

KRISTEN LETTS KOVAK

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

ART AND SCHOLARSHIP

EDUCATION

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

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

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

York College: Marketview Gallery, "*White Noise*" York, PA, 2019

707 Penn Gallery, "*On Looking*" Pittsburgh, PA, 2017-2018

709 Penn Gallery, "*White Noise*" Pittsburgh, PA, 2017-2018

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, 2013

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, 2012

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., 2010

SELECTED TWO AND THREE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

SPACE, "*Trumpet to the Tulips*" Pittsburgh, PA: 2019-2020

Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

Touchstone Center for Crafts, "*Vessels in Five Dimensions*" Farmington, PA: 2019

Collaboration with Silvija Singh

Carlow University Art Gallery, "*Dinosaurs in the Dollhouse*" Pittsburgh, PA: 2019

Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

State Museum of Pennsylvania, "*Art of the State*" Harrisburg, PA: jurors Julia Dolan, Joyce Owens, Matthew Hinçman, Al Miner, 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, 2021

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, 2020

(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, 2019

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, "*Group A: 75th Annual*" Pittsburgh, PA: curator Vicky Clark, 2018-2019

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, 2018

Eastern Michigan University: University Gallery, "*Great Lakes Drawing Biennial*" Ypsilanti, MI: juror Claire Gilman, 2017

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, 2016

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, 2015

Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, "*Over the Edge: Paperworks Unbound*" Brooklyn, NY: curator Claire Gilman, 2014 (Merit Award)

Westmoreland Museum of American Art: @rt 30, "*Peddling Personalities*" Greensburg, PA: curator Joan McGarry, 2014-2015

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, 2014

University of Tennessee: Downtown Gallery, "*Ossuary Project*" Knoxville, TN: curator Laurie Beth Clark, 2013

Seton Hill University: Harlan Gallery, "*Faculty Art Exhibition*" Greensburg, PA, 2012

Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, "*Other Animals*" Pittsburgh, PA: curator Sheila Ali, 2012

Mercyhurst College: Cummings Art Gallery, "*Annual Art Faculty Exhibition, Guest Alumna Kristen Letts Kovak...*" Erie, PA, 2011

Concordia University, "*Creative Adaptation in the Visual Arts: Kreft Juried Exhibition*" Ann Arbor, MI: juror Rebecca Hart, 2010

Wildling Art Museum, "*Birds in Art*" Los Olivos, CA: curator Andy McGivern, 2010-2011

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 2010

Muskegon Museum of Art, "*Birds in Art*" Muskegon, MI: curator Andy McGivern 2009-2010

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, 2009

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, 2008

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, 2007

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, 2006

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, 2005

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, 2002

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

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-present

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh 2015-present