

KAEGAN SPARKS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Curator, art historian, and critic with over 15 years of experience in exhibition spaces and academia.



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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Department of Art History

The Graduate Center, City University of New York
(anticipated completion 2026)

MPhil, Art History, 2018

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

BA, English & Art History, 2010

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

MUSEUM WORK EXPERIENCE & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

2023–present	Associate Curator of Exhibitions, Mississippi Museum of Art (Jackson, MS) Originating curator for <i>Coulter Fussell: The Proving Ground</i> (Spring 2026, funded by Andy Warhol Foundation); site curator for <i>Joe Overstreet: Taking Flight</i> (Fall 2025, Menil Collection) and <i>Photography and the Black Arts Movement</i> (Fall 2026, National Gallery of Art)
2020–2021	William H. Truettner Predoctoral Fellowship, Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, DC) Dissertation research on Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Archives of American Art
2018–2019	Mellon-Marron Museum Research Consortium Fellowship, Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY) Full-time appointment in the department of Media & Performance, worked on exhibition and publication <i>member: Pope.L, 1978–2001</i> (2019) LINK
2017–2018	Andrew C. Mellon Curatorial Research Fellowship, Dia Art Foundation (New York, NY) Part-time appointment; research toward Dorothea Rockburne exhibition and Joan Jonas acquisition
2016–2017	Andrew C. Mellon Curatorial Fellowship, James Gallery, CUNY Graduate Center (New York, NY) Part-time appointment; originating curator of group exhibition with 5 related programs
2015–2016	Helena Rubinstein Fellowship, Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program, Critical Studies (New York, NY)

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2014–2016	Publication Associate, Critical Anthologies, New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York, NY) Research, editorial support, rights & reproduction, and publication management for anthology series co-published with MIT Press - Lauren Cornell and Ed Halter, eds., <i>Mass Effect: Art and the Internet in the 21st Century</i> (2015) - Johanna Burton, Shannon Jackson, and Dominick Willsdon, eds., <i>Public Servants: Art and the Crisis of the Common Good</i> (2016) - Johanna Burton, Reina Gossett, and Eric Stanley, eds., <i>Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility</i> (2017) -
2014	R&D Season Fellowship, New Museum of Contemporary Art (New York, NY) Part-time appointment in department of Education and Public Engagement; research and production support for a series of artist residencies, performances, and programs
2011–2013	Special Events and Programs Associate, The Drawing Center (New York, NY) Full-time position including management and production of all public programs (including liaising and planning, website maintenance, staffing, audio/visual production, documentation); fundraising events (including annual gala and auction, membership events, board events, exhibition openings, artist/lender dinners); overseeing budgets and liaising with 50+ donating artists, patrons, board, and vendors for each major fundraiser; and editing institutional blog
2008–2010	Curatorial Research Intern, Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative (2010); Editorial Intern, Parkett Publishers (2009, New York, NY); Curatorial Intern, The Kitchen (2009, New York, NY); Director's Office Intern, Dia: Beacon (Beacon, NY); Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Curatorial Fellow, Institute of Contemporary Art (Philadelphia, PA)
2007–2010	Gallery Curator and Programs Assistant, Kelly Writers House (Philadelphia, PA) Part-time position including complete curatorial management—conception, logistics and production, installation, & publicity— of 16 gallery exhibitions, development and coordination of gallery programming and catalogues, production support for institution's literary and arts events

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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, New York, NY
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, New York, NY (2 semesters)
Fall 2021	Adjunct Instructor (primary instructor), "Twentieth Century Art," College of Staten Island, CUNY, Department of Performing and Creative Arts, New York, NY
Fall 2019– Fall 2021	Teaching Assistant & Guest Lecturer, "Critical Approaches in Social and Cultural Theory," Barnard College, Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, New York, NY (3 semesters)

