Assembly 2018

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Organized by the Portland State University Art and Social Practice MFA Program
We are coming together (again) and it can change as we go along...

There is a German proverb saying “Man soll die Feste feiern, wie sie fallen,” which translates into something like “One should celebrate the parties as they come.” I understand this as a reminder that regardless of what is happening in the larger picture, there are certain moments in life that you just have to celebrate at the time they happen.

Assembly feels like a celebration to me each year. For the PSU Art and Social Practice MFA program, Assembly is the celebration of the end of the program year, for some of us even the end of their entire time in the program. For those of you who have experienced Assembly before, it might be a celebration of reconnection. For those of you who are new to all this, welcome: we are excited you are here! Assembly is a time for seeing old friends, making new friends, being together, letting yourself be surprised, thinking about all the different ways in which art can be activated, living the moment, and experiencing something that may feel both familiar and new each year.

This year is a special year for us because there are even more reasons to celebrate: Assembly is going into its 5th year and our program celebrates its 10 year anniversary! As required by a celebration like this, there will be a lot of pop up, blow up, speaking up, and other uplifting things happening. Alumni of the program will be particularly present and we are happy to announce the launching of our 10 year anniversary book still hot from the printer!

Nevertheless, we are also committed to asking some serious and current questions. We have had a lot of discussions this year on the topics of civics, civic engagement and what it means to be a citizen. Politically speaking it has been rough for many of us. But we should celebrate the parties as they come. So no matter where you are at, please come and celebrate with us, by thinking, talking, listening, moving around, participating, creating, sharing ideas, eating, or just being present.

--Anke Schüttler

Until the last minute it feels a little messy and unclear what it is going to be like. And then it happens and it all magically falls into place. Assembly has always felt like one of the happiest moments to me, because it reminds me of so many things that make our program unique and special.

While thinking about ways we can make our projects fun and meaningful for everyone involved, we question power systems we encounter constantly through our work. We bring together our various backgrounds, experiences and skills to cross pollinate, work together, figure things out collectively and show up for each other in support. We also goof around, go on fun trips, sing karaoke, dance like bosses or invent weird sport exercises as our first morning activity (ever saw a group crawling, sideways skipping or jumping across the street? That likely was us!) The program changes as we go along with whoever is part of the group. We shape our own education and self organize as much as possible. In many ways we function like a collective, a family, or a long term collaborative project. Never have I experienced that type of community as an art student before. I am glad that I came all the way from Germany to be part of this amazing collaboration, courageous and inspiring group of people.

Part of our work is to bring what we learn in our small group into other groups in the community. We are basically spreading the news. I hope you can get a sense of it as a participant in our events. Because we think of you. This year might have been hard for you. Politically speaking it has been rough for many of us. But we should celebrate the parties as they come. So no matter where you are at, please come and celebrate with us, by thinking, talking, listening, moving around, participating, creating, sharing ideas, eating, or just being present.

--Anke Schüttler

Special thanks to the Platt Family.

WELCOME

PRESENTERS

Adam Carlin
Amy Subach
Anke Schüttler
Anupam Singh
Ariana Jacob
Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.
Beck Anders Jacobsen
CRCI Artist Residency Program
Emma Colburn
Eric John Olson
Gerald Scrutchions
Martin Luther King Jr. School 7th grade social studies class
Humerto Marquez Mendez
Jessica Cerullo
Janan Stoll
Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson
Kimberly Sutherland
Lauren Moran
Lisa Bates
Mark Menjivar
Martha Gies
Molly Sherman
Patricia Vasquez-Gomez
Richard Lundquist
Riley Zahara Jacobsen
Roshani Thakore
Roya Amirsoleymani
Roz Crews
SAMP Laptop Ensemble
Samuel Wildman

Special thanks to the Platt Family.
**Friday, June 1**
*at Portland City Hall*
1221 SW 4th Ave

9:00–10:00AM  Spectate or Speculate! Hosted by the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs with Zeph Fishlyn and Eric John Olson

