

# KRISTEN LETTS KOVAK

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

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## ART AND SCHOLARSHIP

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### 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 Silviya Singh

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

Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

University of North Carolina: Asheville, "*Drawing Discourse: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual, Contemporary Drawing*" Asheville, NC: juror Charles Ritchie, 2023

The Center for Contemporary Art, "*2023 International Juried Exhibition*" Bedminster, NJ: juror Esteban del Valle, 2023

Robert Morris University, "*Balanced Response*" Moon Township, PA: jurors Andrew Y. Ames and Christine Holtz, 2023

Macon Arts Alliance Gallery, "*Abstract*" Macon, GA: curator Sierra Bush, 2022

Vestige Gallery, "*New Appalachia*" Pittsburgh, PA: curator Kyle Houser, 2022

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: 75<sup>th</sup> 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: Krefl 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.

“Cumplings 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**