



THE CURATORIAL INTENSIVE

STUDENT PROFILES

SUMMER 2010

Robin Wallis Atkinson currently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she works as the Curator of Antenna Gallery. In the past, she has worked as a Curatorial Coordinator for *Prospect.1 New Orleans*. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2008 with a BA in Art History.

Proposal: Robin's proposal, *The Least We Can Do*, addresses the British Petroleum oil leak that began April 20th in the Gulf of Mexico. Consisting of works created by artists from Southern Louisiana, this exhibition hopes to create a context relatable to the viewer in order to promote awareness about the potential cultural, economic, ecological consequences of this unprecedented man-made disaster.

Jon Davies currently lives in Toronto, Canada, where he works as the Assistant Curator of Programs at The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery. Before this, he was the Assistant Programmer for Inside Out, the Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival. He graduated from York University in 2004 with an MA in Film and Video, Critical and Historical Studies. His MA dissertation, *Trash is Truth: Performances of Transgressive Glamour*, focused on the work of Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, Mario Montez, John Waters, Divine and George Kuchar. He additionally holds a BFA from Concordia University with a focus in Cinema and Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality.

Proposal: Jon's proposal, *Year Zero*, addresses the issue of a present haunted by the unfinished turmoil of gay activism during the 1980s and 90s through the work of contemporary queer male artists.

Anja de Klerk lives in South Africa and most recently worked on *Dada South* at the South African National Gallery, Cape Town. In the past, Anja has worked for the University of Stellenbosch as a Student Assistant to Prof Sandra Klopper, Vice Dean of The Faculties, Visual Arts, Music and Drama, and as a Research Assistant to Kathryn Smith, Head of Fine Arts Dept. She graduated from the University of Stellenbosch in 2008 with a BA in Visual Arts.

Proposal: Anja's proposed exhibition, *now-now*, aims to propagate an alternative logic to an often-anxious definition of the contemporary in art.

Lucy Gallun currently lives in Brooklyn, New York. From 2009-2010, she was the Whitney Lauder Curatorial Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Art at University of Pennsylvania, and she undertook the Whitney Independent Study Program in 2008. Before that, Lucy worked as Associate Publisher for Gregory R. Miller & Co from 2004-2009. She is currently completing her PhD in Art History at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Project: Lucy's proposed exhibition, *Pivoting*, envisions contemporary projects of serial photography that reference the complex web of social, political, and cultural attributes that determine "nation-ness"

Marie Heilich lives in Saint Louis, Missouri, where she works as an intern at White Flag Projects. In 2009, she was Curatorial Intern at the Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis. She graduated this year from Webster University with a BA in Visual Cultures and a certificate in Curatorial Studies.

Proposal: Highlighting a specific approach to contemporary art-making defined by immediacy and deskilling, this exhibition explores self-defeating actions. The artists bargain with their own limitations resulting in noble attempts, successful illusions or acceptance of failure.

Andrea Hill currently lives in New York City, where she has been the Art Funds Manager for Phillips de Pury & Company auction house since 2008. She is also the Team Advisor for No Longer Empty (NLE), a group that puts public art in empty storefronts in New York City. She graduated from Columbia University in 2008 with an MA in International Affairs and received a BA in English and Art from Yale University in 2003.

Proposal: Andrea's proposal aims to consider the inert art object as a conduit for past and potential action by linking together objects with the performance arena.

Mariluz Hoyos currently lives in New York City, where she is working towards a PhD in Art History at the Graduate Center, CUNY. Mariluz worked for Cai Studio (Cai Guo-Qiang) in New York as Head of Research and Archives from 2005-2009, and more recently as Project Director from 2008-2009. Before that, she worked at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, as a project exhibition coordinator. She holds an MA in Latin America Studies from New York University and a BS in Economics from the National University of Colombia.

Proposal: Mariluz's proposed exhibition, *Harlem Soundscapes*, will invite artists to create new sound installations in Harlem to be presented in public spaces.

Elite Kedan currently lives in Miami, Florida, where she runs her own architecture practice, Elite Kedan Architect. Before this, she practiced architecture with Shemesh + Kedan Architects, New York, NY, and also taught as an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University School of Architecture. She has recently co-edited a book entitled *Provisional: Emerging Modes of Architectural Practice USA*. She graduated from Harvard University in 1996 with a Master of Architecture in Urban Design and from Cornell University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Architecture.

Proposal: Elite's proposal, *Provisional*, envisions using the curatorial process as a vehicle to expand on the subject of emerging American architectural practices.

Naima Keith is presently a Hammer Museum Curatorial Research Fellow working with guest curator Kellie Jones on the exhibition entitled, *Now Dig This! Art in Black Los Angeles 1960-1980*. She is also a PhD candidate in Contemporary Art at UCLA, from where she graduated in 2005 with an MA in Art History and, in 2003, with a BA in Art History. She also undertook additional coursework in art at Goldsmiths College, London. Her MA dissertation combined cultural theory with art historical discourse to investigate how the work of black British artists of the 1980s, particularly Isaac Julien, might be viewed historically.

