

Denise Ryner  
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## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apr 2023 – present	Andrea B. Laporte Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Sept 2025 – June 2025	Curator in Collaboration with Denise Ferreira Da Silva, Critical Racial Anti-Colonial Study Co-Lab, NYU, New York
Feb 2016 – Dec. 2022	Associate Curator and Guest Curator, Visual Art & Film Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin Projects include: <i>Kanon Fragen</i> project series, <i>Bodies of Fact: The Archive From Witness to Voice</i> , with Krista Belle Stewart, Filipa César, Grada Kilomba, <i>Ceremony (Burial of an Undead World)</i> co-curated with Anselm Franke, Claire Tancons, Elisa Giuliano, Zairong Xiang
Sept 2017–May 2022	Director/Curator, Or Gallery, Vancouver Projects include: <i>4 Waters: Deep Implicancy</i> , <i>Breathing Room</i> , <i>Solvent</i> , <i>Whose Land Have I Lit on Now?</i> (with SAVVY Contemporary), <i>Schooling the Institution</i> , <i>Bodies Borders Fields</i> (with Yaniya Lee, Trinity Square Video), <i>NWC</i> (with Dana Claxton), <i>Unmoored Adrift Ashore</i> (with Jamie Hilder, Anselm Franke and Jordan Wilson, HKW, ECU, Eflux)
Aug. 2015 – Dec. 2015	Sessional Lecturer, "Studies in Curatorial Practice," Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver
Aug. 2010 – Aug. 2012	Registrar/Archivist, Art Metropole, Toronto
Sept. 2008 – Aug. 2012	Curatorial Assistant/Registrar, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery/Hart House Art Collection/Art Museum, University of Toronto

## SELECTED INDEPENDENT CURATORIAL PROJECTS

*Sediment: the archive as a fragmentary base*

Art Museum at the University of Toronto (2024) and Leonard and Bina Ellen Gallery at Concordia University, Montreal (2023)

Artists: Sandra Brewster, Filipa César, Justine Chambers, Michael Fernandes, Louis Henderson, Pamila Matharu, Krista Belle Stewart

*Common Cause: before and beyond the global* (2018)

Mercer Union, Toronto

Artists: Fayçal Baghriche, Sandra Brewster, David Hartt, Jeneen Frei Njootli

## SELECTED INDEPENDENT CURATORIAL PROJECTS (continued)

*Harbour/Haven* (2016), co-curated with Tonel, in collaboration with Jayce Salloum  
VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver. Artists: Beau Dick, aka collective

*Art + City + School, Rain or Shine Saturdays, Projections at the Perel* (2015)  
SFU Galleries, Vancouver/Burnaby

*Interim Measures* (2015) Selevnprojectspace, Toronto.  
Artists: Chris Lee, Brady Cranfield, Jamie Hilder

Screening and Discussion Panel featuring *Dal Puri Diaspora* (2013)  
Roundhouse Arts and The Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver  
Artist: Richard Fung Speakers: Michelle Jacques and Dr. Sneja Gunew

*Location/Dislocation* (2011/2012) in collaboration with Barbara  
Fischer. The Jackman Humanities Institute, Toronto  
Artists: Jamelie Hassan, Brendan Fernandes, Will Kwan, Oliver Husain, Karen Tam

## SELECTED WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS

Essay, "The Planetary Clouds of Michelle Lopez," *SHIFT SPACE 5.0* (May 2025)

Catalogue essay, "Retreat and Reclaim: Kandis Williams's Visions of the Black Body as a  
Contested Plot" in *Kandis Williams: A Surface*, Walker Center (April 2025),

Catalogue essay, "Beneath Our Feet," *Ceremony (Burial of an Undead World)*, HKW/Spector  
Books (December 2022)

Catalogue essay, "What Remains and What's Left Behind," for forthcoming exhibition  
*Denyse Thomasos: Just Beyond*, Art Gallery of Ontario (October 2022)

Commissioned Written Response to *Towards Accountability* program, Independent  
Curators International Research Journal (March 21, 2022)

