

6-8-2023

## Assembly 2023

PSU Art and Social Practice

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A letter from the third years:

What really is Assembly? The question comes up every year, and the call is coming from inside the house! We in the program often feel hesitant to put stiff definitions around the things we do. We waiver over the best way to describe social practice, we wonder what distinguishes a conversation from an interview. It isn't that we don't know what these things have looked like in the past; we have seen countless incredible examples of artists making idiosyncratic events, inventive collaborative writings, and inspiring interventions in space. What we're really searching for is what these things could be.

When we ask what it is, we are trying to determine the boundaries without breaking them; we don't want to run full speed into a wall. Over the last three years, our cohort has learned that this caution doesn't serve us and the boundaries don't exist. Ok, there are boundaries; your Assembly event has to be able to really happen (although failure is certainly a risk you could take), nobody should get hurt, and we ought to keep the carpet clean, but most of the limitations we imagine are self-imposed. Assembly reminds us that we have more room to explore than we might think, and allows us to share with you what we do with that freedom.

What makes social practice, social, is that we work with people, for people, in front of people, and sometimes about people. At Assembly, all of these audiences come together. We exercise the expansion of our context, from the sometimes insular realm of the university, to the site of an elementary school and a farmer's market, and to friends, neighbors, families, community members, and the people of Portland. What's more social practice-y than gathering to experiment with community, and crafting new memories in collectivity?

As social practice artists, we know that art doesn't have to exist only in a gallery (Assembly is not an event for going to look at static things on a white wall). Rather, it's a series of projects presented by artists that the public is invited to help make and participate in. In this way, Assembly asserts that art can be something else: a chance to make meaning in collaboration with other people and an opportunity to practice our art in real time, in public. That "public" is a people, a place, a once-in-a-lifetime scenario, and an essential ingredient in the work that we make. We need you!

We, the third-years, started the program amidst lockdowns and quarantines; our first Assembly took place on Zoom. We tried our best to make life on screens a little bit funnier, grappling with how to do social-practice while social distancing. Our second Assembly was warmer; with masks on, we gathered at KSMoCA for 3 days of activity in an elementary school. This is our third and last Assembly, the first one that feels a bit safer and openly social, and we're happy to be here, ready to practice and socialize, at least for one last dance.

– Becca Kauffman, Caryn Aasness, Kiara Walls, Laura Glazer, and Diana Marcela Cuartas

## **Department of Public Dance Department of Public Dance**

*Invites you to join*

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PSU ART + SOCIAL PRACTICE GRAD TALK:

# BLACK SOV ERE IGNTY

*Join artist Kiara Walls as she shares her journey within her practice and graduate program. The conversation will focus on unlayering the Black existence as it relates to trauma, repair and Black sovereignty.*

**June 10th, 2023**

Grad Talk 3:45p-4:45p

Graduation Ceremony 5:00p-till

**Portland Playhouse  
Community Center**

602 NE Prescott St,  
Portland, OR 97211

## **El Conocimiento Migrante**

Artist lecture by Diana Marcela Cuartas



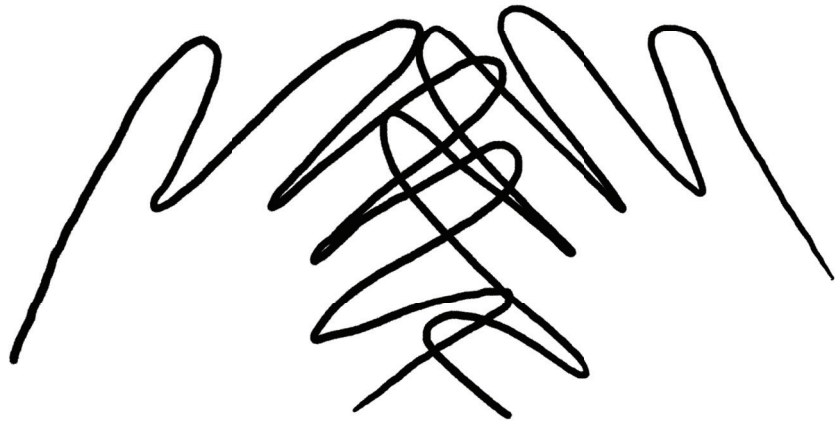
Illustration by Eliana Enríquez

**Saturday June 10 | 11:15am - 12:15pm**

Join us and learn about **El Centro del Conocimiento Migrante**, an initiative to cultivate sense of belonging through cultural exchange and artistic experimentation between migrant communities.

**Portland Playhouse Community Studio**

602 NE Prescott St.



take me with you

a graduate lecture  
by Laura Glazer

saturday, june 10  
10 - 11am

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portland playhouse community studio  
602 NE prescott street

free + open to the public

CARYN AASNESS PRESENTS

AaSEMBLY PT. 2 @ PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE  
SAT. 6/10/23

YOU'RE INVITED  
PLEASE BRING A BOTTLE  
OF WINDEX IF YOU HAVE  
ONE I'M NOT KIDDING  
LET'S SEE HOW MANY  
WINDEX BOTTLES WE  
CAN GET IN THE ROOM  
FOR THIS ART LECTURE



## FRIDAY JUNE 9TH AT KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

11-11:50 AM

**KSMoCA Art + Social Practice Collaboration Award Exhibition** with Lillyanne Pham *in the hallway near the main office*

Experience the work of local social construct artists Kayin Talton-Davis & Cleo Davis through the lens of Dr. MLK Jr. students organized by 2nd year MFA student Lillyanne Pham with Ms. Bre's Black Student Union and Ms. Jones' 5th Grade class.

12-12:50 PM

**Make Me a Sandwich** with Marissa Perez *outside by the picnic tables*

Have you ever made someone a sandwich? What do you like to put on a sandwich? Why? Let us help you answer these questions! We will provide everything you need to make a sandwich and tools to help you find out about other sandwich preferences.

1-1:50 PM

**Stem Song** with Gilian Rappaport, Adrian Ruth Williams, Taiyah Simone, Ceili Smythe ND, Emma Downing's third grade music class at King School, and Wind River Trust *by the stage in front of the music room (second floor)*

'Stem Song' is an acoustic response by third grade music students at Dr Martin Luther King Jr School, to vegetation gathered sustainably during the restoration of Wind River Arboretum, one of the oldest arboretums in the Pacific Northwest. Supported by naturopathic and botanical knowledge, we collectively contemplate and honor human kinship with local plants and trees.

2-2:50 PM

**Off the Map: Portland by Martin Luther King Elementary School Kids** with Manfred Parrales *in the library*

Being new to a city can be an exciting but challenging experience. Join us in the projection of a short where children from Martin Luther King Elementary School reveal their favorite places, the most exciting their secret spots in Portland. A glimpse of Portland, OR that doesn't appear in any travel guide.

## FRIDAY JUNE 9TH AT KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3-3:50 PM

**Hi-Viz Crosswalk Spectacular II** with Becca Kauffman *in front of the school*

It's a parade! It's a performance! It's Crosswalk Spectacular II! The second annual roving kid-powered outdoor spectacle starring none other than the 5th grade school crossing guards of Dr MLK Jr School (you might know them as Safety Patrol)! Join us for the world premiere of the Official Safety Patrol Theme Song, co-written with musician Jerry Paper and recorded by the 20 members of this year's Safety Patrol team: Arthur, Reed, Noah, Wyatt D, Hannah, Gage, Mo, Avalon, Wyatt L, Samuel, Vivi, Henry, Justin, Emily, Deandre, Austin, Natasha, Aljanae, Avery, and Chris, with a cameo from Mr. Monty. Supported by a grant from Precipice Fund and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

4-4:50 PM

**KSMoCA Art + Social Practice Collaboration Award Ceremony** with Laura Glazer, Kayin Talton-Davis, and Cleo Davis *in the library*

Join our inaugural Collaboration Award ceremony steered by the KSMoCA Art + Social Practice program. The award annually recognizes and celebrates an artist team in their outstanding work rooted in collaboration. Kayin Talton-Davis and Cleo Davis are the first artist team to be honored with the award including unrestricted funding of \$1000, an exhibition at KSMoCA, a publication, and a year-long KSMoCA artist residency.

### ONGOING

**The Moving Art + Social Practice Archive**  
*with Caryn Aasness and Olivia DelGaudio*

Be on the lookout for The Moving Art + Social Practice Archive throughout the three days of Assembly! This interactive display will showcase the sorts of projects housed in the Art + Social Practice Archive at PSU, invite you to ask questions, and provide exciting takeaways!

# **SATURDAY JUNE 10TH**

## **GRADUATE LECTURES**

### **AT THE PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE**

**10:00-11:00 AM**

**Take Me With You, a Graduate Lecture by Laura Glazer**

A presentation about art projects I've done, 2020—2023

**11:15 AM-12:15 PM**

**Diana Marcela Cuartas Graduate Lecture**

Join us and learn about El Centro del Conocimiento Migrante (Center for Migrant Knowledge), an initiative created by graduate student Diana Marcela Cuartas to cultivate a sense of belonging through artistic experimentation and cultural exchange between migrant communities in East Portland.

**12:15-1:15 PM**

**LUNCH**

**1:15-2:15 PM**

**Assembly Part 2: The Graduate Lecture**

with Caryn Aasness

Your whole life has been leading up to the moment I tell you about how my whole life (for the last three years) has been leading up to this moment in which I tell you about the last three years and the art that got me through. Don't miss it. \*Bottles of Windex are welcome and encouraged as plus ones.\*

**2:30-3:30 PM**

**Meet Me at the Crosswalk, a Graduate Lecture by Becca Kauffman**

For my final act of graduate school, I will host a talk about my social art projects on crosswalks, in elevators, and at the local mall. We might even dance!

**3:45-4:45 PM**

**Kiara Walls Graduate Talk**

Join artist Kiara Walls as she shares her journey within her practice and graduate program. The conversation will focus on unlayering the Black existence as it relates to trauma, repair and Black sovereignty.

## **5 PM**

# **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

# **SUNDAY JUNE 11TH**

## **AT THE KING FARMERS MARKET**

**10-10:50 AM**

**I Found You Like This**

with Morgan Hornsby and Nadine Hanson

Can personal archives serve as inspiration for art making? In this collaborative photo project, participants are invited to recreate vernacular photographs to explore the possibility that ordinary life is worth reenacting.

**11-11:50 AM**

**What is Your Name?**

with Midori Yamanaka

This is your opportunity to celebrate your name with me! Please tell me your name and the story behind it. As an exchange, I will draw your name on a card in Japanese calligraphy.

**12-12:50 PM**

**Side Salad: A (Smaller) Reenactment of Alison Knowles' *Make a Salad***

with Luz Blumenfeld  
*on the grass behind the farmers market*

With fresh produce from the farmers market we will (literally) toss a salad together. As with the children's story of The Little Red Hen, all who help to make the salad will be invited to share it for lunch.

**1-1:50 PM**

**A House in an Alternate Universe: Participatory Installation**

with Olivia DelGandio  
*in the field behind the farmers market*

A House in an Alternate Universe is a project focused on keeping the memory of those who have died alive by collecting photos, objects, and stories that relate to people we have loved who are no longer living. Join me for the first in person installment of the project and contribute a memory of someone you've loved and lost.

**BREAK**

**4-5:30 PM**

**Moving History** with Gilian Rappaport and Linda K. Johnson  
*5th Ave Cinema*

'Moving History' is a series featuring short films from the Portland Dance Archive, curated by Gilian Rappaport with Linda K. Johnson. The event will conclude with a short Q+A. Dinner will be provided. Presented with support of Portland State University Art & Social Practice Club.



## THIRD YEAR BIOS

**Laura Glazer** is an artist whose work is socially-engaged and depends on the participation of other people, sometimes a close friend, and other times, complete strangers. Her background in photography and design inform her social practice, and her projects appear as books, workshops, radio shows, zines, festivals, exhibitions, installations, posters, signs, postal correspondence, and sculpture. She holds a BFA in Photography from Rochester Institute of Technology and is an MFA candidate in Contemporary Art Practice: Art and Social Practice at PSU. Born in northern Virginia, she was a longtime resident of upstate New York and is now based in Portland, Oregon.

**Diana Marcela Cuartas** is a Colombian artist, educator, and cultural worker transplanted to Portland in 2019. Her work incorporates visual research, popular culture analysis, and participatory learning processes in publications, workshops, parties, or curatorial projects as a framework to investigate local cultures and their contexts.

Before moving to the US, Diana was Head of Public Programs at Espacio Odeón, an organization for interdisciplinary creation in Bogotá, Colombia and was part of lugar a dudas team, an art space dedicated to contemporary art practices in Cali, Colombia. She has been an artist in residence in La Usurpadora (Puerto Colombia), Bisagra (Lima), Tlatelolco Central (Mexico City), and Beta-Local (San Juan, Puerto Rico).

In 2021 she founded the Centro del Conocimiento Migrante, an initiative for experimentation, enjoyment, and cultural exchange between migrant communities in Portland.

She is a 2023 graduate of the Art and Social Practice MFA at Portland State University.

## THIRD YEAR BIOS

**Caryn Aasness** wants to know what you know, feel what you feel, answer your questions and ask them back. Caryn's work is about how queerness creates and severs multiple selves. Do you feel it too? They investigate the folk art of coping mechanisms. How have you gotten this far? What do you do that makes your life more meaningful, beautiful, and bearable?

Caryn fell into art like a naive conman, someone else noticed their obsessive compulsive charting/tapping/collecting and called it "art" instead of "crazy." Caryn took advantage of the auspicious mislabeling and has been making "art" ever since.

**Kiara Walls** is a social practice artist, educator, and dean residing in Portland, Oregon. She holds a Bachelors of Art in Graphic Design from California State University of Northridge and a Masters of Fine Arts in Art and Social Practice from Portland State University. Walls' work explores the layers of Black sovereignty through creating conversations, film, and site-specific installations. Her practice often involves community engagement and collaboration, inviting participants to join in the creation of the work. Walls seeks to engage in dialogue and reflection on themes related to trauma, identity, healing and intimacy.

**Becca Kauffman** is a social practice artist with a background in multidisciplinary performance, long stationed in New York City and now living Portland, Oregon. Practicing art as a flamboyant public utility, they collide fantasy with everyday life by choreographing new forms of social infrastructure through poetical actions. Their work uses communicative mediums like radio and video broadcasts, signs and fliers, telephone hotlines, group spectacles, interactive sculpture, music compilations, and renegade traffic direction to transform spectatorship into participation, and can look like an unsanctioned artist residency in Times Square, a neighborhood variety show in the middle of a NYC dive bar aired on public access television, or a seven year pop persona project called Jennifer Vanilla. They are an unofficial Mall Artist at Lloyd Center Mall, where they invite you to join the Public Acts of Dance Company on Saturdays at 3pm, sponsored by their fabricated city agency, Department of Public Dance. You can find them @pedestrianvision.

## SECOND YEAR BIOS

**Olivia DelGaudio** (they/she) is a storyteller who asks intimate questions and normalizes answers in the form of ongoing conversations. They explore grief, memory, and human connection and look for ways of memorializing moments and relationships. Through their work, they hope to make the world a more tender place and aim to do so by creating books, videos, and textiles that capture personal narratives. Essential to Olivia's practice is research and their current research interests include untold queer histories, family lineage, and the intersection between fashion and identity.

**Lillyanne Pham** is an artist and cultural organizer based in so-called East Portland (b.1997, aka LP, pronouns they/she). Learn more here: [linktr.ee/lillyannephams](https://linktr.ee/lillyannephams)

**Luz Blumenfeld** (they/them) is a transdisciplinary artist who is third generation from Oakland, California. They currently live and work in Portland, Oregon. See also: [luzblumenfeld.univer.se](https://luzblumenfeld.univer.se)

**Gilian Rappaport** (they/them) is an artist, writer, and naturalist. Their interdisciplinary work often brings species and generations together in playful, intimate ways. Through invested collaborations with other artists, designers, botanists, and elders, they have realized projects in all kinds of places: beaches, forests, RV parks, bars, cemeteries, playgrounds, libraries, classrooms, backyards, billboards, skin (tattoos), theaters, newspapers, books, homes, and museums. Raised in New York between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, Gilian lives in Portland, Oregon. [gilian.space](https://gilian.space)

## FIRST YEAR BIOS

**Morgan Hornsby** is a photographer and artist from Kentucky.

**Nadine Hanson** is a waitress/artist who lives in New York City.

**Midori Yamanaka** (she/her) is an artist, creative coach, and entrepreneur. She was born and raised in Japan, and currently bases in Portland, Oregon and Hokkaido, Japan. Her practice explores ways to harness creativity based on common values in diverse societies and their respective cultures. She has been practicing Japanese calligraphy since she was a child. After receiving a BFA in Graphic Design from Art Center College of Design, she was mentored in Japanese calligraphy by a master of calligraphy, Shofu Wakayama in Japan, and has participated in exhibitions with other artists in 2016.

**Manfred Parrales** (he/him) is a Latin art communicator, art art enthusiast, and future social practice artist from San Jose, Costa Rica and a first year student in the Art and Social Practice program at Portland State University. Called Manfred Punky by friends, he believes in communicating through art. After graduating from the Art School of the University of Costa Rica, his interest as a designer and art enthusiast is in creating art communications, solutions, and experiences focused on human interactions and art education. He has 7+ years of experience in design and visual communication in the technology industry with a focus on art education, video, design, and photography.

**Marissa Perez** grew up in Portland and makes a sandwich at least once a month. She is a screenprinter, ping-pong player, and babysitter.

# COLLABORATOR BIOS

**Adrian Williams** is a transdisciplinary artist, writer, and teacher invested in various forms of language. Her practice involves voice, text, sound, video, photography, and the immersive handling of space. Employing conceptual narrative structures, her work revolves in arenas both literal and fictitious, fielding the conditions that determine form to explore the form of the human condition.

Williams has a Bachelor's degree from the Cooper Union, New York, and is a Meisterschulerin of the Städelschule, Frankfurt. She resides in Frankfurt, Germany, and is a doctoral candidate at the Hochschule für Gestaltung, Offenbach, writing on the non-singularity of voice.

**Taiyah Simone** is a local artist, producer, recording/mixing engineer with a professional background in radio passionate about community work.

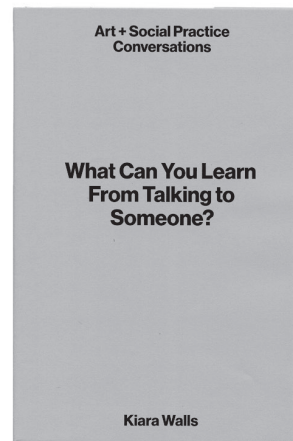
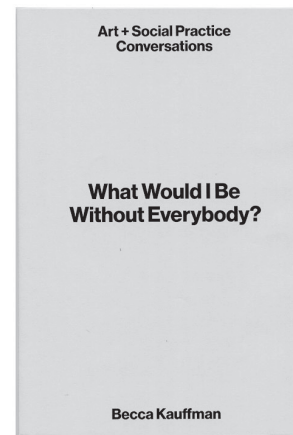
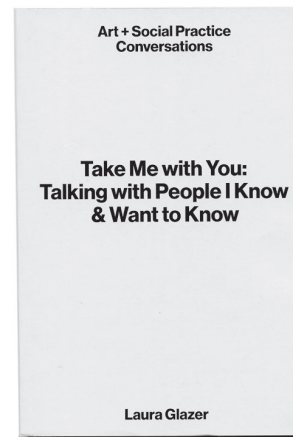
**Ceili Smythe ND** is a naturopath based in Portland, Oregon.

**Emma Downing** is a music teacher at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School.

**Wind River Trust** is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization formed to lead a restoration effort at Historic Wind River in the Columbia River Gorge. The trust is partnering with Skamania County and the U.S. Forest Service to restore Historic Wind River and create sustainable income for its ongoing maintenance.

**Linda K. Johnson** is an Oregon native. For over three decades, she has contributed to maturation of dance in the Pacific Northwest as a maker, performer, academic, somatic educator, Contemporary Alexander Technique teacher, mentor, curator, and arts administrator. Her choreographic work has been presented by PICA/TBA, On the Boards, and ORLO, among others. She is one of five custodians nationally of Yvonne Rainer's seminal postmodern work, *Trio A*, and has participated in residencies at Yaddo, Caldera and Rauschenberg/Captiva. She is featured in the recent book by Kristin Timkin – *The New Explorers*, with a forward by Lucy R. Lippard.

These books collect conversations facilitated by graduating students in the Art + Social Practice MFA Program. All of the MFA students conduct interviews related to the topic of art and social practice each academic term during the three years of the program. The interviews are posted as part of an online journal and then compiled together as part of this book series. Interviews are a natural form of collaborative thinking and writing, and have been an important form used in many texts about or informing the field of socially engaged art.



Introducing *Art + Social Practice Conversations*, a new series published by KSMoCA in partnership with the MFA Program. For more information and links to buy, scan the code or visit [psusocialpractice.org](http://psusocialpractice.org).

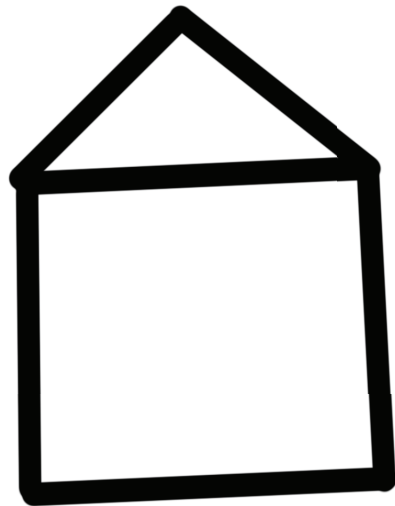
# PSU'S MFA IN ART + SOCIAL PRACTICE

Portland State University Art and Social Practice (A+SP) MFA Program is a three-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 ninety credit, three-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-disciplinary 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. See more online at [psusocialpractice.org](http://psusocialpractice.org)

# SOFA SOCIAL FORMS OF ART JOURNAL CONVERSATIONS ON EVERYTHING

[PSUSOCIALPRACTICE.ORG/JOURNAL](http://PSUSOCIALPRACTICE.ORG/JOURNAL)

A HOUSE IN  
AN  
ALTERNATE  
UNIVERSE



SUNDAY JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>  
1:00-1:50

