The University of Chicago Department of Visual Arts kdesi@earthlink.net

Artist Educator Curatorial Translation

- Interdisciplinary artist and educator with broad interests beyond specific training as a painter.
- Pedagogy and curatorial projects centered around collaboration across disciplines.
- Extensive administrative experience in the nonprofit arts sector. Founded, administered, and managed arts organizations; Partnered with city agencies to develop programming and audience outreach for nonprofit arts organizations and city-wide events.
- Long-standing and extensive international network of professional relationships throughout Italy, Europe, US, Brazil.
- Fluent Italian (spoken and written). Competency in French, Spanish, and Swedish.

#### **EDUCATION**

M.F.A. Laurea Magistrale. Honors. Academy of Fine Arts, Florence, Italy

Thesis: "Progress in Art: Suzi Gablik, Jean Piaget, and the Histories of Art and Science". (In Italian).

B.F.A. Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Awarded sophomore status upon admission. One-year non-resident study in Stockholm, Sweden.

Studio Art Centers International. Florence, Italy. Full Scholarship

1985

1987

#### **CURRENT TEACHING**

The University of Chicago

2008-Present

Instructional Professor, Department of Visual Arts.

# SELECTED COLLABORATIONS AND CURATORIAL PROJECTS

Compluvium Spazio Progetti
 Autumn 2026

Founder/Director. interdisciplinary Project Space. Fiesole, Italy.

<u>Radical Pedagogies: Raymundo Sesma and Edoardo Malagigi</u>
 Fall 2023Curator/Project Coordinator. Final round, proposals for 2024 Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Emilio Fantin: Risvegli/Awakenings.
 October 2021-March 2022
 Curator/Project Coordinator. Winner, 9th edition: <u>Italian Council Prize for the International Promotion of Italian Contemporary Art</u> (2020). Exhibitions, talks, performances in Italy and Chicago. Co-curated with Gabi Scardi.

https://www.poeticsofnonperceptible.com/project/risvegli-italian-council-projects/https://dova.uchicago.edu/events/emilio-fantin-dreaming-common-all

- <u>Sound and Seen: FiveSparks Chamber Music Festival.</u> Online. Harvard, Massachusetts. June 2020 Experimental video collaboration/performance with pianist Judith Gordon.
- <u>Cosa Vedi dalla tua Finestra?</u> Online. Berlin. Winter 2020Experimental video collaboration, curated by Adrianna Fantin.
- For My Quarantine Accomplice. Online. Berlin. Winter 2020 Experimental video collaboration, curated by Adrianna Fantin.
- Il Capodoglio Giovanni. University of Florence. Fall 2019
- Pedagogical coordinator/volunteer training, in collaboration with designer Edoardo Malagigi.
- Close Encounters: An evening of Painting and Music with the Spektral Quartet. May 2018 Experimental collaboration/performance with the Spektral Quartet. Chicago.
- Who Are We? Where Are We Going: Drawing in Solidarity with Immigrants Among Us. May 2018
  Pedagogy. Large-scale collaborative student mural and symposium. School of the Art Institute of
  Chicago.
- Recuparade: An Exercise in Speculative Thinking around Recycling for Concordia University.
   Concordia University, Montreal
- Curator//Pedagogy Coordinator, in collaboration with designer Edoardo Malagigi.
- <u>IUAES Inter Congress: Engaging Anthropology and Public.</u> November 2016
- Curator. Panel/performance/discussion between anthropologists and Syrian artists-in-exile.

• <u>Collaboration with Theaster Gates's Arts Incubator.</u> University of Chicago Arts Grant. May 2014 Educator/Curator. Large-Scale collaborative murals with Montreal-based En Masse collective, street artists, and youth groups from Theaster Gates's Arts Incubator. "Best of 2014" by Chicago Magazine.

# SELECTED ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND CULTURAL MEDIATION

• Faculty Director. Florence: Drawing Through the World.

September 2025

University of Chicago Study Abroad in Florence Italy.

Liaison, Student Services. School of the Art Institute of Chicago International Programs.
 Development, on-site management, and teaching. Studio art study abroad in Montecastello di Vibio, Italy.

