

JESSICA KALLISTA

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EDUCATION

2025 Reiki Master Certification, Usui Reiki, Radiant You

2002 MFA Creative Writing/Poetry, George Mason University

1997 BA English Literature/Poetry, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

AWARDS

Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning 2023-2024 Grant Recipient

George Mason University Sojourner Truth Faculty Award 2023

George Mason University Margaret C. Howell Outstanding Achievement Award 2022

George Mason University English Department Distinguished Alumna Award Fall 2017

EXPERIENCE

September 2022—February 2023

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Theater

Theater History Curriculum Development Team

Researcher, Writer, Editor

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

September 2021—Present

College of Visual and Performing Arts

Dean Senior Advisory Council

Consultant

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

January 2021—May 2021

SHRINES—A Production of *The Arcanists, Inc.*

Shrine Designer

DMV

June 2020—Present

College of Visual and Performing Arts

Kritikos Arts in Context Reading Group

Curator, Writer, Editor, and Head Moderator

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

August 2018—Present

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Art--InterArts

Adjunct Professor (Teaching courses including Analog Collage, Critical Theory, Aesthetics, Senior Project, and Writing for Artists)

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

July 2018

Short-term Residency Review Panel

Juror

Torpedo Factory Art Center

Alexandria, VA

March 2018

Joseph A. Lohman III Poetry Award

Judge

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

February 2018

So to Speak: a feminist journal of language and art, Visual Art Contest

Judge

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

February 2018

Experimentation/Exploration

Judge/Curator

New Project Studio at Torpedo Factory Art Center

Alexandria, VA

September 2017—December 2017

English Department

Adjunct Professor (Teaching Forms of Poetry ENGH 391)

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

March 2017—July 2019

Gallery Director

Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center

Manassas, VA

January 2017—April 2017

Collage

Art Instructor

Corcoran Arts Continuing Education at George Washington University

Washington, DC

November 2016

Ipseity (Art Exhibition)

Judge

Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center

Alexandria, VA

November 2014 – Present

Curator, Researcher, Writer, Editor

Olly Olly

Fairfax, VA

January 2014 – December 2015

Consulting Curator, Researcher, Writer, Editor

Epicure Café

Fairfax, VA

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 Exit/Enter, Studio Arts Senior Exhibition, Mason Exhibitions Arlington, Arlington, VA (Curator)

2025 Women Artists of the DMV, The Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria, VA (Artist)

2025 Performance Extravaganza, Otis Street Arts Project, Mt. Ranier, MD (Artist)

2025 No Waste: A Pop-Up Performance Show (Ludic Pataphysicality, Installation & Performance), VisArts, Rockville, MD (Artist)

2024 Transcendence, Transformer's 20th Annual Auction Exhibition & Benefit Gala, American University's Katzen Arts Center, Washington, DC (Artist)

2024 FUN, Otis Street Arts Project, Mt. Rainier, MD (Artist)

2023 Hacia la Vida, a site-specific performance by Hoesy Corona, 2023 Tephra ICA Arts Festival, Reston, VA (Performer)

2023 Cast/Recast, Gillespie Gallery, Fairfax, VA (Guest Oracle/Artist)

2022 Forecast, Tephra ICA at Signature, Reston, VA (Guest Oracle/Artist)

2022 Cast/Recast, Mason Exhibitions Arlington, Arlington, VA (Guest Oracle/Artist)

2022 Buoyant Oracle, Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art, Reston, VA (Guest Oracle/Artist)

2022 Cul de Sackers, Ruby Projects, Fairfax, VA (Artist)

2021 Conjuring Presence, Fenwick Gallery, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (Curator)

2021 SHRINES: A Production of The Arcanists Inc., Shrine to Your Sacred Power & Remembering You Are a Witch, Art Installation & Video, Fairfax, VA (Artist & Designer)

2020 Call & Response: Structures, Fenwick Gallery, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (Artist)

2020 Instigating Bliss: Infinite Love (Grand Hall Performance), Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (Artist)