Essay, "Hostile Centers and Hospitable Margins," in *Whose Land Have I Lit on Now?*  
*Contemplations on the Notions of Hospitality*, Savvy Contemporary/Archive Books (2021)

Guest Co-Editor with Yaniya Lee, "Chroma" Special Issue of *Canadian Art* (Fall 2020)  
Feature Essay, "Fade Into Place," in "Chroma" Special Issue of *Canadian Art* (Fall 2020)

Essay, "Manuel Piña Baldoquín: Naufragios," In Focus series examining a single art work,  
*Blackflash 33.3* (Summer 2016)

Published interview, "Alex Morrison in Conversation with Denise Ryner,"

*Alex Morrison: Phantoms of a Utopian Will/Like Most Follies, More Than a Joke and More Than  
a Whim*. Burnaby Art Gallery/SFU Galleries (2015)

## SELECTED OTHER PRESENTATIONS

*One Question Exhibition* (ONLINE), Kadist.org (Summer 2025), Edited by Daniel Tucker  
Artists/Writers: Emily Carr, Stan Douglas, Duane Linklater, Daniel Otero Torres, Cecily  
Nicholson, Sky Hopinka, Juan Covelli, Moses Tan, Uriel Orlow, Joyce Wieland and Hollis  
Frampton

“Curating and Commoning: The gallery as a porous space,”  
Emerging Curators Institute, October 2021 (online) Guest Speaker

“Towards Accountability: Art and Institutions on Indigenous Territories,”  
series curated by Jordan Wilson, Independent Curators International  
September/October 2021 (online). Presenter/Panel Respondent

“Critical Ideas: On Commitment,” PuSH Festival/Assembly speaker series curated  
by Dylan Robinson, February 2019 (SFU, Vancouver). Panel Presenter

“James Baldwin’s Gaze: Art, authorship and alienation of the non-white body,”  
*A Language to Dwell In* interdisciplinary conference on writer James Baldwin,  
May 2016 (The American University of Paris). Paper Presentation

"some \$ ~ food ~ fun: Sandra Brewster's *Open House* and Life of a Craphead's *Bugs*  
as Expressions of the Utopian Impulse and Non-Place," *This Is Paradise: Art &*  
*Artists in Toronto* conference, May 2015 (University of Toronto). Paper Presentation

“Space is a Participant: Strategies of Activation and Presence in the Contemporary  
Practice of Brian Jungen,” College Art Association annual conference,  
February 2015 (New York City). Paper Presentation

"Art Metropole: Archiving and Collecting," The Power Plant speaker series,  
May 2012 (Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto). Featured speaker.

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Gwartler Stiftung Spring 2025 Grant Cycle Jury member
- Curatorial Mentor for Dalhousie University Art Gallery’s 2025 Fellow
- 2024 Curatorial Resident at Confederation Center Art Gallery/Annandale Residency, PEI
- External Thesis Committee Examiner Criticism & Curatorial Practice OCAD University (Apr 2024, MFA Roxanne Fernandes) and Emily Carr University of Art + Design (Nov 2020 MDes, Ryan Smith)
- Presenter/Working Group, 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Art Council Meeting of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Kingston, Jamaica (December 2022)
- Participant, 2022 Edition of ICI Curatorial Exchange, EXPO CHICAGO
- Served on various juries including The Middlebrook Prize, Canada Council for the Arts, City of Vancouver
- FUSE Magazine editorial board member (2011-2012) & contributing editor (2012-2014)
- Completed the Ontario Association of Art Galleries (OAAG) "Environmental Guidelines Workshop" on art conservation techniques and strategies (2011)

## **EDUCATION**

- MA (2014)      University of British Columbia, Art History  
Thesis: “Space As A Participant: Strategies of Activation and Presence in the Contemporary Practice of Brian Jungen”  
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Charlotte Townsend-Gault, Prof. Dana Claxton
- BA (Hons) (2010)      University of Toronto (with High Distinction), Art History
- Diploma (2002)      Ontario College of Art and Design, Advertising and Design