Liaison, Provost's Office for Civic Engagement. The University of Chicago.

2015/16

- Recruitment and management of student volunteers for historic mural restorations on Chicago's South Side.
- Founder, <u>Revisible Cities</u> artists' collective. Public Art intervention.

2016-present

• Co-Founder and Artistic Advisor. I.C.B.I.E. Rome/Salvador Bahia Istituto Cultural Brazil-Italia-Europa. (Onlus, Roma). 2008-present

A vibrant cultural center that serves disadvantagedyouth in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

• Founder and President. 319 A St. Artist's Cooperative. Boston, MA.

2000-2007

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITS

Rally. Expo Chicago/Mana Contemporary. April 2025.

In Progress. Compluvium Spazio Progetti. Fiesole, Italy. July 2024.

Open Sesame. Open Studio. Mana Contemporary. Chicago. October 2024.

Touch. Seerveld Gallery at Trinity Christian College. Illinois. September 2020.

l'cchè c'è c'è. Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy. 2019.

Indecent Proposal: A Meditation on Yard Waste and Wonder (2019). Compound Yellow. Oak Park, IL. 2019.

Vagamondo. Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy. 2017.

Citizen. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL. 2016.

Senza Titolo, Amore Mio. Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy. 2015.

Incarnazione. ICBIE Galleria, Salvador, Brazil. 2015.

Corporeo/Incarnato. Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy. 2013.

Freight. New Capital. Chicago, IL. 2012.

Provisional Proposition: a Site-Specific Drawing/Performance at the Intersection of Art, Meat, and

Commerce. Kasia Kay Art Projects. Chicago, IL. 2012.

Le Coq Geant. Le Cebo, Auvillar, France. 2011.

Boston Drawing Project. Bernard Toale Gallery. Boston, MA. 2005.

Miller/Block Gallery, Boston, MA, 2004

....and everything nice. (Two person show). Boston Drawing Project@ Bernard Toale Gallery. 2004.

In Praise of Folly. The Artist's Foundation. Boston, MA. 2003.

Recent Work. List Art Center. Brown University. 1991.

Katherine Designations: Opere Recenti, Spazio Uno Gallery, Florence, Italy, 1988.

New Work. Syracuse University Fine Arts Gallery. Florence, Italy. 1988.

#### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITS**

2024 Compluvium Projects. Fiesole, Italy.2024 Kasia Kay Art Projects. Chicago, IL.

2023 Percorsi d'Arte: Monte Falterona. Castagno di Andrea, Italy.

2022 In Good Company. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL.

2020 FiveSparks Chamber Music Festival. (Online collaboration with pianist Judith Gordon). Harvard, MA.

Cosa Vedi dalla tua Finestra? (Online collaboration curated by Adrianna Fantin). Berlin.

For My Quarantine Accomplice. (Online collaboration curated by Adrianna Fantin). Berlin.

2019 Il Capodoglio Giovanni. In collaboration with Edoardo Malagigi. Florence, Italy.

Omaggio. (Performance). Fondazione Lacolomon. Italy.

2009 The Aesthetic of Our National Identity. Oak Park Arts League. Oak Park, IL.

The Mind's Eye. CU Galeria. Santiago, Chile.

2018 Un Cochon de Metier. Room83Spring. Watertown, MA

Close Encounters: A Collaborative Evening with the Spektral Quartet. Chicago, IL.

2017 The Mind's Eye. Dalton Warehouse, Los Angeles, CA.

Revisible Cities. Concordia University, Montreal.

Revisible Cities: Radio Immigrante. Bari, Italy.

2016 Lucciche. International Film/Video Art Symposium. Carrara, Italy.

PBS Art Assignment. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL.

Here, As Now. Zygman Voss Gallery. Chicago, IL. Curated by Walker Thisted.

2015 Mixed Media. Sonnenshein Gallery, Lake Forest College. Illinois. Curated by Karen Liebergott.

2014 Art Basel/Miami. Zolla Lieberman. Miami.

Un Dejeuner Sur l'Herbe. Terrain Projects. Oak Park, IL.

Making Space. Zolla/Lieberman. Chicago, IL. Curated by Susanne Doremus.

2013 Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy. Guerilla Truck Show. Chicago, IL.

2012 The Mind's I. Julius Caesar. Chicago, IL. Kasia Kay Art Projects. Chicago, IL.

L'Anima Nera Nella Notte Bianca. Academy of Fine Arts, Florence, Italy.

Salone La Stanzetta. Rome, Italy.

Art Hamptons. Bridgehampton, NY.Guerilla Truck Show. Chicago, IL.

Context, Art Miami, Miami, FL.

2011 Le Cebo. VCCA. Auvillar, France.

Simmons Collects. Simmons College. Boston, MA.

Off the Wall, Off the Floor. Walnut Ink Gallery. Michigan City, IN.

2010 Point of Contact Collection. Syracuse University. NY.

Samson. Boston, MA. Carroll and Sons. Boston, MA.

ZieherSmith. New York, NY. 2009 Metro Pictures. New York, NY.

A caida do muro de Berlim...e de tudos outros muros. Salvador do Bahia, Brazil.

2008 Vote Now. Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts.

Artcetera. Bernard Toale Gallery. Boston, MA.

2007 James Cohen Gallery. New York, NY.Rhys Gallery. Boston, MA.

From a Drawing Standpoint. Curated by Ana Tiscornia.

Leo Fortuna gallery, Hudson, NY.

2006 Size Matters. Juried by Barbara Lee and William Stover. Rhys Gallery. Boston, MA.

The 19th Drawing Show. Curated by Denise Markonish. Boston Center for the Arts.

ArtMatters. 2006 Aids Auction. Boston Center for the Arts.

2005 Drawing: 6 Perspectives. Curated by Ana Tiscornia. SUNY Old Westfield, NY.

Childhood Revisited. M.Y.Art Prospects. New York, NY.

2005 Bedtime Stories. Flying Space Gallery. Sag Harbor, NY.

Biagiotti Progetto Arte. Florence, Italy.

Pretty Sweet: The Sentimental Image in Contemporary Art. Curated by Nicholas Capasso.DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA.

2004 Toybox. Casas Reigner Gallery. Miami, Florida. Curated by Carolina Wonder.

Shelf Life. Boston Public Library Rare Books Dept./ Mass. College of Art. Boston, MA.

2003 The 18th Drawing Show. Curated by Rafaela Platow. Boston Center for the Arts.

Boston Drawing Project @ the Bernard Toale Gallery. Boston, MA.

Miller/Block Gallery. Boston, MA.

2002 Six Select Six. Whitney Payson Gallery. Portland, ME.

Seen and Remembered. Horn Gallery, Babson College. Wellesley, MA.

Summer Voices. Miller/Block Gallery. Boston, MA.

Selections 2002. Bakalar Gallery, Massachusetts College of Art. Boston, MA.

The 17th Drawing Show. Curated by Bill Arning. Boston Center for the Arts.

2001 There's a Monster... Emmanuel College. Boston, MA.

The Chicken Show. Curated by Sarah Wentworth. Boston Center for the Arts.

1999 Selections: Works by 1998 NEFA Award Winners. Umass/Dartmouth.

Posing. Curated by Shelley Bancroft. Boston Center for the Arts.

Summer Voices. Miller/Block Gallery. Boston, MA.

1998 Dream Botanicals. Howard Yezerski Gallery. Boston, MA.

1997 Hybrid. Curated by Mari Spirito. Mario Diacono Gallery. Boston, MA.

1996 Amos Eno Gallery. New York, NY.

1995 Landmarks. Boston Center for the Arts.

Six International Artists in Tuscany. San Polo, Italy.

1989. The Day After. Parterre, Florence, Italy.

Palazzo Strozzi. Florence, Italy.

Dubrovnik, Croatia.

