

## HELEN MAURENE COOPER

Lives and works in Philadelphia, PA

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### EDUCATION

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- 2007 **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**, Chicago IL, Master of Fine Arts, Photography  
2003 **Bard College**, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, Bachelor of Arts, Photography and Africa and African Diaspora Studies

### SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

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- 2022 **Fellowship Finalist**, CEFVA, Philadelphia, PA  
2021 **Art Is Essential round 2**, PHDA Art Committee and the Knight Foundation, Philadelphia, PA  
2020 **Art Is Essential round 1**, PHDA Art Committee and the Knight Foundation, Philadelphia, PA  
2019 **Marguerite Bierman Mentor**, Kutztown University, Kutztown PA  
2018 **Faculty Travel Grant**, Kutztown University, Kutztown PA  
**Kutztown Foundation Grant**, Independent study in Piezography, Cone Editions, Topsham VT  
**Julia Margaret Cameron Award**, Honorable Mention alternative process  
**Slab Fellowship**, Juggernaut Studios, Philadelphia, PA  
2017 **Travel Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, *Paint & Polish Exhibition*, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
**Faculty Research Grant**, Lake Forest College  
**Travel Grant**, *Paint & Polish Exhibition*, Cultural Council, Eindhoven Netherlands  
2016 **Individual Artist Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, for artist monograph: *Paint & Polish*  
**Production Grant**, *Runway to Reality*, Arts Incubator, University of Chicago  
2014 **Individual Artist Grant**, Department of Cultural Affairs Chicago, for study at the George Eastman House  
2013 **Stipend and honorarium**, for *Nailed: Handwork*, Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago  
2012 **Residence**, *BOLDT*, Chicago Artists' Coalition (with support from the Andy Warhol Foundation), Chicago, IL  
2011 **Fulbright Germany**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*  
**DAAD**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*  
**Chancellor Grant**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*  
2010 **Fulbright Germany**, Semi-finalist, *Nostalgia & Gender Performance in Turkish Berlin*  
**Residency**, Ox-bow School of Arts, Saugatuck, MI  
2009 **Residency**, *Harold*, Chesterfield, OH  
2002 **Jamie Lubarr Research Prize**, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

### MONOGRAPHS AND PRINT PUBLICATIONS

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- 2024 *Of Covid: Collective Trauma*, (various artists), KGP & Humble Arts Foundation, Brooklyn, New York.  
2017 *Paint & Polish: Cultural Economy & Visual Culture from the West Side*, Onomatopoe Press, Eindhoven, Netherlands.

