

## **Kofi Bazzell-Smith**

Artist | Educator | Professional Boxer | U.S.- Japan Bridging Scholar

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[www.kofimanga.com](http://www.kofimanga.com)

### **Education**

*University of Illinois* Master of Fine Arts in New Media; *currently enrolled*

HRI Mellon Foundation Interseminars Initiative Fellow 2022-23

FLAS Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow (Japanese) 2021-22

Graduate Coursework: *Japanese Cinema, Japanese 440-441, Word and Image in Chinese Art, Graduate seminars 593/595*

*Eastern Illinois University* 2021; BA in Studio Art, Asian Studies Minor

Magna Cum Laude; Founder/President Japanese Culture Club; Independent Studies in Japanese, Mandarin, Drawing, Painting and Digital art; Completed Chinese language program; Study Abroad Student of the Year

*Kansai Gaidai University*; Japanese Language Courses, Manga Course; Hirakata, Japan 2019

*Parkland Community College* Associate's in General Studies, August 2018

### **Published work**

*4 Pages | 16 Bars: A Visual Mixtape*; Black Comics Anthology 2021

*Azuki* Self-published Children's Book Series 2018-2020

*Jiyu* manga anthology; Kansai Gaidai University 2019

*Activator Magazine* illustrations and short works 2018-2020

### **Teaching**

Guest Lecture; Japanese Manga: Conveying movement; *UCLA* 2022

Instructor of Record; Art for non-majors; *Art and Design UIUC* 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant; Visualization Drawing; *Industrial Design UIUC* 2021

Guest Lecture: Art and Studying Abroad; *Art and Design Dept; UIUC* 2021

Guest Lecture: Manga production; *Japan House; UIUC* 2021

English as a Second Language; Teaching Internship *TLC (The Language Company)* 2019

### **Service to University**

Artist Talk; *Manga, Boxing and Japan*; Asian American Cultural Center; *UIUC* 2021

Small Press Fest! Manga Storytelling Workshop; *University of Illinois* 2020-21

Founder/President Japanese Culture Club (JCC); *EIU* 2018-2021

International Education Committee; *EIU* 2020-21

Japanese language instruction (club activity); *JCC Eastern Illinois University* 2018-2020

Artist Talk; *Power Talks: Visual Storytelling*; *EIU* 2020

Asian Studies Conference Talk; *EIU* 2019

East Asian Languages Workshop *EIU* 2018  
Manga Storytelling Workshop *EIU* 2018  
Global Cultural Night Emcee; *EIU* 2018  
President Japanese Culture Club; *Parkland* 2018  
Manga Storytelling Workshop; *Parkland* 2018  
Student Senator; *Parkland* 2015

### **Service to Community**

Open to public Free Manga Workshop; *University YMCA*; *UIUC* 2021  
Manga Workshop for ELL students; *Urbana High School* 2021  
Panel Discussion: BIPOC Liberation fest; *University of Illinois* 2021  
TEDx Talk; *UIC Chicago* 2021  
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois Graphic Design department* 2021  
Artist Talk; Manga; *Edison Middle School* 2021  
Artist Talk; Black History Month, Black Joy; *Metcalf Middle School* 2021  
Boxing Trainer; *Luyando Boxing* 2014-2021  
Artist Talk: Anime and Manga: Afro-American Intersections with Japanese Culture  
*co-presenter with Eric Calderon; US Japan Bridging Foundation* 2020  
Panel on James Baldwin with *Princeton Scholar Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. UIUC* 2020  
Artist Talk; *University of Illinois East Asian Languages and Cultures department* 2020  
Poetry reading and discussion *UNESCO Center for Global Citizenship* 2020  
Sounds Like Community; Artist Talk; *Urbana Independent Media Center* 2020  
James Baldwin Commemoration Artist Talk; *Champaign-Urbana* 2020  
TOMODACHI Generation Summit Conference; *Showa Women's University; Tokyo* 2019  
Panelist; International Engagement; *UIUC International and Area Studies Library* 2019  
Free Manga Storytelling Workshop *Urbana Free Library* 2019  
Free Manga Storytelling Workshop *Parkland College* 2019  
Public reading in Mandarin for Christmas at *Tarble center; EIU* 2018  
English Conversation Partner Volunteer, *Intensive English Institute; 2010-2015*

### **Public Interviews**

Comics Talk podcast 2022  
Professor LatinX Comics Scholars Channel 2020  
Japan Station Podcast 2020  
Harukana Show 2019/2020  
Young, Gifted and Abroad 2020  
Smile Politely Artist Interview 2020  
Unity in Action Magazine 2020

### **Exhibitions**

Future Spaces in Community Places group exhibition; *Illinois Wesleyan University* 2022  
Public Critique; MFA Program; *University of Illinois Art + Design* 2021  
8 to Create Live Drawing Exhibition; *University of Illinois Art + Design* 2021  
Research and Creative Works Conference *EIU* 2020;2021

Black Lives Matter Outdoor Installation; *Common Ground Food Co-op*; 2020  
Illinois Board of Higher Education Annual Gallery 2019  
Solo Manga Art Exhibition for Asian Heritage Month – *EIU Booth Library* 2019  
Solo Exhibition; *EIU Art Department Passage Gallery* 2019  
Urbana Independent Media Center Exhibition 2018;2019  
Boneyard Arts Festival 2017  
Pizza M Solo Art Exhibition 2016

**Awards**

First Inaugural HRI Interseminars Initiative Fellowship *UIUC* 2022-23  
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship *UIUC* 2021-22  
Fulbright Semi-Finalist *Japan* 2021  
AIGA Worldstudio scholarship 2021  
Magna Cum Laude *EIU* 2021  
EIU All Student Show Digital Art 1<sup>st</sup> Place 2021/2020  
EIU Undergraduate Research Grant 2021/2020  
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar 2020  
EIU Study Abroad Student of the Year 2020  
EIU Talented Student Award Art Department 2019/2020  
U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation Scholarship 2019  
Freeman Asia Scholarship 2019  
EIU Talented Student Award Study Abroad 2019  
EIU Asian Studies Leadership Award 2019  
EIU Asian Studies Research/Creative Work Award 2019  
Midwest Animation Promotion Society Manga Award 2019