2020 That Group Show, Ruby Projects, Fairfax, VA (Artist)

2019 Treasure. Trash. Pleasure. Play., Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Gallerist)

2019 Sweet but Psycho: an avant-garde fairytale, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Gallerist)

2019 A groTEAsque PARTY: The Late Shift: Summer Party, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (Artist)

2019 Olly Olly Talk Show @Epicure, Epicure Café, Fairfax, VA (Curator, Artist, Host)

2019 Somewhere Between You and Me, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Gallerist)

2019 Holding and Releasing, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)

2019 Solo Lab 5 Performance Art Festival, VisArts, Rockville, MD (Artist)

- 2019 PINK Ranchos and Other Ephemeral Zip Codes, Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, DC (Artist by Special Invitation in Response to Carolina Mayorga)
- 2019 TORN, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2019 Self and Others: a solo exhibition of new work by Jeff Duka, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2018 Ambry, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2018 a detached observer: a solo exhibition of work by Elizabeth Piper Board, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2018 Sub Rosa, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2018 Vivid Transmissions, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2018 Inner Demons (curated by Leslie Mounaime), Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Artist)
- 2018 Fractal Futures: a solo exhibition of work by Mojdeh Rezaeipour, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2018 CINZA, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2018 8th Anniversary Gala Silent Auction, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2018 Experimentation/Exploration: Shadé Reneé, Olly Olly/New Project Studio at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (Juror)
- 2018 The Alchemy of the Sex Witch and Other Tales of Love, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Ephemeral Treasures, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Monster Drawing Rally, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, VA (Artist)
- 2017 War & Recovery, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Reclaiming Freedom: A Call and Response, Watergate Gallery, Washington, DC (Artist)
- 2017 Beyond the Blacklight, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Co-Curator with Tariq Omar)
- 2017 Iconographic Visions, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Talk Show, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Sacred Feminine, Buchanan Partners Art Gallery at Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA (Curator)
- 2017 Transcendence, Galerie Kritiku, Prague, Czech Republic (Artist)
- 2017 Alchemical Vessels, Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Washington, DC (Artist/Co-Curator)
- 2017 March 150, The Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (Artist)
- 2017 Ipseity, The Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (Juror)
- 2017 Revelation/Revolution, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Co-Curator with Dawne Langford of Quota)
- 2016 The Hugo Ball: A DADA Centennial Soiree, Rhizome, Washington, DC (Artist)
- 2016 Baby Canvases SIX, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Co-Curator with Jennifer Crawford)
- 2016 DC Street Sticker Expo 3.0, The Fridge, Washington, DC (Artist)
- 2016 Flesh, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)

- 2016 CURRENTS, 8th Annual Call & Response, Fenwick Gallery, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (Artist)
- 2016 Lush Life, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Co-Curator with Yue Li)
- 2016 Making Space, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Co-Curator with Anne Smith)
- 2016 Manifesto, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Curator)
- 2016 Off the Wall, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA (Guest Curator)
- 2016 GOOD FOR HEALTH, NoMüNoMü, Washington, DC (Artist)
- 2016 Dear Suburbia—SOLO Exhibition, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- 2016 Embracing the Power of Artistic Practice, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 More Than a Muse, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Baby Canvases Five, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Co-Curator with Jennifer Crawford)
- 2015 Haunted, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Threshold, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Captive, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Curator)
- 2015 Ephemeral, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Pandemic, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Cut/Tear, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Subliminal, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2015 Bodylore, Olly Olly, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2014 Divine, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Curator)
- 2014 Fallen, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Curator)
- 2014 Wake Up Call, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Curator)
- 2014 Tell Me Something, Epicure, Fairfax, VA (Artist/Curator)
- 2013 Gallery Underground All Member Exhibit, Gallery Underground, Arlington, VA
- 2013 Arlington Artists Alliance 3rd Annual Art Studio Tour, Red Studios at Art Underground, Arlington, VA
- 2013 FILTER:BORDER an Instagram Exhibition, Tempus Projects, Tampa, FL
- 2013 Fall Group Exhibit, Epicure, Fairfax, VA
- 2013 Beyond the Black Light, Adam Lister Gallery, Fairfax, VA
- 2013 Summer Group Exhibit, Adam Lister Gallery, Fairfax, VA
- 2013 STUDIO, Adam Lister Gallery, Fairfax, VA
- 2013 TQ Mason Queer Art Exhibition, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

SELECTED PRESS BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Rosy Overdrive, "Pressing Concerns: Beauty, Higher Selves Playdate, OK Cool, Josh Halper," Rosy Overdrive, July 31, 2025, <https://rosyoverdrive.com/2025/07/31/pressing-concerns-beauty-higher-selves-playdate-ok-cool-josh-halper/>

Mark Jenkins, "Museums: For the Arcanists, Inc., all the DMV is a stage – for installation and performance art," Washington Post, April 7, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/museums/the-arcanists-inc-shrines/2021/04/06/da329986-92fd-11eb-a74e-1f4cf89fd948_story.html?fbclid=IwAR2hwirZ3axTf7uN3Jrk2AOKiZagXV8Uayq0BcJHqCUhDxBV-4aqyr9t4xk