### SELECTED SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

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- 2023 Hyatt Centric, Philadelphia, PA, *The Genius of Place*  
Lillian's, Philadelphia, PA, *Girls of Summer*  
2022 Merion Gallery, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, *Lifeline: Helen Maurene Cooper & Eric Kunsman*.  
2019 Storefront Studio, Hollywood FL, *Glitter Gutz* with Rosemarie Romero.  
2018 Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL, *Blue Angel*.  
2017 Space Mountain, Miami, FL. *Reinas Del Azucar*, with Rosemarie Romero.  
Studio 3, Fayetteville, AR. *Where There's Smoke*.  
Onomatopoe, Eindhoven, Netherlands. *Paint & Polish*.  
2016 Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL. *Other Waters: the Aquatic Valley*.  
Washington Park Arts Incubator, Chicago, IL. *Runway to Reality*, with Suzette Opera.  
Polish Academy and Nail Boutique (site-specific photographs with custom photographic wallpaper), Chicago, IL. *Polish*.  
2014 Naillicious Salon (site-specific and commissioned work with custom hand drawn wallpaper), Chicago, IL. *#Nailbait*.  
Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL. *Raiment In Horto*.  
2013 Van Buren St. Commuter Rail Station (Department of Cultural Affairs), Chicago, IL. *Junk and Jam*,  
Public Art Billboard.  
*The Water Tower* (Department of Cultural Affairs), Chicago, IL. *Nailed: Handwork*, City Gallery.  
Chicago Artists' Coalition, Chicago, IL. *Thirteen Ways*, Baccara, collaboration with Madeleine Bailey.  
2012 Electricity is Magic Gallery, Toronto, ON. *White Noise Syndrome*, Baccara, collaboration with Madeleine Bailey.  
2010 Midwives Gallery, Philadelphia, PA. *Bedazzled: selections from Hoodwink & Hard Candy*.  
President's Gallery Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL. *Hard Candy*.  
O'Conner Gallery, Dominican University, River Forest, IL. *Recent Works by Helen Maurene Cooper and Maria Gaspar*.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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- 2023** Halide Project, Philadelphia PA. *Living Image*  
Frances M. Maguire Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA. *Visionarie: Our Lens, Our Story*  
Galleries at Moore College, Philadelphia, PA. *40 Years of CEFVA*  
Sonnenschine Gallery, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL. *Maternal Perspectives on Community and Practice*
- 2022** Halide Project, Philadelphia PA. *Intertwined: Images of Connections: Helen Maurene Cooper, Natalie Obermaie & Marc Ohrem-Leclef*  
Halide Project, Philadelphia PA. *Living Image*.
- 2021** A Smith Gallery, Johnston City, TX. *Life*.  
Halide Project, Philadelphia, PA. *Processing 2020*.
- 2020** Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago IL. *Collectively Shifting*.
- 2019** Hokin Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago IL. *Fulfilled Fantasies*.  
Miller Gallery, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. *Faculty Biennial*.
- 2018** Arts Club, Chicago, IL. 88th Members Exhibition.
- 2017** Tiger Strikes Astrid at Satellite Fair, Art Basel Miami. *Body Switchers*.  
Ralph Arnold Gallery at Loyola University, Chicago, IL. *Human Human*.  
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Chicago, IL. *I Have Vivid Memories of Lighting*.
- 2015** Women Made Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Feminism (n.): Plural*.  
Girls Club, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. *Esthetic Theory*.  
Soap Factory, Minneapolis, MN. *The Party's Over*.
- 2014** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *Christmas Show*.  
VUE, National Contemporary Art Fair, Claremorris Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2013** Studio Flats, Chicago, IL. *American Dream: (W)holy Grail*. curated by Tricia Van Eck.  
Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL. *Inventory*.  
Co-prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL. *Level Eater 3*.
- 2011** Los Caminos Gallery, St. Louis, MO. *Romantic Notions*.  
Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL. *New Acquisitions*.  
Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA. *Mixed Messages*.  
Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY. *Collectors' Guide to New Art Photography*, curated by Vanessa Kramer.  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *The Collective*.  
Center for Government and International Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. *Remember Then...*
- 2010** Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX. *This is Not a Photo Show*.  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Art Chicago*.  
David Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Alumni, Noelle Allen, Helen Maurene Cooper, Amy Mayfield, & Michael Ratulowski*.  
Hendershot Gallery, New York, NY. *Trying Them On, Andrea Robbins and Max Becher, Michael Bühler-Rose, Helen Maurene Cooper & Claire Beckett*.  
Barbara & Barbara Gallery, Chicago, IL. *Four Names, Helen Maurene Cooper, Grant Ray, Jennifer Ray & Eric Bessel*.
- 2009** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *December Group Show*.  
Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA. *Deep. Down. Dirty*.
- 2008** Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris, Ireland. *PROTAGONIST - Contemporary Art from America*  
Third Ward, Brooklyn, NY. *31 Under 31, Young Women in Art Photography*.

## LECTURES AND PANELS

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- 2024** "Community Engagement, Placemaking and Making a Life", Sigal Museum, Easont, PA
- 2023** "Maternal Perspectives on Community and Practice, panel discussion in conjunction with exhibition, Sonnenschine Gallery, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest IL
- 2022** "The Changing Nature of Family in Kensington, Philadelphia through the Eyes of Community Photographers 1930- the Era of Covid- 19,"  
Library  
Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021** "The Caregivers, Radical Parenting in Kensington Philadelphia," St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA  
"Wet Plate Work from 2020, Helen Maurene Cooper, Carla Rodrigues, and Eric Retterbush," The Halide Project, Philadelphia, PA  
"Community Engagement and Wet Plate Photography," New Hampshire College, Manchester, NH  
"Community Engagement and Wet Plate Photography," Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
- 2020** "Community Engagement and Wet Plate Photography," Georgia State, Atlanta GA  
"Social Engagement from an Acceptable Distance," Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO  
"Social Engagement from an Acceptable Distance," Fashion Institute of New York, NY, NY  
"People of the Pandemic," The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ
- 2019** "Wet Plate Collodion: Miss America and Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Femininity as a Weapon," School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
"Wet Plate Collodion: Miss America and Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Femininity as a Weapon," Columbia College, Chicago IL  
"Wet Plate Collodion: Miss America and Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Femininity as a Weapon," St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia,
- 2018** "Wet Plate Collodion: Miss America and Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Femininity as a Weapon," University of Northern Illinois, Dekalb  
"Paint & Polish, Chicago Street Style, from the land of Lady Hustlers, with Glynnus Alexander and Freek Lomme," Chicago Art Book Fair
- 2017** "Paint & Polish, Chicago Street Style, from the land of Lady Hustlers, with Roula Selkaly, Jackee Blue, Glynnus Alexander and Freek Lomme," PS1, Queens, New York.

