

Katherine Gressel

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SUMMARY

I am an independent curator, writer, artist, and arts administrator, focused on public, site-specific, and socially-engaged art. In addition to developing and managing my own exhibitions for nonprofit galleries and public spaces, I have held full-time and part time/consulting positions in arts education, artist residency management, and public art administration. I have exhibited my own artwork throughout NYC and regularly write about public art issues for various publications.

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

Brooklyn Utopias, Brooklyn, NY

Founder, Project Director, and Chief Curator, 2008-Present

- Conceived, curated, and organized all aspects of a series of thematic group exhibits and related public programs inviting local artists to consider differing visions of ideal cities:
Brooklyn Utopias: In TRANSITION, 2013, Old Stone House
Brooklyn Utopias: Park Space, Play Space, 2012, Old Stone House
Brooklyn Utopias: Farm City, 2010, Old Stone House
Brooklyn Utopias?, 2009, two simultaneous exhibits at the Brooklyn Historical Society and Old Stone House
- Recruited and managed 15-35 participating artists each year, including developing RFPs, contracts and timelines
- Organized a corresponding teen *Brooklyn Utopias?* exhibition in 2009, at the nonprofit Starting Artists, Inc.
- Wrote and edited all exhibition text, including connecting the contemporary artwork to each exhibition site's history
- Organized 2-6 public programs for each exhibit including panel discussions, art workshops, and performances
- Created original marketing materials, including press releases, websites, and social media
- Ran two successful Kickstarter campaigns and procured two Brooklyn Arts Council grants

New York City Department of Transportation Urban Art Program

Curator, Fall 2013

- Curated and project-managed *Unparallel Way*, a public art installation on a local traffic median by artist Emily Weiskopf, in partnership with the NYC Department of Transportation and the Old Stone House, and in conjunction with my *Brooklyn Utopias: In TRANSITION* exhibition, 2013. Public art on view October 2013-September 2014

FIGMENT, New York, NY

Summer-Long Sculpture Program Co-Director and Curator, 2012-2014

- Provide logistical, technical and conceptual support to 5-10 artists in the creation of original large-scale, interactive public sculptures on Governors Island each summer, also overseeing artist selection
- Write and edit exhibition labels and web/promotional text
- Spearheaded new fundraising, training and program evaluation initiatives to expand the program's reach, including helping develop and pilot a new program model for summer 2014 incorporating increased artist support

Museum Camp, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, CA

Exhibition Designer/Camp Participant, July 2013, July 2014

- Was selected as one of 75 participants in the original "Museum Camp" program bringing together diverse professionals for 48 hours to create an exhibition, *Hack the Museum*, around experimentation and risk
- Will also participate in the 2014 Museum camp addressing social impact evaluation

No Longer Empty, New York, NY

Co-Curator, Curatorial Lab Program, December 2012-March 2013

- Co-organized and curated all aspects of *Gathering Place*, a site-specific art exhibition in a vacant storefront space on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village, as one of two participants selected for this inaugural program
- Built community partnerships and programs that connected the exhibition to broader neighborhood revitalization
- Participated in weekly workshops on topics relevant to curating, community outreach, and contemporary art

ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Smack Mellon Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Programs Manager, 2010-2013; Education Programs Manager (freelance), November 2013-Present

- Currently manage all aspects of an arts mentorship program for students aged 12-18, including recruiting and supervising students, teaching artists, and interns; planning field trips and workshops; organizing 1-2 exhibitions of student work per year; evaluating programs; and initiating an original blog
- Researched and developed new training resources and workshops for artist mentors
- Built new school and community partnerships, doubling student applications and increasing retention rates
- Oversaw a residency program for 6 artists per year, including panel selection, open studios, and studio visits
- Oversaw related public programs, including spearheading a panel discussion on arts mentorship
- Assisted in general operations of this small nonprofit gallery space, including membership, office management, grantwriting, coordination of an annual benefit, and developing original web and communications materials

Groundswell Community Mural Project, Brooklyn, NY

Program Evaluation Consultant, November 2013-Present

- Spearheaded a project to measure the community impact of a mural in Brownsville, Brooklyn, including presenting the results at Groundswell's annual retreat. Invited to expand upon this research in Summer 2014, as well as assist in related exhibition development.

Times Square Alliance Public Art Program

Freelance Grant Writer, June 2010-April 2012

- Researched funders and prepared 5 original proposals for this public art program in its early stages

Arts to Grow, New York, NY

Program Manager, August 2008-June 2010

- Managed partnerships between public school/community center sites and Arts to Grow's after-school programs in visual and performing arts, including program development; teaching artist and intern recruitment and supervision; partnership development and communication; and program evaluation

Creative Time, New York, NY

Freelance Development Assistant and Grant Writer, September 2008-January 2009

- Wrote, edited, and compiled grant application materials, and researched new sources of funding

Urban Assembly School of Music and Art (UAMA), Brooklyn, NY

Director of Partnerships & Development, June 2007-July 2008

- Procured and managed partnerships with organizations in the arts, business and academic communities, to provide special programs and exhibition/performance opportunities for a body of 300 students
- Initiated a strategic fundraising plan as the school's first Development Director
- Oversaw the launch and maintenance of UAMA's new website, compiling and writing all content

SELECTED TEACHING AND MUSEUM EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Brooklyn Historical Society: Brooklyn, NY

Freelance Educator: School Groups, 2009-2013

Kentler International Drawing Space/Red Hook Community Justice Center: Brooklyn, NY

Teaching Artist, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

- Taught weekly after-school drawing classes for 12 students aged 12-15, inspired by gallery exhibits

STARR, Inc., Brooklyn, NY

Teaching Artist, Spring 2010-Spring 2011

- Led mural projects for all ages at four school sites and a domestic violence shelter

