

# KRISTEN LETTS KOVAK

Artist, Senior Associate Dean, and Assistant Teaching Professor  
Carnegie Mellon University, College of Fine Arts  
[www.klkovak.com](http://www.klkovak.com)

## EDUCATION

Maryland Institute College of Art, MFA in Studio Art, 2010  
Mercyhurst University, BA Studio Art, BA Art Education, 2002

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

707 Penn Gallery, "*On Looking*" Pittsburgh, PA, 2017-2018  
709 Penn Gallery, "*White Noise*" Pittsburgh, PA, 2017-2018  
Saint Michael's College: McCarthy Gallery, Burlington, VT, 2013  
Westmoreland Museum of American Art: @rt 30, 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 INVITATIONAL AND JURIED EXHIBITIONS

SPACE, "\_\_\_\_\_." Pittsburgh, PA: curator Brett Yasko, (2019)  
Carlow University Art Gallery, "*Dinosaurs in the Dollhouse*" Pittsburgh, PA: curator Sarah Jacobs, (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  
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  
**Ann Arbor Art Center: Gallery II**, “*Instructor and Student Show*” Ann Arbor, MI: curator Irene Gelbord, 2008  
**Maryland Institute College of Art: Pinkard Gallery**, “*MFA Candidates...*” Baltimore, MD, 2008  
**Orion Art Center**, “*All Media Show*” Orion, MI: jurors Doug and Kathryn 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, Curator (2020)  
**SPACE**, “*Identity Play*” Pittsburgh, PA, Curator, 2018  
**SPACE**, “*Degrees of Separation*” Pittsburgh, PA, Curator, 2016  
**SPACE**, “*Classifying Pattern*” Pittsburgh, PA, Organizer, 2014  
**Future Tenant**, “*Displacement*” Pittsburgh, PA, Curator, 2013

## GUEST LECTURES AND ARTISTS TALKS

**Westmoreland Museum of American Art**, “Artists Who Teach Talk,” *Gallery Talk*, (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. *Lecture*, 2012 and 2013  
**Ohio University**, *Gallery Talk*, 2012  
**Penn State University: Altoona**. “Recognition and Identification,” *Gallery Talk*, 2012

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

Anne Arundel Community College. "Questioning Perception through Paint," Course: Color Theory. *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

Art Scholarship, Mercyhurst University, 1998-2002

Academic Egan Scholarship, Mercyhurst University, 1998-2002

College Fiction Award, Mercyhurst University, 2001-2002

Bell Atlantic Leadership in the Arts Award, 1997

### PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

"Picking Favorites...offer worthy-of-attention works". Lisa Cunningham. *City Paper*: July 18, 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**. Brett Yasko and Eric Lidji. Pittsburgh, PA: Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 2017.

**Les Femmes Folles: *The Women 2016***. 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. *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 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “The Problem with Social Practice.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:5 May 2015 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “We are at now, now.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:4 April 2015 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “Rational Implausibility.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:3 March 2015 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “Keep Art Weird.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:2 February 2015 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “Cycle of Hubris.” *Article*, Black Bucket Essays: (blog): Vol 1:1 January 2015 <http://blackbucketessays.weebly.com>
- “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 <http://pittsburgharticulate.com/2014/05/07/kovak/>
- “Cataloguing Pattern.” *Exhibition Catalogue*, SPACE: 2014.

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