

ELISSA AUTHER, Ph.D.
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Associate Professor of Contemporary Art
Director, Art History Program
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Adjunct Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver

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CURRENT POSITION

- 2009- Associate Professor of Contemporary Art
Department of Visual and Performing Arts, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Director, Art History Program (2005-)

Affiliate Faculty Member, Department of Women's and Ethnic Studies (2002-present)
- 2002-2009 Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art
Department of Visual and Performing Arts, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

- 2011- Adjunct Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
- 2009- Exhibition Reviews Editor, *The Journal of Modern Craft*. Berg Publishers.
- 2007- Founder and Co-Director, *Feminism & Co.: Art, Sex, Politics*
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver

EDUCATION

- 2000 Ph.D., History of Art, Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Maryland
Specialization: Modern and Contemporary Art.
- 1996 Graduate Certificate Degree, Women's Studies, University of Maryland
- 1993 M.A. History of Art, University of Maryland, 1993; Awarded with Distinction
- 1991 B.A., History of Art, San Francisco State University, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

String, Felt, Thread: The Hierarchy of Art and Craft in American Art. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

- Awarded Millard Meiss Publication Grant, spring 2008.

West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977. Eds. Elissa Auther and Adam Lerner. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.

Essays in Peer-Reviewed Books and Journals

"Craft and the Handmade at Paolo Soleri's Communal Compounds, Arcosanti and Cosanti." In *West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012.

"Andy Warhol, Wallpaper, and Contemporary Installation Art." In *Extra/ordinary: Craft Culture and Contemporary Art*. Ed. Maria Elena Buzsek. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011.

“Fiber Art and the Hierarchy of Art and Craft, 1960-1980.” *Journal of Modern Craft*. 1, no. 1 (spring 2008): 13-34.

“The Decorative, Abstraction, and the Hierarchy of Art and Craft in the Art Criticism of Clement Greenberg.” *Oxford Art Journal*. 27, no. 3 (December 2004): 339-364.

- [translated to German and reprinted in *Grenzgänge in den Künsten: Interventionen in Gattungshierarchien und Geschlechterkonstruktionen*.; see “Essays in Books”].

“Classification and Its Consequences: Sheila Hicks’s The Principal Wife.” *American Art*. 16, no. 3 (fall 2002): 2-9.

Commissioned Essays in Books

"From Design for Production to Off-Loom Sculpture." In *Craft Revolution: The American Studio Movement, 1945-1970*. Ed. Jeannine Falino. New York: Museum of Arts and Design, 2011.

“Das Dekorative, Abstraktion und die Hierarchie von Kunst und Kunsthandwerk in der Kunstkritik von Clement Greenberg.” In *Grenzgänge in den Künsten: Interventionen in Gattungshierarchien und Geschlechterkonstruktionen*. Eds. Jennifer John and Sigrid Schade. Zurich: Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts, 2008.

“The Tailor Retailoring.” In *Annet Cowenberg*. Amsterdam: Telos Press, 2003. Co-authored with Adam Lerner, Ph.D.

Edited Journal with Introductory Essay

Special Issue on Feminist Activist Art. *National Women’s Studies Association Journal*. 19, no. 1 (April 2007). Co-edited with Mary Jo Agerstoun, Ph.D.

Essays in Exhibition Catalogs and Gallery Publications

“A Protean Universe: The Art of Rebecca Di Domenico,” privately published catalog, March 2007.

“Power.” In *Angela Forster*, Florence, Italy: Biennale Internazionale Dell’Arte Contemporanea, 2003. Co-authored with Adam Lerner, Ph.D.

“Upstarts & Matriarchs: Themes, Strategies, and the Materials of Feminist Art Practice.” In *Upstarts & Matriarchs: Jewish Women Artists and the Transformation of American Art*. Denver: Singer Gallery, Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, 2005.

“Materiality and the Hand in the American Fiber Movement of the 1960s and 70s.” In *Handle with Care*. College Park, MD: The Art Gallery, 2000.