Community-Word Project, New York, NY

Teaching Artist, 2005-2007

Completed the advanced Teaching Artist training program, and led literacy-based mural projects at three schools

Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn NY

Intern Educator, Fall 2003-Spring 2004

- Designed and taught gallery/studio tours for school and family groups and conducted independent action and evaluation research on an aspect of museum education

PERSONAL ART PRACTICE: SELECTED EXHIBITIONS, COMMISSIONS, AND TEACHING

Event Painting by Katherine, 2008-Present

Founded an independent event-painting business, creating commissioned live paintings of 3-9 private events per month

Rearviews: Brooklyn, Root Hill Café, Brooklyn, NY, May 2012 (Solo show of my artwork, self-curated)

Gentrified, Brooklyn Artists Gym, Brooklyn, NY, December 2010-January 2011 (Group show featuring my artwork)

Brooklyn Farms: Past, Present, Future mural commission for the Old Stone House, Brooklyn, NY, September 2010

Dialectical Landscapes, Seton Hall Law School/City Without Walls, Newark, NJ, Summer 2010 (Group show, curated by Alyssa Fanning, featuring my artwork)

FIGMENT, Governors Island, NY, Summer 2010 (group summer-long sculpture show, featuring my artwork)
Collaborated with architect Jeremy Reed on *Pallet City*, an interactive public sculpture made of recycled shipping pallets

Root Hill Café Mural mural commission, Brooklyn, NY Spring 2009

Creative Cartographies, Brooklyn Arts Council Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, October 2008-January 2009 (Group Show, curated by Jeanne Gerrity, featuring my artwork)

SELECTED WRITING AND SCHOLARSHIP

Americans for the Arts Public Art Network online classroom, November 2014

Was invited to create an hour-long digital webinar presentation/Q&A about digital/online marketing and engagement strategies for public art, incorporating by research on best practices and case studies in the field

Blackwell Companion to Public Art (upcoming publication), 2013-2014

Was invited to contribute a 10,000 word essay based on original research on public art evaluation

Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Pre-Conference, *Presenter, Public Art Evaluation*, June 2013

Americans for the Arts *Animating Democracy* blog salon, April and December 2012

Contributed 3 posts on public art evaluation

Americans for the Arts *Public Art Evaluation: Principles & Methodology for Measuring Social Impact* webinar, *Participant*, August 2012

Createquity, Writing Fellow, September 2011-February 2012; *Contributing Writer*, 2012-Present

Contributed a total of 7 posts to date to this acclaimed arts policy blog, some of them among the blog's most widely read

Emerging Leaders of New York Arts (ELNYA) Creative Conversation: *How do we Create a Future for the Arts Through Education?*, *Panelist*, March 2010

San Francisco Street Art (Abrams, 2009), *Assistant Editor and Contributing Writer*, 2004-2008

Social Theory, Politics and the Arts conference: Public Art and Social Change, *Presenter*, New York University, New York, NY, October 2007

PART (CUNY Graduate Center Online Art History Publication), Winter 2007

Original essay, "The Aesthetics of Social Engagement: The Art of Suzanne Lacy" selected for publication

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Brooklyn Arts Council Community Arts Fund Regrant, 2012-2013

Received grants two years in a row towards my *Brooklyn Utopias* exhibitions at the Old Stone House

CEC ArtsLink travel grant, St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk, Russia, November-December 2009

Was awarded a 4-week travel grant to create public murals at schools in St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk

Brooklyn Historical Society Public Perspectives Program

Received funding and the opportunity to present my 2009 *Brooklyn Utopias?* exhibition at the Brooklyn Historical Society

Puffin Foundation, 2009

Received a grant towards my *Brooklyn Utopias?* exhibition at the Old Stone House

Edwin Austin Abbey Memorial Fund for Mural Painting, National Academy, New York, NY, 2008

Was awarded a month-long fellowship to study public art, culminating in the creation of a mural proposal and scale model

SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

For *Brooklyn Utopias: In TRANSITION* and related *Unparallel Way* public sculpture (2013):

Amanda Placencia, *Artists bring new ideas to urban transportation with Brooklyn Utopias art exhibit*, News 12 Brooklyn, 11/13/13

Fazzare, Elizabeth, *New Public Art Lends in Brooklyn Lends Transportation a Sense of Play*, Architect's Newspaper, 10/28/13

Leslie Albrecht, *Public Art Project Makes Waves on Fourth Avenue*, DNAinfo, 10/24/13

For *Gathering Place*, No Longer Empty Curatorial Lab exhibition (2013):

Andrea Swalec, *Vacant Eighth Street Storefront Hosting Kids' Events*, Village Art, DNAInfo, 3/12/13

For the FIGMENT 2012 Sculpture Garden:

Recognized in *The Top 10 Interactive Summer Art Installations in NYC*, Complex Magazine, 7/15/12

For *Brooklyn Utopias: Park Space, Play Space* (2012):

Allison Meier, *Imaging Park Utopias*, Hyperallergic, 5/12/12

Jennifer Mills, *In Gowanus, Playgrounds both Real and Imagined*, The L Magazine, 4/9/12

Aaron Short, *Picture perfect: Artists explore 'Brooklyn Utopias' at Park Slope's Old Stone House*, The Brooklyn Paper, 3/27/12

For *Brooklyn Utopias?* 2009: Recommended in Time Out New York's "Perfect Weekend" blog, 1/15/10

EDUCATION

Columbia University/Teachers College, New York, NY, Master of Arts, Arts Administration, 2007

Yale University, New Haven, CT, Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, in Art, with distinction in the major, 2003

REFERENCES

Manon Slome

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