# **GRANTS/ AWARDS**

2021 2019 2015 2012	Curation Award. Italian Council for Promotion of Italian Contemporary Art, edition 9. Residency. Fondazione Lacolemon. Lecce, Italy. Distinguished Service Award. School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Visiting Artist Residency Award. American Academy. Rome, Italy.
2011	Fellowship. Bogliasco Foundation. Genova, Italy.
2011 2010	Fellowship. VCCA Center in Auvillar, France. Fellowship. Stone Summer Theory Institute. Chicago.
2009	Residency. Ucross Foundation. Ucross, Wyoming.
2007	Residency. Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.
2004	Visiting Artist Award. American Academy. Rome, Italy.
2004	Fellowship Award. Berkshire/Taconic Artist's Trust.
1998	Fellowship Award. New England Foundation for the Arts.
1993	Residency. Millay Colony for the Arts, New York.
1993	Sally and Milton Avery Fellow Award. Millay Colony, New York.
SELECTED VISITING ARTIST/PUBLIC LECTURES	
2025	Artist Talk. Gerdie New Collectors Group. Chicago, IL.
2024	Artist Talk. Compluvium Spazio Progetti. Florence, Italy.
2024	Artist Talk. Chicago Exhibition Weekend. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL.
2023	Book launch/Panel Discussion. Emilio Fantin: Poetiche del non percepibile.
	Presentazione del Libro. MAMbo, Bologna, Italy.
2022	Artist Talk. Percorsi d'Arte: Monte Falterona. Castagno d'Andrea, Italy.
2022 2021	Visiting Artist. The Renaissance on Foot. University of Chicago Study Abroad inRome.  Panel Discussion. Presenting Emilio Fantin. OPC/DOVA. Logan Center for the Arts.
2021	Artist Talk. Trinity Christian College. (online). June.
2020	Artist Talk. Trinity Christian College. (online). September.
2020	Conversation. "Sound and Seen" (online, with Judith Gordon). FiveSparks Chamber Music Festival.
2019	A Workshop/Demonstration. Lumpen Drawing Rally. Chicago, IL.Artist Talk. Fondazione
	Lacoloman, Italy.
	Artist Talk/Workshop. Compound Yellow. Oak Park, IL.
2018	Workshop/Demonstration. Lumpen Drawing Rally. Chicago, IL.Artist Talk/Panel. Room83Spring.
	Watertown, MA.
2017	Artist Talk. SAIC Summer Intensive. Monte Castello, Italy. Visiting Artist. Concordia University School of Fine Arts. Montreal, Canada.
2017	Artist Talk. SAIC Summer Intensive. Monte Castello. Italy. Visiting Artist. The Mind's Eye. Paschke
	Art Center. Chicago.
2016	Visiting Artist. Ontario School of Art, Florence Program. Italy.
	Artist Talk. Academy of Fine Arts, Florence, Italy, Gallery Talk. Zygman Voss. Chicago, IL.
	Citizen. Open Studio forum and conversation. Mana Contemporary. Chicago, IL.
	Lecture/Presentation. Studio Visit. Booth Contemporary Art Group. Chicago, IL.
2015	Artist Talk. Lake Forest College. Lake Forest, IL.

Conference Presenter/Panelist: <u>Report from the Field: Artists, Diaspora, Solidarity, New Digital Technologies.</u> IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences).

#### PROJECTS IN PRINT/TRANSLATION

## Emilio Fantin: Poetiche del non percepibile/Poetics of the non-perceptible.

translation by Katherine Desjardins.

a+m bookstore edizioni. Milano, 2022. 416pp.

Cosa Vedi dalla tua Finestra? Curated by Mili Romano. Carta Bianca Press. 2021.

Aesthetica. (UK edition). Feb/March 2015.

Mario Diacono: A Celebration. Boston, MA. 2015.

The Art of Point of Contact. Syracuse University Press. 2007.

Redlands Review. Volume III Spring 2007. U California, Redlands. 2007.

"Friends". Point of Contact: On Love. Vol.6, no. 1-2, 2002, pp.22-27. Syracuse University Press. 2002.