David Siegel, "Adventure Awaits: Experience Magic with Arts in Fairfax City," Fairfax Connection, March 13, 2021, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/13/adventure-awaits-experience-magic-arts-fairfax-cit/>

"Art, ritual, and connection to meet up at 'Shrines' by the Arcanists: What inspired three shrine designers and what to expect when you go," DC Metro Theater Arts, March 10, 2021, <https://dcmetrotheaterarts.com/2021/03/10/art-ritual-and-connection-to-meet-up-at-shrines-by-the-arcanists/>

Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: "Pink makes you think at OAS Art Museum of the Americas" [includes review of *Self and Others: a solo exhibition of new work by Jeff Duka* at Olly Olly], Washington Post, April 19, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-pink-makes-you-think-at-oas-art-museum-of-the-americas/2019/04/18/580a6b5a-5f38-11e9-bf24-db4b9fb62aa2_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.2b2d71bb32d5

Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: Extraordinary images from ordinary settings in 'Places We Find'" [includes review of *a detached observer: a solo exhibition of work by Elizabeth Piper Board* at Olly Olly] Washington Post, October 26, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-extraordinary-images-from-ordinary-settings-in-places-we-find/2018/10/25/98fe96fe-d649-11e8-aeb7-ddcad4a0a54e_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fbbc9233f743

Rachel Kiser, "A Stylish Life: Insider's Guide: Jessica Kallista," Northern Virginia Magazine, August 2018, <https://www.northernvirginiamag.com/style/insiders-guide/2018/08/14/olly-olly-founder-jessica-kallista/>

Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: Roving photographers capture street scenes around the world" [includes review of *Fractal Futures: a solo exhibition of work by Mojdeh Rezaeipour* at Olly Olly], Washington Post, June 8, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-roving-photographers-capture-street-scenes-around-the-world/2018/06/07/55069a24-6843-11e8-9e38-24e693b38637_story.html?utm_term=.da7fa788129a

Andy Johnson, "Fractal Futures: Mojdeh Rezaeipour at Olly Olly," The Rib, June 2, 2018, <http://the-rib.net/project/fractal-futures-at-olly-olly>

Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: Tim Doud takes a tactile turn" [includes review of *Reclaiming Freedom* exhibition, including mention of my piece *Sugar*], Washington Post, October 27, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-tim-doud-takes-a-tactile-turn/2017/10/27/39c786c6-b810-11e7-9e58-e6288544af98_story.html?utm_term=.2a2d2301fc95

Jay Hendrick, "East City Artnotes: Flesh, NSFW?," October 18, 2016, <http://www.eastcityart.com/reviews/east-city-artnotes-flesh-nsfw/>

Holly Mason, "Speaking With Jessica Kallista: Artist & Gallery Owner," So to Speak, August 2016, <http://sotospeakjournal.org/speaking-with-jessica-kallista-artist-gallery-owner/>

Jay Hendrick, "Who's Afraid of the Bunnyman? Olly Olly's Manifesto Reviewed," East City Art, June 8, 2016, <http://www.eastcityart.com/reviews/manifesto-urban-legends/>

Mark Jenkins, "In the galleries: Artist takes a detour on her journey to the past" [includes review of my *Dear Suburbia* solo exhibition], Washington Post, April 8, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-artist-takes-a-detour-on-her-journey-to-the-past/2016/04/07/d7f56df0-fa10-11e5-813a-90ab563f0dde_story.html

Jenny Cutler Lopez, "Exclusively Online" page 5 ["Discover NoVA artists in our Q&A Series" and "Local Personalities"], Northern Virginia Magazine, April 2016

Holly Mason, "Domestic Territories," So to Speak, March 16, 2016, <http://sotospeakjournal.org/domestic-territories/>

Meghan Meier and Jenny Cutler Lopez, "Parenthood as Art: Domestic Territories Exhibit Opens this Saturday," Northern Virginia Magazine, March 3, 2016, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/game-plan/2016/03/03/domesticterritories/>

Mark Jenkins, "Artists Prove that Bombing in Baghdad Was Not the End of Street of Booksellers," Washington Post, February 11, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/museums/artists-prove-that-bombing-in-baghdad-was-not-the-end-of-street-of-booksellers/2016/02/11/4f255f3e-c8fc-11e5-ae11-57b6aeab993f_story.html

Jenny Cutler Lopez, "Sexuality on the Table: Q & A with artist Jessica Kallista," Northern Virginia Magazine, February 4, 2016, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/entertainment/people2/2016/02/04/qajessicakallista/>

