





SARAH MADELEINE T. GUERIN

BOOTMAKER & ARTIST

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PROFILE

Artist and Bootmaker, I design and handmade boots from raw materials with a thorough knowledge of craft and tradition. I work in a vernacular “Ten Footer” studio where I also craft works of art with the sophisticated techniques of cordwainery (the traditional term for shoemaking). Research on the architectural conditions of Massachusetts’s historical footwear-making spaces informs my contemporary art practice, probing museum practice and legacies of inequity in footwear-making. I am a Mentor Artist in the Mass Cultural Council Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program and balance my work between creative production, historical research, and public engagement.

SKILLS

- BESPOKE BOOTMAKING
- PUBLIC LECTURING
- TEACHING
- HISTORICAL RESEARCH
- ART + DESIGN

EXPERIENCE

Saboteuse

2016-2022

I opened the custom bootmaking studio Saboteuse in 2015 where I build boots in the \$8,000-\$12,000/pair range and create art for exhibition using bootmaking techniques. I teach bootmaking through the Mass Cultural Council Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. I have won numerous grants, awards, and accolades for my work since 2017.

Lecturer

2017-2022

In the program “Ten Footers – History and Living Traditions” I lecture to the public at museums, art schools, and in elementary schools on the history of footwear-making in Massachusetts and demonstrate contemporary handmade footwear techniques.

Knitting Instructor

2019-2022

A certified Master Knitter with The Knitting Guild Association, I teach knitting at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education in Cambridge MA.

Architectural Designer + Exhibit & Model Builder

2000-2013

Working first at Atelier Alain Pras in Paris France until 2002 and then freelance in Wakefield MA after having the first of my 3 children, I balanced design work, construction, and raising children full-time.

EDUCATION

Rhode Island School of Design

1994-1999

Bachelor of Architecture + B. Fine Arts

Harvard Extension School

2021-2022

Museum Studies

London College of Fashion

2007

Cordwainers College - Footwear

Affirmations

- ◆ Exhibitions
- Grants
- ♥ Awards

◆ “Flags of our Foremothers Boots” in <i>Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour</i>	New Orleans Museum of Art, LA	2023
“Flags of our Foremothers Boots” in <i>Fashioning America: Grit to Glamour</i>	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, AR	2022
5 works in <i>Handmade in America: Contemporary Custom Footwear</i>	Center for Design & Material Culture – University of Wisconsin, WI	2023
“CHEZ PRAS Boots” in <i>SPEAK UP</i>	Piano Craft Gallery Boston, MA	2022
“LEAN”- sculpture in “art + gender”	The Harlow Gallery Hallowell, ME	2021
“LEAN”- a sculpture in “Variations”	Marblehead Arts Association, MA	2021
“CHEZ PRAS Boots” in <i>KICKS!*</i>	Society of Arts + Crafts Boston, MA	2020
<i>Artist in Residence*</i>	Society of Arts + Crafts Boston, MA	2020
• <i>Ten Footers – History & Living Traditions Local Cultural Council Grant</i>	Haverhill MA	2023
<i>Artist’s Resource Trust Fund</i>	Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation	2022
<i>Puffin Foundation Grant</i>	Puffin Foundation	2022
<i>Traditional Arts Finalist Award</i>	Mass Cultural Council	2022
<i>Ten Footers – History & Living Traditions Local Cultural Council Grant</i>	Lynn, Stoneham, West Newbury, and Georgetown MA	2022
<i>Cerf+ “Get Ready” Grant</i>	Cerf+	2021
<i>Public Artist Learning Fund Grant.</i>	New England Foundation for the Arts	2021
<i>Traditional Arts “Mentor Artist”</i>	Mass Cultural Council	2021
<i>Ten Footers – History & Living Traditions Local Cultural Council Grant</i>	Lynn, Stoneham, Marblehead, and Georgetown MA	2021
<i>Artist Relief Grant</i>	United States Artists	2020
<i>Art at a Distance</i>	Cicada Boston	2020
<i>Cerf+ Artist Safety Net Grant</i>	Cerf+	2020
<i>Cambridge Artist Relief Grant</i>	Cambr. Community Foundation	2020
♥ <i>Bootmaking Presentation/Publication</i>	The Dublin Seminar	2022-23
<i>The Knitting Guild Assn.</i>	1 st Place Footwear Design	2018
<i>Footwear Makers Guild Symposium</i>	1 st Place in Mens Footwear	2018
<i>World Leather Debut</i>	2 nd Place in Cowboy Boots	2018
<i>Awesome Foundation Grant</i>	“Ten Footer” Zoning Project	2017
<i>World Leather Debut</i>	2 nd Place in Boots	2017
<i>The Knitting Guild Assn.</i>	Master Knitter Certification	2017
<i>Vogue Knitting Live</i>	Design Contest Finalist	2013

*Society of Arts + Crafts closed its space in early 2020, cancelling AiR and Exhibits

Personal

Mother of 3 children/full-time caregiver for 19 years
 Dual American and French nationality
 Fluent in American English, French, and Italian
 Military Spouse – Partner served 3 deployments with US Navy

Volunteer

<i>Lady Bootmakers Group</i>	Co-Founder	2021-present
<i>RISD Footwear Affinity</i>	Founder/Leader	2021-present
<i>RISD Alumni Club of Boston</i>	Vice Chair	2019-2022
<i>Wakefield Arts Council LCC</i>	Member	2018-present
<i>International School of Boston</i>	Buildings & Grounds	2013-2020
<i>Wakefield Planning Board</i>	Member	2013-2014
<i>Lucius Beebe Memorial Library</i>	Book Mender	2002-2020
<i>Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly</i>	Elder match	1980-2018