Cetin "Chet" Oguz

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Professional Profile

Istanbul-born artist, educator, and arts leader with extensive experience spanning studio practice, academic leadership, curatorial programming, institutional development, and community engagement. My career has been shaped by international teaching, research, and exhibition experiences across Türkiye, China, Japan, and the United States, bringing a cross-cultural perspective to both creative practice and institutional leadership. I have led initiatives in strategic planning, accreditation, curriculum development, fundraising, exhibitions, and community partnerships, connecting artistic and scholarly practice with broader public engagement. My approach is collaborative, entrepreneurial, and forward-looking, grounded in the belief that art and cultural institutions should cultivate creative inquiry, expand access, strengthen communities, and advance meaningful cultural dialogue.

Education and Professional Development

2026	Harvard Business School Online
	Completion Badge in Building AI Skills, Marketing and AI
2003	MFA in Studio Art, Memphis College of Arts, Memphis, Tennessee
2001	BFA in Art, Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi
1993-1998	Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Turkiye- Studied Painting and Drawing

Academic Appointments

- Professor of Art, Delta State University (2017-Present)
- Associate Professor (2010-2016)
- Assistant Professor (2003-2009)
- Gallery Director, Wright Art Center (2025-Present)
- Department Chair (2020-2024)
- Graduate Program Coordinator, MFA Studio Art (2022-2026)
- Faculty Senate President (2019-2020)

Signature Community- Engaged Art Projects

- Flight 2020: The Vision of Cleveland, Mississippi | Creator and Director | 2011-2020
- Nine-year community-based art initiative engaging citizens, students, artists, educators, and civic leaders through installations, drawings, paintings, exhibitions, and public dialogue.
- Presented through Delta Arts Alliance, Studio 230, Ellis Theatre, and regional conferences.

Community Arts Leadership

- Founder and Director, Studio 230 Art Gallery (2014-2020)
- Founded independent contemporary art gallery, artist studio, and community arts venue.
- Gallery Director, Wright Art Center (2025-Present)
- Public Arts Committee Founding Member - Authored Public Art Guidelines

Courses Taught

- All Levels of Painting: Beginning, Landscape, Figurative and Abstraction
- All Levels of Drawing: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Human Anatomy & Figure and Perspective
- Professional Practice: Portfolio Development, Senior Capstone, Professional Practices, Identities in Art
- General Education: Art Appreciation and Introduction to Art

Professional Accomplishments

- National Association of School of Arts and Design (NASAD) Visiting Evaluator (2023-Present); Conducted interviews with administrative leadership, faculty members, staff, and students.
- Serving as the NASAD liaison for Delta State University. Leading a successful NASAD self-study re-accreditation effort, affirming the department's commitment to maintaining the highest academic standards.
- Receiving approval from NASAD to create an MFA in Studio Art (low residency) program, one of only three terminal degrees ever offered at DSU- and only low residency MFA program in Mississippi.
- Completing the NASAD final listing for accreditation of the BFA in Studio Art (Animation) and the MFA in Studio Art (low residency) degrees.
- Collaborated with a team of faculty to develop the MFA in Studio Art (low residency) program.
- Authored the Delta State University Art Department Optional Response Report for accreditation (2023).
- Served as curriculum committee member and chair in the creation of three new degrees: BA in Digital Media, BA and BAS in Art Entrepreneurship.
- Japan Studies Institute Fellow (June 6-19, 2016) Participated in seminars at San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, USA.
- Japan Studies Institute Seminar Fellow (July 2-14, 2017). Participated in seminars in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Beppu, Japan.
- Presented at the 2017 Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, "Japanese Calligraphy Inspired Abstract Expressionist Paintings" in Dallas, TX, USA.
- Taught at Shangqiu Normal University in Summer of 2017 and 2018.
- Arranged and supported study-abroad trips to Turkiye, Brazil, and Austria.
- Acquired over $500,000 in donations and grants as chair.
- Created Studio 230 Art Gallery/ Artist Studio in 2014 and curated over 40 exhibitions.
- Created Cooper- Oguz LLC
- Over 50 exhibitions, awards and honors in the visual arts.
- Completed over 20 training courses related to teaching, advising, and course design.
- Arranged and supported study-abroad trips to various countries including Turkey, Brazil, and Austria.

