

KAT ZAGARIA BUCKLEY

973.666.2994 | katzagaria@gmail.com

EDUCATION

School of the Arts Institute of Chicago - Chicago, IL 2015 - 2017
Master of Arts, Modern & Contemporary Art, History, Theory & Criticism

Maryland Institute College of Art - Baltimore, MD 2007 - 2010
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art History; Concentrations in Curatorial Studies and Book Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Art Exhibitions and Outreach - Portland, ME 2021 - Present
University of Southern Maine

- Oversees collections management at the University, tracking nearly 200 objects across multiple locations, including interior and outdoor artworks. Oversees shipments of incoming and outgoing artwork loans, coordinating with contemporary artists and studios. Manages packing and repacking of artwork.
- Conceptualizes and executes complex rotating exhibitions and their budgets across the University's two campuses. Directly involved with the development and installation of each exhibition, working closely with the artists, writing object labels, and publishing curatorial essays for each show. Directs exhibition programming across multiple on-campus venues, organizing gallery openings, artist unveilings, lectures, and interdisciplinary artist-in-residence engagements.
- Revived the art acquisition program. Created a new acquisitions policy and raised \$10,000 through private and interdepartmental collaborations.
- Awarded over \$30,000 in grants from the Maine Humanities Council (multiple grants), Maine Arts Commission, Maine Community Foundation, and Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust (multiple grants) to support exhibitions, panel discussions, acquisitions, and publications.
- Leads strategic planning for the new Crewe Center for the Arts (opening 2025), driving decisions on floor plans, lighting, exhibitions, and programming.
- Cultivates relationships with local artists. Coordinates the Visiting Artist Program, partnering with faculty to invite artists for lectures, studio critiques, and class visits, enriching student learning experiences.
- Manages a staff of sixteen Visitor Services employees, training them to provide interpretation and answer questions in the galleries.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE continued

Curatorial Fellow - Sheboygan, WI
John Michael Kohler Arts Center

2019 - 2021

- Curated and coordinated seven major exhibitions, contributing to object labels, design concepts, and installations while collaborating with artists to plan and install commissioned works and manage travel schedules.
- Served as project manager for exhibitions, maintaining object checklists, budgets, and communications with collaborators to ensure seamless execution. Oversaw shipping management, repacking of artwork, tracking, and insurance.
- Led in-person and virtual programming for exhibitions, partnering with artists to develop content, promoting events, and overseeing day-of logistics for a successful visitor experience.
- Liaised between artists for the execution of commissioned contemporary works, and for the creation of in-situ art installations in the Center's new building, The Art Preserve

Assistant Director, Visual Resources Center - Chicago, IL
University of Chicago

2018 - 2019

- Supported faculty and students in the Art History Department and Humanities Division by integrating digital images into their research projects and coursework.
- Maintained and expanded the Luna image database of over 300,000 images, scanning materials from slides, textbooks, and art tomes to enhance accessibility.
- Conducted targeted image research and sourced visual materials from books and other resources to meet academic needs.
- Supervised and trained work-study students, ensuring proficiency in image scanning, Luna database management, and Adobe Photoshop.

Assistant Registrar and Exhibitions Specialist - Chicago, IL
Newberry Library

2017 - 2018

- Coordinated logistics for rotating thematic exhibitions, including object selection, label writing, and gallery installation. Organized object loans, handling documentation, insurance, and shipping for incoming and outgoing loans.
- Contributed to the development of a new gallery, designing physical and digital mock-ups, proposing the inaugural exhibition schedule and collaborating with collections staff to create custom pedestals for objects.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE continued

Curatorial Intern, Department of Modern & Contemporary Art - Chicago, IL
Art Institute of Chicago

2016 - 2017

- Conducted artist research and wrote acquisition justifications for new media works, presenting to the Acquisitions Committee and securing several works, including new media works by Ragnar Kjartansson, Dara Birnbaum, as well as an outdoor sculpture by Yoko Ono. Liaised with artist studios, overseeing and arranging work transport and installation
- Tracked hundreds of loaned artwork for exhibitions on artists Hélio Oiticica and Tarsila do Amaral
- Performed collections research and copy editing for catalogue raisonné compilations, ensuring accuracy and completeness.
- Supported exhibition preparation and installation logistics, including securing tropical parrots and working through the logistics of water and sand in the galleries for a Hélio Oiticica retrospective
- Utilized FileMaker and CITI object databases to track loans, appraisal values, and catalog artworks for exhibitions.

