

# KRISTEN LETTS KOVAK

Associate Teaching Professor / Senior Associate Dean for Academics and Student Success  
Carnegie Mellon University: College of Fine Arts

---

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- (2023) **Celicia Coker University: Coker Bell Gallery**, “Out of Order”  
2019 **York College: Marketview Gallery**, “*White Noise*” York, PA  
2017-18 **707 Penn Gallery**, “*On Looking*” Pittsburgh, PA  
2017-18 **709 Penn Gallery**, “*White Noise*” Pittsburgh, PA  
2013 **Saint Michael’s College: McCarthy Gallery**, “*Reconfigured Objects*” Burlington, VT  
2013 **Westmoreland Museum of American Art: @rt 30**, “*Pop Up: Kristen Letts Kovak*” Greensburg, PA  
2012 **Ohio University: OUE Art Gallery**, “*Reconfigured Objects*” St. Clairsville, OH  
2012 **Pennsylvania State University, Altoona: Sheetz Gallery**, “*Reconfigured Objects*” Altoona, PA  
2012 **Baum School of Art: Rodale Gallery**, “*Reconfigured Objects*” Allentown, PA  
2010 **Maryland Institute College of Art: Decker Gallery**, “*Kristen Letts Kovak*” (MFA Thesis) Baltimore, MD  
2010 **Ann Arbor Art Center: Spotlight Gallery**, “*New Works: Kristen Letts Kovak*” Ann Arbor, MI  
2010 **Arts Club of Washington: Monroe Gallery**, “*Re-perceiving Still Life*” Washington, D.C.

## SELECTED TWO AND THREE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- (2024) **University of Central Florida: School of Visual Arts and Design**, Orlando, FL  
2019-20 **SPACE**, “*Trumpet to the Tulips*” Pittsburgh, PA: Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann  
2019 **Touchstone Center for Crafts**, “*Vessels in Five Dimensions*” Farmington, PA: Collaboration with Silvija Singh  
2019 **Carlow University Art Gallery**, “*Dinosaurs in the Dollhouse*” Pittsburgh, PA: Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **University of North Carolina: Asheville**, “*Drawing Discourse: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition on Contemporary Drawing*” Asheville, NC: juror Charles Ritchie  
2023 **AAP Exhibition Gallery**, “*2022-23 Featured Artist Exhibition*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Dawn Henry  
2023 **The Center for Contemporary Art**, “*2023 International Juried Exhibition*” Bedminster, NJ: juror Esteban del Valle  
2023 **AAP Exhibition Gallery**, “*Growth*” Pittsburgh, PA: juror Disparate Minds  
2023 **Robert Morris University**, “*Balanced Response*” Moon Township, PA: jurors Andrew Y. Ames and Christine Holtz  
2022-23 **Concept Art Gallery**, Pittsburgh, PA: directors Alison Brand Oehler and Sam Berkovitz  
2022 **Macon Arts Alliance Gallery**, “*Abstract*” Macon, GA: curator Sierra Bush  
2022 **Vestige Gallery**, “*New Appalachia*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Kyle Houser  
2021 **State Museum of Pennsylvania**, “*Art of the State*” Harrisburg, PA: jurors Julia Dolan, Joyce Owens, Matthew Hinçman, Al Miner, 2021  
2021 **Vestige Gallery**, “*Tropic of Color*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Alexander Sands  
2021 **311 Gallery**, “*Monochrome*” Raleigh, NC: curator Lakesha Reid  
2021 **The Union Hall: Bar Marco**, “*Living with Art II*” (online): curators Shelby Ciarallo and Andrew Heffner  
2021 **Art Center of the Blue Grass**, “*The Object Seen: Contemporary Still Life*” Danville, KY: juror Sheldon Tapley  
2020 **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design**, “*Ossuary*” Milwaukee, WI: curator Laurie Beth Clark  
2020 **Ice House Studios: Associated Artists of Pittsburgh**, “*110x110x110*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Madeline L. Gent

