

# K A E G A N S P A R K S

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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Art historian, curator, and critic with 15 years of experience in exhibition spaces and academia.

### **PhD Candidate, Department of Art History**

The Graduate Center, City University of New York  
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## EDUCATION

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2024 (anticipated) **The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY**  
**PhD Candidate in Art History (Major: Art Since 1900, Minor: History of Photography)**  
Dissertation: "Mierle Laderman Ukeles and the Politics of Social Reproduction, 1969–1984"  
Advisor: Siona Wilson

2018 **The Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY**  
**MPhil in Art History**

2010 **University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**  
**BA, English (Major) and Art History (Minor)**  
Graduated with Distinction in English, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa,  
Dean's List 2007–2010, Benjamin Franklin Scholar

## GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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2022–2023 **Center for Place, Culture and Politics Dissertation Award, Albert K. Webster Memorial Fellowship Award, and Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Covid Relief Award, CUNY**

2021–2022 **William H. Truettner Predoctoral Fellowship, Smithsonian American Art Museum**

2019–2020 **Presidential Research Fellowship, Doctoral Student Research Grant, and Connect New York Fellowship, CUNY**

2018–2019 **Museum Research Consortium Fellowship, Museum of Modern Art**  
Full-time appointment in the department of Media & Performance, worked on exhibition and publication titled "member: Pope.L, 1978–2001"

**Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies, CUNY**

2017–2018 **Andrew C. Mellon Curatorial Research Fellowship, Dia Art Foundation**  
Part-time appointment; research toward long-term Dorothea Rockburne exhibition and Joan Jonas acquisition

# K A E G A N S P A R K S

- 2016–2017 **Andrew C. Mellon Curatorial Fellowship, James Gallery, CUNY Graduate Center**  
Part-time appointment; curated a group exhibition with and 5 related discursive programs. Managed loans and a \$50K budget (see “Soft Skills” exhibition entry below)
- 2015–2016 **Helena Rubinstein Fellowship, Whitney Independent Study Program, Critical Studies**  
Participation in two seminars weekly and independent research toward symposium presentation on Martha Wilson’s early work (see below)
- 2014 **R&D Season Fellowship, New Museum of Contemporary Art**  
Part-time appointment in department of Education and Public Engagement; research and production support for a series of artist residencies, performances, and programs

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

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- 2022–23 **Seminar on “Revolutionary Arts”** led by Ruth Wilson-Gilmore and Peter Hitchcock, Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY (application based)
- October 2022 **The Potosí Principle Archive Workshop**, Institute for the Study of Latin American Art, New York, NY (invited)
- May 2022 **“To feel in the gut, to gather up in the head’: Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Systems Thinking, and the Trouble with Visibility”** (presentation), 2022 Fellows Lectures, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC (online)
- February 2021 **“The Specter Haunting Art History: A Third Wave of Marxism?”** (co-organized panel with Joseph Henry) College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, NY (online)  
**“After the Revolution’: Mierle Laderman Ukeles and the Post-Crisis City”** (presentation), College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, NY (online)
- May 2019 **“Taylorism, Process Art, and Richard Serra’s Verb List”** (presentation), Museum Research Consortium Study Sessions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- April 2017 **“Labors of Love”** (organized symposium), The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY, in conjunction with curated exhibition “Soft Skills”
- May 2016 **“Routine Performance: Self-Management and Affective Labor in Martha Wilson’s Early Works”** (presentation), Whitney Independent Study Program Critical Studies Symposium, New York, NY

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (college-level)

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- Spring 2023 **Part-time Faculty Appointment (primary co-instructor with Professor Andrea Geyer), “MFA Thesis Exhibition,”** Parsons School of Design, The New School for Social Research
- Fall 2022/  
Spring 2023 **Graduate Teaching Fellow (primary instructor), “Art History Survey I”** (global art before 1400 CE), Baruch College, CUNY, Department of Fine and Performing Arts
- Fall 2021 **Adjunct Instructor, “Twentieth Century Art,”** College of Staten Island, CUNY, Department of Performing and Creative Arts
- Fall 2019–21 **Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer, “Critical Approaches in Social and Cultural Theory,”** Barnard College, Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies (3 semesters)

