

Ariel Baron-Robbins

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Department of Art + Art History  
Florida International University

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Drawing position in the Department of Art + Art History at Florida International University. I hold an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Florida and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Mississippi. For most of my fifteen years of teaching, I have taught drawing and computer inclusive art courses simultaneously. While at FIU (2023 to 2026) as a Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, I have taught animation exclusively, though much of animation and drawing remain inseparable and I have never seen a real difference between drawing and computer based work.

Drawing, process, and time have been the connective tissue of my artistic practice for decades. I've created in the past 15 years drawings, videos, animations, websites and site specific based on mark making on surface. My practice also incorporates my fascination with new technologies, the internet as a medium, and AI's contributions to creativity.

My artwork Loop Art Critique (Loop) has been a significant artistic achievement. I founded Loop in 2022 while working at The MUD Foundation, an organization I continue to collaborate closely with. Loop is a long duration artwork designed as a spatial internet gesamtkunstwerk. Loop received a Knight Tech Expansion grant in 2026 and was inducted into the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami Art + Research Center in October 2025 by invitation of the Irma and Norman Braman Artistic Director, Alex Gartenfeld. I present Loop at lectures, panels, and conferences. If I get this position, I want to create a customized version for students at FIU and work to facilitate collaborations with other professors and disciplines.

I serve on the Board of Trustees at ICA Miami and its Acquisitions Committee, and as Curator of the Lynn University NFT Art Museum, where I organize exhibitions and chair panels. I have taught embedded courses at Locust Projects, culminating in VR and AR exhibitions and oversaw the acquisition of thirty iPads for the department, tools equally relevant for drawing and animation. The past three years at FIU have been extraordinarily productive, with sustained exhibitions, curatorial projects, board service, and conference presentations.

Teaching four courses per semester while running Loop Art Critique has essentially been two full time jobs. I realize being tenure track is also an incredible amount of work, but my work on Loop will be recognized as part of my research component. Without the physical time spent teaching four classes, I can spend more time developing curricula, mentoring students through independent studies and thesis committees, going to student exhibitions after

hours, and creating more connections inside and outside of FIU that contribute meaningfully to students' education.

I have all the required and preferred qualifications for this position. If hired, I will contribute a distinct and progressive vision for drawing that balances foundational rigor with contemporary experimentation, integrating digital and physical practices while inviting drawing students to experiment beyond the pencil and the page. I bring fifteen years of teaching experience, sustained exhibition activity, and Loop Art Critique's geographically vast network directly into the classroom.

I would be honored to continue serving FIU's students and to grow alongside this department as a tenure track colleague.

Sincerely,

Ariel Baron Robbins