

JOHN PEÑA

Pittsburgh, PA

johnpena@johnpena.net

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RESUME

EXHIBITIONS & PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2025** [Upcoming] Luggage Thoughts (Kinetic Sculpture), Terminal Modernization Program, Baggage Claim, Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2023** 400 Million Years of Water, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation + Shiftworks Public Art, Fern Hollow Bridge, Pittsburgh, PA
Larimer Times Newsletter (ongoing), Pittsburgh, PA
- 2021** Hazelwood Green Bollards, GGN Landscapes, Shiftworks Public Art + Monmade, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2020** Emotional Landscapes, Penn State Beaver Campus, Monaca, PA
- 2018** Larimer Stories, Shiftworks Community + Public Art, Neighborhood Allies, & The Larimer Consensus Group, Pittsburgh, PA
Artist Who Teach, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, PA
Identity Play, SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017** Sometimes I Just Don't Know How To Be In The World (Solo Exhibition), The Lantern Building, Pittsburgh, PA
SEEP, Woskob Gallery, Penn State College of Art and Architecture, State College, PA
CSA PGH Selected Artist, "Two Word Balloons," Pittsburgh, PA
- 2016** Word Balloons (Two-Person Exhibition), Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, NY
Daily Geology (Solo Exhibition), West Virginia University, Laura Mesaros Gallery, Morgantown, WV
- 2015** Word Balloon (Public Bike Rack), Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh, PA
Institute for New Feeling: FELT BOOK (Traveling Video Screening), Storefront Lab, San Francisco; Leisure Gallery, Denver; Threewalls, Chicago; Recess Gallery, NYC
- 2014** Word Balloons (Pittsburgh Biennial Exhibition), Mattress Factory Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
Lifeloggers: Chronicling the Everyday, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
Liars, Actors and, Believers, Video Screening, Cabinet Magazine, Brooklyn, New York, NY
- 2013** Building on Sand, ARTMRKT Hamptons Video Screening, Bridgehampton, New York, NY
Daily Geology: Selected Works (Solo Exhibition), Perlman Museum, Northfield, MN
Significant Ordinaries, California State University Museum, Long Beach, CA
Daily Geology: Selected Works (Solo Exhibition), WERK Gallery, Pittsburgh
- 2012** Things That Fly, TOUGH Art Exhibition, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, PA
- 2011** Emerging Artist of the Year (Two-Person Exhibition), Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
Room for Error, Provincetown Art Museum, Provincetown, MA
DRUGSTORE BEETLE, Raid Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010** Natural Translations, Blue Sky Project Armory Exhibition, Dayton, OH
Conflict Kitchen Project (Co-collaborator), Pittsburgh, PA
The Young Pretenders, Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009** Los Perros Chandonosos (Public Works), Barrio Refugio, Cali, Colombia
Thoughts on a Blue Sky, Public Art Mural, Sprout Fund, Pittsburgh, PA
I Heart Photography, Capricious Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008** Join the Human to Robot Army, The Mattress Factory Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
A Moratorium on Make-Believe, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Regina Miller Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
It's Easy To Find, PO BOX Exhibit, Elizaville, NY
- 2007** 102.9 Sounds You Never Hear, Steel Valley Arts Council, Homestead, PA
Pittsburgh Pedal Express, Three River's Arts Festival, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2006 EVERYTHING MUST GO! Future Tenant Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
HOMO LUDENS: Yip, Yap and Holler, Brewhouse Theater, Pittsburgh, PA

GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2024 Community Development Block Grant, US Department of Housing and Human Development, The City of Pittsburgh, Larimer Senior Stories, Pittsburgh, PA
2021 Opportunity Fund Award, Pittsburgh Foundation, Larimer Senior Stories, Pittsburgh, PA
ONE Green Product Design Award, Bridgeway Capital, Pittsburgh, PA
2019 Campus Arts Initiative Public Art Program, Penn State, University Park
2016 Placemaking + Temporary Public Art Program Artist, Office of Public Art and Neighborhood Allies, Pittsburgh, PA
2014 Mattress Factory Museum, Artist-in-Residence, Pittsburgh, PA
Lighthouse Works Fellowship, Artist-in-Residence, Fishers Island, NY
2013 Creative Development Grant, Pittsburgh Foundation
2012 Carol R. Brown Creative Achievement Award, Heinz & Pittsburgh Foundation
TOUGH ART Program, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Artist-in-Residence
2011 Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Artist-in-Residence, Omaha, NE
"Emerging Artist of the Year", Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Pittsburgh, PA
2010 Fine Arts Work Center Fellowship, Provincetown, MA
2009 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, MA
2008 Fulbright Fellowship Recipient (ETA), La Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia

ARTIST LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & CRITIQUES

- 2024 Alternative Spring Break Visiting Artist, (SLICE Program), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
2023 In The Field Workshops, Guest Lecturer, Shiftworks Public Art, Pittsburgh, PA
2021 Lighthouse Works, Fishers Island, NY, Guest Lecturer
2020 Center for Arts in Society, Pittsburgh, PA, Guest Speaker and Lecturer
2016 University of Tennessee Knoxville, Guest Lecturer
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, Guest Lecturer
2014 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio, Guest Lecturer
DRAW Symposium, Carnegie Mellon University, Guest Speaker
2013 Carlton College Perlman Teaching Museum, Northfield, Minnesota, Guest Lecturer, Clarion University, Guest Lecturer
2012 Slippery Rock University, Guest Lecturer
Westminster College, Guest Lecturer & Site-Specific Art making Workshop

BIBLIOGRAPHY & INTERVIEWS

- 2024 "New Pittsburgh Airport Artwork Asks, 'What would your luggage say?'" 90.5 WESA, Bill O'Driscoll
2023 "Art brings new life to the Fern Hollow Bridge," Pittsburgh Union Progress, Ed Blazina
"Art reflecting Pittsburgh's geological history," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Mary Ann Thomas
"Public art unveiled at Fern Hollow Bridge in Pittsburgh," TribLIVE, Julia Felton
2019 "All I had to do was let go and fall apart," Seeing In Color Podcast with Zhiwan Cheung
2018 "New public artwork in Larimer draws on stories from seniors," WESA Pittsburgh, Bill O'Driscoll
2015 "This Man Has Been Sending Letters To The Ocean For Twelve Years," BuzzFeed, Kasia Galazka
2015 "Fall Profile: John Peña," Venison Magazine, Nazish Chunara
2014 "Emerging Pittsburgh Artists You Should Know," Complex Magazine, Jennifer Wood
"Artist in Residence Bring the Earnest Angst to The Mattress Factory," Pittsburgh City Paper, Nadine Wasserman
"Pittsburgh Biennial 2014: The Mattress Factory," Art Hopper, Catherine Walworth
"Lifeloggers Captures Beauty of Everyday Life," Chicago Tribune, Lori Waxman

- 2013** "Episode 21: John Peña," Tell Me Something I Don't Know Podcast, Jim Rugg and Jasen Lex
- 2012** "Portfolio Review: John Peña," Next Level Magazine, London, UK, Punj Rajesh
 "Emerging Artist of the Year John Peña Documented Every Day For Two Years With Pictures and Words," Pittsburgh City Paper, Robert Isenberg
 "Something To Talk About At Pittsburgh Center For The Arts," Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Kurt Shaw
 "A Commitment to Subtlety: John Peña," Shady Ave Magazine, Rachel Berresford
 "Artist Profile: John Peña," Outpost Journal, New York
- 2008** "Finding Real Toads in the Miller Gallery's Make-Believe Garden," Pittsburgh City Paper, Savannah Gutz
- 2007** "The FCC has shut down the low-wattage radio experiment," Pittsburgh City Paper, Matt Siffert
 "Mail on Wheels," The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Diana Nelson-Jones
 "Radio Experiment Play Unheard Sounds," The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
 "Homestead Radio Offers Sound of a Sparrow," WTAE Pittsburgh Channel 4 News

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2009-24** Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Art, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
 Concept Studio 1 (Foundations) - Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2017
 Concept Studio 3 (Foundations) - Spring 2013
 Special Topics: Transdisciplinary Research Studio II: Public Art - Fall 2022
 Special Topics: Intermediate Comics - Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023, Spring 2024,
 Special Topics: Advanced Comics Workshop - Spring 2025
- 2020-21** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Penn State Beaver, Monaca, PA
 Art Appreciation - Fall 2020 (Remote)
 Expanding the Graphic Novel - Spring 2021 (Remote)
- 2018** Visiting Professor of Art, Spring 2018
 Animation Workshop, Viborg, Denmark
- 2016** Visiting Professor of Art & Artist-in-Residence, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
 Painting I: Intro Painting - Spring 2016
 Painting IV: Advanced Painting - Spring 2016
- 2009-15** Installation Art Instructor, Mattress Factory Museum Education Department, Pittsburgh, PA

EDUCATION

- 2008** MFA (Visual Art), Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2005** BFA (Painting), Central Washington University with Washington State Residency Teaching Certification, Ellensburg, WA