understanding of traditional practices through a modern-day, flexible lens.

Kate exhibits both solo and collaboratively with her studio group, Escape Hatch Collective. Highlights from her exhibition history include having animations projected at Roman Susan Gallery in Chicago, IL, acceptance into Paperworks 3 at Upstream Gallery in Hudson, NY and having prints both on display and in a permanent collection at El Minia University in El Minia, Egypt. In 2015 she was the recipient of the Three Arts Nippert and Longacre Printmaking Awards. In addition to teaching and exhibiting, Kate is the Director of Education at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, Ohio.

**Courses**

• Printmaking I-IV

• 3-Dimensional Design

• Animation

**Degrees**

AA in Art History, BA in Art,

Thomas More University

MFA in 2-Dimensional Studio (Printmaking),

Miami University

**Contact**

rowekak@thomasmore.edu

859-344-3419