- "*Economy of Beauty*," Fayetteville Underground with NWA Fashion Week, Fayetteville, AR.  
 "Paint & Polish: Design, Community and Collaboration," Helen Maurene Cooper, Jackee Blue and Glynnus Alexander in Conversation with Chequita Najjar (Dean of ABKM Maastricht), Onomatopoe, Eindhoven Netherlands.  
 "For Profit Colleges and Student Debt" with Rashayla Marie Brown, Open Engagement Conference, Chicago, IL  
 "Paint & Polish Book Release," Helen Maurene Cooper with Jackee Blue, Yara Ruiz and Glynnus Alexander. Moderated by Ryan Blocker and Roula Seliki, Reunion, Chicago.
- 2016** "Runway to Reality," in Conversation with Joy Bivins, Dr. Jason LaHood and Camille Morgan, Arts Incubator, Chicago, IL  
 "Runway to Reality," Artist Talk with Hamza Walker, Arts Incubator Chicago, IL  
 "Community and Practice," North Park University, Chicago, IL  
 "Paint & Polish," DePaul University, Chicago, IL
- 2013** "Hard Candy," Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2010** Current Work, Palo Alto College, San Antonio, TX AIR lecture, Oxbow, Saugatuck, MI  
 Panel, The case for gender specific exhibitions in fine art photography, Next Art Fair, Chicago, IL  
 "Bedazzled," conversation with curator Elizabeth Smith, Midwives Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
 "Hard Candy," Harold Washington College. Chicago IL  
 Helen Maurene Cooper and Maria Gaspar, O'Conner Gallery, Dominican University, Chicago, IL

## CURATORIAL AND SOCIAL PRACTICE

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Co-founder and director of **Azimuth Projects**, Social Practice based exhibitions that partnered artists, chefs and foodie audiences together.

- 2014** *Ordinance: Disposition of the Parts*: Erin Chlaghmo and Allison Reimus  
*Gaze*, co-curated with Frank Marcurio, Ivan Lozano and Rob Bondgren with public program by David Getsy  
*Swath*, Patty Carroll and Jordan Martins with Hugh Amano, at 2704 N. Whipple St., Chicago  
*Saturated Landscape*, Madeleine Bailey and Peter Cardone with Chicago Detours
- 2013** *Almost Real*, James Bullecci and Allison Grant with Naughty Nail'z  
*Gild*, Jenn Wilson and Matthew Schlebum with Naughty Nail'z  
*Flay*, Kellie Romany and Noelle Allen
- 2012** *Black Mountain Side*, Takshi Moro and Josh Reams  
*Punishment and Protest*, Jason Dunda and Jaclyn Jakunski  
*Second-Day Scenery*, Stacia Yeapains and Morgan Sims  
*Spliced*, moderated artist talk with Melika Bass and Jesse McLean at Apple Lincoln Park, Chicago  
*All Things Magical*, The Alliance of Pentaphilic Curators, Isak Applin & Carl Barratta and Michael Garcia. Sunday Dinner lecture series  
*Collaboration of Love*, Sarah and Joseph Belknap. Sunday Dinner lecture series
- 2011** *Eco Ecology*, The Endangered Series Print Project and Nina Barnett. Sunday Dinner lecture series  
*Destination Unknown*, Alan Strathmann & Hui-Min Tsen, and Regina Mamou & Matt Griffin. Sunday Dinner lecture series  
*At Play*, Mara Baker, Scott Jarrett, Brian McNeerney and Robin Juna, Innertran 650 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL  
*Horizon Rising*, Nina Barrett, Stephen Eichorn and Takeshi Moro, Point Bridge, 217 N. Jefferson St., Chicago, IL  
*Outside Coming In*, Carl Baratta & Oli Watt, Isak Applin, Jill Frank, Jennifer Ray, Regina Mamou, Tim Bergstam, Jennifer Wilson, Chris Bardley, Jaclyn Jakunski and Casy McGonagle. Hungryman Gallery, Chicago, IL

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- Rigou, Vasia. "Nailing It Chicago Style: A Photographer's Look at Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Intimacy in the Northwest Side's Nail Art Community." *New City*. 27 January 2017. <http://art.newcity.com/2017/02/02/nail-ing-it-chicago-style/>

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