

Cynthia Connolly

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I believe that art is a tool to connect disparate ideas and people, promote dialogue, and elevate our lives.

I am a working artist who has been a Curator with Artisphere and Ellipse Arts Center of Arlington County for over ten years and an independent Curator for the preceding five years. As a Curator, director, manager, and artist, I am expert at curating exhibitions and managing projects, both independently and collaboratively. I enjoy and excel at developing and promoting diverse visual arts programs and cultivating communities that thrive on this programming.

As a Curator and exhibiting working artist in photography and letterpress printing for over twenty years, I have a unique perspective that enables me to relate to artists, administrators, and patrons of the arts. My art has been exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally, purchased by public institutions and private collectors.

The exhibits I have curated include nationally-recognized artists. My positive reputation as a leader in the visual art community, as both a Curator and artist, is based upon my creativity, vision, outreach and energy.

PROFESSIONAL and WORK EXPERIENCE

Special Projects Curator, Arlington, Virginia, July 2015 - present

Arlington Economic Development, Arlington Cultural Affairs

working with both Public Art and Cultural Development I am:

- initiating, developing, and implementing multiple temporary community engaged programs both indoors and outdoors including:
 1. conceived and curator of Arlington Art Truck: a roving tool box for an artist to perform outdoor impromptu interactive projects (funding procured, launch date: Spring 2017)
 2. Co-curating Courthouse 2.0: temporary public art projects in the Courthouse area with the “civic” as a core theme.
 3. continue *Art on the ART Bus* program
 4. curate and develop specialized projects for festivals
- performing outreach to community, schools, businesses and donors for collaborative temporary public art projects
- asses and find new ways to reach new audiences in varied arts venues
- collaborate with communications and marketing to best publicize temporary public art projects
- negotiate and execute multiple artist, professional services and contractor agreements
- stay within or below budget in all projects
- manage ingoing and outgoing artist/inventory, handling condition reports, insurance and claims

Visual Arts Curator, Artisphere, Arlington, Virginia, February 2009 - June 2015

Arlington Economic Development, Arlington Cultural Affairs

- curated an ambitious schedule of over 25 contemporary art exhibitions per year - many focused on STEAM themes- in 60,000 square foot multifaceted arts center with three galleries and Artist in Residence Studio and exhibition space: Mezz (juried - for artists who live in the area), WIP (Works In Progress Gallery: the artist and their process), Terrace (main gallery)
- responsible for a \$110,000 programming budget working closely with programming staff to set organizational priorities, strategic planning and long and short term budgeting for a brand new arts center
- worked with architects designing three new galleries, included permanent furniture design
- created style sheet for galleries and print media
- created and worked collaboratively with programming team to develop diverse events in areas of exhibitions, artist services, and education to support a mission of presenting and supporting new work by contemporary visual artists with a focus of technology as a tool
- understood how to work within a complex organization with long lead times to create successful exhibitions
- negotiated and executed multiple artist, professional services and contractor agreements
- collaborated with communications and marketing to best publicize exhibitions

- stayed within or below budget in all projects
- manage ingoing and outgoing collections (shipping nationally and internationally) handling condition reports, insurance and claims
- designed and managed installation and deinstallation all exhibitions, both simple and complex with large scale works throughout center
- supervised one staff art handler, hired and supervised multiple contractors and volunteers when needed
- Communicated and implemented safety rules, policies and procedures in support of County's safety vision and goals; and maintained accountability for the safety performance of all subordinate employees
- outreach to outside groups and donors for collaborative exhibitions including the embassies of Spain, France, Italy, and Mexico
- created Art Call email list of 1000 members to communicate directly with artists in area
- established visitor data collection systems
- initiated and sought funding through Arlington Transit established image/logotype and curate *Art on the ART Bus*: A mobile gallery on one of Arlington County's public transit buses (ART) that features original works of art by an individual artist that changes every four months.

Director and Curator, Ellipse Arts Center

Arlington County Virginia Department of Cultural Affairs, 2004 - 2009

- oversaw and supervised two permanent staff and up to 14 volunteers in 4,000 square foot gallery, with \$35,000 programming budget
- re-designed gallery, back office, and facility operations
- new program focus to reach a wider community
- increased artist participation by involving artists in creation of exhibit concepts
- initiated educational programming concepts between artist and educational programmer
- tripled gallery attendance
- updated gallery appearance (invitations, catalogs, blogs, etc.)
- created new media sound and projection room
- initiated and implemented "Project Mobile Ellipse," a program of site-specific temporary public art projects
- hired education programmer to create a volunteer and intern system and implement educational components for each exhibit
- expanded permanent collection of contemporary art for the County
- public art curatorial advisor in 2007
- directed five exhibitions annually that received local and/or national press
- initiated a collaborative effort with County employees, "Uncommon Places", documenting the loss of small businesses and culture in the county for a web based presentation and archive
- curatorial advisor to Arlington Cultural Affairs, Public Art, Arlington County, Virginia

August - October 2007 *CO2LED* by Jack Sanders, Robie Gay and Lucy Begg – chosen as one of the best public art projects of the year for Americans for the Arts "Public Art Network". Judged by Jody Pinto- an award winning artist who incorporates art and architecture.

February - August 2007 *Bike Stand* in Rosslyn by Butch Anthony now permanently installed in Barcroft Park
Designed new bike route, "Art Bike Tour" connecting Pubic Art sites in Arlington County, and published on all subsequent Arlington County bikeway maps.

Potomac Vegetable Farms + Eco Friendly Foods, Stand Salesperson, Washington DC area, 1992-2012

- supported two radical organic growers in as an aggressive enthusiastic salesperson and stand manager
 - was a part and in the epicenter of the new food movement
 - trusted by the farmers and provided an outside perspective to their development as major food providers and activists
 - saught employees
 - documented their entire process from purveyor, farm to table
- >>>Working outdoors at a vegetable stand is the core of community.

Dischord Records, Arlington Virginia, Director of Public Relations and Promotions, 1992 – 2002

As one of the first employees of Washington, D.C. area internationally recognized independent punk music label, helped establish, run, and build the business. Responsibilities included:

- oversaw and managed promotions department
- created advertising and promotion system for magazines, web sites, radio stations, etc.
- worked with artists and musicians to produce publicity materials
- managed office including working with suppliers and vendors
- designed and created marketing materials including a fifty page product catalog
- co-designed initial website
- established archive of press materials and related significant collateral which is used as a research library

DC Space, Washington DC, Director of Entertainment, Public Relations and Art Curator, 1986 - 1992

Directed arts program and facilitated promotions for influential Washington, D.C., avant-garde performance and visual arts space. Responsibilities included:

- developed extensive program of musical, theatrical, and visual artists (one theater group, two-three bands per night, six nights per week)
- promotion through radio, local press, and flyer distribution
- negotiated all contracts and business arrangements with artists
- assisted with set up and breakdown of concerts and visual exhibitions
- created programming geared towards local audiences on small budget which led to significant increase in overall revenue
- assisted in supervising 10-person staff

SELECTED CURATED EXHIBITIONS (including acting as invited juror)

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|---------------------------|--|
| Fall, 2016 | Curator for School 33's exhibition, <i>Good and Plenty</i> , Baltimore, MD |
| Summer, 2016 | Juror for Torpedo Factory's <i>Please Touch</i> exhibition, Target Gallery |
| September - December 2014 | <i>Think with your Hands: Illustrated Journals Come to Life with Augmented Reality</i> , Artisphere, presented with SPAIN arts and culture, with the support of the Spain-USA Foundation and Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. |
| April - August 2014 | <i>Fermata: A Celebration of Sound</i> (Co-curated with Ryan and Hayes Holladay), Artisphere |
| March 2014 | Guest curator for the Washington Project for the Arts Benefit Art Auction, Artisphere |
| November - February 2014 | <i>Alicia Eggert: Everything You are Looking For</i> (Co-curated), Artisphere |
| November 2013 | Guest curator of Transformer Gallery benefit art auction, Washington, DC |
| October 2013 | Shortlisted for DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities 5x5 Temporary Public Art Project, Washington, DC |
| Summer 2013 | Juried Trawick Prize with fellow jurors Dr. Vesela Sretenović, senior curator of modern and contemporary art, Phillips Collection, Washington, DC and Alexander Heilner multi-disciplinary artist who works in photography, video, digital imaging, installation, lighting design and sculpture, Bethesda, MD |
| February-May 2013 | <i>The Next Wave: Industrial Design Innovation in the 21st Century</i> , Artisphere, in collaboration with Apartment Zero; Curated by Apartment Zero co-owner Douglas Burton The Next Wave is supported by media sponsor Surface Magazine, industry sponsor the Industrial Designers Society of America Mid-Atlantic Chapter and was produced in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy and the Italian Cultural Institute and Spain Arts & Culture, the Embassy of Spain and the Spain USA Foundation. |
| August - October 2012 | <i>Beyond the Parking Lot - The Change and Re-Assessment of our Modern Landscape</i> , Artisphere |
| December - February 2011 | <i>Party Crashers - Comic World Invades the Contemporary Art World!</i> , Artisphere |
| October - November 2010 | <i>Skateboarding Side Effects - The Influence of Skateboarding on Contemporary Art</i> , Artisphere |
| November 2010 | Juried Corcoran College of Art alumni photo exhibition for Fotoweeek (annual Washington, DC area Photo Celebration) with Colby Caldwell |

- July 2010 Juried solo exhibits, Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA
- June 2010 Visiting curator to Sculpture Department, University of Colorado, Boulder
- November 2009 Worked with Business Improvement District to create Fotoweeek DC (annual Washington, DC area Photo Celebration) projections in Rosslyn, VA
- October 2008 Planet Arlington Children’s Playground: one day-long outdoor festival, with six distinctive curated arts booths for children to learn about the environment alongside music festival created by Arlington Cultural Affairs
- May – July 2008 *The Thread as the Line, Contemporary Sewn Art*, Ellipse Arts Center
- July 2009 Juried themed exhibit “Light” for the Art League Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- November 2007 Worked with local businesses and contemporary dance artist Jane Jerardi to display video dance piece, “Chance” in pedestrian-traffic area of Arlington, VA
- August - September 2007 *You are Here - Artists Who Use Maps in their Work*, Ellipse Arts Center
- One of four curators of the WPA/Corcoran Anonymous III Art Auction, Washington, DC
- July 2007 Juried 2007/08 solo shows for the Art League Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- Worked with Clarendon Alliance, a local neighborhood civic group, by bringing artist, Laura Jane Hamilton to do interactive project at annual neighborhood celebration, Arlington, VA
- November 2006 “Mock Juried,” Amy Hautft’s VCU class, Sculpture Senior Seminar undergraduate program, Richmond, VA
- September 2005 Coordinated a three day tour by Philadelphia/Canada based “Bookmobile” of artist made books – stops included Middle School, Community Center, Farmers Market and Jazz Festival, Arlington, VA
- May - June 2005 *From the Junkyard to the Frontyard – Art Made From Junk*, Ellipse Arts Center
- June 2005 Brought “art to park” from Corcoran Biennial exhibiting artist Austin Thomas, Ellipse Arts Center
- February - April 2004 *Ice, Worms, and Plate Lunch, Somewhere in Western Alabama*. Incorporating five artists who have lived in Alabama, exhibited at 96 Gillespie, London, England
- June 2001 *4-Hour Art Show and Self-Serve Auction*. Curated and organized a four hour show and sale with 100% of sales going directly to the artists, San Francisco, CA
- 1995 - 1998 *People from DC and their Cars with the same people LIVE! in their bands*. Exhibit by Pat Graham and Cynthia Connolly. Toured all over the US including the last show at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, England. (Organized entire tour logistics including promotion, advertising.)
- 1995 - 2009 Organized, promoted, and advertised my own solo shows in different galleries and “pop-up” spaces in US and Europe

Additionally, have initiated, managed and executed over fifteen exhibitions with open Calls for Enties involving area visual arts community members and curated over thirty-six exhibitons in the Works in Progress Gallery.

BRIEF ARTIST RESUME:

ARTIST STATEMENT

The overall theme of my work, primarily photographic based, is to amplify and accept the character of communities we all live in, rejoice in who we all are and express the experience of connecting disparate places, people and things. My work is constantly evolving, both in its content and where it might be exhibited. This is an important aspect of what I do: it is inherently about the community it reflects, and the community it attracts and/or intends to surprise.

ARTWORK IN SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

J. Paul Getty Collection, Smithsonian Museum of American History (photographs and all postcards); Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Luther Brady Collection, George Washington University, Washington, DC; Brevan Howard, Inc., New York, NY; Aaron Rose, collector and curator, Los Angeles, CA; Christian Strike, collector and curator, Cincinnati, OH; Nick Hornby, author, London, England; Ian MacKaye, musician, Washington, DC; Peter Hapstak, architect, CORE Design, Washington, DC; Michael Stipe, musician, New York; Richard Gould and Lena Skanby, collectors, Washington,

DC; Gary Hustwit, Plexifilms, New York, New York; National Park Service; Arlington Cultural Affairs and DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. University of Colorado, Boulder, hand made book collection

SELECTED GRANTS/AWARDS

- 2004 Arlington County Individual Artist Grant
2003 National Endowment for the Arts/Alabama State Council on the Arts, Community Arts Grant

FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES/CLASSES/TALKS/COMMUNITIES

- present *Banned in DC* slideshow and talk: National tour continues of self booked, promoted talk and booksigning
- 2008 Class: *How to Take Beautiful Photographs of Nothing* - created and conducted a week long class as part of "Beautiful Losers" exhibit, Fall 2008, Casa Escendida, Madrid Spain
- 2007 Public Art: photograph was selected for Artwalk DC a public art installation displaying themed work outside in large format, Washington, DC
- 2006 Workshop: Guest Artist, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2003 & 2004 Speaker at Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt, New York City, and Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA on experience at the Rural Studio
- 2004 Artist in Residence: 96 Gillespie, London England— helped design, manage, build out and curate first exhibit
- 2002/2003 Fellowship: Rural Studio, Newbern, AL: Accepted from 100 applicants to be one of four outreach students for Sambo Mockbee's award-winning, internationally-renowned Auburn University architecture program. Photo-documented year long experience for Rural Studio archives. Also:
- Designed and built a photo darkroom for future Rural Studio students
 - Designed and built a 700-square-foot commercial vegetable stand featuring functional art by local artists through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts
- 2002 Artist in Residence: Harper's Ferry National Park, Harper's Ferry, WV
- 1997-1999 Washington Project for the Arts/Corcoran - program review board, Washington, DC

SELECTED PRESS (as artist), full list furnished upon request

- over 100 press listings and articles have been published about my work as artist: *Northern Virginia Magazine*, artist as curator (Summer, 2013), *The Washington Post* (1994-2012), *Art in America* (January, 2005), *The Washington Post Magazine* (1995, 1997 and 2006), *The New York Times* (1996)
- my work has been used for illustration in many magazines and books
- articles written, photo illustrated, and published

SELF PUBLISHED, CREATED, PROMOTED AND DISTRIBUTED

- 1988 - present *Banned in DC*, self-published book that documented the DC punk music scene from 1979- 1985. Sold and distributed over 15,000 copies.
- 1993 – 2005 Published 80 images of my work as postcards and booklets (70,000+ cards), sold in bookstores, museums and galleries in the United States, Europe, and Japan.
- 2002-2003 Handmade limited edition books incorporating letterpress and photography. Titles: *East to West*, *A-Z box of Magnets*, *A Peek Around the Rural Studio*. Sold in galleries.
- 1990 *Pre – Moon Syndrome* Compilation Album/Cassette – Curated a week-long music event as a document of the development of the underground independent Washington, DC music scene.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 "Pump Me Up", DC subculture of the 1980's, exhibiting artist and curatorial advisor, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 2013 Letters on Top of Buildings, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 2012 Letters on Top of Buildings, Civilian Art Projects, Washington, DC
- 2011 Nomad Art Gallery, group exhibition, curated by Rich Jacobs, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 "Mix 'n' Match," site specific installation, The Quality Mending Company, New York, NY

2004 – 2009

Beautiful Losers curated by Aaron Rose and Christian Strike with these exhibiting artists:

Raymond Pettibon / Larry Clark / Jean-Michel Basquiat / Thomas Campbell / Brian Donnelly [KAWS] / Cheryl Dunn / Todd James [REAS] / Jo Jackson / Shepard Fairey / Ed Templeton / Barry McGee / Ryan McGinley / Tobin Yelland / Pushead / Phil Frost / Neil Blender / Ryan McGinness Craig R. Stecyk / Stephen Powers [ESPO] / Ari Marcopoulos Mike Mills / R. Crumb / Geoff McFetridge / Henry Chalfant / Spike Jonze / Glen E. Friedman / Clare E. Rojas Andy Warhol / Futura / Andy Jenkins / Margaret Kilgallen / Wes Humpston / Rostarr / Keith Haring / Terry Richardson / Harmony Korine / Tommy Guerrero / Evan Hecox / Mark Gonzales / James Jarvis / Chris Johanson Casa Encendida, Madrid Spain; 2008: Århus Kunstbygning, Århus, Demark; 2007 2007: Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland; 2006: La Triennale Di Milano, Milan, Italy; 2005: Baltimore Contemporary Baltimore, MD; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; 2004: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA; The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH

2008

Panorama Project 3, curated by Jordin Isip, Jonathan LeVine Gallery, New York, NY

2007

Arlington Arts Center, *See all Fifteen at Once*, solo exhibit, Arlington, VA; Robert and Holly Maass Gallery, *Infobabble* curated by Aaron Rose, SUNY, NY

2006

Staunton Augusta Arts Center, *CABOMA Photos*, Staunton, VA

2005

Transformer, solo show: *Cynthia Connolly: Photgs, in Western Alabama*, Washington, DC
Clementine, Move, New York, NY; *Newspace Animals*, Portland, OR

2004

Roberts & Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; The National Building Museum, *The Rural Studio/Sambo Mockbee Exhibit*, Washington, DC; Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2003

111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, CA; The Glasshouse, Pomona, CA; Birmingham Museum of Contemporary Art, Birmingham, AL; New Image Art, *Lead Poisoning and Crazy Bastard*, Los Angeles, CA; Architektursentrum Wien, Rural Studio Exhibit, Vienna, Austria; The Luggage Store, *Pretty Gritty* San Francisco, CA; Juice, "The Music" San Francisco, CA

2002

Extipograph, Ravenna, Italy; *Book*, Transformer, Washington, DC; *Sestosenso*, Bologna, Italy; Starscape Festival, Baltimore, MD; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA

2001

Space 1026, Flipbook Art Show, Philadelphia, PA; Spector Gallery, *Reddot* Philadelphia, PA; The Chamber Of Pop Culture, London, England; Chance Operations, Denver, CO; Govinda Gallery, *Itinerant*, Washington, DC; hlewis gallery, *Itinerant*, Baltimore, MD; *Itinerant*, Scuolo Roma di fotografica, Rome, Italy; Alleged Gallery, final show in NYC and Run Collection, New York, NY
Gspot, Baltimore, MD; Ladyfest, Olympia, WA; Space 1026, Solo Show, Philadelphia, PA
Art Book, Book Art, *MOVE 5* Santa Monica, CA; PS 122, *MOVE 4* New York, NY

1999

The Sendai Museum, Sendai, Japan; Solo show, European Tour: La Haceria, Bilbao, Spain; Aktiongalerie, Berlin, Germany; Total Bar, Zurich, Switzerland; Leoncavallo, Milan, Italy ; The Forte Prenestino, Rome, Italy; Milky World Art Gallery, Solo Show, Seattle, WA; New Image Art *MOVE 3*, Los Angeles, CA; The Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA

1998

George's, Los Angeles, CA; New Image Art, *MOVE 2*, Los Angeles, CA; DCCD, Washington, DC; Four Walls Gallery, (postcard show) San Francisco, CA; The Comet, Cincinnati, OH; SFSU, *Fetish*, San Francisco, CA; Alleged Gallery, New York, NY

1997

Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England; *Ascent of Western Civilization: American Independent Music 1976-1991*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, NY; Mott's Market Art Bar, Washington, DC; *Options 1997* at projectspace (WPA/Corcoran), Washington, DC

1996

Tour of People from bands in DC with their Cars: 1996: No Life Records, Los Angeles, CA; Muddy's, San Francisco, CA; Fellini, Portland, Oregon; Vox Populi, Seattle, Washington; Show-Off Gallery, Bellingham, WA; Sydney, Australia; "Culture is our Business", The Centre of Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia; Blackout Books, New York, NY

MEMBER OF Arttable

EDUCATION

August 2002-July 2003

Certificate: Outreach program at the Rural Studio/Auburn University, Newbern, Alabama

September 1981- May 1985

BFA in Graphic Design at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Washington, DC