



MASTER OF  
**LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE**

**SARAH  
COLEMAN**

**DEGREE(S):**

BFA in Printmaking & Art  
History, The Maryland Institute  
College of Art

**HOMETOWN:**

Jacksonville, Florida

**Why did you choose to pursue a master's degree in landscape architecture?**

Landscape architecture felt like a discipline that would allow me to deploy my visual arts and research training, while also encompassing my work in conservation and my interest in the history of American landscapes. Training in this field offers a unique skill set that enables designers to communicate about the importance of places, to reveal histories and to respond to emergent place-based issues that affect human and nonhuman systems.

**Why did you choose the Knowlton School at Ohio State?**

The diversity of interesting work of the faculty felt reflective of the breadth of the discipline; I knew I would have access to many different ways of working and thinking. It was particularly significant to me that a large number of these faculty were women. Knowlton also offered great access to resources for hands-on, physical “making,” educational gardens, as well as its own library in the building. To me, the presence of these assets spoke to a mix of compelling learning approaches, rather than a curriculum solely focused on digital techniques.

**What have been some of the most valuable opportunities you've experienced at Knowlton?**

History courses have been particularly compelling. Thinking about the ways in which humans have manipulated landscapes across time helps explain the shape of places today, and how we have arrived at certain solutions or caused problems.

**Briefly describe your studio experiences and how they have been integral to your learning.**

Capturing systems in flux is one of the most interesting problems of landscape architectural representation. In my first semester studio, the faculty led us through a series of exercises that asked us to communicate visually about dynamic conditions. This kind of problem-solving is required in any project, whether highly conceptual or more literal, and thinking things out in real, physical space with materials only enhances the digital representation you generate.

**Describe your experience as a graduate associate and how it has been beneficial in your education and future career.**

Beyond being interested in the academic side of the discipline after graduation, I find that meeting with students and talking through project ideas is really enjoyable, and tends to translate into more diverse approaches and better problem-solving in my own work.