10:05–10:10AM  Portland City Special Projects: Dial an Old Friend with Eric John Olson, Samuel Wildman and participants from the Hollywood Senior Center

10:10–11:10AM  Remnants of Color Blue: Short term display (Artist Talk and panel discussion) with Richard Lundquist, Anupam Singh, Martha Gies, and Janan Stoll

11:20AM–12:20PM  Difference is a Field with Lauren Moran

12:20–12:55PM  Lunch

1:00PM–2:00PM  Citizen | 100 with Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, Gerald Scrutchions, and the Martin Luther King Jr. School 7th Grade Social Studies Class

2:15PM–3:15PM  The City Seal of Portland, Oregon with Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

**Saturday, June 2**
*at Multnomah County Central Library*
801 SW 10th Ave.

11:30AM–12:30PM  In Step with Tia Kramer and Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem*

12:30–1:20PM  Lunch

1:30–2:30PM  Art & Social Practice Special Collections with Lauren Moran, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, and Roshani Thakore

2:40–3:40PM  Porous Wonder with Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

3:50–4:50PM  Correspondence Course with Anke Schüttler, Roshani Thakore, Spencer Byrne-Seres, and members of the CRCI Artist-in-Residence Program

6:00–9:00PM  It Can Change As We Go Along, organized by Roz Crews, Mark Menjivar, and Molly Sherman

9:00PM  Karaoke at the Suky’s, 2401 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97201

*This event will begin offsite. See event description for details.

**Sunday, June 3**
*at Native American Student and Community Center*
710 SW Jackson St

11:00AM–12:00PM  Speaking, Speaker. with Jessica Cerullo, Tia Kramer, and Anke Schüttler

12:10–1:10PM  Collaborative Mapmaking with Emma Colburn

1:30–4:00PM  Lunch

*Social Practice Assembly Pop-ups Featuring:
- SoFA Journal Blow Up Launch Party
- Forgiveness Pop Up meditation (one on ones) with Amy Subach
- The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs is ready to serve you
- Real Food, Faux Truck, Food Truck
- Ceding & Creating Space

4:30PM  Portland Tropical Gardens Closing Party, Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

4:30PM–5:00PM  SAMPling Tropics | SAMP Laptop Ensemble, directed by Burke Jam (in collaboration with Emma Colburn)
A City Hall
B Multnomah County Central Library
C Native American Student and Community Center
Spectate or Speculate!
Hosted by the Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs

with Zeph Fishlyn and Eric John Olson

Are you worried about rent being too damn high? Do you want to secure your financial future? Do you want to get your slice of the pie, or do you want to watch from the sidelines? In today’s overheated real estate market, The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs brings you a fun new way to get in on the speculation spectacle! Why deal with the headaches of being a landlord when you can invest in housing the high-tech modern way—from far far away? Join us in a special edition of Spectate or Speculate! and let’s speculate our future away!

Friday, June 1
Location:
Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Ave
10:05–10:10AM

City of Portland Special Projects: 1-800-Dial-an-Old-Friend
with Eric John Olson, Samuel Wildman, and participants from the Hollywood Senior Center

As with many cities in the United States, Portland suffers from age-segregated urban planning, leaving younger generations socially isolated from the elderly and their wealth of experiences. In response to this issue we are presenting a special project for the City of Portland, 1-800-Dial-an-Old-Friend: a public hotline that connects wayward youth, aimless millennials, and mid-life crisis-ers to our city’s wisest citizens.

10:10–11:10AM

Remnants of Color Blue: Short term display
Artist talk and panel discussion with Richard Lundquist, Anupam Singh, Martha Gies, and Janan Stoll

A short durational display of artworks by artist Richard Lundquist. The exhibition will address the issues of civic rights of felons. The art works will be a visual documentation of the artist’s life post incarceration.

