



# Dane County/Kassel, Germany Exchange Interviews **EUARCA+22** Helen Hawley

**In a few sentences, how would you describe this opportunity to others? What were some of the main activities that you did there?**

Eight artists participated in the two-week exchange, living and cooking together in the countryside, producing a project for a group exhibition, and attending Documenta 15.

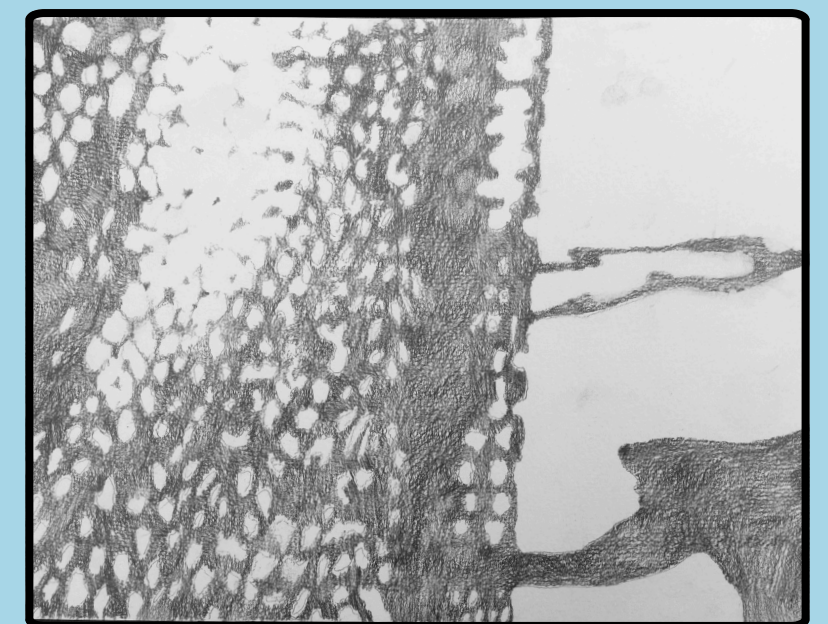
**How did you learn about this opportunity? What initially made you interested?**

I learned about EUARCA through an artist friend. I was interested in meeting international artists, attending Documenta 15, and participating in a cultural exchange between Dane County and Kassel.



**Prior to traveling, what did you know about Kassel and/or Germany?**

As far as traveling to Germany, I was anticipating taking the train, seeing some cool water features in Kassel, and flying into Berlin.



**How have you shared this experience with others since returning?**

Although the projects we produced stayed in Kassel, the influence on the work I have created since has been invaluable. I was inspired by construction methods I saw involving cardboard and ideas about sound and installation. I keep in touch with the artists, and the experience lives on in surprising ways.

**What is your professional background?**

I have a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and my practice is multidisciplinary, involving sculptures, paintings, and visual texts. I have supported myself by working as a studio assistant and short-term teaching appointments at various colleges and universities. The experience in Kassel was everything I hoped for—eye-opening, stimulating, and heartwarming.

**What would you like others to know about your experience?**

I would like others to know how vital travel opportunities and cultural exchanges are to artists. Not only do they make us really happy, but they are opportunities to converse with a global community. Feeling that I am a part of something bigger helps me approach my work both more seriously and joyfully.

**Kassel-Dane Sister County Taskforce**