

# SWAGATO CHAKRAVORTY

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## EDUCATION

- 2013–present PhD (ABD), History of Art and Film and Media Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT  
*Dissertation: “Scenes of Displacement: Moving Images and the Politics of Location in Contemporary Art”*  
*Committee: Craig Buckley, Francesco Casetti, Pamela M. Lee*
- 2017 MA, MPhil, History of Art and Film and Media Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2011 MA, Humanities (interdisciplinary), The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2009 BA, English, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019–20 **Programming Associate, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT**
- Managed Center programming and events, fostering connections with greater New Haven community and cultural organizations
  - Coordinated all film and artwork loans with distributors and institutions
  - Introduced guest speakers, moderated panel discussions, and led Q&A sessions
  - Designed and drafted print, digital, and social media publicity materials
  - Tracked Center budget and expenses, reporting summaries to Associate Director
- 2019 **Blanksteen Curatorial Fellow (Contemporary Art), The Jewish Museum, New York, NY**
- Assisted Curatorial Department with collections and exhibition research, checklist management, loan requests, and installation schedules
  - Assisted curator Kelly Taxter with all aspects of conceptualizing and organizing *Jonas Mekas: The Camera was Always Running*
  - Collaborated with Ms. Taxter to develop exhibition proposal for *Jonas Mekas*, contributing original research on art, migration, and cultural displacement
  - Conducted acquisitions research; developed presentations for curatorial meetings
  - Drafted checklist, travel prospectus, and grant proposals for *Jonas Mekas*
  - Coordinated *Jonas Mekas* catalogue development with Publications department and composed didactic texts for *Rachel Feinstein: Maiden, Mother, Crone*
- 2018 **Curatorial Intern, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY**
- Assisted curators Natalie Bell, Gary Carrion-Murayari, and Margot Norton with all aspects of *Sarah Lucas: Au Naturel* and *Nari Ward: We the People*
  - Proofread *Nari Ward* catalogue essays and facilitated curatorial talks
  - Drafted and edited label copy for *Sarah Lucas*; finalized checklists for *Nari Ward*
  - Led gallery tours and patron walkthroughs for *John Akomfrah: Signs of Empire*
  - Composed thirty artist texts for *The Warmth of Other Suns: Stories of Global Displacement* (Phillips Collection, DC)
- 2015–16 **Mellon-Marron Research Consortium Fellow, Department of Media and Performance Art, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY**
- Assisted curators Stuart Comer, Ana Janevski, Martha Joseph, and Thomas J. Lax with all aspects of *Judson Dance Theater: The Work is Never Done* and *Bruce Conner: It's All True*
  - Researched and developed international exhibition histories; co-organized departmental seminars and maintained discussion summaries
  - Conducted on- and off-site archival research supporting *Judson Dance Theater*
  - Co-curated collection exhibition, *African American Artists and the Museum*, and led object study days with participating scholars, critics, curators
  - Conceived and led cross-departmental archival project researching history of live art and performance at MoMA
  - Collaborated with Digital Media and collection specialists to strategize converting archival project into publicly-accessible interactive visualization
  - Facilitated departmental events and programming (e.g., MoMA Modern Mondays)

- 2013–14 **Co-curator, *Rebuilding the Canon*, Yale University, New Haven, CT**
- Collaborated with graduate cohort to conceive, research, and develop exhibition and screening series
  - Coordinated film rentals and artwork loans with domestic and international distributors, museums, and private collections
  - Worked with A/V staff to set up and oversee film projections and video monitor installations
  - Introduced screenings, moderated panel discussions, and led post-screening Q&As

#### **AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2020–21 Public Humanities Fellow, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University
- Fall 2019 History of Art Department Travel Grant
- 2019 Blanksteen Curatorial Fellowship (Contemporary Art), The Jewish Museum, New York, NY
- 2019 Institute of Contemporary Arts (London)/Paul Mellon Centre for the Study of British Art Fellowship: “The Artist Collective” (*declined*)
- 2018–19 Ardon L. Judd Fellowship, Yale University
- Summer 2018 History of Art Department Travel Grant
- 2017–18 Carrie A. Middleton Fellowship, Yale University
- Summer 2017 Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant (German), US Department of Education
- 2017–18 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Yale University: “Genealogies of the Screen”
- 2015–16 Mellon-Marron Research Consortium Fellowship, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2015–16 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Concentration in the Humanities, Yale University: “(En)Visualizing Knowledge: Text Mining, Mapping, Network Analysis, and Big Data” (*declined*)
- Summer 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant (French), US Department of Education
- 2013–19 Yale University Graduate Fellowship

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

##### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2021 “Unwatchable: Alfredo Jaar, *Lament of the Images* (2002), and the Ends of Representation,” *Art Journal* (*forthcoming*)
- 2021 “‘The Sea is History’: John Akomfrah, J. M. W. Turner, and the Black Atlantic” (*under review*)
- 2021 “Réalisation and Realism: Cézanne, Cinema, and the 1890s” (*under review*)
- 2017 “Experimental Media and the City,” *Mediapolis: A Journal of Cities and Culture* 2:2