- 2020 **Ice House Studios: Associated Artists of Pittsburgh**, “*Six Feet*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Madeline L. Gent
- 2019 **(Scene) Metrospace: Michigan State Univ.**, “*Drawings at the Edge of Perception*” East Lansing, MI: curator Benjamin Swallow Duke
- 2019 **Ice House Studios: Associated Artists of Pittsburgh**, “*Barely Breathing*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Vania Evangelique
- 2019 **Bradley University: Prairie Center for the Arts**, “*Bradley International Print and Drawing*” Peoria, IL: curator Janet Ballweg
- 2019 **707 Penn Gallery**, “*Portals*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Kate Lydon
- 2019 **SPACE**, “\_\_\_\_\_.” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Brett Yasko
- 2018-19 **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**, “*Group A: 75<sup>th</sup> Annual*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Vicky Clark
- 2018 **Butler Street Lofts**, “*Sight Lines: New Members*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Eowyn Mays
- 2018 **Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, “*Artists Who Teach*” Greensburg, PA: curator Barbara L. Jones
- 2017 **Eastern Michigan University: University Gallery**, “*Great Lakes Drawing Biennial*” Ypsilanti, MI: juror Claire Gilman
- 2016 **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**, “*The New Collective*” Pittsburgh, PA: jurors Rick Landesberg and Alexandra Oliver
- 2016 **SPACE**, “*John Riegert*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Brett Yasko
- 2015 **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**, “*Works*” Pittsburgh, PA: juror Todd Keyser
- 2015 **Artist Image Resource**, “*First Impressions*” Pittsburgh, PA: juror Petra Falloux
- 2015 **Hoyt Center for the Arts**, “*2015 Hoyt Regional*” New Castle, PA: juror Dan Byers
- 2014-15 **Westmoreland Museum of American Art: @rt 30**, “*Peddling Personalities*” Greensburg, PA: curator Joan McGarry
- 2014 **Williamsburg Art and Historical Center**, “*Over the Edge: Paperworks Unbound*” Brooklyn, NY: curator Claire Gilman (Merit Award)
- 2014 **SPACE**, “*Cataloguing Pattern*” Pittsburgh, PA, guest curator
- 2014 **OvreArts: Heinz Memorial Chapel**, “*Pittsburghers at an Exhibition*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Katherine Durgin
- 2014 **OvreArts: Braddock Library**, “*Pittsburghers at an Exhibition*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Katherine Durgin
- 2014 **Artist Image Resource**, “*The Drawing Show*” Pittsburgh, PA: curators Ayanah Moor and Claire Stigliani
- 2014 **Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis**, “*Ossuary Project*” Indianapolis, IN: curator Laurie Beth Clark
- 2013 **University of Tennessee: Downtown Gallery**, “*Ossuary Project*” Knoxville, TN: curator Laurie Beth Clark
- 2012 **Seton Hill University: Harlan Gallery**, “*Faculty Art Exhibition*” Greensburg, PA
- 2012 **Irma Freeman Center for Imagination**, “*Other Animals*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Sheila Ali
- 2011 **Mercyhurst College: Cummings Art Gallery**, “*Annual Art Faculty Exhibition, Guest Alumna Kristen Letts Kovak...*” Erie, PA
- 2010-11 **Wildling Art Museum**, “*Birds in Art*” Los Olivos, CA: curator Andy McGivern,
- 2010 **Concordia University**, “*Creative Adaptation in the Visual Arts: Krefl Juried Exhibition*” Ann Arbor, MI: juror Rebecca Hart
- 2010 **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**, “*Birds in Art*” Tucson, AZ: curator Andy McGivern
- 2010 **Museum of the Red River**, “*Birds in Art*” Idabel, OK: curator Andy McGivern
- 2009-10 **Muskegon Museum of Art**, “*Birds in Art*” Muskegon, MI: curator Andy McGivern
- 2009 **Woodson Art Museum**, “*Birds in Art*” Wasau, WI: curator Andy McGivern
- 2009 **Ann Arbor Art Center: Exhibitions Gallery**, “*Instructor and Student Show*” Ann Arbor, MI: curator Josie Bockelman
- 2009 **Riverside Arts Center**, “*Ann Arbor Women Artists*” Ypsilanti, MI: juror Beth J. Steinkellner
- 2009 **Maryland Institute College of Art: Pinkard Gallery**, “*MFA Candidates...*” Baltimore, MD
- 2008 **Ann Arbor Art Center**, “*86th Annual: All Media Juried Exhibition*” Ann Arbor, MI: juror Vincent Castagnacci
- 2008 **Maryland Institute College of Art: Pinkard Gallery**, “*MFA Candidates...*” Baltimore, MD
- 2008 **Orion Art Center**, “*All Media Show*” Orion, MI: jurors Kathryn Johnson and Doug Johnson
- 2008 **Anton Art Center**, “*Mailed and Mounted*” Mt. Clemens, MI
- 2007 **Ann Arbor Art Center**, “*85th Annual: All Media Juried Exhibition*” Ann Arbor, MI: juror Michelle Perron
- 2007 **National Science Foundation**, “*International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge*” Semi-Finalist