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11:20AM–12:20PM

Difference is a Field
with Lauren Moran

Over the past few months, I have been exploring situations of personal and political difference through conversations, workshops, moments of aggressive vulnerability and a rigorous examination of my own values and assumptions. Have you ever had a meaningful experience with someone you deeply disagree with? Is it possible to have generative dialogue with communities of different values and ideologies? What are new formats for these conversations? How can we take care of ourselves and each other while challenging ourselves to make connections based on difference? We will continue exploring these questions together at City Hall in a participatory event around these topics and ideas.

12:20–12:55PM

Exchange Endowments
with Adam Carlin and Kimberly Sutherland

Endowments are donations in perpetuity designated to a specific part of an organization as decided upon by a donor. For Exchange Endowments, Kim Sutherland and Adam Carlin are endowing funding for a once-a-year lunch conversation between a government employee at Portland City Hall, and a local artist.
1:00PM–2:00PM

Citizen | 100


CITIZEN | 100 is a critical examination of citizenship in today’s world. Who is a citizen? What is the nature of citizenship today? Who and how does the public or the nation decide what it means to be a citizen? 7th grade students from the Martin Luther King Jr. school will facilitate a public dialogue on these and other questions as pertains to citizenship in today’s political and social arena. CITIZEN | 100 is the result of participatory, arts-based research conducted by the students as part of their year-end project in civics at the King School.

2:15PM–3:15PM

The City Seal of Portland, Oregon

Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

In 1878, a committee picked a Mr. C.A. Bjorkman’s design to be that of the Portland city seal. In today’s City Hall atrium lies a podium emblazoned with our seal. In this session we will each design a new city seal based on what we think represents Portland today. From all the designs, including those by incarcerated individuals at the Columbia River Correctional Institution and kids at Martin Luther King, Jr. School, a vote and ceremony (featuring the figure of Portlandia performed by Emma Colburn) will take place to pick today’s updated Portland City Seal, and the result will be officially proposed to City Hall.

3:30PM–4:30PM

Pluralist Practices in Portland | Prácticas Pluralistas en Portland | Thuc tiến đa nguyên ở Portland

Roshani Thakore, Yaelle Amir, Patricia Vasquez-Gomez, Roaya Amirsoleymani, Ariana Jacob, Lisa Bates, and Humberto Marquez Mendez

Art + Activist movements are shaping Portland’s cultural landscape and the city itself. Considering the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture’s Statement of Values, panelists will discuss how their work in art, funding, programming, urban planning, and education is adding to the cultural pluralism in Portland and what tactics are needed next.
Forgiveness Meditation

with Amy Subach, assisted by Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson, and Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Forgiveness is release. We need forgiveness to move on, to build, to create. Let’s practice forgiveness together. Let’s let go. Let’s forgive so we can start. What in your world needs forgiveness? What can you release? Let’s start small and grant grace to each other. Let’s forgive ourselves.

One on one forgiveness sessions will be offered on Sunday, email forgivenesspopup@gmail.com to see the schedule and make an appointment.

Ceding & Creating Space

with Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. and Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson, assisted by Amy Subach

One of the dictionary definitions for the word civic is “relating to the duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or local area.” This means that the interactions between individuals within a community are civicly engaged by nature. In the spirit of a civicly engaged creative practice Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. is ceding space to other artists and assisting to create new work led by the invited artists to be exhibited in place of their own. While there are no claims of inequitable access to the Portland State University Art and Social Practice program, the social systems we all navigate are stratified with barriers that create inequitable access to opportunity. In this work, Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. shows that anyone with privilege can cede and create space to generate opportunities for others.

KSMoCA Opening Reception

Byron Kim: Sunday Paintings

Location: King School Museum of Contemporary Art (KSMoCA), 4906 NE 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97211

Byron Kim makes a small painting of the sky every Sunday. On the surface of these paintings, he writes a journal entry, just a few thoughts, a description of the weather or just something about his life or his family and friends. He has been doing this since January 9, 2001, so there are over 800 of these paintings, but this exhibition at KSMoCA includes just the recent ones. His exhibition includes a selection of these paintings as well as paintings he will produce in collaboration with two students from each grade at MLK Jr. School.
Saturday, June 2

Location:
Multnomah County Central Library
801 SW 10th Ave.

