

KRISTEN LETTS KOVAK

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

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- (2024) **Marshall University: Carroll Gallery**, “*Out of Order*” Huntington, WV
- 2023 **Coker University: Celicia Coker Bell Gallery**, “*Out of Order*” Hartsville, SC
- 2019 **York College: Marketview Gallery**, “*White Noise*” York, PA
- 2017-18 **707 Penn Gallery**, “*On Looking*” Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017-18 **709 Penn Gallery**, “*White Noise*” Pittsburgh, PA
- 2013 **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
- 2012 **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
- 2010 **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.

SELECTED TWO AND THREE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- (2025) **University of Central Florida: School of Visual Arts and Design**, Orlando, FL: Collaboration with Grace Mikell Ramsey
- 2019-20 **SPACE**, “*Trumpet to the Tulips*” Pittsburgh, PA: Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann
- 2019 **Touchstone Center for Crafts**, “*Vessels in Five Dimensions*” Farmington, PA: Collaboration with Silvija Singh
- 2019 **Carlow University Art Gallery**, “*Dinosaurs in the Dollhouse*” Pittsburgh, PA: Collaboration with Sarah Jacobs and Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- (2023) **Mark Rengers Gallery**, “*Growth*” Sewickley, PA: curator Melanie Vera
- 2023 **Galesburg Arts Center**, “*Galex 56*” Galesburg, IL: juror Claire Ashley
- 2023 **University of North Carolina: Asheville**, “*Drawing Discourse: 14th Annual Exhibition on Contemporary Drawing*” Asheville, NC: juror Charles Ritchie
- 2023 **AAP Exhibition Gallery**, “*2022-23 Featured Artist Exhibition*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Dawn Henry
- 2023 **The Center for Contemporary Art**, “*2023 International Juried Exhibition*” Bedminster, NJ: juror Esteban del Valle
- 2023 **AAP Exhibition Gallery**, “*Growth*” Pittsburgh, PA: juror Disparate Minds
- 2023 **Robert Morris University**, “*Balanced Response*” Moon Township, PA: jurors Andrew Y. Ames and Christine Holtz
- 2022-23 **Concept Art Gallery**, Pittsburgh, PA: directors Alison Brand Oehler and Sam Berkovitz
- 2022 **Macon Arts Alliance Gallery**, “*Abstract*” Macon, GA: curator Sierra Bush
- 2022 **Vestige Gallery**, “*New Appalachia*” Pittsburgh, PA: curator Kyle Houser
- 2021 **State Museum of Pennsylvania**, “*Art of the State*” Harrisburg, PA: jurors Julia Dolan, Joyce Owens, Matthew Hinçman, Al Miner, 2021
- 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
- 2020 **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
- 2019 **(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
- 2018-19 **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**, *“Group A: 75th Annual”* Pittsburgh, PA: curator Vicky Clark
- 2018 **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
- 2017 **Eastern Michigan University: University Gallery**, *“Great Lakes Drawing Biennial”* Ypsilanti, MI: juror Claire Gilman
- 2016 **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
- 2015 **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
- 2014-15 **Westmoreland Museum of American Art: @rt 30**, *“Peddling Personalities”* Greensburg, PA: curator Joan McGarry
- 2014 **Williamsburg Art and Historical Center**, *“Over the Edge: Paperworks Unbound”* Brooklyn, NY: curator Claire Gilman (Merit Award)
- 2014 **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
- 2013 **University of Tennessee: Downtown Gallery**, *“Ossuary Project”* Knoxville, TN: curator Laurie Beth Clark
- 2012 **Seton Hill University: Harlan Gallery**, *“Faculty Art Exhibition”* Greensburg, PA
- 2012 **Irma Freeman Center for Imagination**, *“Other Animals”* Pittsburgh, PA: curator Sheila Ali
- 2011 **Mercyhurst College: Cummings Art Gallery**, *“Annual Art Faculty Exhibition, Guest Alumna Kristen Letts Kovak...”* Erie, PA
- 2010-11 **Wildling Art Museum**, *“Birds in Art”* Los Olivos, CA: curator Andy McGivern,
- 2010 **Concordia University**, *“Creative Adaptation in the Visual Arts: Krefl Juried Exhibition”* Ann Arbor, MI: juror Rebecca Hart
- 2010 **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
- 2009-10 **Muskegon Museum of Art**, *“Birds in Art”* Muskegon, MI: curator Andy McGivern
- 2009 **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
- 2008 **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
- 2007 **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
- 2006 **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
- 2005 **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
- 2002 **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

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

EDUCATION

2010 **Maryland Institute College of Art**, MFA in Studio Art

2002 **Mercyhurst University**, BA Studio Art, BA Art Education

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

Drawing Discourse: 14th Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Drawing. [Book] Tamie Beldue. University of North Carolina: Asheville, 2023.

Drawings at the Edge of Perception. [Book] Benjamin Swallow Duke. East Lansing, MI: (Scene) Metrospace Michigan State University, 2019.

“CWA Picks for March 2019”. Committee on Women in the Arts. College Art Association- CAA News Today: March 11, 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.

“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. [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-present

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh 2015-present