Exhibitions

Solo Exhibitions

2021	Blurry Clarities, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Biloxi, MS
2020	Blurry Clarities, University of North Alabama Art Gallery, Florence, AL
2011	Memphis College of Arts Alumni Gallery, Memphis, TN
2010	University of North Alabama Art Gallery, Florence, AL

Group Exhibitions

2003 to Present	Delta State University Art Department Faculty Exhibition
2026	Sow the Wind/ Fault Lines, Two-Person Exhibition with Pat Brown, Ellis Theatre Art Gallery, Cleveland, MS
	52nd Bi-State Annual Bi-State Competition and Exhibition Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2025	Look at Me, International, Juried,
	51st Annual Bi-State Competition and Exhibition, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2024	32nd Annual Emerald Coast National Juried Art Exhibition, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Niceville, FL
	Southside Gallery Summer Exhibition, Oxford, MS
	50th Annual Bi-State Competition and Exhibition, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
	Abstraction: Forms, Lines, Colors – International, Juried (Exhibition and Publication)
2023	Biafarin 3rd Annual Awards International, Juried (Grant, Publication and Exhibition)
	Abstract Zone 2023, international, juried
	Rebellion 2023, International, Juried
2021	Greenville Art Council Group Exhibition, Invitational, Summer 2021
2020	Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Invitational, Laurel, MS
2018	*A Miracle on Court Street*, Studio 230 Art Gallery Cleveland, MS
2017	*Get Sm-ART,* Studio 230 Art Gallery Group Exhibition, August 26- November 28, Cleveland, MS
	Spring in a Small Town, Studio 230 Art Gallery-April 1-May 20, 2017, Cleveland, MS
2016	*Art of the South*, Juried Art Competition, Memphis & Nashville, TN
2013	Flight 2020: The Vision of Cleveland, Ellis Theatre, Cleveland, MS
	Ride the Line, Performance Art, Cleveland, MS
2012	*Artists by Artists*, Invitational, curated by David Lambert, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS
	Flight 2020: The Vision of Cleveland, Ellis Theatre, Cleveland, MS
	WORLDS APART, Two-man Show, Mattie Kelly Arts Galleries Center, Niceville, FL
2011	Bi-State Art Competition, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
	Merigold Arts Cooperative Exhibition, Jackson, MS
2010	*Delta Connection,* Adam Miller's Gallery, Concord, NC
	Cottonlandia Museum Invitational, Greenwood, MS
2009	Two Man Show, January 3-31, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2008	"Feast For the Eye", Juried, Indianola, MS

	Bi-State Art Invitational, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2007	Bi-State Art Invitational, Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
	"Delta Connection", Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2005	"Art Miniature", Cleveland, MS.
2004	Warehouse Group Exhibition, Cleveland, MS.
2003	Memphis College of Arts, Drawing Show, Memphis, TN
	MFA Thesis Exhibition, Interception, Memphis, TN
2002	Tipton Community College, Group Exhibition, Covington, TN
2000	First Street Gallery Group Show, Grenada, MS
1998	The Others, Group Exhibition, Installation: Yuzucu , Istanbul, Turkiye