- 2006 **Alfred Berkowitz Gallery**, “10th Annual Open Competition”, Dearborn, MI: curator Joseph T. Marks
- 2006 **Ann Arbor Art Center: Gallery II**, “05/06” Ann Arbor, MI: curator Jessica Guzman
- 2005 **Ann Arbor Art Center: Exhibitions Gallery**, “83rd Annual: All Media Juried Exhibition” Ann Arbor, MI: juror Dick Goody
- 2005 **Ann Arbor Art Center: Gallery II**, “Faculty Show” Ann Arbor, MI: curator Amanda Krugliak
- 2002 **Erie Art Museum**, “79th Annual Juried Spring Show” Erie, PA: juror Sandy Skoglund
- 2002 **Pennsylvania State University: Patterson Gallery**, “Teacher as Artist” State College, PA
- 2002 **Mercyhurst University: Cummings Art Gallery**, “18 Women” Erie, PA: curator Gary Cardot

## CURATORIAL PROJECTS

**SPACE**, “Trumpet to the Tulips” Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Curator 2019-2020

Artists: Sarah Jacobs, Kristen Letts Kovak, Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

**SPACE**, “Identity Play” Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Curator, 2018

Artists: Scott Andrew, Atom Atkinson, Patty Carroll, Zoë Charlton, Rick Delaney, John Peña, Bibiana Suárez, Imin Yeh

**SPACE**, “Degrees of Separation” Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Curator, 2016

Artists: Tamara Cedré, Nicole Herbert, Michael Dax Iacovone, Nate Larson, Carlene Muñoz, Daniel Pillis, Derek Reese, Scott Turri, Barbara Weissberger

**SPACE**, “Classifying Pattern” Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Curator, 2014

Artists: Salinda Deery, Ted Coffey, Aaron Henderson, Kristin Kest, Todd Keyser, Kristen Letts Kovak, Maria Mangano, Brooke Sturtevant-Sealover, Rebecca Zilinski

**Future Tenant**, “Displacement” Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Curator, 2013

Artists: Phil Hessler, Natalia González Requena

## EDUCATION

2010 **Maryland Institute College of Art**, MFA in Studio Art

2002 **Mercyhurst University**, BA Studio Art, BA Art Education

## GUEST LECTURES AND ARTISTS TALKS

**Maryland Institute College of Art**. “Higher Arts Education,” *Guest Lecture*, 2020

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**. “Artists Who Teach,” *Gallery Talk*, 2018

**SPACE**. “Identity Play,” *Curatorial Walk-through*, 2018

**SIX x ATE**. “Trompe L’oeil,” *Artist Talk*, 2018

**707 Penn Gallery**. “On Looking,” *Gallery Talk*, 2018

**709 Penn Gallery**. “White Noise,” *Gallery Talk*, 2018

**SPACE**. “Degrees of Separation,” *Curatorial Walk-through*, 2016

**Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**. “Visual Counterpoint,” *Gallery Talk*, 2016

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**. “Reconfigured Objects,” *Gallery Talk*, 2013

**Saint Michael’s College**. “Symbols, Stop Signs, and Ciphers,” *Artist Talk*, 2013

**Carnegie Mellon University**. “Representation: A tangible test of perception.” Course: Computational Perception. *Guest Lecture*, 2013

**Ohio University**. “Reconfigured Objects,” *Gallery Talk*, 2012

**Penn State University: Altoona**. “Recognition and Identification,” *Gallery Talk*, 2012

**Carnegie Mellon University**. “Representation: A tangible test of perception.” Course: Computational Perception. *Guest Lecture*, 2012