In Step
with Tia Kramer and Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem

In Step is a meditation in walking as civic engagement. Informed by the practices of Rebecca Solnit and Ernesto Pujol, this walk, choreographed with one gesture, will transport us from the North Steel Bridge to The Multnomah County Central Library. Together we will depart at 11:30am from the green space on the corner of NE Oregon Street and NE Interstate Avenue. Public transit and parking information can be found on the website (psusocialpractice.org/assembly). Wear comfortable walking shoes and layers. We will walk 1.5 miles; all ages and abilities welcome.
1:30–2:30PM

Art & Social Practice Special Collections
Lauren Moran, Shoshana Gugenheim Kedem, and Roshani Thakore

We are forming the first public archive of ephemera related to art and social practice, organized in honor of the programs 10 year anniversary, and housed in the Portland State University Library Special Collections. We have begun to build the collection with project materials from works connected to program collaborations, current students and alumni to celebrate all the work that has been built from the program itself, and are excited to grow the archive, with materials from socially engaged art projects all over the world. It is the hope that this archive will be useful for public research, dialogue and education around socially engaged art. In a special pop-up installation for Assembly, we plan to display and activate selected pieces of project ephemera that have been submitted to the collection so far, with a special emphasis on projects relating to civic engagement.

2:40–3:40PM

Porous Wonder
with Xi Jie Ng (Salty)

Delving into the profound wonder and magic in children’s literature, you are invited to explore language around these elements in our lives. Tapping into the subconscious and childhood memories, we will meditate on how these can support creative practices. All ages and backgrounds welcome, materials will be provided.

3:50–4:50PM

Correspondence Course
Anke Schüttler, Roshani Thakore, Spencer Byrne-Seres, and members of the CRCI Artist-in-Residence Program

Over the past year and a half, students from the PSU Art and Social Practice Program have been working to create an Artist-in-Residence program for prisoners at Columbia River Correctional Institution, a minimum security prison within the Portland city limits. “Correspondence Course” is a syllabus for a course developed by artists in the Residency to be shared with a larger audience, and to invite the public to participate in a series of assignments authored by prisoners.

More information about the residency can be found at www.crci.art
6:00–9:00PM

It Can Change As We Go Along

Organized by Roz Crews, Mark Menjivar, and Molly Sherman

Location: Shattuck Hall Annex at Portland State University

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Art and Social Practice MFA Program at Portland State University, we will re-create the format of the original PSU Monday Night Lecture Series by offering a free dinner inspired by the meals Lexa Walsh used to organize and create as a student in the program and as part of the series. Afterwards, join us for a free, public lecture featuring eleven students (current and former) representing each cohort of the program as they discuss their experiences with this unique MFA program. During this public, one-hour event, alumni and current students will have a question-based discussion about their experience with the program via a video chat which will be projected for the audience. Molly Sherman, Roz Crews, and Mark Menjivar will moderate the conversation as well as the Q&A to follow. At this event, we will also release It Can Change As We Go Along, the ten year anniversary book commemorating everything that’s happened as part of the program so far.

9:00PM

Karaoke

Suki’s, 2401 SW 4th Ave, Portland, OR 97201

Wind down the day and up the evening with us at Suki’s Karaoke. Singing encouraged but not mandatory!
Sunday, June 3

Location:
Native American Student
and Community Center
710 SW Jackson St.

11:00AM-12:00PM

Speaking, Speaker.

with Jessica Cerullo, Tia Kramer, and
Anke Schüttler and artists in the CRCI Artist
in Residency Program as well as incarcerated
participants from Walla Walla, Washington

If you knew you would be heard, what would you say in a moment
of bravery? Who would you want to listen? What prevents you from
speaking? What are the consequences of silence? Where could you
find courage? And how would you begin?

For the last two months we have been asking people who are
incarcerated to answer these questions. Join us as we explore
their responses and our own relationship to our voice. Together, we
will warm up our voices in preparation to answer these questions
for ourselves and use them to give voice to others who do not
feel they have the power to speak. We will serve as amplifiers and
witnesses. Our experiences will be collected, recorded and shared.