Book Reviews

“Review of *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, ed. Cornelia Butler and Lisa Gabrielle Mark.” *Women’s Review of Books*. 24, no. 6 (November 2007): 3-5.

“Review of *Paul Klee and the Decorative in Modern Art*, by Jenny Anger.” *College Art Association Review (CAAreviews.org)* (March, 2006): u.p.

“Review of *Picasso and Ceramics*, ed. Paul Bourassa.” *University of Toronto Quarterly* (January, 2005): u.p.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2009	Georgia O’Keeffe Museum and Research Center Fellowship
2009	University of Colorado President's Diversity Award
2008	UCCS Women’s Committee Research Grant
2007	UCCS Women’s Committee Research Grant
2006	UCCS Women’s Committee Research Grant

2004/2005	J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the History of Art
2004	UCCS Women's Committee Curriculum Development Grant
2003	UCCS Women's Committee Curriculum Development Grant
2001/2002	Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral Fellowship The Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D. C.
1999/2000	Curatorial Fellowship , National Museum of American Art
1998/99	Smithsonian Institution Predoctoral Fellowship , The Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Washington, D. C.
1998	Luce Foundation Dissertation Research Grant
1995/6	Curatorial Fellowship , Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
1994	Maverick Scholarship , Attingham Program in the Decorative Arts, London
1991	Phi Beta Kappa
1990	Younger Scholars' Grant , National Endowment for the Humanities

LECTURES AND PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

Conference Papers

"What's Contemporary About Craft?" College Art Association Conference (title of panel: "What's Contemporary About Craft?"), Los Angeles, CA, February, 23rd, 2012.

"Country Lesbians and the Counterculture Experiment in Art," American University Annual Symposium in the History of Art, November 4th, 2011.

"Modernist Art History and Craft in Contemporary Art." College Art Association Conference (title of panel: The Forgotten, Ill-Begotten History of Art of the 1960s and 1970s), New York, NY, February 2011.

"Going Public: Speaking to Broad Audiences about Feminist Cultural Radicalism." National Women's Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, 2010.

"Craft is the New Art: The Current Relevance of Craft in Contemporary Art and Culture." Keynote address, Revisiting the Art/Craft Divide. Sacramento State University, Sacramento, CA, March 2010.

"Curating the Feminist Live Event." College Art Association Conference (title of panel: Feminist Artists and Feminist Curators), Chicago, IL, February, 2010.

"Lifestyle and Livelihood in Craft and DIY Culture." American Craft Council Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, October, 2009.

"Feminism & Co.: Art, Sex, Politics." Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Conference (title of panel: Cultural Representations of Women) Denver, CO, April 2009.

"Feminism & Co.: Art, Sex, Politics." American Studies Association Conference (title of panel: Art and Civic Engagement) Albuquerque, NM, October 2008.

"Paolo Soleri and the Radical Architecture of Arcosanti." College Art Association Conference (title of panel: Handmade Utopias) Dallas, TX, February 2008.

"The Aesthetics of the Counterculture." Popular Culture Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, March 2008.

“The Conceptual Limits of Art: Gender, Power, and Fiber under Modernism.” The Getty Research Institute (title of conference: Craft at the Limits) Los Angeles, CA, June 2007.

“Feminist Activist Art Today.” Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference (title of panel: The Arts of Social Engagement), Portland, OR, April 2007.

“Isaac Julien’s *BaadAsssss Cinema Part II: Baltimore*.” College Art Association Annual Conference (title of panel: Film and Art) Atlanta, GA, February 2005. Co-presented with Adam Lerner.

“The Use of Fiber in Women’s Anti-Nuclear Activist Events of the 1980s.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference (title of panel: Feminist Activist Art) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 2004.

“The Film Installations of Isaac Julien.” Fifth Annual Colloquium in Comparative Literature, Denver University, Denver, Colorado, April 2004.