Professional Engagements and Artistic Development

2026	Sow the Wind/Fault Lines, Gallery Talk and Artist Guided Tours
2025	Gallery Talk, Delta State University Faculty Exhibition
2023	Artistonish Magazine 36th Issue - July 2023
2022	We Met in Memphis: Vol. 2, Artworks published
2020	We Met in Memphis: Vol. 1, Artworks published
2018	*Between the Lines*, presentation, Shangqiu Normal University
	Teaching Residency, Shangqiu Normal University, Henan Province, China, May 11-28
	Flight 2020: A Community- Based Art Project, Winning the Race Conference, March 26-27, presentation, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS
2017	Japanese Calligraphy Inspired Abstract Expressionist Paintings, Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, presentation, Dallas, TX, U.S.A.
	Japan Studies Institute Seminar Fellow, July 2-14, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Beppu, Japan
	Shangqiu Normal University, Teaching Residency, May 6-19: taught drawing and painting
	Shangqiu Normal University, Personal Journey, presentation
2016	Japan Studies Institute, Fellowship, June 6-19, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
2015	Flight 2020: The Vision of Cleveland, presentation, during the Mississippi Art Education Conference, Cleveland, MS
2012	FATE- Foundations of Art Conference, attendee Portland, OR
2010	What is International Communication Dialog?: Notes from Istanbul, Turkiye, panelist, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS
2008	Lecture and slide presentation on Turkey, Cleveland Exchange Club, Cleveland, MS
	Meet us in Turkey, presentation, Cleveland, MS
	Delta to Istanbul, presentation, Cleveland, MS
	The Delta Connection, gallery talk, Meridian, MS
2005	SECAC- Southeastern Collegiate Art Conf., attendee, Little Rock, AR
	Looking Forward Through the Arts: A Celebration of the Arts on the theme Alternative to the Sword, Division of Languages and Literature, presentation, Cleveland, MS
2004	Looking Forward through the Arts: In celebration of the inauguration of Dr.John Hilpert, presentation, Cleveland, MS

Collections

Mississippi Institution of Higher Learning, Jackson, MS
Wiley Community Garden, mural and sculptures, Cleveland, MS
Museum of the Mississippi Delta, Greenwood, MS
Meridian Museum of Art, Meridian, MSDelta State University, Cleveland, MS Shangqiu Normal University, Shangqiu, China ENKA Corporation, Istanbul, Turkey
Viking Range Corporation, Greenwood, MS
Sanders Corporation, Cleveland, MS

Awards and Honors

2017	Delta State University Faculty Research and Grant Award
	Daughters of American Revolution Americanism Award: This award is given to a naturalized citizen who has shown extraordinary contributions to the society.
2016	Kappa Pi International Fraternity Grant
	Dulce Fund Faculty Development Grant
	American Associations of Colleges and Universities Japan Studies Institute Travel Grant: Travelled to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Beppu, Japan
2013	Best in Drawing, Crosstie Arts Festival, Cleveland, MS
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2011	Best in Drawing, Crosstie Arts Festival, Cleveland, MS
2010	Mary Jayne Whittington Purchase Award
	Best in Show, Cottonlandia Bi-Annual Art Competition
2008	Bi-State Juried Art Competition, Best in Show
2007	Delta Newsletter, Interview, Cleveland, MS
	Bi-State Art Invitational Merit Award, Merdian Museum of Art, Meridian, MS
2006	Kent and Janice Wyatt Faculty Development Project Grant
2001	Memphis College of Art, Graduate Studies Scholarship
	Award of Excellence, Zen Series, Mississippi Collegiate Show, Jackson, MS
	Interview on Recent Paintings, Delta News Leader, Cleveland, MS

Philanthropy Projects

Cooper-Oguz Art Field Study Fund (2014-2025): Supported Delta State University student travel and field-study experiences in the arts.
Cetin and Carmen Cooper Oguz Swimming & Diving Scholarship (2018-2025)**:** Supported international student-athletes in Delta State University's Swimming & Diving program.

Memberships

Southeastern Collegiate Art Conference annual membership
FATE- Foundations in Art Theory and Education annual membership
SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Public Arts Commission Member, Cleveland, MS
Cleveland Heritage Commission, Commissioner, Cleveland, MS
International Rotary Club Member