12:10-1:10PM

Collaborative
Mapmaking

with Emma Colburn

During this workshop we will create collaborative
drawings of Portland, translating them into entities
that can communicate with the Cartesian grid.
Together we will generate navigational interfaces
to reflect our collective experiences, counterposing
top-down orientating systems common to the
contemporary internet user.
**Lunch: Real Food, Faux Truck, Food Truck**
with Riley Zahara Jacobsen and Beck Anders Jacobsen and, assisted by Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Real Food, Faux Truck, Food Truck is a pop up street food experience brought to life through an intergenerational collaboration.

*Come Hungry*
*Bring Ca$h*

**Ceding & Creating Space**
with Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr., assisted by Riley Zahara Jacobsen and, Beck Anders Jacobsen

One of the dictionary definitions for the word civic is “relating to the duties or activities of people in relation to their town, city, or local area.” This means that the interactions between individuals within a community are civically engaged by nature. In the spirit of a civically engaged creative practice Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. is ceding space to other artists and assisting to create new work led by the invited artists to be exhibited in place of their own. While there are no claims of inequitable access to the Portland State University Art and Social Practice program, the social systems we all navigate are stratified with barriers that create inequitable access to opportunity. In this work, Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. shows that anyone with privilege can cede and create space to generate opportunities for others.

**SoFA Journal Blow Up Launch Party**
with Eric John Olson, Spencer Byrne-Seres, and Kimberly Sutherland

The PSU Social Practice Journal is a bi-annual publication dedicated to supporting, documenting, and contextualizing socially engaged art and its related fields and disciplines. Each issue of the Journal focuses on a different theme in order to take a deep look at the ways in which artists are engaging with communities, institutions, and the public. Our first issue, on the theme of Civics, will be presented as a blow-up launch at Assembly and offer a small mobile reading lounge for people to enjoy the inaugural issue.

**Forgiveness Pop Up meditation (one on ones)**
with Amy Subach, assisted by Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson and, Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.

Artist Amy Subach will create and hold an intimate one on one space to talk about and practice forgiveness.

Email forgivenesspopup@gmail.com to see the schedule and make an appointment.
The Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs is ready to serve you

with Zeph Fishlyn and Portland Tenants United

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler won office in spring 2016 promising the creation of an Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs to educate landlords and tenants, clarify rights and responsibilities, and mediate disputes. While details are being discussed in committee, we thought, why wait? This mobile, citizen-led Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs is ready to serve!

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**PROJECTS**

4:30–5:00PM

**SAMPling Tropics**

**SAM**P Laptop Ensemble, directed by Burke Jam (in collaboration with Emma Colburn)

A site-specific musical performance to explore the acoustic ecology of Portland Tropical Gardens, improvised live by members of SAMP: Laptop Ensemble at Portland State University.

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4:30–6:30PM

**Portland Tropical Gardens Closing Party**

Location: Director Park, 815 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

Come celebrate with the PTG family as we reflect on our past few months at Director Park! Tropical snacks and refreshments aplenty. For programming details keep in touch with us on Instagram @portlandtropicalgardens.

Portland Tropical Gardens is an artist-run space that envisions Portland’s first public indoor tropical garden. At PTG, you will find different types of plants that thrive in the dynamic and vast region of the tropics. PTG serves as a hub to educate the public about tropical plant-life and also hosts regular programming related to tropical culture and life. PTG is also host to the Center for Art & Public Wellness, centered on the intersection between creative expression and holistic well-being.

PTG is co-founded by members of the Portland State University School of Art + Design community. This project is made possible thanks to the support of the PSU School of Art + Design and Portland Parks & Recreation.
Adam Carlin
Adam Carlin is a social practice artist that lives and works in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is currently the Director of Greensboro Project Space, a contemporary art center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Program Director for the Community Arts Collaborative where he creates and oversees community-engaged projects for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and advances partnerships between the college and the community. He is also co-Founder and co-Director of Creek Partnerships between the college and the community. The program is dedicated to creating space for artists to reflect on and expand their artistic practices through workshops, lectures, critiques, and collaborative projects. The residency is focused on recontextualizing spaces that are not normally associated with art-making, into places for generative creative production.