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY/PRESS/LINKS**

Rai 3 Italia: Tethys, Capodoglio Giovanni. 9/2011 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU9WtkT3wfQ

Arte e Ambiente: Intervista ad Edoardo Malagigi. 8/2019.

http://www.arpat.toscana.it/notizie/arpatnews/2019/081-19/arte-e-ambiente-intervista-a-edoardo-malagigi?fbclid=lwAR1KfgaoTp2yfODYoWRS2wcELag4r3gNXaupLsL7loesyPnANhaHv1o-0wM

<u>Challenging Boundaries: Wicked Hard at Room 83 Spring.</u> By Elizabeth Michelman. Artscope. Sept/Oct 2018.

<u>Here, As Now.</u> By Walker Thisted. Catalogue Essay. Zygman Voss Gallery, Chicago. 12/2015. <u>Mixing It Up.</u> by Miguel de Baca. Catalogue essay. Lake Forest College. 3/2015

<u>From a Drawing Standpoint.</u> 10/2007. Catalogue. Leo Fortuna Gallery. <u>Good Looks: An Artful Whodunit.</u> Boston Globe. 10/2007

Art and New England. By Joseph Thompson. Artist's Resource Trust: The First Ten Years. 6/2006. Catalogue.

Meredith Fife Day, "The 19th Annual Drawing Show." Art New England. June/July 2006. Cate McQuaid, "Best of 2005," The Boston Globe. 12/30/05.

Cate McQuaid, "With Striking Images Drawing Show Leaves it's Mark," The Boston Globe. 12/23/05.

Christopher Millis, "Mutations on a Theme," The Boston Phoenix. 12/2/05.

Randi Hopkins, "Luck of the Draw". Providence Phoenix. 11/17/05. Rachel Gepner, "Drawing Show @ the BCA". Big Red and Shiny. 11/05.

Maureen Mullarkey, "Myth and it's Discontents," The New York Sun, 7/7/05. Susan Boulanger, "Pretty Sweet." Art New England June/July 2005.

Charles Giuliano, "Pretty Sweet at DeCordova: Girls and Boys Just Want to have Fun". Maverick Arts. 4/05. Scott Ruescher, "Plastic Refuge: Pretty Sweet." ArtsEditor. 3/4/05.

Charles Giuliano, "Guilty Pleasures." Big, Red, and Shiny. 3/3/05.

Nicholas Capasso, "A Sentimental Journey, or How did We get Here?" catalogue essay. Pretty Sweet: The Sentimental Image in Contemporary Art. 1/2005. Exhibition Catalogue.

Alexandra Novina, "A Swell of Sentiment" catalogue essay. Pretty Sweet: The Sentimental Image in Contemporary Art. 1/2005. Exhibition Catalogue.

Cate McQuaid, "Dashes of Brilliance." The Boston Globe. 6/25/04.

New American Paintings. 2002 Northeast Edition, vol. 38. Open Studios Press.

Sanan Hyder, "New Art Exhibit Reminds us of our Childhoods." Babson Free press, 4/25/02. Chris Thompson, "Six et non: UNE's "Six Select Six." The Portland Phoenix. 3/15/02.

Bill Arning. "Drawing is a Myth-albeit a beautiful one.." catalogue essay, The Drawing Show. 1/2002.

Sarah Wentworth. "Chicken Stuff(ing)." catalogue essay. The Chicken Show. Exhibition Catalogue. 7/2001.

New American Paintings. 1999 Northeast Edition, vol. 20. Open Studios Press.

Shelley Bancroft. "Posing." exhibition essay. 11/1999. Cate McQuaid, "Posing." Boston Globe. 12/31/98.

James Hull and Matt McClune, "A Conversation over Dream Botanicals." ArtsMedia. September 1998.

Charles Giuliano, "Posing." Sidewalk Boston 11/27/98. Miles Unger, "Hybrid." Art New England Oct/Nov 1997.

Jeff Perrott, "Hybrid." ArtsMedia July/Aug 1997.

Mari Spirito, "Hybrid." exhibition Essay. Mario Diacono Gallery. 5/1997.

Work represented in the following permanent public collections: Fidelity Investments; Simmons College; Academy of Fine Arts, Florence; Syracuse University; The City of Florence, Italy.