**Carnegie Mellon University**. “Observation and Depiction over Time.” Course: Imaging. *Guest Lecture*, 2012

**Anne Arundel Community College.** “Questioning Perception through Paint,” Course: Color Theory. *Guest Lecture*, 2011  
**Maryland Institute College of Art.** “Articulating Perception,” *Artist Talk*, 2010  
**Ann Arbor Art Center.** “Noise and Distillation,” *Artist Talk*, 2010  
**University of Michigan Art Museum.** “Contemporary Painting,” *Lecture*, 2009  
**Ann Arbor Women Artists.** “Recent Work: Problematizing Paint,” *Artist Talk*, 2009  
**ArtTrain USA.** “Perception and Re-categorization of Birds,” *Artist Workshop*, 2006  
**Mercyhurst University.** “Dollies: The Persistence of Memory,” *Artist Talk*, 2002  
**Edinboro University’s Annual Honors Conference.** “The Gender Influence in Art Education.” *Lecture*, 2001  
**Pennsylvania Art Education Association Annual Conference.** “The Value of Student Journals in Art Education.” *Co-Lecture* 2000

### VISITING STUDIO CRITIC

**The Brew House Association:** Pittsburgh, PA: “Distillery 7 Residency,” 2013  
**University of Pittsburgh:** Pittsburgh, PA: “Digital Imaging,” 2011  
**Maryland Institute College of Art:** Baltimore, MD: “MFA in Studio Art Candidates,” 2011  
**Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design:** Denver, CO: “Painting II,” 2011  
**Anne Arundel Community College:** Arnold, MD: “Two-Dimensional Design,” 2011  
**DePaul University:** Chicago, IL: “Senior Studio Seminar,” 2009

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**Wimmer Faculty Fellowship for the Development of Teaching,** Carnegie Mellon University: Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation, 2016-2017  
**Special Merit Award,** Williamsburg Art and Historical Center (Juror: Claire Gilman), 2014  
**Surdna Foundation Fellowship,** Maryland Institute College of Art, 2007-2010  
**National Science Foundation,** “International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge” Semi-Finalist, 2007  
**Riverside Arts Center,** “AAWA,” Best in Show, 2009  
**Summa Cum Laude and Honors Scholar,** Mercyhurst University, 2002  
**Bell Atlantic Leadership in the Arts Award,** 1997

### PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

**Drawings at the Edge of Perception.** [Book] Benjamin Swallow Duke. East Lansing, MI: (Scene) Metrospace Michigan State University, 2019.

**“Artists play trumpet to the tulips at SPACE’s new exhibit”.** Amanda Waltz. [Pittsburgh City Paper](#): November 22, 2019.

**“Secret Photographs on Display...SPACE Gallery”.** Joanne Klimovich Harrop. [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#): August 1, 2019.

**“See the Exhibition that 87 Pittsburgh Artists have kept secret for months”.** Amanda Waltz. [Pittsburgh City Paper](#): June 12, 2019.

**“Picking Favorites...Identity Play”.** Lisa Cunningham. [Pittsburgh City Paper](#): July 18, 2018.

**“+500/ Kristen Letts Kovak”.** Fred Blauth. [Fred Blauth Interviews \(blog\)](#): February, 2018.

**“Trust Visual Arts: Past, Present, and Future”.** Fred Blauth. [Pittsburgh Cultural Trust \(blog\)](#): January 22, 2018.

**“On Looking & White Noise at 707/709 Brings Traditional Art to a Post-Election World”.** Onastasia Youssef. [LOCAL Pittsburgh](#): December 1, 2017.

**John Riegert.** [Book] Brett Yasko and Eric Lidji. Ongoing History, 2017.

**Les Femmes Folles: *The Women 2016.*** [Book] Sally Deskins. Morgantown, WV: Les Femmes Folles Books. 2017.

**“The John Show”** [Film]. Dir. Julie Sokolow. Prod. Olivia Vaughn and Ryan Loew. [Cinequest Film Festival](#): San Jose, CA. March 2-10, 2017. (Premiere).

Omaha Film Festival: Omaha, NE. March 12, 2017.

The Carnegie Museum of Art: Pittsburgh, PA. April 20, 2017.

Florida Film Festival: Orlando, FL. April 24-29, 2017.