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INDEPENDENT CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2023** *Matter as Fallen Light*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, 27 artists, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY [LINK](#)
- 2019** *Modern Mondays: An Evening with Jen Liu*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY [LINK](#)
- 2017** *Soft Skills*, James Gallery, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY [LINK](#)
Group exhibition on feminized labor, 1970s to today, featuring 12 artists and 5 discursive programs
[Artforum Critics' Pick](#)
- 2016** *Zoe Beloff: The Infernal Dream of Mutt and Jeff*, Momena Art, Brooklyn, NY [LINK](#)
Solo installation on histories of labor & the moving image, including 3 discursive programs
[Artforum Critics' Pick](#). [New York Times review](#)
- 2014** *Voice Registers*, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY [LINK](#)
- 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
- Drafts*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY
Interdisciplinary programming series in collaboration with the [Reanimation Library](#)
Phase [I](#): "Advanced Mechanics of Materials"
Phase [II](#): "It Works Like This"
Phase [III](#): "Information Transmission (Bodies of Evidence)"
Phase [IV](#): "Composition as Related to Weights of Animals and Cuts"
- 2012** *Prolonged Exposure*, Recession Art at the Invisible Dog, Brooklyn, NY
Open-call group exhibition featuring 21 artists
- 2010–2012** *Segue Reading Series*, Bowery Poetry Club, New York, NY
Co-organized with Kareem Estefan and Trisha Low
- 2007–2010** 16 solo/group exhibitions with programming at KWH Art, Kelly Writers House, Philadelphia, PA,
including *Erica Baum: Word Each to Cling I* (2008) and *Artie Vierkant: Render the Following* (2008)

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

PERIODICALS

Review of "Red, White, Yellow, and Black: 1972—73" at the Kitchen, *Artforum* 61, no. 10 (Summer 2023). [LINK](#)

"Idle Hands." Review of *Surrealist Sabotage and the War on Work* by Abigail Susik. *Artforum.com*, August 18, 2022. [LINK](#)

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"Mutual Understanding." Review of *Disasters and Social Reproduction: Crisis Response Between the State and Community* by Peer Illner & *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)* by Dean Spade. Artforum.com, March 2, 2021. [LINK](#)

"Dirty Pictures," article 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](#)

CATALOGUES

Editor / Contributor

Coulter Fussell: *The Proving Ground*, Mississippi Museum of Art (forthcoming 2026)

MONUMENTS NOW, New York: Socrates Sculpture Park, 2021 (artist entries on Nona Faustine and Dionisio Cortes Ortega)

Contributor

"Institutional Patterns," essay for dossier associated with *Tina Girourd: SIGN-IN*, Center for Art and Research Alliances, New York, NY, Fall 2024 [LINK](#)

Essay for *The Potosí Principle Archive*, Institute for the Study of Latin American Art, 2023 [LINK](#)

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.

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TALKS / PANELS / SYMPOSIA

ORGANIZER

- 2026** **"The Last Downtown Art Collective": Fifty Years of Kenkeleba House (symposium)**
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS
- 2021** **"The Specter Haunting Art History: A Third Wave of Marxism?" (panel, with Joseph Henry)**
College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, NY (online)
- 2017** **"Labors of Love" (symposium)**
The Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY, in conjunction with curated exhibition *Soft Skills*

PRESENTER

- 2022** **"To feel in the gut, to gather up in the head': Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Systems Thinking, and the Trouble with Visibility"**
2022 Fellows Lectures, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC (online)
- 2021** **"After the Revolution': Mierle Laderman Ukeles and the Post-Crisis City"**
College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, NY (online)
- 2019** **"Taylorism, Process Art, and Richard Serra's *Verb List*"**
Museum Research Consortium Study Sessions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2016** **"Routine Performance: Self-Management and Affective Labor in Martha Wilson's Early Works"**
Whitney Independent Study Program Critical Studies Symposium, New York, NY

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARDS

Center for Place, Culture and Politics Dissertation Award, CUNY (2022–23)
Albert K. Webster Memorial Fellowship Award, CUNY (2023)
Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Covid Relief Award, CUNY (2023)
Presidential Research Fellowship, CUNY (2020)
Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY (2020)
Connect New York Fellowship, CUNY (2020)
Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies, CUNY (2019)