

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 2024 – June 2025	Visiting Curator, Critical Racial Anti Colonial Study Co-Lab, New York University Project areas: <i>More-than-Perfect: Explorations of Black T/Senses of the Future</i> , <i>The Condition of Being Near: The Ecologies of Afro-Asia</i>
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 Exhibition and Discursive Projects include: <i>4 Waters: Deep Implicancy</i> , <i>Breathing Room</i> , <i>Solvent</i> , <i>Whose Land Have I Lived 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, Emily Carr University of Art and Design)
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

One Question Exhibition (ONLINE), Kadist.org (Summer 2025), Invited 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.

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, Pamela Matharu, Krista Belle Stewart

SELECTED INDEPENDENT CURATORIAL PROJECTS (continued)

Common Cause: before and beyond the global (2018) Mercer Union, Toronto.
Artists: Fayçal Baghriche, Sandra Brewster, David Hartt Jeneen Frei Njootli

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. Artists/Speakers include: Dr. Peter Dickinson, Gabriel Saloman, Cindy Mochizuki, Jennie Schine, Carleen Thomas, Russell Wallace, Casey Wei, Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn

Interim Measures (2015) 8elevenprojectspace, 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, University of Toronto
Artists: Jamelie Hassan, Brendan Fernandes, Will Kwan, Oliver Husain, Karen Tam

SELECTED PUBLISHED WRITING, INTERVIEWS AND EDITED PUBLICATIONS

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

Published Interview, "The Haunted ARC: A Conversation with Denise Ryner,"
The Employee, Art Metropole and Forest City Gallery (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),

Editor and 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)

Catalogue 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 and Feature Essay, "Fade Into Place," in "Chroma" Special Issue of *Canadian Art* (Fall 2020)

Critical Essay, "Fair Weather Funding," In *Canadian Art* "Climates," (Fall 2018)

Published interview, "Alex Morrison in Conversation with Denise Ryner,"
Alex Morrison: Phantoms of a Utopian Will, Burnaby Art Gallery/SFU Galleries (2015)

SELECTED OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“Curating In Challenging Times,” at the National Coalition Against Censorship’s (NCAC) 7th Annual Curatorial Workshop, December 4, 2025. Panel Speaker

“The Condition of Being Near,” at ‘Surfacing: Chinese Caribbean Intellectual Thought and Creative Practice’ Conference, October 2025 (Ontario College of Art and Design University). Panel Speaker

International Institute for Asian Studies’ conference: Africa-Asia, A New Axis of Knowledge 3, June 2025 (Université Cheikh Anta Diop De Dakar). Panel Speaker

“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

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 jury member for Gwaertler Stiftung, Atlanta Artladia Awards, Center for Emerging Visual Artists Fellowship Review
- 2025 Curatorial Mentor, Dalhousie University Art Gallery Fellow Geoffrey Webster
- 2024 Visiting Critic, Weitzman Fine Arts MFA, University of Pennsylvania
- 2024 Curatorial Resident at Confederation Center Art Gallery/Annandale Residency, PEI
- 2024 External Thesis Committee Examiner Criticism & Curatorial Practice OCAD University (MFA Roxanne Fernandes)
- 2022 Presenter/Working Group, 6th Asian Art Council Meeting of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Kingston, Jamaica
- 2022 Edition of ICI Curatorial Exchange, EXPO CHICAGO participant-presenter
- 2020 External Thesis Committee Examiner Emily Carr University of Art + Design (MDes, Ryan Smith)

- 2020-2022 jury member for The Middlebrook Prize, Canada Council for the Arts, City of Vancouver
2018-2020 member of University of British Columbia Belkin Gallery Collection Acquisitions Committee
- 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),
Major: Art History Minors: German Studies and Semiotics
- Diploma (2002) Ontario College of Art and Design, Advertising and Design

LANGUAGES: English (Mother-tongue), German (Advanced speaker, reading and listening-level), French (Intermediate speaker, Advanced reading and listening-level) Italian (Novice speaker, Intermediate reading and listening-level)