Jenny Cutler Lopez, "On the Threshold: The Pain and Pleasure of Waiting," Northern Virginia Magazine, November 3, 2015, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/game-plan/2015/11/03/threshold/>

Jenny Cutler Lopez, "Long Live the Bunnyman," Northern Virginia Magazine, October 2015

East City Art, "Olly Olly Presents Threshold," September 23, 2015, <http://www.eastcityart.com/openings-and-events/olly-olly-presents-threshold/>

Mark Jenkins, "In the Galleries: Anything but simplicity in these drawings," [review of *Ephemeral*], Washington Post, July 2, 2015, http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-anything-but-simplicity-in-these-drawings/2015/07/02/9af2d232-1e86-11e5-aeb9-a411a84c9d55_story.html

East City Art, "Olly Olly Presents Ephemeral," June 2, 2015, <http://www.eastcityart.com/openings-and-events/olly-olly-presents-ephemeral/>

Kristen Doerer, Interview for "Three Ways to Explore Fairfax," Washingtonian Magazine, June 2015

F. Lennox Campello, "Ephemeral at Olly Olly," May 13, 2015, Daily Campello Art News, <http://dcartnews.blogspot.com/2015/05/ephemeral-at-olly-olly.html>

Mark Jenkins, "In the Galleries: Simplicity, Spontaneity and the Beauty of Imperfection," [review of *Cut/Tear*], Washington Post, April 3, 2015, http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-simplicity-spontaneity-and-the-beauty-of-imperfection/2015/04/01/cfe92e12-d6f3-11e4-8103-fa84725dbf9d_story.html

Michael Balderston, "Arts on the Rise in Fairfax: Old Town Fairfax Is Becoming a New Hotbed for the Arts," Northern Virginia Magazine, April 2015, <https://www.northernvirginiamag.com/things-to-do/things-to-do-features/2015/04/15/arts-on-the-rise-in-fairfax/>

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Michelle Goldchain, Whurk Magazine, March 2015, "Olly Olly," <http://whurk.org/issue/25/#page/18/mode/2up>

Mark Jenkins, "In the Galleries," [review of *Divine*], Washington Post, January 23, 2015, http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/in-the-galleries-photos-that-take-twists-and-turns-at-civilian-art-projects/2015/01/22/64567de6-a0b9-11e4-903f-9f2faf7cd9fe_story.html

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Michelle Goldchain, "Questioning the Divine with The Bunnyman Bridge Collective's Newest Exhibition," Epicuria, January 14, 2015, <http://us3.campaignarchive1.com/?u=7610ae495ff866172a064afed&id=fd119faff4&e=7751aeee3f>

Michael Balderston, "Mosaic Turns Construction into Art with Mosaic Yards Project," Northern Virginia Magazine, January 12, 2015, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/buzz-bin/2015/01/12/mosaic-turns-construction-into-art-with-mosaic-yards-project/>

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Jessica Godart, "The Bunnyman Bridge Collective Returns to Epicure Café with the Art of 'Panoplia,'" Northernvirginiamag.com, June 12, 2014, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/game-plan/2014/06/12/the-bunnyman-bridge-collective-returns-to-epicure-cafe-with-the-art-of-panoplia/>

Katie Bowles, "Edgy Art in Suburbia: Opening Night for The Bunnyman Bridge Collective," Northernvirginiamag.com, March 31, 2014, <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/game-plan/2014/03/31/edgy-art-in-suburbia-opening-night-for-the-bunnyman-bridge-collective/>

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

George Mason University CVPA Arts in Context Advisory Committee

Artworks for Freedom Artist Activist Council 2016

Transformer 12th Annual Silent Auction and Benefit Party, Auction Artist Nominating Committee Member

Arts Council of Fairfax County FY18 Project Support Grant Review Panel Member

Mosaic Yards Project

Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016

The Bunnyman Bridge Collective (Founder)

City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts (Business Representative Spring 2016 - Fall 2017)

Free Art Friday NoVA (A Project to Disrupt Art World Commodity Fetishism)

SELECTED EVENTS ORGANIZED

Yoga in the Gallery at Olly Olly

Art Gym Open Studio Nights

Exhibition Programming Collaborative Artist Workshop

Brunch in the Gallery at Olly Olly

Poetry Readings

Cut/Tear Collage Party Workshops

Loud Fire GMU MFA Literary Readings

Trash with Cash: 1980s Dynasty Costume Party & "How to Trash" Maker Event