##### BOOK CHAPTERS AND CATALOGUE ESSAYS

- 2021 “*flour hat (floor)*,” on the work of Hyeree Ro for [To Hear No Echo: Yale School of Art 2021 MFA Thesis Exhibition \(Sculpture\)](#), Exh. Cat. Yale School of Art (New Haven, CT)
- 2020 “Remediating the Body: Performance, Photography, and the Dance Archives at the Museum of Modern Art,” *Modern in the Making: MoMA and the Modern Experiment, 1929–1949*, eds. Austin Porter and Sandra Zalman (New York: Bloomsbury)
- 2019 “Anthony McCall’s Solid Light Works and the Afterlives of Spectatorship,” *Four Simultaneous Soloists*, eds. David Grubbs and Anthony McCall (New York: Pioneer Works Press)
- 2016 “Glenn Ligon: *The Death of Tom* (2008),” Mellon-Marron Research Consortium *Dossier 3: African American Artists and the Museum*, The Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY)
- 2016 “Live at MoMA: A Chronology of Performance at the Museum of Modern Art, 1929–2014,” Dept. of Media and Performance, The Museum of Modern Art, NY (*not for circulation*)

##### CRITICISM

- Feb 2020 “Out of the Waiting Room of History: Ritwik Ghatak’s Cinema of Partition,” [LA Review of Books](#)
- Oct 2019 *William Pope.L: Conquest*, NY, in [Performa Magazine](#)

- May 2019 *Radicalism in the Wilderness: Japanese Artists in the Global 1960s*, Japan Society, NY, in [Art in America](#)
- Mar 2019 *Gretchen Bender: So Much Deathless*, Red Bull Arts New York, in [Performa Magazine](#)
- Feb 2019 *Bruce Nauman: Disappearing Acts*, The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA P.S.1, NY, in [The Brooklyn Rail](#)
- Sep 2018 *The Otolith Group: A Lost Future*, The Rubin Museum of Art, NY, in [The Brooklyn Rail](#)

#### PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS (SELECTED)

- Mar 2021 “Museums and Pedagogy,” curatorial talk with Key Jo Lee, *Culture and Its Publics* series, Public Humanities at Yale, New Haven, CT
- Mar 2021 “Indigenous Art Histories,” artist talk with Emma Robbins, *Culture and Its Publics* series, Public Humanities at Yale, New Haven, CT
- Feb 2021 “‘The Terrible Nearness of Distant Places’: *Documenta11* and Migratory Media Forms,” College Art Association, New York, NY
- Jan 2021 “Cinematic Afterlives of Black British Cultural Studies: Retake Film and Video Collective,” Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- Mar 2019 “Displacing Expanded Cinema: Migrations of the Moving Image,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Seattle, WA
- Apr 2018 “*Breakaway* (Bruce Conner, 1966), or, the Music Video as Form,” Modern and Contemporary Art Forum, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- Mar 2018 “The Difficulty of Difference: *The Death of Tom* (Glenn Ligon, 2008) and Institutional Legibility,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Toronto, ON
- Mar 2017 “Points in Space: Merce Cunningham, Performance, and the Moving Image after Cinema,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL
- Mar 2016 “Chantal Akerman’s Displaced Images,” *Displacement*, New York University, New York, NY
- Mar 2016 “Surfaces of Light: Toward a Genealogy of Architectural Projection Mapping,” *Encountering the Interface*, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

#### TEACHING

- Fall 2020 Teaching Fellow, “Art and Myth in Greek Antiquity” (Prof. Milette Gaifman)
- Spring 2017 Teaching Fellow, “The Black Atlantic Visual Tradition” (Prof. Robert Farris Thompson)
- Fall 2016 Teaching Fellow, “Intro. to Film Studies” (Prof. Ronald Gregg)
- Spring 2015 Teaching Fellow, “Intro. to the History of Art: Renaissance to the Present” (Prof. Timothy Barringer)
- Fall 2014 Teaching Fellow, “Modern Architecture, 1890-1980” (Prof. Craig Buckley)

#### SERVICE

- 2018–19 Graduate Student Assembly Representative, Dept. of the History of Art, Yale University
- 2017–18 Co-organizer, Modern and Contemporary Art Forum, Dept. of the History of Art, Yale University
- 2017–18 Co-organizer, Rough Cut Forum, Film & Media Studies Program, Yale University
- 2015 Co-organizer, *Eye Candy: Moving Images Beyond the Cinema*, Film & Media Studies graduate conference, Yale University
- 2014–15 Graduate Student Assembly Representative, Film & Media Studies Program, Yale University

**LANGUAGES** English, Hindi, Bengali (fluent); French, German (intermediate)

**SOFTWARE** TMS/CEMS, Filemaker Pro, Adobe Creative Cloud (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop), Tableau, R, Gephi

**MEMBERSHIP** College Art Association, Society for Cinema and Media Studies