# K A E G A N S P A R K S

## PUBLICATIONS (selected)

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### CRITICISM + ESSAYS

- Review of “Red, White, Yellow, and Black: 1972—73” at the Kitchen, *Artforum* 61, no. 10 (Summer 2023). (Forthcoming)
- “Idle Hands.” Review of *Surrealist Sabotage and the War on Work* by Abigail Susik. *Artforum.com*, August 18, 2022. [LINK](#)
- “Mutual Understanding.” Review of *Disasters and Social Reproduction: Crisis Response Between the State and Community* by Peer Illner and *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)* by Dean Spade. *Artforum.com*, March 2, 2021. [LINK](#)
- “Dirty Pictures” (on Mierle Laderman Ukeles, social reproduction, and the coronavirus crisis). *Lux* no. 1 (February 2021).
- “Fallen on Hard Times: Pope.L, Precarity, and New York in the 1970s.” *Movement Research Performance Journal* 54, “Spatial Practice” (special issue), edited by Alan Ruiz and Moriah Evans, July 2020.
- “Bonded Debt: Kaegan Sparks on the films of Jordan Lord.” *Artforum.com*, June 9, 2020. [LINK](#)
- “Susan Meiselas” (review), *Artforum* 58, no. 9 (May/June 2020). [LINK](#)
- “The New Woman’s Survival Catalog.” *Bookforum* 26, no. 4 (Dec/Jan 2020): 23. [LINK](#)
- “Critics’ Pick: Fernando Bryce,” *Artforum.com*, October 2019. [LINK](#)
- “Tales from the Crypt.” Review of *The Glen Park Library: A Fairy Tale of Disruption*, by Pamela Lee. *Artforum* 58, no. 2 (October 2019): 51. [LINK](#)
- “Allan Sekula’s Photographs Expose the Inner Workings of Globalization” (review), *Art in America* (September 2019). [LINK](#)
- “Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today” (review), *Art in America* (April 2019): 88–89. [LINK](#)
- “Catherine Opie” (review), *Art in America* (February 2019): 83–84. [LINK](#)
- “Cally Spooner: SWEAT SHAME ETC.” (review), *The Brooklyn Rail* (March 2019). [LINK](#)
- “Gordon Matta-Clark: Anarchitect” (review), *The Brooklyn Rail* (February 2018). [LINK](#)
- “To Cut and to Swipe”: Understanding Hito Steyerl through HOW NOT TO BE SEEN.” *Momus*, May 12, 2015. Included in the anthology *Momus: A Return to Art Criticism*, ed. Skye Goodden. Toronto: Momus, 2018. [LINK](#)

### CATALOGUE TEXTS

- Essay for *The Potosí Principle Archive* hosted by Institute for the Study of Latin American Art, 2023 (forthcoming)
- Artist entries for Nona Faustine and Dionisio Cortes Ortega in *Monuments Now*, ed. Jess Wilcox and Kaegan Sparks. New York: Socrates Sculpture Park, 2021.
- Artist entries for Harry Dodge, Reina Gossett and Sasha Wortzel, House of Ladosha, Simone Leigh, Connie Samaras, and Anicka Yi in *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon*, ed. Johanna Burton. New York: New Museum, 2017.
- Artist entries for Ydessa Hendeles and Richard Greaves/Mario Del Curto in *The Keeper*, ed. Massimiliano Gioni and Natalie Bell. New York: New Museum, 2016.
- Artist entries for Nadim Abbas, Verena Dengler, Geumhyung Jeong, Renaud Jerez, Eduardo Navarro, and Avery K. Singer in *New Museum Triennial 2015: Surround Audience*, ed. Lauren Cornell. New York: New Museum, 2015.
- Catalogue essay for “Elizabeth Duffy & Cheryl Yun.” New York: dm contemporary, 2014.
- “Fabien Mérelle: In Suspense.” In *Fabien Mérelle: Elles et Moi*. Hong Kong: Edouard Malingue Gallery, 2013.