Anupam Singh
Anupam Singh is an artist interested in the interconnections between ecological and cultural sustainability. For over 15 years, he has worked as facilitator, mediator, educator, and collaborator engaging in ideas of inner and outer ecologies. Through workshops and talks in India, he introduced art to children and teachers from public schools and district council schools, professionals, senior citizens and students of visual arts, social work, design, and science streams. He has contributed as guest faculty in various institutions including the Industrial Design Centre – IIT Bombay, and has facilitated innovative public exchanges in his practice and teaching.

Ariana Jacob
Ariana Jacob makes artwork that uses conversation to explore political and personal interdependence and disconnection. Prior to working as an artist and academic Ariana managed a farmers market, worked in a cabinet shop, co-ran a secret cafe out of her apartment, and fished for salmon commercially. While being an artist and academic Ariana also does union organizing and group facilitation, alongside being a partner, friend, family member and wanderer. Ariana currently teaches in the Social Practice MFA Program at Portland State University and is the Chair of Bargaining for PSUFA Adjunct Faculty Union.

Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr.
Artist Michael Bernard Stevenson Jr. uses the framework of art to play with, engage in, and further understand the nuances of life. At times this involves the preparation, serving, and consumption of food, the making of toys, and creating, telling or listening to stories.

CRCI
The Columbia River Correctional Institution Artist in Residence Program is located in North Portland on the Columbia River. The program is dedicated to creating a space for artists to reflect on and expand their artistic practices through workshops, lectures, critiques, and collaborative projects. The residency is focused on recontextualizing spaces that are not normally associated with art-making, into places for generative creative production.

Emma Colburn
Emma Colburn is an artist living and working in Space and Time.

Eric John Olson
Eric John Olson’s work focuses on participatory and cooperative art practices. He has been awarded project grants and residencies by the Seattle Art Museum, MadArt Studios, City of Seattle, Seattle Public Library and 4Culture. His work has been written about in The Seattle Times, The Stranger, The Creators Project, and more.

Gerald Scrutchins
Gerald D. Scrutchins is a middle school Social Studies teacher in Portland, OR. His goals are to instruct students to develop multiple perspectives when considering events of the past and present. Further, Gerald sits on the Portland Public Schools Environmental Climate Justice, which was the first of its kind in the United States. He is a strong advocate of teaching social and climate justice as well as reforming the use of textbooks in classrooms that fail to consider injustices of the past, or impacts of man made climate change of the present and future.

Humberto Marquez Mendez
As the Community Engagement Coordinator, Humberto oversees community partnerships and engagement efforts at RACC, with an emphasis on increasing participation and access of underrepresented communities across our different programs. Humberto also coordinates the Art & Power conversation series, RACC’s newest program that centers and explores the experiences of artists from historically marginalized communities through themes of creative expression and power structures. His commitment to social justice is rooted in his personal experiences and strengthened through his professional work with various non-profits, most notably Causa, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Impact NW and Latino Network. Humberto attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon and earned a B.A. in Sociology. In his free time he enjoys listening to music, cooking, staying active, and searching for the best burritos in Portland.

Jessica Cerullo
Jessica Cerullo is a performer, writer, producer, Professor of Theater at Whitman College and the Managing Director of MICA, the Michael Chekhov Association. Her work is often socially or civically engaged and is ultimately grounded in a variety of somatic and contemplative practices. Her original performance productions have been supported by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange, PS 122, the Terra Nova Collective, Seattle’s Studio Current, Colorado’s Tin Shop and Connecticut’s Dragon’s Egg residency.

Janan Stoll
Janan Stoll has a BA from Reed College in History and Literature. Her first introduction to the criminal justice system was as a volunteer in corrections in Clackamas County. She worked as a trial assistant, paralegal, and investigator in the felony and juvenile sections of the Metropolitan Public Defender’s Office. She is currently an investigator with the Federal Public Defender’s Office.

Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson
Artist Kaitlyn McKenzie Nelson received her BFA in Illustration from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2017. She creates fluidly in modes of sculpture, painting, illustration and performance happenings. Through her works of intermediia storytelling she explores notes of cultural and spiritual confusion, transmutation of trauma, Materiality, Ecological stewardship, and surreal expression.
Patricia Vasquez-Gomez
Patricia Vasquez works and lives between Portland, OR and Mexico City. Based on 7 years of experience as community based organizer and educator, she has created videos, installations, books and events with and about the immigrant communities of the places she has lived in. She is also a committed painter and printmaker.

Richard Lundquist
American artist Born in Portland Oregon in 1979. Richard became interested in art at an early age, although it wasn’t until his third prison sentence that he began to explore his identity as an artist, at which point he became involved with the Portland State University’s Master of Fine Arts and Social Practices Artist Residency program at Columbia River Correctional Institution, of which he is still an active outside member. Richard utilizes his art as a vehicle to express his perspective of the world around him, as well as document his journey as a former offender returning to his community as a positive contributing member of society.

This is what I have so far, please feel free to rearrange/add to it as you wish. I want it to really be good and I have never really done one of these before.

Riley Zahara Jacobsen & Beck Anders Jacobsen
Riley and Beck are siblings who get along in the kitchen and are young citizens of the future. Riley wants to be a doctor, or a cook, and Beck wants to go to law school and then become president. Riley likes making art, and Beck likes making art kinda-of-ish but likes reading and writing because it’s the best in the world.) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.THANOS! BY BECK ANDERS JACOBSEN and RILEY ZAHARA JACOBSEN!!!MDLV,555!THE END.

Roshani Thakore
Roshani Thakore is interested in using collaboration with artists and non-artists to examine, redefine, and envision new identities and environments through mediums such as drawing, painting, photography, video, movement, processions, storytelling, protests, dance, design, and more. Landing in Portland, she is learning more about the resistance movement in Portland’s art landscape through PoC leaders, visionaries, and cultural producers.

Roya Amirsoleymani
Roya Amirsoleymani (M.A.) is the Co-Artistic Director and Curator of Public Engagement for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and teaches in PSU’s Art & Social Practice Program. She is most inspired by the inquiries and possibilities that arise when artists, audiences, activists, and academics come together to critically and collaboratively explore our current cultural moment.

SAMP Laptop Ensemble
SAMP: An ensemble of humans, laptops, controllers, and speakers. Ensemble members both compose and perform in the ensemble, exploring computer-mediated instrument design, sound synthesis, programming, live interactive performance, and incorporation of visual media.

Samuel Wildman
Samuel Wildman (b.1986) is an artist and writer. Some people call him a space cowboy, some call him the gangster of love; some people call him Maurice.

Kimberly Sutherland
Kimberly Sutherland is an artist and designer exploring the connections between us and the natural world. Her work examines relationships to place and creates opportunities to connect with the systems we move through and are part of. She has worked at The New York Times Magazine, and Project Projects and is co-director of Creek College, an experimental school that offers art classes in exchange for environmental education and watershed restoration. She has a Bachelor of Design from Emily Carr University and an MFA in Art & Social Practice from Portland State University. Raised amongst the Canadian Cascades, Kimberly currently lives and works between Brooklyn, Portland, OR and Vancouver, Canada.

Lauren Moran
Lauren Moran wants to put relationships at the forefront of their artistic concerns. Creating interdisciplinary projects that are often participatory, collaborative and co-authored, they aim to experiment with and question the systems we are all embedded in by organizing situations of connection, openness and non-hierarchical learning. They are interested in developing sites for accessibility and are an active member of Public Annex. laurengracemoran.com.

Lisa Bates
Lisa K. Bates, PhD is Associate Professor in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University. Her scholarship focuses on housing and community development policy and planning, attending to the legacies of discrimination in urban policy-making. She engages in research and practice with the aim of dismantling institutional racism, and in 2016 she was awarded the Dale Prize for scholarship in urban planning for community self-determination and racial justice from Cal Poly-Pomona.

Martha Gies
Portland writer Martha Gies began publishing journalism in the mid-seventies and later studied collaboration with fiction by Raymond Carver. Her short stories and literary essays are widely read in literary quarterly journals. In 2004, OSU Press published Up All Night, her portrait of Portland told through the stories of 23 people who work graveyard shift. She has taught creative writing at Portland State University, the graduate writing program at Lewis & Clark, and at Traveler’s Mind, an annual writing workshop abroad. She has been an activist for low-income housing and human rights and has led writing workshops inside Oregon prisons and jails.

Patricia Vasquez-Gomez
Patricia Vasquez works and lives between Portland, OR and Mexico City. Based on 7 years of experience as community based organizer and educator, she has created videos, installations, books and events with and about the immigrant communities of the places she has lived in. She is also a committed painter and printmaker.

Richard Lundquist
American artist Born in Portland Oregon in 1979. Richard became interested in art at an early age, although it wasn’t until his third prison sentence that he began to explore his identity as an artist, at which point he became involved with the Portland State University’s Master of Fine Arts and Social Practices Artist Residency program at Columbia River Correctional Institution, of which he is still an active outside member. Richard utilizes his art as a vehicle to express his perspective of the world around him, as well as document his journey as a former offender returning to his community as a positive contributing member of society.

This is what I have so far, please feel free to rearrange/add to it as you wish. I want it to really be good and I have never really done one of these before.

Riley Zahara Jacobsen & Beck Anders Jacobsen
Riley and Beck are siblings who get along in the kitchen and are young citizens of the future. Riley wants to be a doctor, or a cook, and Beck wants to go to law school and then become president. Riley likes making art, and Beck likes making art kinda-of-ish but likes reading and writing because it’s the best in the world.) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.THANOS! BY BECK ANDERS JACOBSEN and RILEY ZAHARA JACOBSEN!!!MDLV,555!THE END.

Roshani Thakore
Roshani Thakore is interested in using collaboration with artists and non-artists to examine, redefine, and envision new identities and environments through mediums such as drawing, painting, photography, video, movement, processions, storytelling, protests, dance, design, and more. Landing in Portland, she is learning more about the resistance movement in Portland’s art landscape through PoC leaders, visionaries, and cultural producers.

Roya Amirsoleymani
Roya Amirsoleymani (M.A.) is the Co-Artistic Director and Curator of Public Engagement for the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA) and teaches in PSU’s Art & Social Practice Program. She is most inspired by the inquiries and possibilities that arise when artists, audiences, activists, and academics come together to critically and collaboratively explore our current cultural moment.

SAMP Laptop Ensemble
SAMP: An ensemble of humans, laptops, controllers, and speakers. Ensemble members both compose and perform in the ensemble, exploring computer-mediated instrument design, sound synthesis, programming, live interactive performance, and incorporation of visual media.

Samuel Wildman
Samuel Wildman (b.1986) is an artist and writer. Some people call him a space cowboy; some call him the gangster of love; some people call him Maurice.

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Portland State University
MFA in Art + Social Practice

PSU's Art and Social Practice MFA is a 3-year, flexible residency program that combines individual research, group work, and experiential learning. The program’s blend of critical and professional practice, progressive pedagogy, collaborative social engagement, and transdisciplinary exploration produces an immersive educational environment.

The 90 credit, 3-year course encourages students to shape the direction of their own education and continually develop the program as a whole. Students connect their art practice to research in the field of Social Practice through electives and community partnerships, promoting cross disciplinarily engagement. Graduating students each produce a public graduate project, an in-depth written text exploring a relevant connection to their practice, and a public artist lecture that surveys their work in the program.

The program accepts approximately five students annually. The deadline for applying is January. Interested persons are encouraged to make arrangements to visit the program.