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism - Chicago, IL
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2016 - 2017

- Provided image research assistance for Professor David Raskin's second edition of his *Donald Judd* manuscript
- Maintained an image table and artist rights database
- Organized permissions across image rights associations and artist representatives

Teaching Assistant, Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism - Chicago, IL
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2015 - 2016

- Assisted with the teaching of Professor Amanda Douberley's Modern & Contemporary Art History course
- Led the second half of class through visits to the Art Institute of Chicago, where we viewed and discussed artwork in line with their textbook readings for each week
- Reviewed and scored exams, final papers
- Managed student correspondence

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ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Senior Special Collections Assistant - Chicago, IL <i>School of the Art Institute of Chicago</i>	2015 - 2017
Membership Assistant - Philadelphia, PA <i>The Barnes Foundation</i>	2012 - 2015
Book & Paper Conservation Intern - Philadelphia, PA <i>Historical Society of Pennsylvania</i>	2011-2012
Education Intern - Baltimore, MD <i>The Walters Art Museum</i>	2010
Gallery Intern - Florence, Italy <i>Studio Art Centers International</i>	2010

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Collections Databases: FileMaker Pro, CITI (TMS-comparable object database), Luna (image database), Aeon (library database)

Language: Italian (intermediate level) as well as a dual US/Italian Citizen

Modeling and media software: SketchUp, Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Rush)

Donor relations: Raiser's Edge

Website: WordPress

EXHIBITIONS

University of Southern Maine Art Gallery – Portland, ME

Curator, <i>Over Under: Rachel Gloria Adams and Rachel Sperry</i> Crewe Center for the Arts	2026
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Curator, *Even As We Grieve*
Featuring artist Peter Bruun, Crewe Center for the Arts

EXHIBITIONS, continued

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University of Southern Maine Art Gallery – Portland, ME

Curator, <i>Of Sibyls and Source</i> Featuring artists Heather Lyon, Sam Jones, Susan Bickford; Crewe Center for the Arts	2026
Curator, <i>Janna Ahrndt Does Not Dream of Labor</i> Featuring artist Janna Ahrndt, Crewe Center for the Arts	2025
Curator, <i>20 Walks</i> Featuring artist Lin Lisberger	
Curator, <i>Under/Current</i> Featuring artist Stephanie Garon	2024
Curator, <i>Embodying Softness/Excavating Delight</i> Featuring artists Jackie Milad & Libby Paloma	2023
Curator, <i>shadow / echo / memory</i> Featuring artist Veronica A. Perez	
Director, <i>Hidden Stories</i> Featuring artists Kate Cheney Chappell & Annie Lee Zimerle	
Curator, <i>The Juried Students Exhibition</i>	2022
Curator, <i>Bachelor of Fine Arts Show</i>	
Director, <i>Call/Response</i> Featuring artists Hannah Barnes & Susan Klein	2021

John Michael Kohler Arts Center – Sheboygan, WI

Curatorial Fellow, <i>High Touch</i> Featuring artists Danielle Andress, Conrad Bakker, Winslow E. Funaki, Diana Guerrero-Maciá, Melissa Pokorny, and Jade Yumang	2021-22
Curatorial Fellow, <i>My Crops are Dying but my Body Persists</i> Featuring artist Bridget Moser	2021
Curatorial Fellow, <i>EDM House</i> Featuring artist Kevin Schmidt	2020-21

EXHIBITIONS, continued

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John Michael Kohler Arts Center – Sheboygan, WI

Co-Curator, *Collection Highlights: Hmong Textiles* 2020

Curatorial Fellow, *Inscriptions of an Immense Theatre*
Featuring artist Bridget Moser

Curatorial Fellow, *Between You and Me*
Featuring artists Chloë Bass, Sara Clugage, General Sisters, Benjamin Todd Wills, and Christine Wong Yap

Zhou B. Art Center - Chicago, IL

Curator, *Tête à Tête: Embodying Dialogues* 2019-20
Featuring artists Ziv Ze'ev Cohen, Kristin McWharter, Michelle Murphy, Cathy Quintero, and Rory Scott

The Newberry Library - Chicago, IL

Exhibitions Specialist, *From the Stacks* 2018

Exhibition Specialist, *Pictures from an Exposition: Visualizing the 1893 World's Fair*

Exhibitions Specialist, *Religious Change and Print: 1450 - 1700* 2017

The Adler Planetarium – Chicago, IL

Curator, *Fabric of the Universe* 2018
Featuring artist Isaac Facio in collaboration with Benedikt Diemer

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, The Sullivan Galleries – Chicago, IL

Graduate Curatorial Fellow, *The Masters of Fine Arts Show* 2017
Artists overseen include Elana Adler, Molly Barnes, Melissa Leandro, Sarah Lee, Renluka Maharaj, and Natasha Mijares

The Joan Flasch Artists' Books Collection - Chicago, IL

Curator, *Text/ile*
Curator, *Riot Grrrl & Feminist Zines* 2016

EXHIBITIONS, continued

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The Decker Gallery at the Maryland Institute College of Art - Baltimore, MD

Curatorial Team Member, <i>Follies, Predicaments & Other Conundrums</i> Featuring artist Laure Drogoul	2008
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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Life Forms Grow: Artist Conversation," University of Southern Maine. February 13, 2025. https://youtu.be/maM4o6_u-c4?si=vn2xJ8zbNCF9_Kuh	2025
"A Conversation with Artist-in-Residence Ryan Adams," University of Southern Maine. February 15, 2024. https://youtu.be/vSTR5dfiAt8?si=8TSE_JdBPqTCVO47	2024
"Embodying Softness/Excavating Delight Artist Lecture," University of Southern Maine. October 12, 2023. https://youtu.be/DGAYj95Vbzs?si=HO9Zqp1cnk-ggtTt	2023
"A Conversation with artist Veronica A. Perez." University of Southern Maine. February 14, 2023. https://youtu.be/ioGcJX-Uu3A?si=qWAp3ZBdmDu2nrGQ	
"Hidden Stories Artist Lecture with Kate Cheney Chappell and Annie Lee-Zimerle," University of Southern Maine. January 13, 2023. https://youtu.be/DACyKM4eWCK?si=EZULiS90mJZfsDa6	
"Curating on the Margins: Women and Curatorial Praxis," Presenter; Chair, "Art in Public Places," <i>Annual College Art Association Conference</i> , February 13, 2020.	2020
"No More Reality: Philippe Parreno and the Difficulties of Cataloging New Media", <i>Art Library Students and New Art Library Society Professionals/Visual Resources Association Emerging Professionals and Students (ARLIS/VREPS) Virtual Conference</i> , New Media Challenges and Solutions for Art Information Professionals, November 13, 2018.	2018
"Weaving Nomadism," Hofstra University for <i>Artistic Expressions and the Great War: 100 Years On</i> , November 7, 2018.	
"Examining Legal and Illegal Articulations of Protest Through Tatyana Fazlalizadeh's Stop Telling Women to Smile Project," <i>Northeast Modern Language Association Convention</i> , 2018 and <i>University of California San Diego Visual Arts Annual Ph. D. Symposium</i> , March 3, 2018.	2017

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, continued

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- "Peggy Guggenheim and the Exhibition of 31 Women," poster session in *Women Artists: Shows, Exhibitions, Societies: Collection Exhibitions of Women Artists, 1876-1976*, Auditorium Jeu de Paume, December 8 – 9, 2017. 2017
- "Lavinia Fontana: Immortalizing Morality," in *Design and Ostentation: The Twenty-Fifth Annual Parsons/Cooper Hewitt Graduate Student Symposium on the History of Design*, The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, NY, April 8, 2016. 2016
<https://youtu.be/jQXjFBjAcl4?si=AWVXFZx8rpeSrHG1>
- "Emilie Flöge: Gesamtkunstwerk Embodied," LIM College for *Fashion: Now & Then: Fashion as Art*, 2016, and Concordia University's *Consumption & Detritus: Stories of Destruction and Reconstruction: Annual Graduate Humanities Conference*, March 4 – 5, 2016.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "On Deterritorialized Relationality" 2026
Essay to accompany the exhibition *Of Sibyls and Source: Ranges and Ruptures*, University of Southern Maine, Crewe Center for the Arts, Great Hall Gallery, 2026.
<https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/of-sibyls-and-source-ranges-and-ruptures/>
- "Janna Ahrndt Does Not Dream of Labor" 2025
Essay to accompany the exhibition, University of Southern Maine, Crewe Center for the Arts, Great Hall Gallery, 2025. <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/janna-ahrndt-does-not-dream-of-labor/>
- "20 Walks: Lin Lisberger"
Curatorial essay to accompany the exhibition, University of Southern Maine Art Gallery, 2025. <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/exhibitions/20-walks-lin-lisberger/>
- "Under/Current" 2024
Curatorial essay in the exhibition catalog, accompanied by essays by artist Stephanie Garon and Lucy Lippard. University of Southern Maine Art Gallery, 2024.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/143oZYRgPuXg8u0Q_thSTkpVkTh_a8q51/view?usp=sharing

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, continued

- "At the Portland Museum of Art, Jeremy Frey's Baskets Conjure the Past While Presenting a Warning for the Future" 2024
Boston Art Review. July 2024. <https://www.bostonartreview.com/read/jeremy-frey-woven-portland-museum-of-art>.
- "Embodying Softness/Excavating Delight" 2023
Essay to accompany the exhibition at the University of Southern Maine Art Gallery. October 12, 2023. <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/embodying-softness-excavating-delight/>
- "Shadow / Echo / Memory"
Essay to accompany the exhibition at the University of Southern Maine Art Gallery. May 11, 2023. <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/veronica-a-perez-shadow-echo-memory/>
- "Emilie Flöge: Designing Dress Reform in Fin-De-Siècle Vienna" 2020
Berg Encyclopedia of World Fashion and Dress in the Berg Fashion Library. <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/encyclopedia/berg-encyclopedia-of-world-dress-and-fashion-west-europe/emilie-floge-designing-dress-reform-in-fin-de-siecle-vienna>.
- "Intersections of Care and Alter Biopolitics as Manifested through the Mask" 2020
A Trace of Fashioned Violence. <http://www.fashionedviolence.com>
- Contributor, research materials, for *Visual Worlds* by Jim Elkins. Oxford University Press. 2019
- Review of KG Gnatowski, "Some Kind of Duty at DePaul Art Museum." Featured in *TEXTILE: Cloth and Culture*. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/figure/10.1080/14759756.2019.1622938?scroll=top&needAccess=true>
- "We Hope for Better Things: It Will Arise from the Ashes: Exploring the Aesthetics of Postmodern Ruin Photography in Detroit". Published under Buckley, Kat in *Kritikos* 13 (Winter 2016/17). <https://intertheory.org/buckley.htm> 2017

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Haystack School of Crafts (Deer Isle, ME) 2026
Writing Fellow (declined)
- Hewnoaks Artist Residency (Lovell, ME) 2023
Writer-in-Residence

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AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS, continued

Fulbright US/UK Commission <i>Shortlist for Open Study/Research Award</i>	2022
The Newberry Library (Chicago, IL) <i>Graduate Scholar</i>	2017-18
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, IL) <i>Spring Graduate Professional Development Award (2016 and 2017) and the Fall Graduate Professional Development Award (2015) through the Department of Art History</i> <i>Graduate Curatorial Fellow (2017) through the Institute of Curatorial Research</i> <i>Spring Graduate Travel Grant (2015) awarded through the Office of the Graduate Dean</i>	2015-17
Billy Penn at WHYY (Philadelphia, PA) <i>Awarded "Who's Next in the Philadelphia Art Scene"</i>	2015
Maryland Institute College of Art (Baltimore, MD) <i>Awarded the Student Leadership Award in 2010 and the Leadershape Scholarship in 2009 through the Office of Student Activities</i> <i>Awarded a Merit Scholarship in 2010 through the Department of Art History</i> <i>Awarded the Winifred F. Gordon Study Abroad Scholarship in 2010 through the Study Abroad Office</i>	2010
Studio Art Centers International (Florence, Italy) <i>Scholarship recipient</i>	
Baltimore Museum of Art (Baltimore, MD) <i>Cone Sisters Course Scholarship</i>	2008