“Andy Warhol’s Wallpaper Installations and Modern Art Criticism.” Fourth Annual Colloquium in Comparative Literature, Denver University, Denver, Colorado, April 2003.

“Wallpaper and Contemporary Installation Art.” Fellows’ Symposium, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., May 2002.

“Judy Chicago’s *Dinner Party* and the Feminist Critique of the Hierarchy of Art and Craft.” Barnard Feminist Art & Art History Conference, Barnard College and Columbia University, New York, October 2000.

“Women’s Studies and Art History: Barriers and Opportunities for Exchange.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Boston, MA, June 2000.

“Non-Traditional Media in the 1960s and 70s.” Southeastern College Art Conference, Norfolk, VA, October 1999.

“Challenging Aesthetic Hierarchy in the 1960s and 70s.” Fellows Symposium, National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C., May 1999.

“The Feminist Elevation of Women’s Traditional Needlecraft and the Hierarchy of the Arts in the 1970s.” Researching Women Artists: Old Problems and New Directions, National Museum of Women in the Arts Washington, D.C., April 1999.

“Eroticism, Conventions of Luxury, and *Tribadism* in Nineteenth Century Art.” Graduate Symposium in the History of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa City, March 1995.

Gustave Courbet’s *Sleep: Paresse et Luxure* and the Threat of Tribadism in Mid-Nineteenth Century France.” Mid-Atlantic Symposium in the History of Art, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., April 1995.

Strange Bedfellows: Anti-porn Feminists, Moral Crusaders and the NEA.” In conjunction with the exhibition *Anonymity and Identity*, The Art Gallery, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Fall 1993.

“Djuna Barnes’ Drawings for the *Ladies Almanac*: a Transgressive Calendrical Cycle.” Djuna Barnes Centennial Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, Fall 1992.

Invited Lectures

"Contemporary Art and the Rise of Craft" University of Wisconsin, October 5th, 2011.

"Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America." University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 21st, 2011.

"Fiber and the Hierarchy of Art and Craft." Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, OR, March 17th, 2011.

- "Craft and Contemporary Art." University of Texas, El Paso, March 1st, 2011.
- "Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America." New Mexico State University, March 2nd, 2011.
- "Sloppy Craft." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO, February 2011.
- "Revolutions in Fiber." Emily Carr University, Vancouver, B.C., November 2010.
- "Critical Interventions in the Modernist Hierarchy of Media." University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., November 2010.
- "The Feminist Art Movement and its Contemporary Legacy." Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI, October 2010.
- "The State of Criticism." Roundtable presentation at University of North Texas, Denton, TX, September 2010.
- "Feminism and Fiber—History and Legacy." New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM, May 2010.
- "Craft and Social Practice." Roundtable on Social Practice in the Arts. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, February 2010.
- "Revolutions in Fiber." In conjunction with Allison Smith's Art & Skills Service programming for San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, February 2010.
- "Fiber and the Revival of Craft in Contemporary Art." Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, March 2010.
- "Craft and the Handmade at Paolo Soleri's Radical Architectural Compounds, Cosanti and Arcosanti." Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center Fellows Lecture Series. Santa Fe, NM, November 2009.
- "Warhol and the Decorative." University of Maryland Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series. College Park, MD, March 2009.
- "Fiber Art." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO, July 2009.
- "Radical Lace & Subversive Knitting." Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ, December 2008.
- "Thread." For the program *Untitled*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, June 2008.
- "Activist Art and the 'Relational Aesthetic.'" Symposium on Political Art. Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design, Denver, CO, January 2007.
- "Earthworks." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood, CO, August 2007.
- "Conceptual Art." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood, CO, August 2006.
- "Minimalist Art." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood, CO, August 2005.
- "Feminist Art." Mixed Taste Lecture Series. The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood, CO, August 2004.
- "Feminist Perspectives on Women Artists of the Islamic Diaspora." In conjunction with the exhibition: Contextualizing Shatat: Arab Diaspora Women Artists, University of Colorado, Boulder, March, 2003.
- "Further Thoughts on the Use of Fiber in Contemporary Art." In conjunction with the exhibition:

Crosscurrents 2000, University of Maryland, College Park, November 2000.