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## EDITORIAL

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- 2021**      **Guest Editor, *New Monuments Now* exhibition catalogue**, Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens, NY
- 2014–present**      **Freelance Copyeditor** for arts professionals and institutions including Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art
- 2014–2016**      **Publication Associate, *New Museum Critical Anthologies***, New York, NY  
Research, editorial support, rights & reproduction, and publication management for anthology series  
- Lauren Cornell and Ed Halter, eds., *Mass Effect: Art and the Internet in the 21st Century* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press: 2015)  
- Johanna Burton, Shannon Jackson, and Dominick Willsdon, eds., *Public Servants: Art and the Crisis of the Common Good* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2016)  
- Johanna Burton, Reina Gossett, and Eric Stanley, eds., *Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017)

## CURATORIAL

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### EXHIBITIONS

- 2023**      **MFA Thesis Exhibition**, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY (forthcoming)
- 2017**      **“Soft Skills,”** James Gallery, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY [LINK](#)  
Group exhibition on feminized labor, 1970s to today, including 5 discursive programs with Jacqueline Hoàng Nguyễn, Amalle Dublon, Lalaie Ameeriar, Kathi Weeks, Shiloh Whitney, Corina Copp, Diana Hamilton, Jen Liu, Aliza Shvarts; Amy Herzog, and Nitin Ahuja. [Artforum Critics' Pick](#)
- 2016**      **“Zoe Beloff: The Infernal Dream of Mutt and Jeff,”** Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY [LINK](#)  
Solo installation on histories of labor & the moving image, including 3 discursive programs with Johanna Burton, Kate Valk, Mariam Ghani, Alex Pittman, Lawrence Mesich, and Amy Herzog. [Artforum Critics' Pick](#). [New York Times review](#)
- 2013**      **“Archipelago,”** Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY [LINK](#)  
Group exhibition of featuring 18 artists in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's residency program on Governors Island
- 2012**      **“Prolonged Exposure,”** Recession Art at Invisible Dog Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY [LINK](#)  
21-artist open call exhibition including 2 discursive programs
- 2007–2010**      16 solo and group exhibitions with programming at KWH Art, Kelly Writers House, Philadelphia, PA, including “Erica Baum: Word Each to Cling I” (2008), “Artie Vierkant: Render the Following” (2008), and “Christian Bök: Umlaut Machine” (2009)

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## PROGRAMS

- 2019**      **Modern Mondays: An Evening with Jen Liu**, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY [LINK](#)
- 2014**      **Voice Registers**, New Museum  
Series of recorded conversations on voice with Christian Hawkey, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Alysia Harris, Divya Victor, Jordan Scott, and Research Service [LINK](#)
- 2013**      **Drafts**, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
Interdisciplinary programming series in collaboration with the Reanimation Library  
Phase [I](#): "Advanced Mechanics of Materials" with Zoe Beloff, Kamau Amu Patton, Mark Sussman  
Phase [II](#): "It Works Like This" with Erica Baum, Lauren Bakst, Shonni Enelow, Steven Zultanski  
Phase [III](#): "Information Transmission (Bodies of Evidence)" with Nikolaus Gansterer, Research Service, and Cally Spooner  
Phase [IV](#): "Composition as Related to Weights of Animals and Cuts" with Craig Dworkin, Lanny Jordan Jackson, Benjamin Tiven, and Penelope Umbrico
- 2010–2011**      **Segue Reading Series** co-curator with Kareem Estefan and Trisha Low, Bowery Poetry Club, New York, NY

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2011–2013**      **Special Events and Programs Associate**, The Drawing Center, New York, NY  
Full-time position including management and production of all public programs, fundraising events (including annual gala and auction), and editing institutional blog
- 2010–2011**      **Curatorial Research Intern**, Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative
- 2006–2010**      **Gallery Curator and Programs Assistant**, Kelly Writers House, Philadelphia, PA  
Part-time position including complete curatorial management of 16 gallery exhibitions, development and coordination of gallery programming and catalogues, production support for institution's literary and arts events
- Summer 2009**      **Editorial Intern**, Parkett Publishers, New York, NY  
**Curatorial Intern**, The Kitchen, New York, NY
- Summer 2008**      **Director's Office Intern**, Dia: Beacon, Beacon, NY  
**Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) Curatorial Fellow**, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia