

Artist Statement

I work as a collaborator, experience maker, explorer, facilitator and participant.

The essence of my work is situated in performance and direct engagement. I do interactive public art projects and performances, which bring together members of the public to share in conversation, cheer, song, dance and food. Through these and other social interactions, observations and interpretations (sometimes misinterpretations), I make site-specific projects that investigate elevating everyday activities into tools for community and relationship building, place and space making, resource sharing and institutional critique. The resulting documentation/residue can take the form of performance, audio recordings, video, printed matter, photography, sculpture or installation, addressing subjects such as the radical nature of positivity, generosity and reciprocity, ritual and inclusion.

I also work as cultural ambassador. I have been realizing this work internationally, so that participants and viewers alike can make a comparative, anthropological exploration.

Bio

Lexa Walsh was born near Philadelphia as the youngest of 15 children. She has lived, worked, exhibited and toured in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, the Pacific Northwest as well as across Europe and Asia. Walsh was a recipient of the CEC Artslink Award, Meet the Composer Award, and the Gunk Grant, and has done several international artist residencies and projects. Her work is informed by her upbringing, extensive travels, community work and experimental music and performance projects. She was an independent cultural worker in the Bay Area and worked for many years as a curator and arts administrator at CESTA, an international art center in Czech republic, whose mission is to foster cross-cultural tolerance and understanding through the arts. She co-founded and conceived of the all women, all toy instrument ensemble Toychestra and is a member of the Czech-American a cappella group Kačkala. These projects have been realized at venues such as Cité de la Musique, The Exploratorium, The Lab, Mills College Art Museum and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She is currently Artist in Residence at the Portland Art Museum.

Education

Portland State University	MFA, Art & Social Practice 2011
California College of Arts & Crafts	BFA, Ceramics 1990
Parsons School of Design	Undergraduate coursework, 1986-1988

Solo Exhibitions & Projects

2011	Portland Food Cart Songs , Portland, OR Librarification , Portland, OR
2010	Your Garden Cookbook (with Nicole Penoncello), Field Work, Portland, OR Art & Social Practice Library , Portland, OR New York Jingle Orchestra , New York, NY
2009	Paris Jingle Orchestra , Paris, France Show Me Your Ljubljana , Ljubljana, Slovenia Oakland, & Other Journeys , Oakland, CA
2008	Oakland Jingle Orchestra , Oakland, CA Take A Picture With An Artist , Oakland, CA While I Was Awaiting You SAIR Project Space, Jyderup, Denmark Weeklong Projects , Cricket Engine, Oakland, CA
2007	Seductive Objects-Small Sculpture Alta Galleria, Berkeley, CA
2006	The Immortalization Project , Kaohsiung Co, Taiwan Take a Picture with a Foreigner , Kaohsiung Co, Taiwan
2005	The Immortalization Project , Taipei, Taiwan The Immortalization Project , Oakland, CA Greetings from Oakland , 21 Grand, Oakland, CA
2004	Belgrade Postcards , 21Grand, Oakland, CA
2003	The Immortalization Project , REX B92, Belgrade, Serbia
2002	Lexa Walsh , Galerie Vodárenská věž, Tábor, Czech Republic
2000	Hidden Histories , Galerie Vodárenská věž, Tábor, Czech Republic

Selected Group Exhibitions & Projects

- 2011 **Shine A Light**, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
 Box Set, PSU MFA Dioramas, Field Work, Portland, OR
 A Visit from Miranda July, Hollywood Theater, Portland, Oregon
- 2010 **Shadowshop**, A Project by Stephanie Syjuco, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA
 Shine A Light, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
 Paul Thek's Teaching Notes, with Harrell Fletcher, Whitney Museum, New York, NY
 Condensations of the Social, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
 Hotel Mandragoria, with Mark Dion's Museum Museum, Portland, OR
 The Incidental Person, Apex Art, New York, NY
- 2009 **Parties Prenantes Info Point**, BétonSalon, Paris, France
 Heavy Hitters, Cricket Engine, Oakland, CA
- 2008 **Illuminated Corridor**, Oakland, CA
- 2007 **Distinctions in Drawing**, 1078 Gallery, Chico, CA
 Swee(t)Art, Red Ink Studios, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 **Boundless Ripples & Harmonies**, Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan
 Translocation-Recombination-Connection, Pier 2, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
 Kio-A-Thau Artist-in-Residence Exhibition, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
 Women in Taipei, Taipei Cultural Center, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2005 **Bayennale 2005**, Oakland, CA
 Stuff and Things, San Pablo Art Center, San Pablo, CA
- 2004 **Performance Art Today**, 4th Annual Multimedial Art Festival, Odžaci, Serbia (& 2003, 2002)
- 2003 **openhARTS, Glass Case Exhibits by Bay Area Artists**, S.F. Public Library, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 **Limbo II Festival**, Center for Metamedia, Plasy, Czech Republic

Awards & Grants

- 2009 **CEC ArtsLink Award**
 PSU AAA Travel Award
- 2008 **Meet The Composer Award (& 2007)**
- 2004 **Gunk Foundation Grant**

Residencies & Festivals

- 2011 **Portland Art Museum**, Portland, OR
La Pocha Nostra Performance Workshop, San Francisco, CA
Family and Artmaking with Nina Katchadourian, Millay Colony, Austerlitz, NY
- 2010 **KULTURDIALOG 3**, Gimle, Denmark
- 2009 **BétonSalon** Parties Prenantes, Paris, France
Museum of Transitory Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2008 **Sølyst AIR**, Jyderup Denmark
- 2006 **Kio-A-Thau Sugar Refinery**, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2005 **Taipei Artists Village**, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 **REX Cultural Center**, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
- 1996 **CESTA: Orient to Occident**, Tábor, Czech Republic

Teaching

- 2011 **Portland State University**, Intro to 3D Design, Instructor of Record
- 2010 **Portland State University**, Intro to 3D Design, Co-Instructor with Steven Beatty
Portland State University, History of Social Practice, Teaching Assistant to Jen Delos Reyes
Portland State University, Museum Museum, Teaching Assistant to Mark Dion
- 2008 **Palo Alto Art Center**, Identity & Community in Art, Instructor
- 2003-1998 **CESTA & Cheiron T**, Community English, Program Director and Instructor

Visiting Lecturer

- 2011 **Portland Art Museum**, Open Engagement Conference Museum Summit, Panelist, Portland, OR
- 2010 **Pacific Northwest College of Art**, Portland, OR, Social Practice Seminar
Portland Art Museum, Oregon Arts Educators Association, Conference Presenter
BGK Art School, Jyderup, Denmark
- 2008 **Rex Cultural Center**, Belgrade, Serbia
Overgaden Center of Art, Copenhagen Denmark
Art Folk High School, Holbaek, Denmark
- 2006 **Taipei Artist Village**, Taipei, Taiwan
Chung-Hwa School of the Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2003 **Rex Cultural Center**, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

Curatorial Practice

- 2011-2010 **Field Work**, Portland, OR
 Open Engagement Conference, Portland, OR
 Portland Social Practice Journal, Contributing Editor, Portland, OR
 PSU Art Department Diversity Committee, Portland, OR
- 2010 **Apex Franchise** Jury member
- 2009-2007 **Cricket Engine Project Space**, Curator, Oakland, CA
- 2008-2006 **Swee(t)art** Magazine, Contributing Editor, Oakland, CA
- 2004-1997 **CESTA** (Cultural Exchange Station in Tábor), Curator/Administrator, Tábor, Czech Republic
- 1991-93 **Afterworld Lounge Productions**, Curator, music & performance series, Oakland, CA

Music & Performance

Toychestra, Co-founder of an all women toy instrument ensemble. Highlights include "Juvenilia" (S.F., Fall 2000) "Bay Area Now/Under the Radar 1" (Fall 2005) at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the collaboration with Dan Plonsey and Fred Frith (S.F. Bay Area, May 2003-May 2004), the group's five European tours and participation in "Musiques et Jouets" festival (Cite de la Musique, Paris, Winter 2004). www.toychestra.com.

Kačkala: Member of Czech-based all women a cappella group. Has toured extensively in Europe and has three releases. "Vox" was nominated for the Czech "Andel" awards, 2006. www.kackala.cz.

Theatre of Yugen: Collaboration on music for The Cycle Plays, 2007. www.thecycleplays.org.

EhnOrchestra Contributing composer, 2011.

Guest vocalist on recordings by C, Esgmeg, Gaffa, Waave, Monopause & Scott Pinkmountain.

Radio DJ on Free Radio Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 1994-96

Collaborative Performance in the SF Bay Area and Europe with numerous dancers, performers and musicians incorporating improvisation, text, sound, gestures and experimental theater tactics. Includes the collaborative projects with George Cremaschi, Krista Denio, Theater Parapet, Divadlo Průvan and Better Hose & Garters at venues such as The Lab, 111 Minna Street Gallery, Mills College Art Museum, 848 Community Space, Sacramento Fringe Festival, Somar Theater, and various European venues, 1993-2003

Press

- 2011 "Rethinking Art with Social Practice", Macon Reed, KBOO Portland, 4/26/11
- 2010 "Pedagogy, anyone?", Martha Schwendener, Village Voice, 6/29/2010
"Your Garden Cookbook", Pick of the Week, Willamette Week, Portland, OR 10/10
- 2009 "City Dust & Business Cards for the Unemployed", Ida Hiršenfelder, Dnevnik, Ljubljana, SI, 7/09
"Show Me Your Ljubljana", IJ, SiOL, Ljubljana, SI 7/09
"Ljubljana's Tourist Bureau by Lexa Walsh", Neža Mrevlje, InDirekt, Ljubljana, SI, 7/09
- 2008 "Jyderup Has Been Immortalized in an Artwork", Silla Bakalus, Vestrebladet, Denmark, 4/08
- 2006 "Artistic Connection by the Pier 2 Dock", Chia-Chi Chen, ARTCO, December 2006
"Lexa Walsh- What Things Mean" Obi Kaufmann, SWEE(t)ART, Oakland 9/06
"Currents", Pots, Taipei 8/06
"Art in the city" Susan Kendzulak, Taipei Times 8/06
- 2005 "The Writing is on the Wall" Charles McHale, Pots, Taipei 11/05
"Stage, Screen & Studio" interview on Radio Taiwan International 11/05
Interviews broadcast on CTS TV, LTN TV, UBN TV, Taipei 11/05
"Spark"Calendar feature, KQED TV, 4/05
- 2004 "Arts in Review" interview on KALX FM, 4/04
"Billboard" Critic's Choice, East Bay Express, Berkeley, 4/2/04
"The Immortalization Project", Asphalt Magazine, Belgrade, Spring 2004
- 2003 TV Metropolis, interview with Zoran Kesic, Belgrade 9/03.
Radio b-92, interviews with Sasa Markovic & Igor Brakic, 9/03, Radio Belgrade, interview 9/03
"New Project at Rex- The Immortalization Project", Danas, Belgrade , 9/10/03
"Unusual Project of Lexa Walsh - Immortalized Objects", Politika, Belgrade, 9/11/03
"Belgrade's Rex in September-Immortal History", Dnevnik, Novi Sad, 9/05/03.
"Project of Lexa Walsh at Rex- Objects Torn From Oblivion", Stari Grad, Belgrade, 9/03

Languages

English, Czech, conversational French, tourist German, Serbian, Slovene