PANELS ORGANIZED

Exceptional Women of the Counterculture. Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. January 10th, 2012.

Going Public: Speaking to Broad Audiences about Feminist Cultural Radicalism. National Women's Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, November 2010.

The Aesthetics of the Counterculture. College Art Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, February 2009.

Jewish Women Videographers: Shifting the Gaze. In conjunction with the exhibition *Upstarts & Matriarchs: Jewish*

Women Artists and the Transformation of American Art. Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, Denver, CO, January 2005.

Feminist Activist Art and Its Legacy. National Women's Studies Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI, June 2004.

CURATORIAL PROJECTS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

Founder and Co-Director, *Feminism & Co.: Art, Sex, Politics*, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO, 2007-present. See www.elissaauther.com for details of this public program.

Co-curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO

West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977, November 10th 2011-February 19th, 2012.

Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO

Jasmeen Patheja and Blank Noise, Moments of a Long Pause (2008), two-channel video installation, November 10-February 1, 2011.

Co-curator, Singer Gallery, Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, Denver, CO

Upstarts & Matriarchs: Jewish Women Artists and the Transformation of American Art, January 13-March 27, 2005.

Curatorial Fellow, Renwick Gallery, National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.

September 1999-May 2000 (see Fellowships, Honors, and Awards).

Curatorial Fellow, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. *Department of Sculpture*, September 1995-May 1996 (see Fellowships, Honors, and Awards).

Co-Curator, Djuna Barnes Collection, College Park, MD *McKeldin Library, Division of Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Maryland, College Park*, Summer-Fall 1992.

SELECTED SERVICE RECORD

TO THE CU SYSTEM

University of Colorado Faculty Council (UCCS Letters, Arts, and Sciences Representative)
spring 2003-spring 2008

University of Colorado Faculty Council's Committee on Women

fall 2002-spring 2008; 2005-6 and 2006-7 Secretary; 2007-8 Chair

TO THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS

Heller Center for the Arts and Humanities Academic Planning Committee

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, fall 2003-present

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Women's Committee

fall 2007-present; co-chair, fall 2008-present

TO THE DEPARTMENT

Director, Art History Program

Department of Visual and Performing Arts

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Fall 2005-present

Member of Search Committees in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts

fall 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009

TO THE FIELD

Exhibition Reviews Editor, *The Journal of Modern Craft*. Berg Publishers.

Member, Public Art Committee, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, Denver, CO

2008-present

Colorado Coordinator, The Feminist Art Project

A national initiative organized by Rutgers University Library, 2005-present

National Peer

Excellence in Design Program of the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government

Juror, Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO

Art and Architecture Program of the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government

spring 2007-present

Juror, Tucson Federal Bankruptcy Courthouse, Tucson, CO

Art and Architecture Program of the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government

fall 2006-2007

Juror, Denver Federal Courthouse, Denver, CO

Art and Architecture Program of the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government

fall 2002-2004

COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS

Lower Division:

AH 250: Reading, Writing and Research in Art History

AH 283: Survey of Modern Art I

Upper Division:

AH 327: Women, Art and Culture

AH 328: Women in Independent Film and Video

AH 386: Contemporary Art, 1990-Present

AH 492: Art Since 1945

AH 493: Theory in Contemporary Art and Visual Culture

AH 400: Seminar in Art History Practice

Special Topics:

AH 300: History of Fiber in Art

AH 300: Sound and Sonic Experience in Contemporary Art (fall 2011)

AH 300: Social Practice in Contemporary Art (spring 2012)

AH 300: High and Low in Visual Art and Culture (travel course to New Mexico slated for summer 2012)