- “Local artists focus on the many faces of John Riegert.” Sarah Pearl Heard. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: August 27, 2016.
- “A unique art exhibit includes 250 portraits of a single subject-who’s...”. Natalie Spanner. Pittsburgh City Paper: August 3, 2016.
- “Pittsburgh Surprises: The Artistic Side of Steel City.” Michele Herrmann. PASTE: August 2, 2016.
- “Exhibits at Wood Street Galleries and SPACE...”. Stephen Caruso. Pittsburgh City Paper: July 11, 2016.
- “John Riegert as seen through the eyes...”. Diana Lasko. Herald-Standard: May 12, 2016.
- “Kristen Letts Kovak”. *Interview*. Sally Deskins. Les Femmes Folles (Women in Art): January 7, 2016.
- “Trio of shows at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts present diverse array...”. Kurt Shaw. Pittsburgh Tribune: December 19, 2015.
- “Westmoreland @rt 30 exhibit pairs portraits with still lifes”. Shirley McMarlin. Pittsburgh Tribune: October 26, 2014.
- “Art Review: ‘Cataloguing Pattern’ at Space”. Kurt Shaw. Pittsburgh Tribune: July 30, 2014.
- “Cataloguing Pattern at SPACE: Review”. Alexandra Oliver. Pittsburgh Articulate (blog): July 24, 2104.
- “Kristen Letts Kovak: Permutations”. Jessica Warchall. Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (social media interview): July 22, 2014.
- “Visual Art: Cataloguing Pattern Opens at SPACE”. Press Room: Trust Arts: June 13, 2014.
- “Ossuary”. Art Knoxville: October 12, 2013.
- “Kristen Letts Kovak to show at Ohio University Eastern Gallery”. Ohio University Press: November 20, 2012.
- “Penn State Altoona presents works of Kristen Letts Kovak”. NOW: August 20, 2012.
- “Eyeworthy: ‘Ossuary,’ A project by Laurie Beth Clark”. Gayle Worland. Wisconsin State Journal: March 11, 2012.
- “The wishbone’s connected to the femur in ‘Ossuary’”. Lindsay Christians. 77 Square: February 16, 2012.
- “Exhibition highlights Mercyhurst faculty artists’ work”. The Merciad: September 13, 2011.
- “Cummings Reception to Honor Mercyhurst Art Faculty & Alumni”. ERI Jams Arts & Entertainment Magazine: September 1, 2011 (Vol. 7: Issue 1).
- “Going to the Birds”. Santa Maria SUN: October 26, 2010 (Vol. 11: Issue 33).
- “Birds in Art”. Santa Maria SUN: October 19, 2010 (Vol. 11: Issue 32).
- “Wilding Art Museum Exhibition ‘Birds in Art’”. American Towns: Los Olivos, CA: October 18, 2010.
- “Arts Club of Washington: Solo Exhibitions...”. Dupont Circle Arts: January 13, 2010.
- Birds in Art 2009. [Book] Woodson Art Museum. 2009.
- “Birds of a Feather Flock Together”. Wall Street Journal: October 1, 2009.
- “Flocking to Wisconsin: Catch a Glimpse of Birds in Art”. Wildlife Art Journal: September 17, 2009.
- “Bird Watching: The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum...”. American Art Collector: September 2009.
- “Local artists recognized at OAC All-Media Show”. Clarkston News: April 9, 2008.
- “Reclamations”. Erie Times-News: April 2002.

## **PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR**

- “Comparison for Critical Distance.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 2:1 May 2018.
- “The Problem with Social Practice.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:5 May 2015.
- “We are at now, now.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:4 April 2015.
- “Rational Implausibility.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:3 March 2015.
- “Keep Art Weird.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:2 February 2015.
- “Cycle of Hubris.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:1 January 2015.
- “So, What Do You Do for a Living? A case study in the social perception of artists”. *Feature Article*, Pittsburgh Articulate (blog): May

7, 2014.

**“Cataloguing Pattern.”** *Exhibition Catalogue*, SPACE: 2014.

**“An Economy of Means: The Art Habit”.** *Newspaper Art Critic*, [Ann Arbor Observer](#): April 2010.

**PROFESSIONAL ARTIST ASSOCIATIONS:**

**Group A** 2016-2022

**Associated Artists of Pittsburgh** 2015-present