Proposal: Naima's proposed exhibition, *Art from Afropolitania*, is a focused consideration of art produced by artists of African descent in Europe after 1980.

Qinyi Lim currently lives in Singapore, where she works as Assistant Curator for the National University of Singapore Museum. Before that, she was an Assistant Curator at Singapore Art Museum from 2005-2007. She has just graduated this year from the National University of Singapore with an MA in Southeast Asian Studies and she holds a BA in Art History from the University of Queensland, Australia.

Proposal: Qinyi's proposed exhibition, *Delineating Histories*, aims to create a platform for artists from the region of Southeast Asia so that they may engage in a dialogue framed using reinterpreted concepts of "autonomous histories" espoused by scholars like John Smail, Reynaldo Ileto, Harry Benda and Benedict Anderson in the early 1960s.

Bakirathi Mani currently lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she is Associate Professor of English Literature at Swarthmore College. Bakirathi was the 2009-2010 Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Columbia University. She holds a PhD in Modern

Thought from Stanford University, an MA from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and a BSFS from Georgetown University in Non-Western History.

Proposal: Bakirathi's proposed exhibition, *Absent*, addresses issues of the visibility and invisibility of immigrants in the United States, particularly of Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi descent.

JJ Kegan McFadden currently lives in Winnipeg, Canada, where he works as Director/Curator at Platform Center for photographic + digital arts. He graduated from the University of British Columbia in 2007 with an MA in Art History and earned a BA in Art History from the University of Winnipeg in 2005.

Proposal: JJ's proposed exhibition, *Cabin Fever*, is imagined as a group exhibition featuring a mixture of emerging and established artists whose practices regard boredom, malaise, as well as social and mental isolation.

Eriola Pira currently lives in New York, where she works as the Program Officer for the Foundation of Civil Society and as a freelance consultant on various curatorial projects. Eriola was a Fulbright Scholar focusing on Contemporary Art Practice in Albania in 2005-2006. She graduated from New York University in 2009 with an MA in Visual Culture Theory and earned a BA in Liberal Arts from Pace University in 2005.

Proposal: Eriola's proposal aims to consider the fictional artist as an artistic strategy and production by bringing together contemporary and historical fictional artists and their real creators to examine and explore the fictional artist as a phenomena and practice.

Sarah Rifky Currently lives in Cairo, Egypt, where she has been the Curator of Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art since 2009 and an instructor on the Advanced Art Seminar at the American University in Cairo since 2010. She is also a board Member of MOTO: Museum of the Occident and the co-editor of Damascus: Tourists, Artists and Secret Agents. She graduated from Malmo Art Academy, Sweden in 2003 with an MFA in Critical Studies and holds a BA in Visual Arts and Mass Communication from the American University in Cairo.

Proposal: Sarah's proposed exhibition, *Jump-Cut-Curate*, aims to curate curators by identifying several emerging curators to initiate small-scale curatorial projects that can happen in several different venues around the city, whether actual, virtual, or textual.

Jordan Stein currently lives in San Francisco, California, where he works as the Artist-in-Residence Coordinator at the Exploratorium. He graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2005 with an MFA in New Genres and earned a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan in 2002.

Proposal: Jordan's proposal, *There, There, Photograph: Sculpture as Photography in the 1960s and 70s*, aims to highlight the work of photographers who are hired to document the art object.

Pieter Vermeulen lives in Belgium and holds a MA degree in Cultural Studies and Philosophy from the University of Leuven and Antwerp. He is presently guest professor in Philosophy and Philosophy of Art at the University College Ghent, Faculty of Fine Arts and Faculty of Music. He co-curated (with Christophe De Jaeger and Art Yan) the new media exhibition *Fantastic Illusions* in MOCA Shanghai (eARTS Festival) and BUDA Kortrijk (Europalia.china). He received a grant from AIR Antwerp to do research on his proposal and will be guest editing an issue of the New York Magazine of Contemporary Art and Theory.

Proposal: Pieter's proposed exhibition, *Uncommonplaces* (New York / Antwerp) will be presented as a dialogue between the exhibition and small interventions in public space, investigating art's potential to subvert, suspend or transform the banal or ordinary aspects of everyday existence.

Lisa Volpe currently lives in Los Angeles, California, where she works as the Curatorial Assistant in the Photography Department at Santa Barbara Museum of Art and is currently a PhD candidate in Art History at UC Santa Barbara. She graduated from Case Western University in 2008 with an MA in Art History and received a BA in Art History from Dartmouth College in 2004.

Proposal: Lisa's proposed exhibition would examine the automotive culture of a single city, Los Angeles, in order to understand the place of the automobile in contemporary life.